



WASTECAP NEBRASKA
E-NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2008

Waste Reduction at WasteCap.... In an effort to reduce office paper waste at your office and ours, WasteCap utilizes an electronic newsletter. Past e-newsletters can be found on our website under the "[Archives](#)" tab. Check out our website at www.wastecapne.org for the latest events, publications, and new member listings for WasteCap Nebraska.

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WASTECAP NEWS

WasteCap Welcomes New Members

WasteCap Nebraska would like to welcome new members Hillyard Inc. and Secure Recyclers.

Hillyard Inc.

Hillyard Inc., "THE Cleaning Resource", was established in 1907. Hillyard manufactures and distributes maintenance products and equipment backed by professional service. They feature Touch-Free Cleaning, Green Cleaning Systems, Wood Sports Floor Expertise, Custodial Management Software, and Federal Government Purchasing.

Hillyard products are available through distributors who are trained and ready to help customers. Each distributor is stocked with quality products including daily use supplies such as hand soap, mops, buckets, restroom supplies and much more.

Secure Recyclers

Secure Recyclers is a computer and electronics recycling company established in 2007. Using the most up-to-date technology available they take your unused, outdated, or unwanted electronics and set out to refurbish, resell, and/or recycle them, all while maintaining strict adherence to local, state, and federal regulations.

Secure Recyclers handles many different types of equipment including computers, bar coders, circuit boards, copiers, CD/DVD drives, DVD players, fax machines, hand held devices, medical equipment, keyboards, modems, monitors, printers, routers, scanners, servers, and telephony.

Eligible equipment is refurbished for resale while unfit equipment is de-manufactured into recyclable metals and plastics including gold, silver, copper, aluminum, platinum, titanium, and PVC.

"Secure Recycler's goal is to help your company secure your assets, limit your environmental and security liability, and to protect our environment. To this end we constantly strive to keep every element of every piece of equipment that passes through our hands out of the landfills and incinerators."

WasteCap Members in the News

If you are a WasteCap member and have been recognized in a news story, please let us know so that we may include you in this section. Contact April Hilpert-Whitney at (402) 434-7376 or ahilpert@wastecapne.org

Nebraska Animal Medical Center (NAMC)

Nebraska Animal Medical Center was featured in the Client Spotlight in the March issue of Strictly Business. To read the full story, [click here](#).

Coca-Cola/NRC Recycling Bin Grant Program

The Coca-Cola/NRC Recycling Bin Grant Program supports local community recycling programs by providing selected grant recipients with containers for the collection of beverage container recyclables in public settings. Selected grant recipients will receive actual recycling bins instead of funding.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The program offers recycling bins designed for use in various settings - special events, general utility and prestige locations.

[Apply on-line](#) and describe your program needs, request your preferred bin type, and tell us how many you would like to receive.

WHO CAN APPLY?

The grant program is open to government, civic, school, non-profit groups, and for-profit companies.

Eligible activities include but are not limited to establishing or enhancing a recycling collection program. This includes the use of specialized containers at community events or functions, public facilities, and programs or events conducted by applicants. The bins must be intended for use in one of four types of settings:

- Education (K-12 and universities)
- Sports (parks and sport venues)
- Culture (music and arts)
- Commercial (office and facilities)

WHEN TO APPLY?

Grants are available twice a year in the Spring and Fall. The Spring 2008 application period is open through Friday, April 4. Recipients will be announced on Earth day, April 22nd. For more information about the grant program or to apply, visit the program website at <http://www.bingrant.org> or call (843) 278-7876.

After grant recipients are selected, NRC will contact grantees to offer guidance, confirm their needs, and bin selection. Then, our suppliers will deliver bins directly to the recipients.

Eliminate Unwanted Catalogs

You can reduce the amount of unsolicited catalogs you receive by visiting Catalog Choice. This is a free service which helps you decline paper catalogs that you no longer want to receive. To sign up for the service [click here](#).

City of Lincoln & Lancaster County Environmental Leadership Awards

The Lincoln-Lancaster County Environmental Leadership Awards honor businesses, organizations and individuals who have demonstrated environmental stewardship and dedication to sustaining and improving our environment. Awards are given in the following categories: Business and Industry, Education (educating the public or providing education in schools/colleges), Community or Nonprofit Organization, Government, Agriculture, and Individual Citizen. The deadline for nominations is **April 1st**. For additional information including eligibility requirements and a nomination form visit www.lincoln.ne.gov, keyword: awards.

USDA Rural Development Accepting Applications for Renewable Energy Loans & Grants

Nearly \$221 million in loan guarantees and grants are available to agricultural producers and rural small businesses through USDA Rural Development's Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Program.

Funds can be utilized for a wide range of projects; such as irrigation projects, motor upgrades, HVAC, lighting, windows/doors, insulation and a variety of other energy saving projects as well as wind, solar, biomass, geothermal, and hydrogen renewable projects. Residential improvements are not eligible.

