

CHAPTER 5:

Land Management Programs

The Land Management Program's objectives are to ensure solid and hazardous wastes are properly managed, assess and remediate contaminated sites, facilitate the redevelopment and reuse of contaminated properties and administer grant programs that advance waste reduction and recycling practices throughout the state. This chapter will begin discussion with the waste grant programs, the voluntary cleanup program, and is followed by activities performed by the hazardous waste (RCRA), Superfund and solid waste management programs.

Waste Grants Programs

The Grants Section manages the Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Grants Program and the Litter Reduction and Recycling Grants Program; Illegal Dumpsite Cleanup Program; and Landfill Disposal Fee Rebate Program.

The Section's responsibilities include:

- Awards financial aid to public and private partners – reviews grant submissions; performs compliance inspections; monitors the activities, budgets, and equipment purchases of grantees; and conducts quarterly performance report reviews.
- Outreach – Promotes the availability of grant funding, coordinates the ranking process, coordinates grant awards, and provides integrated waste management information to the public.

Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy/Nebraska Environmental Trust Partnership

Since July 2018, the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) and the Nebraska Environmental Trust continue a partnership to ensure agency resources are managed in a fiscally responsible manner by agreeing to:

- Participate in the grant review process on those projects where there is a potential for grant awards from both organizations.
- Appoint individuals who will ensure coordination occurs between the organizations.
- Commit to revising the partnership anytime there is a personnel change, new grant programs are created, or existing programs end or are substantially modified.
- Share information on grant awards and grantees that are non-compliant with award conditions or environmental regulatory requirements.
- Meet annually and when critical program or project needs arise for the purpose of discussing issues of mutual concern and opportunities to enhance the partnership.

Litter Percentage Allocation

At the Environmental Quality Council meeting on November 17, 2023, a hearing was held to decide the 2024 Litter Percentage Allocation. Each year, the Council establishes the percentage of how the funds will be allocated for recycling, public education, and cleanup programs or projects. The Department's recommended percentage allocations for 2024 were based on the actual applications received:

Category	2024 Eligible Requests	
Recycling	28%	\$726,872
Public Education	68%	\$1,766,348
Cleanup	4%	\$106,791
Totals	100%	\$2,600,011

The Department asked for the ability to adjust the percentages by up to 20% for the 2024 grant year, if warranted. The Environmental Quality Council approved this request.

Expected Service Life

The Grants Section programs utilize an expected service life procedure for grant-funded equipment. The expected service life determines how long the grantee is responsible for reporting the status of grant-funded equipment to NDEE and how long NDEE maintains a financial interest in the equipment.

An expected service life is assigned to all equipment purchased with grant funds (in whole or in part) that has a value of \$1,000 or more per item. Equipment costing less than \$1,000 can be assigned an expected service life on a case-by-case basis. Purchase of equipment is documented at the time of purchase. At the end of the grant period, the grantee is provided a sticker to properly identify the grant-funded equipment and is notified of the length of the expected service life.

Equipment Redistribution

When grant-funded equipment with an existing expected service life is no longer being used, it is made available for redistribution to other users.

Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Grants Program

In 1990, the Nebraska Legislature passed Legislative Bill 163, the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act, which created the Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Grants Program.

There are three sources of revenue for this program:

- A business fee on sales of tangible personal property, which generates about \$500,000 annually.
- A \$1 per tire fee on the retail sale of new tires in Nebraska, which generates about \$2.4 million annually.
- Fifty percent of the \$1.25 per ton disposal fee on solid waste disposed of in permitted landfills, which generates approximately \$1.4 million annually for grant awards.

The Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Fund provides grants to private, non-profit, and government organizations to assist in financing sound integrated waste management programs and projects.

These programs and projects may include but are not limited to:

- Recycling systems
- Market development for recyclable materials
- Intermediate processing facilities and facilities using recyclable materials in new products
- Food waste composting
- Yard waste composting and composting with sewage sludge
- Waste reduction and waste exchange
- Household hazardous waste (HHW) programs
- Electronic waste collections
- Pharmaceutical collections
- The consolidation of solid waste disposal facilities and use of transfer stations
- Incineration for energy recovery

A portion of the grant funds are obligated to fund scrap tire recycling and/or reduction projects, and another portion of the grant funds are available to smaller cities and counties for abandoned building deconstruction.

Fund Summary Waste Reduction and Recycling Fund July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	
Fund Balance June 30, 2023	\$2,288,870
Revenues:	
New Tire Fees	\$2,822,181
Business Fee	\$571,065
Solid Waste Disposal Fee	\$1,659,016
Interest, Grant Returns	\$57,704
Miscellaneous	(\$677)
Operating Transfers Out	(\$120,000)
Net Collections for Year	\$4,989,289
Expenditures:	
Administration	\$340,433
Grant Funds Expended*	\$4,646,313
Total Expenditures FY 2024	\$4,986,746
Fund Balance June 30, 2024	\$2,291,413

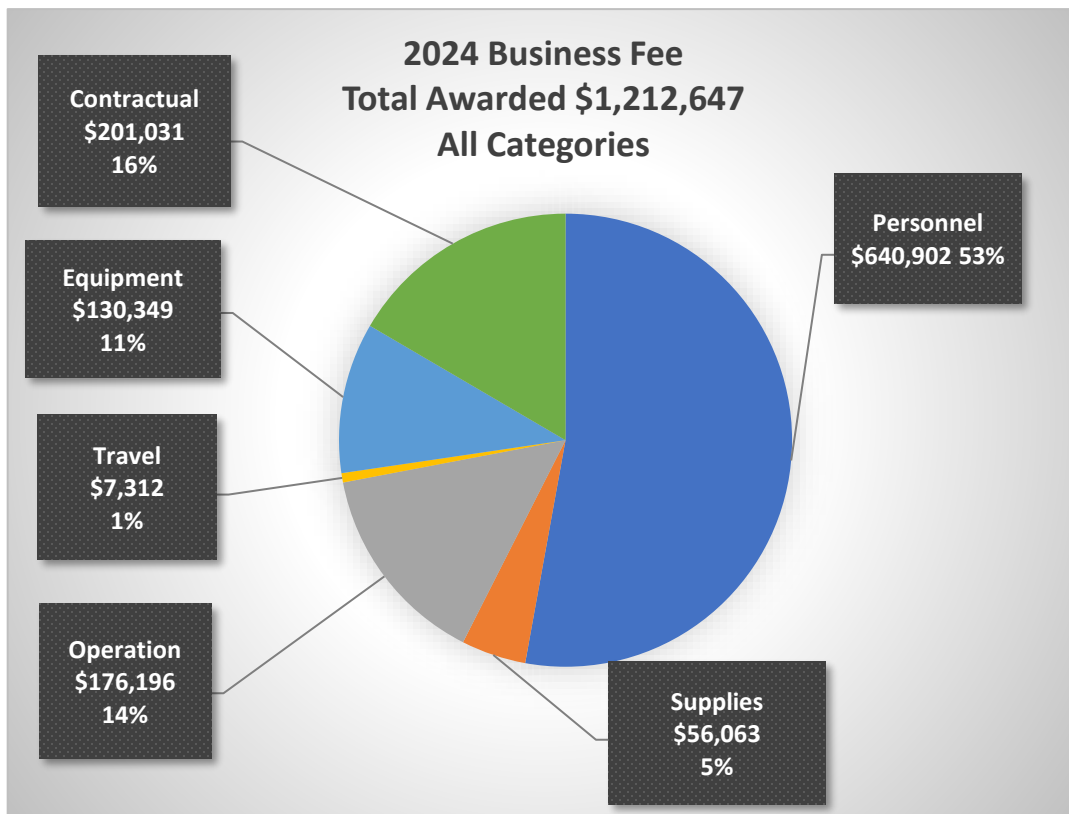
** Because grants funds are expended on a reimbursement basis, total grant funds expended in a fiscal year will differ from the amount of grants awarded in that fiscal year.*

For calendar year 2024, the department awarded \$4,097,462.72 for Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Grants to 81 projects. There was 14 grants awarded from the Business Fee category (\$1,212,647), 8 awarded from the Disposal Fee category (\$1,046,954), and 59 awarded from the funds prioritized for scrap tire projects (\$1,837,861.72).

Funds received in the Business Fee, Disposal Fee, and Tire Fee categories are represented by the following graphs. Locations across Nebraska that received funds are represented by the following lists.

