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The mission of Keep Cass County Beautiful is to educate, enable and encourage all Cass County residents to take greater responsibility for enhancing their community environment.

KCCB Board of Directors

President: Terry Lorensen
 Vice President: John Baroni
 Secretary: Richard Yoder
 Treasurer: Debbie Vidlak
 Exec. Director: Linda Behrns
 Members: Lois Froistad, & Roger Behrns

Presentations: Contact us for free environmental programs for youth groups, schools or community organizations.

Financing is provided through the Litter Reduction and Recycling Grant Program, Nebraska Department of Environment & Energy, Cass County, and the generosity of local business partners and members. KCCB is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.



Close the loop...Buy recycled!



"Thank You"
KCCB Partners

American Exchange Bank,
 Ash Grove Cement Company,
 Beaver Lake Association,
 Bloom Where You're Planted,
 Cass County,
 Citizen's State Bank,
 Cass County Fair Board,
 City of Louisville,
 City of Weeping Water,
 Elmwood-Murdock Merchants
 Association (EMMA),
 Fred Eriksen,
 Frontier Cooperative,
 Herban Coffee Lab,
 Janet McCartney,
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 Kirk & Lois Froistad,
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 Plattsmouth State Bank,
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 Soil Dynamics Compost Farm,
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 Village of Cedar Creek,
 Village of Eagle,
 Village of Elmwood,
 Village of Manley,
 Village of Murray,
 Village of Union,
 Wilbur-Ellis Company

Keep Cass County "Beautiful News"

Quarterly Newsletter * Winter* Issue #21* www.keepcasscountybeautiful.org



Help support KCCB's 2020 Membership Drive

Last year thanks to the generosity of friends like you, we were able to...

- Educate nearly 2,000 youth and adults with environmental programs such as the KCCB Youth Environmental Fair (*shown above*)
- Recycle nearly 31,000 pounds of materials at electronic recycling collections
- Sponsor 13 litter cleanups collecting over 2,500 lbs. of litter
- Safely dispose of 10,214 lbs. of hazardous materials at HHW collections
- Recycle nearly 15,000 lbs. of aluminum, plastics and paper
- Provide recycling containers, car litter bags and environmental education at the Cass County Fair and other local events
- Support the county recycling trailer program
- Plant over 600 flowers and maintain flower gardens in local parks

If you value the work that we do, please consider a membership or donation today. Use our **DONATE** button at <http://www.keepcasscountybeautiful.org> or checks payable to...Keep Cass County Beautiful, 513 Vine, Louisville, NE 68037. Your contribution is tax deductible. **Thank you for your support and generosity!**



What do you want YOUR home to look like?

You're invited to attend a Reduce Waste Event at the Plattsmouth Public Library on **March 11 from 6:30—7:45 p.m.** Learn recipes for making your own simple, safe and effective cleaning products plus other useful information for people looking to reduce their waste. The event will be presented by Ameri-Corps members of Conservation Nebraska and Keep Cass County Beautiful.

In 2016, Conservation Nebraska started the Common Ground Program, which educates Nebraskans across the state about conservation issues facing their communities and provides them with the tools they need to improve their local environment. Through locally led education efforts and community engagement, the Common Ground Program works with Nebraskans to address local conservation concerns. Their mission is to organize events for Nebraskans about environmental stewardship, similar to our mission.

Trash to Treasure Family Craft Night

"Trash to Treasure Family Craft Night" will be held at the Plattsmouth Public Library on **April 30 from 6:30—7:30 p.m.** in the auditorium. Volunteers will teach useful crafts to adults using some household waste. There will also be some fun crafts for the kids who attend. The event will be sponsored by Conservation Nebraska and Keep Cass County Beautiful. Hope to see you there!





Spring Electronic & Appliance Recycling Event



Keep Cass County Beautiful will be hosting an electronic, appliance, and metal recycling event in Weeping Water, Nebraska on April 25 from 9 a.m. until noon at the Weeping Water ballfield. The event will be available to all Cass County residents; no commercial quantities.