Eligible applicants may seek loan guarantees to cover up to 50 percent of a project's cost, not to exceed \$10 million. Grants are available for up to 25 percent of a project's cost, not to exceed \$250,000 for energy efficiency improvements and \$500,000 for renewable energy systems.

One grant solicitation will be issued for two separate competitions in FY 2008. For the first competitive window, grant-only applications must be submitted no later than April 15, 2008. For the second competitive window, grant-only applications must be submitted no earlier than April 16, 2008, and no later than June 16, 2008.

Applications for loan guarantees, as well as those for loan/grant combinations must be completed and submitted no later than June 16, 2008. Combination applications will be evaluated on a bi-weekly basis once loan/grant combination funds become available. The grant portion of the combination package must score at least 70 percent of the available points (minimum of 84 points), of which at least 24 points must be for technical merit. It must also demonstrate financial need. Applications not meeting these thresholds may be resubmitted as a guaranteed loan only application. Guaranteed loan applications will be processed in a rolling application manner.

Further information can be found in the March 6, 2008 Federal Register pg. 12070 Vol. 73, No. 45. Nebraska Rural Development staff will familiarize you with the energy program's eligibility requirements and guide you through the application process. Locate the office nearest you at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/Contact_Us.htm or phone (402) 437-5551. Applications are to be submitted to the USDA Rural Development State Office, Room 152 Federal Building, 100 Centennial Mall North, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508 by stated deadlines.

UPCOMING EVENTS

"Making Lemonade with Toxic Lemons"

Nebraska Business Development Center brings speaker Dr. John Peterson Myers to Omaha. Dr. Myers will be speaking at the Durham Research Center Auditorium on **March 24th** at 6 p.m. He will be talking about toxicology, low chemical levels in our environment, and their effects on the environment in his speech "Making Lemonade with Toxic lemons". For more information, contact Paul McMeekin at pmcmeekin@unomaha.edu or [click here](#) to view an event flyer.

Omaha Green Drinks

March's Green Drinks will be held on **March 26th**, at Whole Foods Market, 10020 Regency Circle, Omaha, NE. Green Drinks is a wonderful opportunity to meet and network with others interested in the quality of our environment. Green Drinks is scheduled from 5:30 p.m. until late. Walk, cycle, or carpool to the meeting and ask anyone, "Are you green?" and you'll be welcomed! For more information, please view the [Green Drinks Omaha Flyer](#).

Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator Event

On **April 11th** a hazardous waste disposal for small businesses will be held. Conditionally exempt small quantity generators are businesses that generate less than 100 kilograms (27 gallons or 220 pounds) of hazardous waste and less than 2.2 pounds of acutely hazardous waste per month and may qualify for this program. Contact the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department at 402-441-8021 by **March 28th** to request a data sheet and waiver form. Return your completed form and schedule a convenient time to bring your waste to the collection.

Chamber Academy Workshop: Going "Green" Can Put Your Business in the "Black"

Learn cost-effective and simple tips for recycling, waste reduction and reducing energy and water use while reducing your operating costs at the Green Business Council's first Chamber Academy workshop: Going "Green" Can Put Your Business in the "Black". The workshop will be held from 8-10 a.m. on **April 2nd** at the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce office located at 13206 Grover Street, Omaha. The cost is \$20 per person. For more information or to register, select [Chamber Academy Workshop](#).

Omaha's Green Business Council is a collaborative network of businesses implementing sustainability programs to improve the environmental performance of their operations. All council members share the goal of creating a "Green Omaha" and all are also part of the Green Omaha Coalition. More information is available [online](#).

Creating Sustainable Connections

On April 18-19, 2008, Luther College in Decorah, IA, will host the second biennial meeting of the Upper Midwest Association for Campus Sustainability. Sustainability experts and professionals from the Midwest and beyond will discuss renewable energies, green building and landscaping, local foods, sustainability in the curriculum and more in over 30 sessions. Keynote speakers are Debra Rowe, founder and director of the Environmental Solutions Center, John Turenne, president and founder of Sustainable Food Systems, LLC, and Erik Larsen, polar explorer and environmental educator. Registration ends **April 7th**. For more information, to view the program and to register, visit www.umacs.org.

2008 Nebraska Safety Council Conference & Exposition

The 2008 Nebraska Safety Council Conference & Exposition will be held on **April 9th -10th** at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, 333 S. 13th Street, Lincoln, NE. For more information select [2008 Brochure](#) or to register select [2008 Registration](#).

Live Green Expo

Three Eagles Communications is hosting the Live Green Expo which will be at the Lancaster Event Center **April 12th** from 9 am-6 pm and **April 13th** from 11am-4pm. The purpose of the event is to educate both consumers and businesses on how to live greener and preserve the environment. WasteCap Nebraska and other exhibitors will be at the event to provide attendees resources needed to live green.

Clean Your Files Week

Clean Your Files Week (CYFW) is a time to dig out your old, outdated, and overextended documents and turn them in for recycling. This is also a great opportunity to start fresh in you file cabinets, as well as start your own personal recycling system. This year's CYFW will coincide with Earth Day, and will be held **April 20th** through **April 26th**. There will be a CYFW Business Contest again this year with more details yet to come, but do not hesitate to contact April at 434-7376 if you business is interested in participation. For more ideas on how to clean and recycle, [click here](#).