Waste Reduction & Recycling Grants for FY 2024

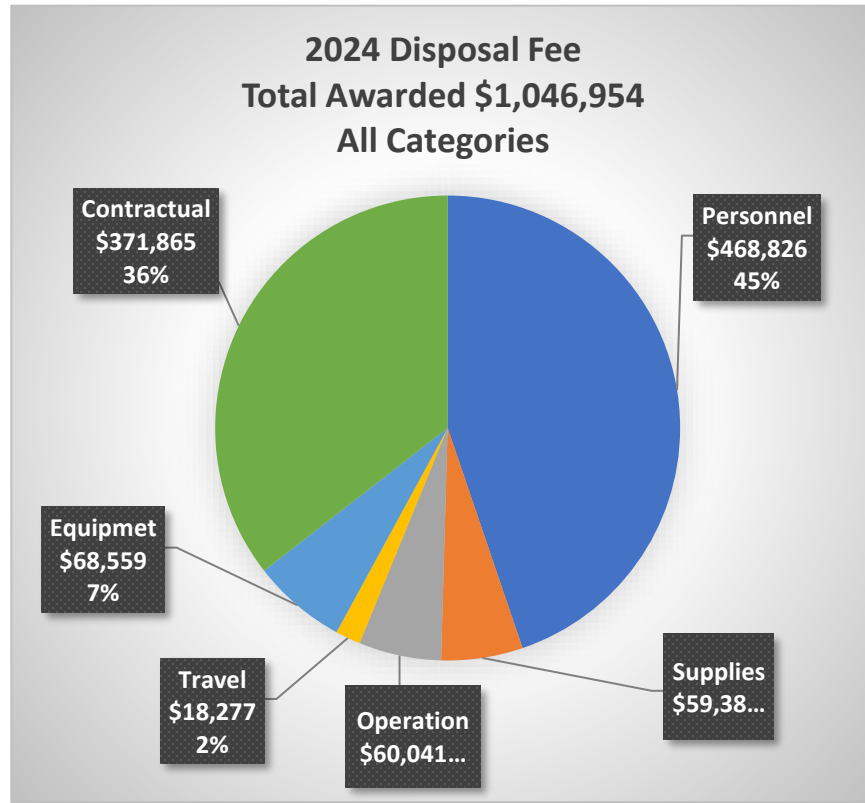
Business Fee



Pictures provided by Keep Alliance Beautiful which was awarded funds to operate their recycling center.

Business Fee: \$1,212,647 for 14 grants			
Alliance	Keep Alliance Beautiful	\$108,099	Funds for operation of the recycling center and education materials
Chadron	Keep Chadron Beautiful	\$72,395	Funds to continue the cardboard and office paper recycling for the City of Chadron
Columbus	Keep Columbus Beautiful	\$12,166	Hold one-day electronics recycling event open to Platte County residents
Fremont	Keep Fremont Beautiful	\$26,979	Funds to hold a one-day HHW event for the residents of Dodge County and surrounding areas, one-day paper shredding event, and recycling opportunities at public events
Grand Island	Grand Island Area Clean Community System	\$149,983	Funds to continue the HHW facility and provide services to dispose waste
Kimball	Keep Kimball Beautiful	\$17,094	Funds for pick-up services for the "Residential Alley Recycling Program," around Kimball and rural areas
Lincoln	Lincoln Public Schools	\$89,356	Salary for Assistant Sustainability Coordinator to manage various district recycling, waste reduction and diversion programs, and organic composting programs, and other supply costs
Lincoln	Keep Nebraska Beautiful	\$159,713	Funds to operate a food waste, material exchange, used oil collection, and a school chemical cleanout program statewide
North Platte	All Business & Commercial Recycling, LLC	\$106,920	Provide a consolidation hub & spoke drop-off location that is accessed easily by all municipalities in the area.
Oakland	Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D Council Inc	\$24,585	Conduct three HHW Collections in Dakota, Cuming, and Burt Counties in late summer or fall of 2024. Educate the public about the benefits of proper disposal of Household Hazardous Waste.
Oakland	Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D Council Inc	\$5,300	Electronic Waste (E-Waste) collection in Cuming County in late summer or fall of 2024.
Ogallala	Western Resources Group	\$336,837	Funds for the regional processing and shipping facility for recycled materials.
Plattsmouth	Keep Cass County Beautiful	\$2,539	3 electronic device recycling events at different locations
Scottsbluff	Keep Scottsbluff Gering Beautiful	\$100,681	Funds to hold a HHW event and Rx take back for the residents of Scottsbluff, Gering, and surrounding areas

Disposal Fee



Pictures provided by City of Wayne which was awarded funds to host a community electronics recycling event.

Disposal Fee: \$1,406,954 for 8 grants			
Kearney	Kearney Area Solid Waste Agency Landfill - City of Kearney	\$68,559	Replace existing compost turner with a new and reliable one.
Lincoln	Lincoln - Lancaster County Health Department	\$349,527	Maintain and expand management services for hazardous waste.
Lincoln	University of Nebraska-Lincoln	\$56,513	On-site waste reduction assistance with a focus on aiding three Nebraska businesses focused on reducing their solid waste disposal, water use, and energy use.
McCook	Red Willow County	\$135,872	Manage Red Willow HW facility in McCook and transport HW for several other entities
Omaha	City of Omaha - UnderTheSink HHW Regional Collection Facility	\$361,420	Operate Household Hazardous Waste Facility
Valentine	Middle Niobrara Natural Resources District (MNNRD)	\$59,665	Renovate and implement green infrastructure projects at the MNNRD Office headquarters.
Wayne	City of Wayne	\$6,470	Continue household battery recycling program.
Wayne	City of Wayne	\$8,928	Hold annual electronic recycling event in the fall of 2024.

Tire Fee

The scrap tire grants are funded by the \$1 per tire fee on retail sales of new tires. In 2024, \$1,837,861.98 was awarded to 59 projects.

- Scrap tire cleanup events: 28 grants, \$869,312 awarded
- Completed projects for the partial reimbursement of the purchase of tire-derived products and/or crumb rubber: 22 grants, \$719,648.10 awarded
- Proposed projects for the partial reimbursement for the purchase of tire-derived products and/or crumb rubber: 9 grants, \$248,901.88

Scrap Tire Cleanup Events



Funding is provided to political subdivisions for tire collection site cleanups. Twenty-eight scrap tire cleanup grants were awarded in 2024 to political subdivisions. The grants totaled \$869,312 and proposed to clean up 5,461 tons of scrap tires.

Scrap Tire Cleanup Events: 28 grants, \$869,312 awarded			
Alma	Lower Republican Natural Resource District	\$13,532	Cleanup of 90 Tons
Alma	Lower Republican Natural Resource District	\$15,852	Cleanup of 106 Tons
Alma	Lower Republican Natural Resource District	\$10,632	Cleanup of 70 Tons
Arnold	Village of Arnold	\$24,248	Cleanup of 150 Tons
Atkinson	City of Atkinson	\$37,644	Cleanup of 200 Tons
Auburn	County of Nemaha Nebraska	\$17,588	Cleanup of 100 Tons
Beatrice	City of Beatrice	\$30,752	Cleanup of 200 Tons
Center	Knox County	\$26,288	Cleanup of 150 Tons
Chadron	Solid Waste Agency of Northwest Nebraska (SWANN)	\$33,841	Cleanup of 175 Tons
Cozad	City of Cozad	\$22,958	Cleanup of 150 Tons
Davenport	Little Blue Natural Resources District	\$19,332	Cleanup of 230 Tons
Davenport	Little Blue Natural Resources District	\$26,582	Cleanup of 180 Tons

Davenport	Little Blue Natural Resources District	\$32,382	Cleanup of 220 Tons
David City	County of Butler County	\$27,240	Cleanup of 200 Tons
Hastings	City of Hastings, Solid Waste Department	\$50,178	Cleanup of 350 Tons
Hershey	Village of Hershey	\$23,985	Cleanup of 15 Tons
Hubbard	Dakota County Road Department	\$17,352	Cleanup of 100 Tons
Madison	City of Madison	\$25,226	Cleanup of 150 Tons
Minden	Kearney County	\$29,164	Cleanup of 200 Tons
O'Neill	Upper Elkhorn NRD	\$115,720.	Cleanup of 600 Tons
Osceola	County of Polk, Nebraska	\$29,324	Cleanup of 200 Tons
Pawnee City	Pawnee County	\$16,552	Cleanup of 100 Tons
Seward	Seward County	\$48,050	Cleanup of 350 Tons
St. Paul	Howard County	\$27,426	Cleanup of 175 Tons
Tecumseh	Johnson County	\$17,320	Cleanup of 100 Tons
Wahoo	Saunders County Highway Dept	\$32,976	Cleanup of 250 Tons
Weeping Water	Cass County Roads Department	\$62,758	Cleanup of 400 Tons
Wilber	Saline County	\$34,410	Cleanup of 250 Tons

Scrap Tire Partial Reimbursement for Purchase of Tire-Derived Products and/or Crumb Rubber Grants

In 2024, \$968,549.98 was awarded to 31 projects to partially reimburse the purchase of tire-derived products and/or crumb rubber.



Left: Pictures provided by the Nebraska City Public School, which was awarded for partial reimbursement of artificial turf made with crumb rubber for their football field. Right: The Omaha Public School received a 50% remibursement for the purchase of rubber playground mulch.

