

CHAPTER 3:

Environmental Quality Council

The Environmental Quality Council was established through the Nebraska Environmental Protection Act as the body that adopts rules and regulations which set air, water, and land quality standards in order to protect the public health and welfare of the state. They adopt regulations that guide the activities and responsibilities of NDEE. In addition, the Governor appoints the NDEE Director based on candidates recommended by the Council.

The Council has 17 members who are appointed by the Governor to four-year terms. Appointments require legislative approval. Council members are appointed to represent the food manufacturing industry; conservation interests; the agricultural processing industry; the automobile or petroleum industry; the chemical industry; heavy industry; the power generating industry; crop production; labor; the livestock industry; county government; municipal government (two members, one of which represents cities not of the primary or metropolitan class); a professional engineer; a biologist; a representative of minority interests; and a doctor with knowledge about the human health aspects of air, water and land pollution.

The Council is required by statute to meet at least twice each year. NDEE publishes notice of these meetings, together with an agenda and a description of proposed business items to be considered. The Council holds public hearings on the proposed regulations at these meetings. Any interested person may submit written comments on the proposed regulations and/or testify at the public hearing. The Council considers these comments and testimony prior to making a decision on whether to adopt, modify, or deny new state environmental regulations and amendments to existing regulations. The Council can also consider rule-making petitions submitted by the public.

Although the Council is responsible for review and adoption of rules and regulations, it does not have involvement in NDEE's administrative functions or day-to-day responsibilities. The NDEE Director is responsible for administration of NDEE and the rules and regulations adopted by the Council.

Following are two tables. The first lists the council members and the second summarizes Council actions for FY24-25.

Council Members

Representing	Council Member	Term Expires
Agricultural Crop Production	Kevin Peterson Osceola	June 22, 2025
Ag Processing Industry	Allison Willis Aurora	June 22, 2027
Automotive/Petroleum Industry	Jill Becker Lincoln	June 22, 2025
Biologist	Amy Staples Broken Bow	June 22, 2025
Chemical Industry	Seth Harder Plainview	June 22, 2027
City Government	Marty Stange Hastings	June 22, 2027
Conservation	Vacant	June 22, 2027
County Government	Lisa Lunz Wakefield	June 22, 2027
Food Products Manufacturing	Jessica Kolterman Seward	June 22, 2025
Heavy Industry	Kurt Bogner Norfolk	June 22, 2027
Labor	Brad Bird Blair	June 22, 2025
Livestock Industry	Alden Zuhlke Plainview	June 22, 2025
Minority Populations	Tassia Steidley Lincoln	June 22, 2025
Municipal Government	Lance Hedquist South Sioux City	June 22, 2025
Physician	Timothy Tesmer, MD Lincoln	June 22, 2027
Power Generating Industry	Lynn Mayhew Grand Island	June 22, 2025
Professional Engineer	James Theiler Papillion	June 22, 2027

Environmental Quality Council Actions July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025

Council Meeting Date	Regulation	Action
November 14, 2024	Public Hearing on 2025 Litter Percent Allocations	Approved
April 1, 2025	Interview candidates for NDEE Director position and make recommendation to Governor	Approved motion to send candidate recommendation
June 26, 2025	Public Hearing on 2026 Intended Use Plan and Project Priority List for Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)	Approved