2008 Safety & Health Summit

This 2008 Safety & Health Summit will be held on **May 14th -15th** at the Qwest Center, Omaha. For more information visit [Safety and Health Summit](#).

NEWS ACROSS NEBRASKA

Five Nebraska Buildings Earn EPA Energy Star Label

The EPA has announced the award of its Energy Star label to 22 buildings in region 7, five of which are in Nebraska. Since 1999, when the first award was given, 4,000 buildings nationwide have earned the Energy Star label. The label which is best known for marking appliances and electronics with superior energy performance, also identifies the nation's top buildings for energy performance. In general, buildings earning the rating use about 35% less energy than average buildings.

Nebraska

Cozad East Elementary School, Cozad
North Platte High School, North Platte
Omaha-Douglas Civic Center, Omaha
Union Pacific Headquarters, Omaha

Source: Green Link

Union Pacific's Fuel Incentive Program is a Success

Union Pacific, based in Omaha, first introduced its Fuel Masters program in 2004 when it began as a pilot project at the North Platte location. The program not only reduces their expenses it also reduces the amount of diesel that the company uses. The program rewards its locomotive engineers with \$100 fuel certificates for consistently keeping their fuel use below average. The program has spread from North Platte to 130 other crews. Union Pacific has been able to reduce their amount of fuel usage by over 50 million through the incentive program.

Source: Pollution Prevention Regional Information Center (P2RIC)

ELECTRONICS UPDATE

E-Scrap Recycling Concept Paper

A concept paper on a national e-scrap recycling program was released by staffers for eight members of Congress. The paper discusses how a national e-scrap recycling program would look and how it would be run and managed.

The infrastructure would include the establishment of recycling requirements being established by the U.S. EPA, which would also be responsible for administering the program. They would collect fees from manufactures to cover program costs and issue grants to states for the administration and enforcement of the national program in their state. States would have the ability to impose stricter policies than the federal program but would not be able to drop below the federal standards.

The paper defines what electronic devices would be covered under the program. This list would include flat-panel screen or other video display devices larger than four inches, diagonally, and any CPU, including desktop and laptop computers.

Source: Resource Recycling

IN THE NEWS

Coca-Cola Aims for 100% Aluminum Can Recycling/Reuse

The Coca-Cola Company has set a new long-term goal for its company, 100% recycling/reuse of aluminum cans sold. Currently the company uses 60 percent recycled aluminum in its beverage cans. This process requires 95% less energy than manufacturing cans from raw materials.

Coca-Cola Recycling LLC was established in 2007 to recover packaging material. This organization has set up recycling centers at Coca-Cola's production facilities along with establishing collection programs at colleges and universities, office buildings, retail centers, major sporting events, music festivals and other large-scale events.

This isn't the first time Coca-Cola has set such a goal. Last year, it introduced a goal to recycle all of the polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles it uses in the United States. More than \$60 million was spent on initiatives in 2007 to help increase both aluminum and PET recovery. The company even has plans to build a PET processing plant in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

Source: Waste News

One Million Mercury Switches Collected

The National Vehicle Mercury Switch Recovery Program has collected its one millionth mercury switch. The program includes automobile manufacturers, steel makers, scrap recyclers, automotive recyclers, states, environmental groups and the EPA.

The purpose of the program is to improve the health of the environment by pulling mercury switches before they hit the recycling system. Some vehicles made before 2003 included the mercury switches. They were used for lighting in hoods, trucks, and anti-lock break systems.

Participants of the program receive information, materials, support and incentives to remove these switches from vehicles before they are crushed for recycling.

The program is set to end in 2017 when it is estimated that most vehicles made before 2003 will be off the road.

[Information on the mercury switch program and directions on how to join: epa.gov/mercury/switch.htm](http://epa.gov/mercury/switch.htm) or <http://www.elvsolutions.org/>

Source: U.S. EPA

Reusable Envelopes Get USPS Approval

The U.S. Postal Service has approved ecoEnvelopes' reusable envelope line. The envelopes incorporate up to 100 percent recycled content by using certified papers from managed forests. Utilities, credit card companies, direct marketers, and other bulk mailers can reduce costs by using one envelope instead of two. Each year over 80 million reply envelopes are sent through the mail. For every one million ecoEnvelopes used an estimated 250 million BTUs of energy and 37,000 pounds of greenhouse gasses will be saved.

For more information on ecoEnvelopes visit www.ecoenvelopes.com.
Source: Environmental Leader

MARKET CORNER

	March - Chicago Region
Mixed Paper	\$85-90 (0)
Boxboard Cuttings	\$90-95 (0)
News	\$80-85 (+5)
OCC	\$110-120 (+10)
SOP	\$220-230 (+5)
Sorted White Ledger	\$310-320 (0)

Material Abbreviations:

OCC: Old Corrugated Cardboard

SOP: Sorted Office Paper

Source: Official Board Markets