Partial Reimbursement for the Purchase of Tire-Derived Products and/or Crumb Rubber-Completed Projects: 22 projects, \$719,648.10 awarded			
Alliance	Keep Alliance Beautiful	\$6,124.00	50% Completed Mulch.
Aurora	Aurora Public School	\$ 15,711.00	25% Completed Tiles.
Bloomfield	City of Bloomfield	\$2,135.00	25% Completed Bench and Picnic Tables.
Gretna	Gretna Public Schools	\$39,924.75	25% Completed Track.
Hooper	Logan View Public Schools	\$3,859.50	25% Completed Poured in Place.
Lincoln	Lincoln Sports Foundation	\$90,150.99	25% Completed Turf
Lincoln	Campus Recreation - University of Nebraska-Lincoln	\$113,633.61	25% Completed Turf
Lincoln	Lincoln Public Schools	\$93,465.00	25% Completed Turf.
Lincoln	Lincoln Police Department	\$25,696.50	25% Completed Turf.
Lincoln	Belmont Community Center	\$8,784.00	50% Completed Mulch.
Loup City	Sherman County, Nebraska	\$880.00	25% Complete Bench/Picnic Table.
Milford	Milford Kiwanis Club	\$6,278.00	25% Completed Poured in Place
Monroe	Village of Monroe	\$17,250.00	50% Completed Mulch.
Nebraska City	Nebraska City Public Schools Foundation	\$98,412.00	25% Completed Turf.
Ogallala	City of Ogallala	\$15,855.00	25% Completed Poured in Place.
Omaha	Omaha Public Schools/DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 001	\$13,040.50	25% Completed Tiles
Omaha	Omaha Public Schools/Douglas County School District 0001	\$9,622.00	25% Completed Tiles.
Red Cloud	Redcloud Elementary	\$2,087.00	50% Completed Mulch.
Tecumseh	City of Tecumseh	\$4,000.00	50% Completed Mulch.
Virginia	Lewiston Consolidate School Foundation Inc	\$36,673.00	25% Completed Track.
Wausa	Village of Wausa	\$4,710.00	50% Completed Mulch.
Wayne	Wayne State Foundation	\$ 111,356.00	25% Completed Turf

Partial Reimbursement for the Purchase of Tire-Derived Products and/or Crumb Rubber-Proposed Projects: 9 projects, \$248,901.88 awarded

Bartley	Southwest Public Schools	\$15,730.00	50% Proposed Mulch.
Greeley	Central Valley Public Schools	\$6,342.50	50% reimbursement for rubber mulch
Kearney	Kearney Catholic	\$134,967.00	25% Proposed Turf.
Lincoln	B&J Partnership, Ltd	\$62,131.25	25% Proposed Turf.
Omaha	Morningstar Elementary	\$1,125.00	50% Proposed Mulch.
Pawnee	City of Pawnee City	\$3,372.00	50% reimbursement for rubber mulch
Plainview	City of Plainview	\$20,250.00	50% reimbursement for rubber mulch
St. Paul	City of St. Paul, Nebraska	\$920.00	50% reimbursement for rubber mulch
Union	The Village of Union	\$4,064.13	50% reimbursement for rubber mulch

Deconstruction of Abandoned Buildings

The Deconstruction of Abandoned Buildings grant program, part of the Department's Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive grant program, provides funding to assist in the removal of abandoned structures. Building deconstruction means the physical dismantlement of a building's components to recover the materials for reuse or recycling. The process decreases the amount of demolition material lawfully disposed of in landfills or improperly disposed of elsewhere. Nebraska first- and second-class cities, villages, and counties with a population of 99,000 or less are eligible to apply for funding. The buildings selected must not be on, or eligible to be on, the National Register of Historic Places.

Illegal Dumpsite Cleanup Program

The Illegal Dumpsite Cleanup Program, established in 1997, is a Waste Reduction and Recycling cleanup program that provides funding assistance to political subdivisions for the cleanup of solid waste disposed of along public roadways or ditches. Through this program, household waste, white goods, construction and demolition waste, tires, furniture, yard waste, and some hazardous wastes are removed from the illegal site and disposed of in a permitted facility or recycled.

Funding for this program is limited to 5% of the total revenue from the disposal fee collected from landfills in the preceding fiscal year. NDEE encourages municipalities, counties, and other political subdivisions to submit applications for the reimbursement of cleanup efforts. In FY2024, the program provided 24 grants, totaling \$33,122.46. Funds were provided to:

Illegal Dumpsite Cleanup Awards		
Lincoln/Lancaster County - 9	City of Omaha – 12	Seward County - 2
Clay County - 1		

Landfill Disposal Fee Rebate Program

The Landfill Disposal Fee Rebate Program was created as an incentive to political subdivisions to support and encourage the purchasing of products, materials, or supplies that are manufactured or produced from recycled material. Funding for the program is from the Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Fund.

Under the program, which was created in 1994, any municipality or county may apply for a rebate if they have a written purchasing policy requiring a preference for purchasing products, materials or supplies that are manufactured or produced from recycled material. If the policy is approved by NDEE, the applicant may receive a 10-cent rebate from the \$1.25 per ton disposal fee. Rebates are provided no more than quarterly and no less than annually.

In FY2024, the program provided \$117,410 to five counties and seven cities participating in the program. All twelve participants processed their requests through email. This option helps to meet our agency’s goals for waste reduction efforts and process improvement.

Landfill Disposal Rebate Recipients					
Buffalo County	\$ 6,081	Butler County	\$ 2,986	City of Cozad	\$ 80
City of David City	\$ 257	City of Grant	\$ 107	Jefferson County	\$ 20
City of Lincoln	\$ 29,812	City of North Platte	\$ 3,581	City of Omaha	\$ 65,695
Saline County	\$ 2,115	Seward County	\$ 1,622	City of S. Sioux City	\$ 475

Litter Reduction and Recycling Grant Program

The Litter Reduction and Recycling Grant Program has been in existence since 1979. Its purpose is to provide funds to support programs to reduce litter, provide education, and promote recycling in Nebraska. Funds from this program are provided from an annual fee assessed to manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers having gross receipts of at least \$100,000 on products that commonly contribute to litter. For manufacturers, the annual litter fee is \$175 for each million dollars of products manufactured. The annual litter fee for wholesalers and retailers is \$175 for each million dollars of sales made in the state. Approximately \$2 million is received annually.

The annual litter fee is imposed on products in the following categories:

- Food for human consumption, beverages, soft drinks, carbonated water, liquor, wine, beer, and other malt beverages, unless sold by retailers solely for consumption indoors on the retailer’s premises
- Food for pet consumption
- Cigarettes and other tobacco products
- Household paper and household paper products
- Cleaning agents
- Kitchen supplies

Fund Summary Litter Reduction and Recycling Fund July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	
Fund Balance June 30, 2023	\$3,052,900
Revenues:	
Litter Taxes Collected	\$3,054,514
Interest, Grant Returns	\$109,202
Miscellaneous Adjustment	\$36,056
Operating Transfer Out	(\$40,000)
Net Collections for FY2024	\$3,159,772
Expenditures:	
NDEE Administration	\$221,125
Grant Funds Expended*	\$2,075,317
Total Expenditures FY2024	\$2,296,442
Fund Balance June 30, 2024	\$3,916,230

*Because grants funds are expended on a reimbursement basis, total grant funds expended in a fiscal year will differ from the amount of grants awarded in that fiscal year.

