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September 2017 Newsletter



NEBRASKA RECYCLING COUNCIL

Strawless September

Did you know that this month is [Strawless September](#) in Seattle? What a good idea for the rest of the country, because, "Across the U.S., we use and toss around 500 million plastic straws each day, which totals out to around 12 million pounds of plastic waste over a year." As the funny video in this article admonishes, we need to "stop sucking".



Two of us from NRC attended the Resource Recycling Conference, held in Minneapolis August 28-30. We made tons of great contacts and gathered resources from various EPA offices, recycling associations, national nonprofits, and vendors that we are eager to share with you. What was our big take-away? Materials management is challenging, but we are not alone. It's not just on us as "consumers" or on communities to resolve materials management problems (mostly packaging waste). Manufacturers and retail giants are working on this too. They are making progress, but let's not forget that we all have a place at the table, and it's important that our voices be heard.

We'd like to hear from you, in person, at our Annual Awards Luncheon and Workshops this year! Award winners have been selected, workshop details are being finalized, and now all we need is your registration. Please join us for this special event. You will be delighted! To register: <http://www.nrcne.org/2017-annual-awards-luncheon-workshops>

All my best,
Julie

Best Management Practices for Restaurants & Bars
A Webinar featuring BarFly Ventures
Tuesday | September 26th | 9:30-10:30 a.m.



HopCat-Lincoln and other BarFly Ventures restaurants strive to compost and recycle up to 90% of their total waste stream. Learn about the products they use, staff training and education, green team engagement, and initiatives to protect and conserve fresh water.

The September 26th webinar will be presented by Autumn Sands, Sustainability Manager for BarFly Ventures. BarFly Ventures owns and operates 17 bars, restaurants, and breweries in 14 cities, including one in Lincoln, Nebraska. Autumn is a native to Michigan with a passion for sustainability, natural systems, regenerative agriculture, building healthy soil and protecting fresh water. After spending 9 years working in the Hospitality Industry, Autumn created the BarFly Sustainability Program, focusing on how the company can have a positive impact on the local environment and community.

BarFly Ventures is the parent company of HopCat, Stella's Lounge, Grand Rapids Brewing Co. and The Waldron Public House. Their mission statement is to care about the environment and the world around us, treat each other like family, offer a unique dining experience, and make sure each and every guest feels important.

To register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/9030763273618401026>

Lincoln's Hazardous Materials Collection Center



The Hazardous Materials Collection Center (HMCC) located at 5101 N 48th Street, will provide safe and legal management options for toxic chemicals and hazardous waste. The HMCC will serve Lincoln and Lancaster County residents as well as qualifying small businesses, such as home based

operations, nonprofits, churches, and others that produce less than 220 pounds of hazardous waste per month.

The HMCC will be open by appointment-only the first Wednesday and third Saturday of each month beginning Wednesday, October 4. Lincoln and Lancaster County residents will be able to make appointments online or by phone. Residents will be asked to identify the types and approximate quantity of hazardous waste they plan to dispose of.

With the opening of the new facility, fewer household hazardous waste mobile collection events will be offered. The new HMCC will accept the same materials collected at the mobile events including items that contain mercury (CFLs, thermometers), pesticides, household cleaning products, paint thinners, stains, oil-based paint, pool cleaning chemicals, and mixed or old gasoline.

To schedule an appointment or see a complete list of accepted items, visit: <https://lincoln.ne.gov/city/health/environ/Waste/HHazWaste/HMCC.htm>

Read the full ribbon cutting press release here: <http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/mayor/media/2017/082417.htm>

Webinars & Events

"All Things Green"

A brown-bag lunch and presentation on ways to help the broader environment will be held September 7 at noon at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Keim Hall 150. <https://plantnebraska.org/news-events/brown-bags.html>



Articles of Interest

[Diversion Without Data is Like Sailing Without a Compass](#)

Today's smartphones automatically find your location on a map. Not so for state and local government leaders planning sustainable materials management (SMM). The variances in data reporting from state to state make comparisons and benchmarking difficult.



[Sailing to the Pacific Ocean's Trash Vortex](#)

In his new book, "Junk Raft," Marcus Eriksen discovers a sea filled with tiny particles of harmful plastic.

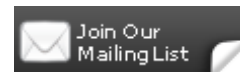
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Nebraska Recycling Council is a statewide 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization, whose mission is to maximize the economic and environmental benefits of resource recovery in Nebraska. Visit our website at www.NRCNE.org and become a member or make a donation today.



Nebraska Recycling Council



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