Bring any electronics, small & large appliances, and equipment for recycling or refurbishing. Cross Electronic Recycling will be assisting with the event. Materials accepted include computers, monitors, televisions, printers, key boards and mice, cell phones, alkaline batteries, vacuum cleaners, stoves, refrigerators, washers, dryers, freezers, power tools, lawn equipment, water heaters, furnaces, air conditioners, any small electronics with a cord or battery. *Please drain equipment of oil.*

The following items will have an environmental fee: alkaline batteries: \$1.50 per pound; all styles of televisions and CRT (Cathode Ray Tube) items: \$20 up to 20 inch; \$30 up to 30 inch; \$40 up to 40 inch, \$50 up to 50 inch, etc. **KCCB will pay half of the environmental fee of one item per household up to a total of \$500 for the collection.** All other items will be taken at no cost. The event is made possible by the Nebraska Dept. of Environment & Energy, (NDEE), Cass County, the City of Weeping Water, Cross Electronic Recycling and KCCB.



KCCB Receives Lowe's Community Partner Grant

Keep America Beautiful (KAB) recently awarded Keep Cass County Beautiful a \$1,000 grant as part of the 2019 Keep America Beautiful/Lowe's Community Partners Grant Program. The grant will be used to help non-profit Union United Inc. create a welcome area for visitors around the historic Missouri Pacific caboose donated to the Village of Union in 1986.

Union United has obtained other resources to build an observation deck adjacent to the caboose and overlooking the nearby railroad tracks. The Lowe's Grant will secure partial funding for seating areas on the observation deck plus lighting and landscaping in the immediate area.

According to Debbie Vidlak, Union United President, "Beautification of the empty lot by the caboose will serve one of Union United's goals, to improve and revitalize the Village

of Union. Train enthusiasts and local visitors will be able to enjoy the newly renovated caboose from the deck, which will also include tables, seating, and educational information about Union's railroad history. The surrounding area will be landscaped with lighting, newly planted trees and perennial plants to enhance visitors' experience."

The KAB/Lowe's Grant Program engages local volunteers to take action on projects that focus on critical, local needs that will build and maintain clean, green and beautiful spaces in their communities, promoting community engagement and behavior change. In addition to Keep Cass County Beautiful's grant initiative, Lowe's supported 20 other Keep America Beautiful grant-funded community service projects in 2019 totaling over \$100,000 in Lowe's gift cards. Keep Cass County Beautiful was the only Nebraska affiliate to receive an award. KCCB has been the recipient of six KAB/Lowe's Grants in the past seven years providing \$41,000 to fund local community improvement projects plus \$5,000 in Cass County flood relief efforts.

Keep America Beautiful inspires and educates people to take action every day to improve and beautify their community environment. Celebrating its 67th Anniversary in 2020, Keep America Beautiful strives to End Littering, Improve Recycling and Beautify America's Communities with the help of thousands of volunteers.



GREAT AMERICAN
CLEANUP
KAB.ORG

The Keep America Beautiful Great American Cleanup (GAC), the nation's largest community improvement program, runs from March 19—June 20. Keep America Beautiful inspires people to take greater responsibility for their local environment by conducting grassroots community service projects that engage volunteers, local businesses and civic leaders.

The Great American Cleanup began as a litter cleanup initiative designed to improve our environment by creating cleaner parks, streets, and public spaces through litter removal and elimination. To this day, community cleanups remain at the heart of the campaign, and the results are remarkable. In 2019 alone, more than 23.4 million pounds of litter and recyclables were collected by 550,000 volunteers throughout the country.

Today, Great American Cleanups also include spring community greening efforts of planting trees and flowers, community education through workshops, special events and service projects and community recycling projects.

KCCB will partner with local schools, 4-H groups and community organizations to plan volunteer events that beautify parks, reduce waste, increase recycling and remove litter. **Contact us for trash bags, safety vests, gloves and other litter cleanup supplies for a Great American Cleanup event in your neighborhood.** KCCB will award organizations up to \$50 per mile and \$10 per acre for cleaning up litter in public areas along streets, curbs, alleys and sidewalks at schools, parks and in rural areas including county and country roads. Unfortunately, we cannot fund *Adopt a Highway* events.

Funding for this program is limited and provided by a small grant from the Nebraska Department of Environment & Energy. Contact us soon for an application.



Interested in serving on the KCCB Board? We're looking for volunteers to serve on the Keep Cass County Beautiful Board of Directors. The board meets monthly the first Wednesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. Board members guide the decisions of the organization and help with some events. We need representation from the western part of the county, so if you or someone you know is interested, contact Linda Behrns, Executive Director, at 402-949-0874. Help us grow.

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Select **Keep Cass County Beautiful** to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation of 0.5% to KCCB. Thanks for your support!