Grant Allocations - Litter Reduction and Recycling Fund

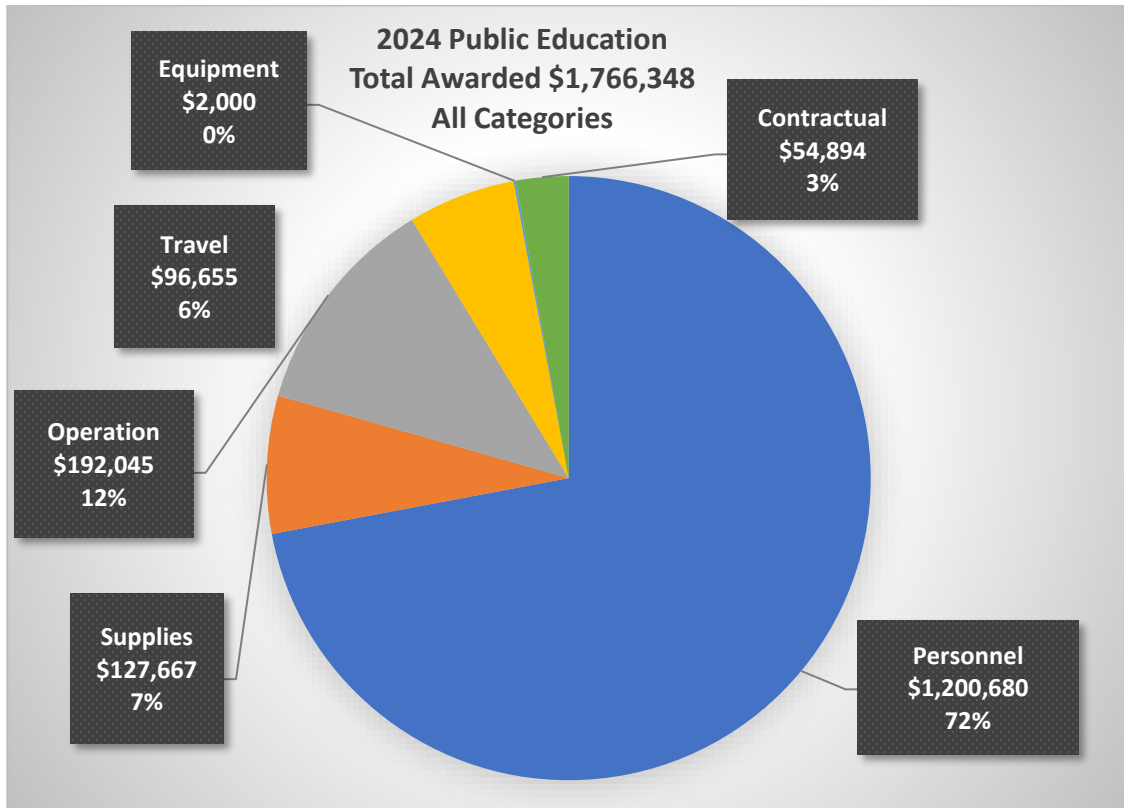
In 2024, \$2,600,011 was awarded to 51 Litter Reduction and Recycling Grant recipients. Grant funding is awarded to several types of programs, including non-profit groups, public and private entities, and over 20 Keep America Beautiful affiliates. Many of these programs utilize the Litter Reduction and Recycling Grant Program funds to leverage additional dollars for a comprehensive, statewide approach to litter reduction and recycling.

The breakdown is as follows:

Public Education	(68%)	22 grants	\$ 1,766,348
Cleanup	(4%)	12 grants	\$ 106,791
Recycling	(28%)	17 grants	\$ 726,872
Totals	100%	51 grants	\$ 2,600,011

Public Education

In 2024, the department awarded 22 grants totaling \$1,766,348 under the category of Public Education. The Public Education programs educate citizens in the areas of litter reduction, cleanup, and recycling through a variety of individual and community activities.



Photos provided by Keep Keith County Beautiful who was awarded public education on litter reduction through classroom presentations, community education on source and litter reduction, recycling, food waste elimination, and sustainable waste management. Outreach to individuals and organizations to encourage litter cleanups.

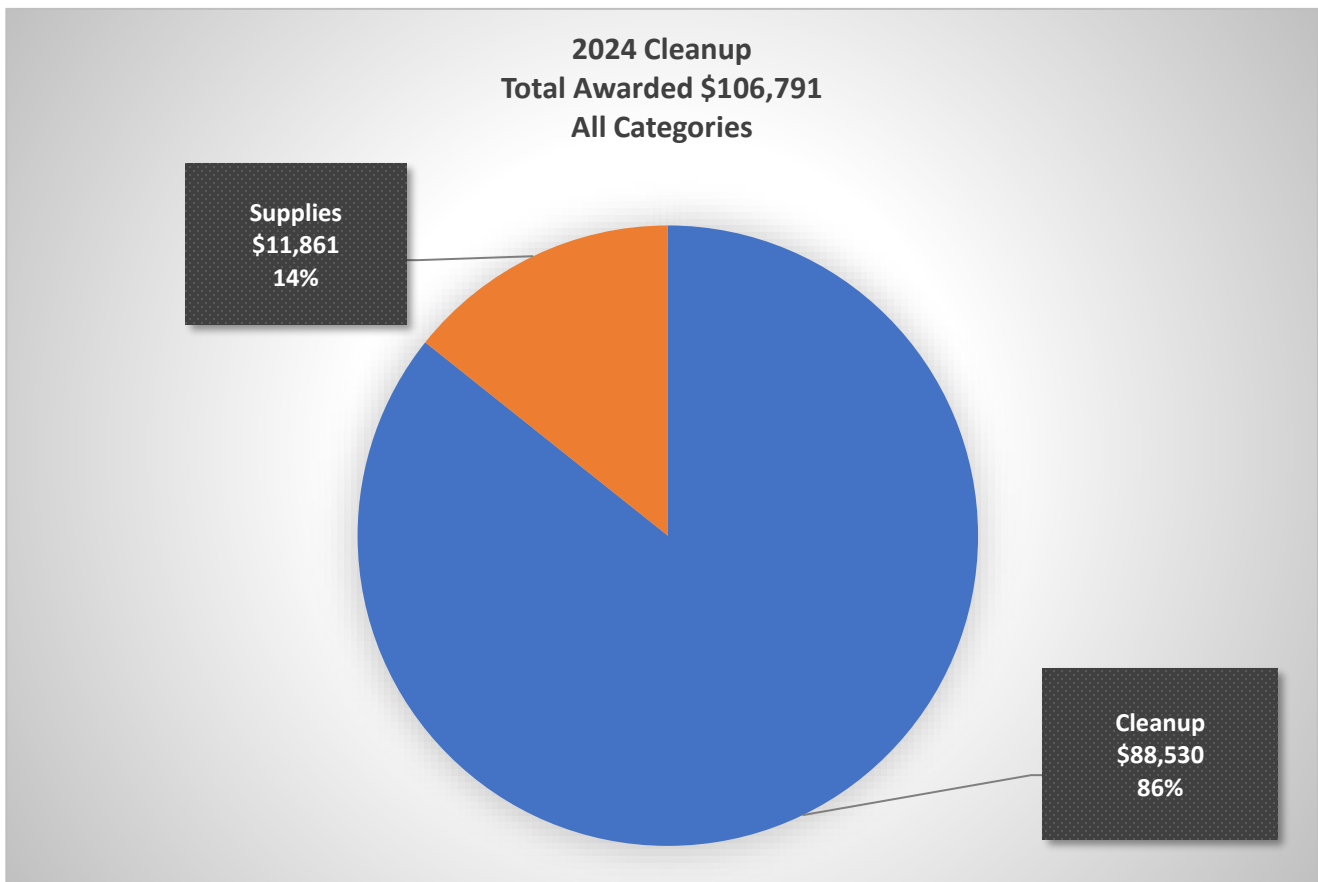
Public Education Awards: \$1,766,348 for 22 grants			
Alliance	Keep Alliance Beautiful	\$35,489	Educational programs in Hemingford and Alliance schools and summer camp programs; Earth Day and America Recycles Day school programs; community presentations on recycling/upcycling at library and rec center and at public events; advertising for community events
Beatrice	Keep Beatrice Beautiful	\$50,485	Litterbag distribution, annual newsletter and website promoting litter reduction and recycling, Earth Day flyers, educational booths at community events, promotion of cleanup events
Burwell	Loup Basin RC&D Council/Keep Loup Basin Beautiful	\$49,403	School and adult group presentations; booths at area fairs and events to distribute educational materials; twice-monthly KLBB radio show; plan and promote cleanup events
Chadron	Keep Chadron Beautiful	\$77,811	Classroom presentations and activities on littering and recycling; presentations to community organizations; placing recycling containers at public events; public service announcements about special events; sponsoring community cleanups
Columbus	Keep Columbus Beautiful	\$47,450	Provide educational presentations to schools and local community groups; promote recycling drop-off program; promote and participate in litter free events
Fremont	Keep Fremont Beautiful	\$96,030	Community and school presentations, workshops, fairs, campaigns, print materials, and digital media on recycling; promotion of recycling events
Grand Island	Grand Island Area Clean Community System	\$58,199	School, after-school, library, and summer camp programs, Earth Day and other public events, presentations, and booth at Nebraska State Fair
Kimball	Keep Kimball Beautiful	\$24,928	Educational programs in Kimball and Banner County schools and summer programs; provide printed materials with City of Kimball utility bill; publicize litter-free events
Lexington	Keep Lexington Beautiful	\$67,044	Recycling education in schools 4 days/wk plus summer classes; host summer cleanups; advertising recycling opportunities via newspaper and TV; participate in community events
Lincoln	Lincoln - Lancaster County Health Department	\$174,652	Classroom presentations, outreach at public festivals/events, and strategic messaging

Lincoln	Nebraska Recycling Council	\$184,206	Partial funding of salaries and operating expenses for programs supporting local and regional recycling systems, recycling service providers, outreach and training on composting, technical assistance and training, and public education
Lincoln	Nebraska Recycling Council	\$78,089	Collect data to update ArcGIS Map of Statewide Resource Management; develop municipal waste reduction toolkits; promote and distribute toolkits and offer training
Lincoln	Keep Nebraska Beautiful	\$120,215	Operating Nebraska Litter Hotline in six counties; working with 48 schools in Litter Free School Zones program; providing recycling curriculum to Community Learning Centers; affiliate coordination for KAB
Nebraska City	Keep Nebraska City Beautiful	\$71,547	School and community presentations to promote recycling; advertising by mail, social media, and radio to promote litter-free event
Norfolk	Keep Norfolk Beautiful	\$28,026	School presentations, advertising, and distribution of materials on recycling and litter cleanup events; planning and conduction recycling and litter cleanup events
North Platte	Keep North Platte & Lincoln County Beautiful	\$97,812	Organize school and public presentations to instill environmental values to decrease items going to landfills via at least once-a-month events including Tire Amnesty Days, PSAs, multiple summer camps, and various community events including cleanups and other activities to promote recycling.
Ogallala	Keep Keith County Beautiful	\$155,578	School programs and public/community education on source and litter reduction, recycling, food waste elimination, and sustainable waste management
Omaha	Keep Omaha Beautiful	\$169,976	School-based educational programming, curriculum certification workshops for educators, public education via activity-based learning, public education, and outreach via the Reduce. Reuse. Recycle Right. educational campaign.
Plattsmouth	Keep Cass County Beautification	\$100,299	Environmental programs for 6 school districts, youth environmental fair; adult educational events and presentations to community groups; booth at county fair and other events; quarterly newsletter; sponsoring litter hotline; distributing car litter bags
Schuyler	Keep Schuyler Beautiful	\$31,864	Resume litter reduction/recycling education with school presentations and distributing educational materials at public events and by mail to homeowners

Scottsbluff	Keep Scottsbluff Gering Beautiful	\$40,131	Educational presentations at public events such as Earth Day; media releases, social media, and website updates on litter prevention and cleanups; distribution of litter bags; promotion of recycling/clean up events
Wayne	City of Wayne	\$7,114	Zero Waste marketing campaign, advertising for Earth Day public events, and lessons/presentations to elementary school students

Cleanup

In 2024, the department awarded 12 grants totaling \$106,791 under the category of Cleanup. The cleanup programs utilize Nebraska residents of all ages to pick up litter and debris along Nebraska's highways, waterways, recreation lands, urban areas, and other public-use areas within the state. The awarded cleanup grants propose to clean up litter from 761 road-side miles and 1,617 acres of public areas.





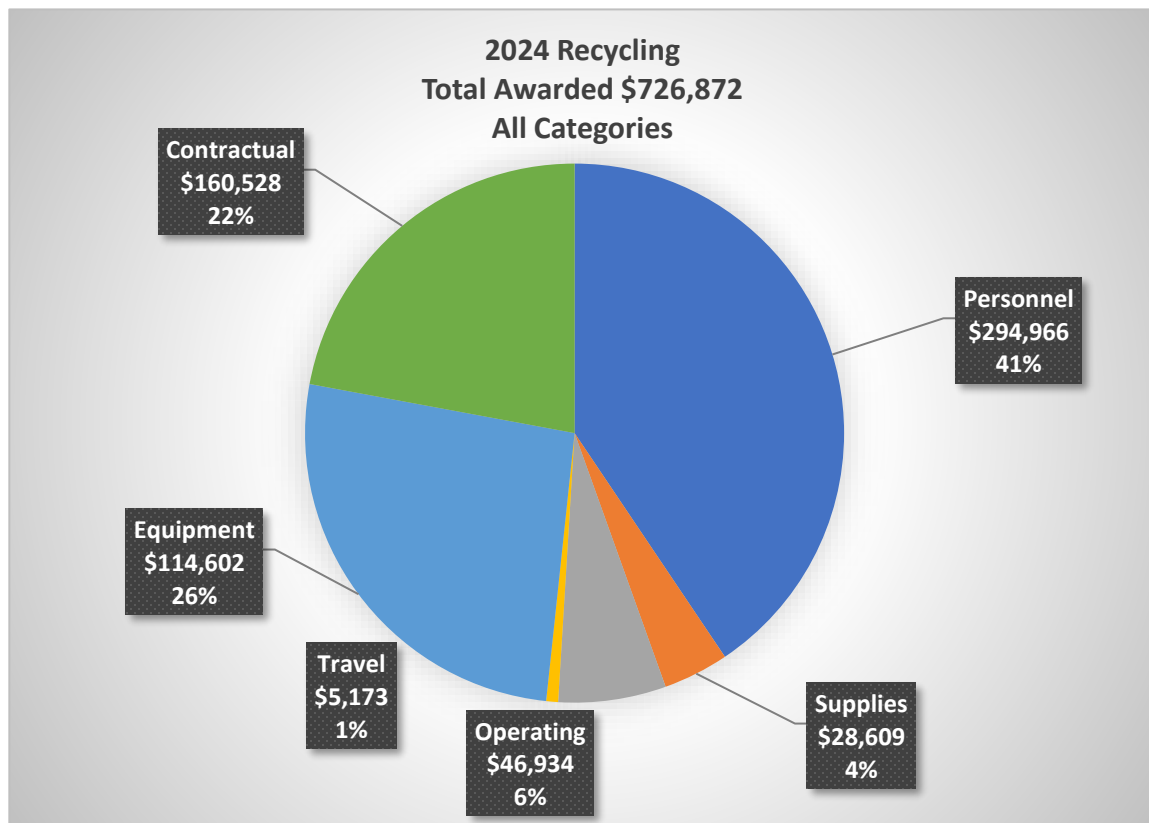
Pictures provided by Keep Omaha Beautiful (KOB), which was awarded funding to clean up public spaces around City of Omaha.

Cleanup Awards: \$106,791 for 12 grants			
Beatrice	Keep Beatrice Beautiful	\$8,980	100mi @ \$75 = \$7,500, 60ac @ \$15 = \$900, Supplies: gloves \$140, trash bags \$200, litter pickup tools \$240
Chadron	Keep Chadron Beautiful	\$7,585	100mi @ \$75 = \$7,500. Supplies: gloves \$30, trash bags \$55
Grand Island	Grand Island Area Clean Community System	\$7,000	81mi @ \$75 = \$6,075, 35ac @ \$15 = \$525, Supplies: Gloves, \$500
Lincoln	Lincoln - Lancaster County Health Department	\$30,000	100mi @ \$75 = \$7,500, 1,500ac @ \$15 = \$22,500
Nebraska City	Keep Nebraska City Beautiful	\$780	10mi @ \$75 = \$750, 2ac @ \$15 = \$30
North Platte	Keep North Platte & Lincoln County Beautiful	\$24,820	320mi @ \$75 = \$24,000. Supplies: litter tongs \$114, gloves \$200, trash bags \$506
Ogallala	Keep Keith County Beautiful	\$4,781	50mi @ \$75 = \$3,750, 20ac @ \$15 = \$300. Supplies: litter pickers \$731

Omaha	Keep Omaha Beautiful	\$8,570	Supplies: litter tools \$2,100, gloves \$800, disposable bags \$2,930, reuseable bags \$1,075, safety vests \$410, carts \$275, duffle bags \$170, scales \$495, collection bags \$315
Plattsmouth	Keep Cass County Beautiful	\$2,250	20mi @ \$75 = \$1,500, 50ac @ \$15 = \$750
Scottsbluff	Keep Scottsbluff Gering Beautiful	\$4,875	56mi @ \$75 = \$4,200. Supplies: backpacks \$105, trash bags \$340, vests \$180, gloves \$50
South Sioux City	City of South Sioux City	\$6,400	10mi @ \$75 = \$750, 150ac @ \$15 = \$2,250. Supplies: gloves \$430, vests \$750, trash picker \$700, trash bags \$1520
Steinauer	Steinauer Community Club	\$750	10mi @ \$75 = \$750

Recycling

In 2024, the department awarded 17 grants totaling \$726,872 under the category of Recycling. The recycling programs provide an alternative to the disposal of solid waste in Nebraska’s landfills. The programs recycle more than just aluminum, paper, glass, and plastic. Materials such as electronic computer components, paint, aerosol cans, fertilizer, pesticides, and household hazardous waste are collected. Materials are either reprocessed to be used again or are disposed of in an environmentally friendly manner.





Pictures provided by Keep Alliance Beautiful (KAB), which was awarded funding to operate the recycling center and recycling program in Box Butte County.

Recycling Awards: \$726,872 for 17 grants			
Alliance	Keep Alliance Beautiful	\$61,893	Operate the recycling center and recycling program in Box Butte County
Chadron	Keep Chadron Beautiful	\$13,738	Electronics collection event – one day
Columbus	Keep Columbus Beautiful	\$32,210	Collect recyclables at two drop off locations and transport to Schuyler for sorting/processing
Columbus	Keep Columbus Beautiful	\$33,100	Provide 2 semi trailers to fill with all fiber products that will be transported to the Applegate Green Fiber facility
Eagle	Village of Eagle	\$11,000	Pay a contractor for the collection and delivery of recyclables to a material recovery facility. Comprehensive review of waste and recycling collection in the Village of Eagle
Kimball	Keep Kimball Beautiful	\$77,711	Management and operation of Kimball Recycling Center, including collection, processing, and transportation of recyclables
Lexington	Keep Lexington Beautiful	\$32,545	Manage recyclables at five drop-off locations and hold two shredding events
Lincoln	Lincoln Bike Kitchen	\$6,600	Getting functional bikes into the hands of community members while also properly recycling unusable parts from unrepairable bikes

Lincoln	City of Lincoln Transportation and Utilities - Solid Waste Manage	\$157,992	Purchase additional roll-off bins. Solid Waste Management and Circular Economy educational supplies. Rebranding of City of Lincoln Biochar Project. Recycling expanded polystyrene.
Lincoln	Ashley Kasper - Girl Scout	\$259	Put recycling bins at various girl scout properties in Eastern Nebraska and begin teaching the younger scouts what can and cannot be recycled.
North Platte	Keep North Platte & Lincoln County Beautiful	\$38,677	Operate local recycling program and increase collection at drop-off sites and at area events through advertising
Omaha	Green Recycling Enterprises, LLC DBA Second Nature Media	\$87,000	Create a turnkey program to reduce waste and provide recycling options at gas stations, events and host locations
Omaha	Open Door Mission	\$21,710	Purchase 130 reusable plastic bulk containers (gaylords) to improve the efficiency of redistribution and recycling, reduce unnecessary waste, and lower costs of disposable materials.
Schuyler	Keep Schuyler Beautiful	\$58,577	Personnel and some operating expenses for Colfax County Recycling Center
Scottsbluff	Reisig Earthmoving & REM Screening LLC	\$48,460	Reisig Earthmoving and REM Screening LLC will be purchasing a heavy weight trailer to be able to move equipment such as, screening equipment or big wheel loaders into and out of properties to load and carry off unwanted items such as used railroad ties and rock ballast. This will have a positive impact on the environment by changing these discarded piles of debris into useable product. Supplies: \$3,460 Equipment: \$45,000.
Tekamah	Papio Missouri River Natural Resources District	\$17,800	Conduct a series of four electronic waste (e-waste) recycling collections at NRD/USDA Service Centers
Theadford	Upper Loup Natural Resources District	\$27,600	Contractual costs for transporting recycling trailers and collection totes from collection locations to ULNRD recycling for processing and then to Western Resources.

Ten-Year Grant History of Amounts Awarded and Requested

Amounts Awarded and Requested for Litter Reduction and Recycling Grant (LRR) Categories

Grant Year	Awarded Recycling	Awarded Public Education	Awarded Cleanup	Total Awarded (All LRR Categories)	Total Eligible Grant Funds Requested (All LRR Categories)
2015	\$1,176,580	\$821,346	\$97,938	\$2,095,864	\$2,266,267*
2016	\$892,975	\$819,597	\$108,483	\$1,821,055	\$2,079,033*
2017	\$1,326,206	\$1,037,895	\$126,986	\$2,491,087	\$2,644,088
2018	\$603,867	\$651,968	\$50,569	\$1,306,404	\$3,571,584
**2019	\$423,523	\$826,761	\$49,716	\$1,300,000	\$2,746,775
2020	\$325,938	\$1,325,085	\$89,153	\$1,740,176	\$1,827,643
2021	\$586,646	\$1,431,568	\$65,986	\$2,084,200	\$2,105,370
2022	\$587,552	\$1,535,370	\$56,349	\$2,179,271	\$2,331,980
2023	\$825,104	\$1,528,991	\$81,458	\$2,435,553	\$2,435,553
2024	\$726,872	\$1,766,348	\$106,791	\$2,600,011	\$2,600,011
			Total Amounts	\$20,053,621	\$20,263,004

*Estimate

** FY2019 Grant awards were for a 6-month grant term

Amounts Awarded and Requested for Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Grant (WRR) Categories

Grant Year	Awarded Disposal Fee	Awarded Business Fee	Total Awarded (Both WRR Categories)	Total Eligible Grant Funds Requested (Both WRR Categories)
2015	\$1,435,558	\$822,233	\$2,257,791	\$3,101,500*
2016	\$2,116,399	\$1,338,426	\$3,454,825	\$3,781,465
2017	\$1,789,483	\$833,734	\$2,623,217	\$4,036,801
2018	\$964,113	\$935,887	\$1,900,000	\$4,402,481
**2019	\$461,365	\$300,180	\$761,545	\$2,188,344
2020	\$1,400,186	\$828,181	\$2,228,367	\$2,481,692
2021	\$1,661,286	\$1,405,815	\$3,067,101	\$3,469,624
2022	\$1,218,800	\$948,373	\$2,100,578	\$3,904,766
2023	\$1,608,610	\$1,189,408	\$2,798,018	\$2,798,108
2024	\$1,046,954	\$1,212,647	\$2,259,601	\$6,076,011
		Total Amounts	\$23,451,043.00	\$33,139,202.00

*Estimate

** FY2019 Grant awards were for a 6-month grant term

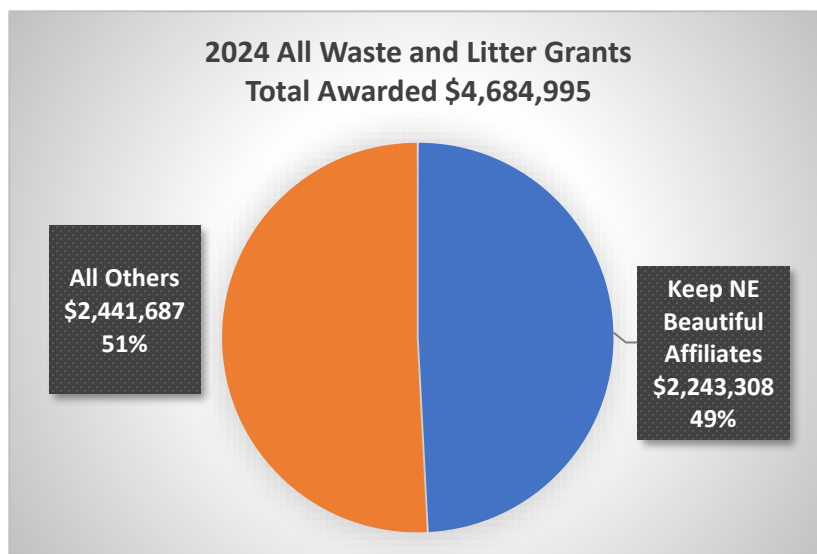
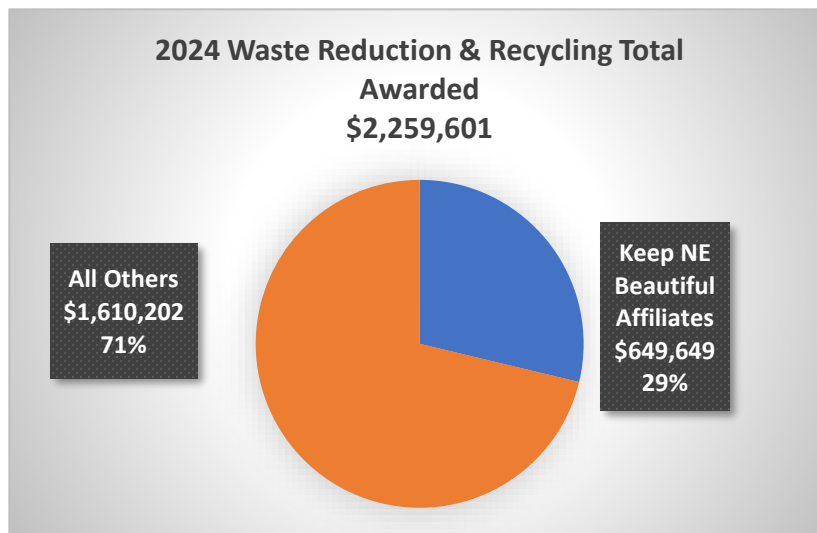
Amounts Awarded for Deconstruction, Illegal Dumpsite, and Landfill Disposal Rebates

Grant Year	Awarded Deconstruction Grants	Awarded Landfill Disposal Rebate	Awarded Illegal Dumpsite
2015		\$28,058	\$94,859
2016		\$162,536	\$80,872
2017		\$75,599	\$100,892
2018		\$40,433	\$99,341
2019		\$14,935	\$91,630
2020	\$186,662	\$23,016	\$102,061
2021		\$101,365	\$48,579
2022		\$72,591	\$30,753
2023		\$112,099	\$26,012
2024		\$117,410	\$33,122
Total	\$186,662	\$748,042	\$708,121

Keep America Beautiful Nebraska Affiliate Funding for 2024

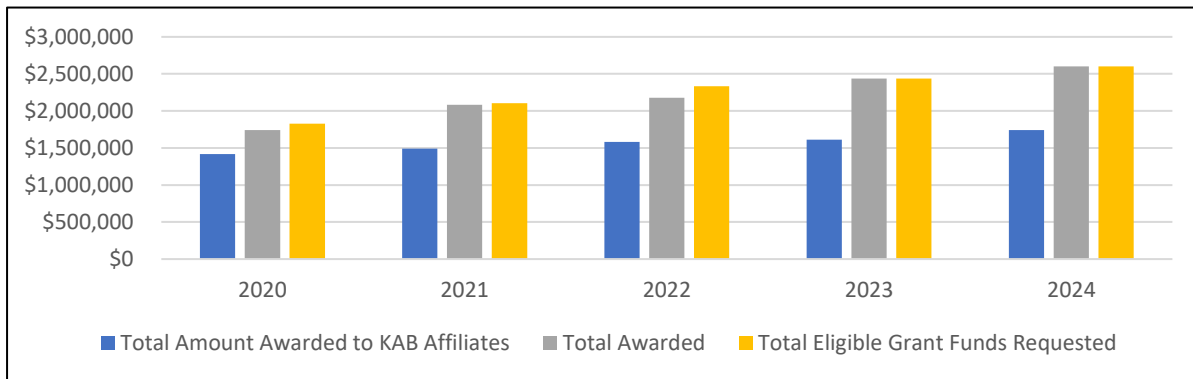
Keep America Beautiful (KAB) is a national non-profit public education organization. Keep Nebraska Beautiful is a statewide affiliate of KAB. There are 20 local KAB affiliate communities in Nebraska. Many of the KAB affiliates receive grant funding from the Litter Reduction and Recycling grant program under the public education category to cover expenses such as personnel and operating expenses. The affiliates teach the importance of reuse, recycling, and reducing waste and litter through school and community-wide education programs.

The Litter grant program also includes the cleanup category, which covers expenses to pick up litter along roadways and in public areas. Recycling is the third category under the Litter grant program and is like the Business Fee category, of the Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Grant Program. Through these last two categories, the KAB affiliates have received funding to operate recycling facilities and household hazardous waste (HHW) facilities. They have also held HHW, electronic waste, and pharmaceutical collections. These events are important because they make sure the materials collected are managed and/or disposed of properly. Although they are not eligible for direct grant funding, some KAB affiliates have worked with local political subdivisions (cities and counties) to organize scrap tire cleanup events.



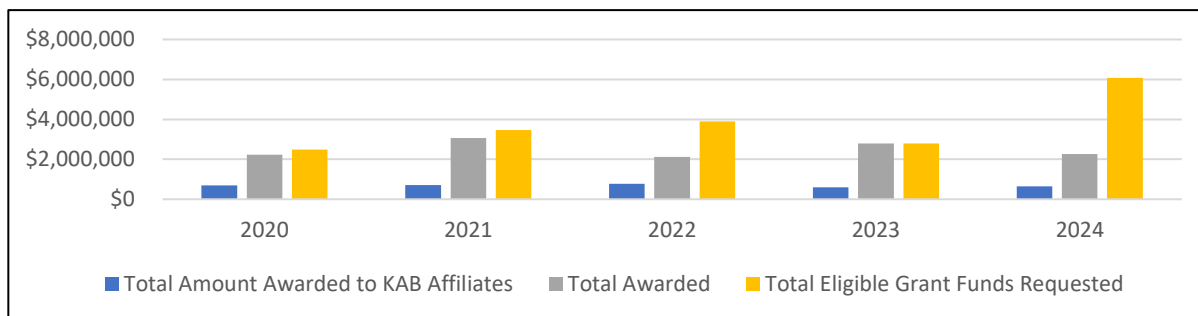
2020-2024 Awarded Litter Reduction and Recycling Grants to Keep America Beautiful (KAB) Nebraska Affiliates

Grant Year	Total Amount Awarded to KAB Affiliates	Percent Awarded to KAB Affiliates	Total Awarded	Total Eligible Grant Funds Requested
2020	\$1,415,978	81%	\$1,740,176	\$1,827,643
2021	\$1,489,598	71%	\$2,084,200	\$2,105,370
2022	\$1,582,064	73%	\$2,176,341	\$2,331,980
2023	\$1,612,349	66%	\$2,435,553	\$2,435,553
2024	\$1,740,379	67%	\$2,600,011	\$2,600,011



2020-2024 Awarded Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Grants to Keep America Beautiful (KAB) Nebraska Affiliates

Grant Year	Total Amount Awarded to KAB Affiliates	Percent Awarded to KAB Affiliates	Total Awarded	Total Eligible Grant Funds Requested
2020	\$689,675	31%	\$2,228,367	\$2,481,692
2021	\$714,693	23%	\$3,067,101	\$3,469,624
2022	\$778,583	37%	\$2,117,673	\$3,904,767
2023	\$596,797	21%	\$2,798,018	\$2,798,018
2024	\$649,649	29%	\$2,259,851	\$6,076,011



Nebraska Voluntary Cleanup Program

The Remedial Action Plan Monitoring Act (RAPMA), initially created in 1995, established the Nebraska Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP). The VCP provides any entity (including, but not limited to property owners or parties responsible for contamination) a mechanism for developing voluntary environmental cleanup plans that are reviewed and approved by NDEE. It also gives applicants a way to proceed with property cleanup and an opportunity for regulatory review and oversight that may not be available at the federal level. In addition, the program serves as an alternative cleanup program to the more traditional federal cleanup programs like Superfund or RCRA. The application fee to participate in the program is \$2,000, and the initial deposit to pay for state oversight costs is \$3,000. NDEE has a Memorandum of Agreement with EPA Region 7, which provides federal approval of VCPs. Under this agreement, any applicant that joins the VCP and successfully completes the cleanup action is assured that EPA will not pursue federal enforcement under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), commonly known as Superfund.

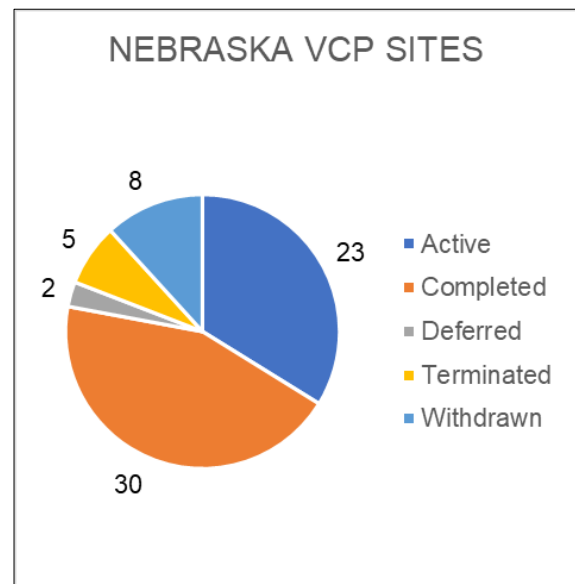
To date, 68 sites have entered the VCP. Currently, 23 sites are active in the VCP. Two sites have been deferred to the EPA Superfund program. Eight sites withdrew from the program. Five sites have been terminated from the program due to lack of activity in completing the investigation and/or cleanup. Twenty-nine sites have successfully completed cleanup requirements and have received "No Further Action" letters from NDEE, and one site received an Acknowledgement Letter for cleanup work completed to date, but not an official No Further Action letter.

NDEE continues to have significant interest from applicants enrolling properties or sites into the VCP. Two new sites enrolled in the VCP this fiscal year include the Vishay Dale Electronics, Inc. Site #6 in Columbus and the Becton, Dickinson and Company site in Columbus.

Investigation activities are ongoing at the Omaha Steel Castings – Parish School site in Omaha, former Goodyear Lease Location #7522 site in Lincoln, former Citizens Gas Former Manufactured Gas Plant (FMGP) site in McCook, 48th & Dodge Redevelopment site in Omaha, and the Flatwater Mews (former Oak Lake Landfill) site in Lincoln.

Cleanup activities are ongoing at the Dettmer Lease Property in Auburn, former Vishay Dale Electronics, Inc. site in Norfolk, International Sensor Systems, Inc. site in Aurora, former Farmland Industries Urea Ammonium Nitrate (UAN) Terminal in Doniphan, Elster American Meter Company site in Nebraska City, former AAA Welding site in Omaha, and the AltEn, LLC site in Mead.

Post-remediation monitoring is ongoing at the New Holland site in Grand Island, Former Nebraska Solvents Company site in Grand Island, Archer Daniels Midland site in Lincoln, Hoover Manufacturing site in Beatrice, and the Appleton Electric, LLC site in Columbus. NDEE is currently reviewing Remedial Action Reports for the Lewis and Clark Landing/Heartland of



America Park Redevelopment site in Omaha, former Max I. Walker Cleaners – Baker Square site in Omaha, West Haymarket Block 4 site in Lincoln, and J.A. Woollam Co., Inc. site in Lincoln.



The historical drycleaning activities at the former Max I. Walker facility at Baker Square caused contamination of the underlying soil and groundwater. As a result, concentrations of chlorinated solvent vapors in soil gas beneath the building posed a vapor intrusion risk to occupants of the facility. Remedial measures implemented through the VCP included installing a soil vapor extraction system that uses negative pressure to remove hazardous vapors from beneath the structure to reduce exposure risks and improve the quality of the indoor air. Air and soil gas monitoring is ongoing, and the site is expected to receive a No Further Action letter next fiscal year.

Voluntary Cleanup Program Sites and Status			
Site	Location	Date Started	Progress
Active Sites			
New Holland	Grand Island	11/9/2000	Active
Former Nebraska Solvents Company	Grand Island	10/10/2007	Active
Archer Daniels Midland	Lincoln	12/11/2008	Active
Dettmer Lease Property	Auburn	5/19/2011	Active
Hoover Manufacturing	Beatrice	5/27/2011	Active
Former Vishay Dale Electronics, Inc.	Norfolk	4/2/2012	Active
Appleton Electric, LLC	Columbus	3/1/2013	Active
International Sensor Systems, Inc.	Aurora	3/2/2017	Active
Omaha Steel Castings – Parish School	Omaha	3/24/2017	Active
J.A. Woollam Co., Inc.	Lincoln	2/26/2018	Active
Former Farmland Industries UAN Terminal	Doniphan	10/9/2018	Active
Lewis and Clark Landing/Heartland of America Park Redevelopment	Omaha	8/13/2019	Active
Elster American Meter Company	Nebraska City	9/19/2019	Active
West Haymarket Block 4	Lincoln	2/4/2020	Active
Former Goodyear Lease Location #7522	Lincoln	7/21/2020	Active
Former Max I. Walker Cleaners – Baker Square	Omaha	1/11/2021	Active
Former AAA Welding	Omaha	1/11/2021	Active
AltEn, LLC	Mead	6/30/2021	Active
Former Citizens Gas FMGP	McCook	11/6/2021	Active
48 th & Dodge Redevelopment	Omaha	12/7/2021	Active
Flatwater Mews (former Oak Lake Landfill)	Lincoln	6/28/2022	Active
Vishay Dale Electronics, Inc. Site #6	Columbus	9/6/2023	Active
Becton, Dickinson and Company	Columbus	9/8/2023	Active

Completed Sites			
KN Energy	Holdrege	4/3/1995	Completed 5/1/97
Lewis and Clark Landing - American Smelting and Refining Company (ASARCO)	Omaha-Riverfront	2/5/1996	Completed 10/11/01
Farmland Industries	Scottsbluff	2/9/1996	Completed 7/2/09
Farmland Industries- Equalizer Midwest Inc. Terminal	Hastings-East	6/25/1997	Completed 9/2/03
Lincoln Plating Co.	Lincoln	9/17/1998	Completed 7/26/12
Composite Structures, Inc. (Witco Corporation)	Omaha-North	1/20/1999	Completed 6/29/99
BNSF Railroad Lot 9	Lincoln-Lot 9 Havelock	4/28/1999	Completed 2/20/01
Haymarket Park	Lincoln-Haymarket	11/9/1999	Completed 9/1/06
Progress Rail Services	Sidney-North	11/22/1999	Completed 1/3/05
Omaha Riverfront Redevelopment (3 sites) – Gallup Campus, Omaha Docks, and West Gallup and Miller Property	Omaha-Riverfront	5/18/2001	Completed 6/18/03, 12/9/03, 11/9/04
Union Pacific Railroad Child Development Center	Omaha-N. Downtown	3/5/2004	Completed 1/13/12
Plaza North Station LLC- Max I Walker Inc. Drop Store	Omaha	7/17/2009	Completed 2/11/14
Former Pfizer Facility – JN Medical Corporation	Omaha	7/28/2009	Completed 5/18/16
CVS Pharmacy	Lincoln	10/13/2010	Completed 1/28/15
West Haymarket Redevelopment Area North	Lincoln	10/27/2010	Completed 12/29/16
Izaak Walton Trap Range	Fremont	10/28/2010	Completed 4/13/12
Magnolia Metal Corporation	Auburn	3/9/2011	Completed 10/31/13
Blair FMGP	Blair	6/28/2011	Completed 4/4/16
Plattsmouth FMGP	Plattsmouth	6/28/2011	Completed 4/4/16
Lewis and Clark Landing – Designated Work Area	Omaha	4/20/2012	Completed 12/29/16
West Haymarket Redevelopment Area South	Lincoln	6/11/2012	Completed 9/18/18
Nebraska Machine Products	Omaha	10/1/2012	Completed 3/26/18
20th and Center FMGP/Lynch Park	Omaha	11/20/2012	Acknowledgement Letter issued 10/1/20
Magnus Farley	Fremont	6/16/2014	Completed 8/23/18
Beatrice FMGP	Beatrice	11/13/2015	Completed 8/22/19
Omaha Steel Castings – Saddle Creek Redevelopment	Omaha	4/26/2016	Completed 8/24/20
Former AmFirst Bank Branch	McCook	11/7/2019	Completed 6/22/20
Tiny Houses	Omaha	2/1/2021	Completed 4/11/23
Deferred, Terminated, or Withdrawn Sites			
Garvey Elevator	Hastings-West	4/13/1995	Deferred to EPA Superfund
Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railroad	Lincoln-N. Havelock	1/17/1996	Terminated 12/4/06
Union Pacific Railroad	Omaha-N. Downtown	1/17/1996	Withdrawn 3/7/03
Lincoln Journal Star	Lincoln-Downtown	2/26/1997	Terminated 1/28/09
Hastings Area-Wide	Hastings	12/17/1997	Withdrawn 6/23/00
Dana Corporation	Hastings-West	9/27/1999	Deferred to EPA Superfund
Brownie Manufacturing	Waverly-Highway 6	4/25/2000	Withdrawn 7/19/01
BNSF Railroad	Lincoln-Havelock Yards	10/26/2000	Terminated 12/4/06
Owen Parkway East	Omaha-Abbott Drive	12/13/2000	Withdrawn 11/26/02
Sanford & Son	Lincoln-North	1/22/2002	Terminated 4/18/07
Vishay Dale Electronics	Norfolk	11/13/2006	Terminated 4/20/09
Quality Analytical Services	Omaha	8/2/2012	Withdrawn 6/3/14

Former Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products	Lincoln	10/26/2016	Withdrawn 6/11/19
Former Citizens Gas FMGP	McCook	6/4/2018	Withdrawn 7/16/20
Galaxy Laundry	Grand Island	2/2/2022	Withdrawn 1/4/23

Brownfields Assessments and Cleanups

A brownfield site is a vacant or under-used property where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by the presence or potential presence of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants. Common brownfield properties include historic dry cleaners, former gas stations, auto repair shops, and closed manufacturing facilities. These properties can be contaminated with various chemicals such as tetrachloroethene (PCE) used in dry cleaning, benzene from petroleum fuel, and heavy metals such as lead from manufacturing activities.

NDEE's Section 128(a) Brownfields Program receives funding from EPA to offer various investigations and assistance at no cost to eligible applicants. This includes the following services:

- Phase I Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs) provide a review of historical documents and regulatory databases to determine if there are any environmental concerns associated with the past use of a property (e.g., the property was a gas station in the 1950s) and surrounding land use.
- Phase II ESAs are completed when environmental concerns are identified in the Phase I ESA, and include collecting soil, soil gas, and/or groundwater samples to identify if there has been a release to the environment and the initial extent of contamination on-site.
- Asbestos-containing materials, lead-based paint, and mold surveys can be completed on building materials as part of a Phase I ESA, Phase II ESA, or independently.
- Brownfield property inventories help to document all brownfields properties in a corridor, neighborhood, downtown, or other larger area slated for redevelopment.
- Cleanup planning activities (e.g., an Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives report) include cleanup options and cost estimates based on future uses and redevelopment plans. Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives reports are required to qualify for federal cleanup grants.
- Cleanup grants provide partial assistance for asbestos abatement or cleanup to contain and reduce contamination at a site (e.g., treatment or excavation of contaminated soil).
- Other cleanup assistance may include planning grants to assist with developing a cleanup plan for a contaminated site.

This year, the Section 128(a) Brownfields Program rolled out the Orphan Tank Removal Program (OTRP). The OTRP covers 100% of the costs associated with removing abandoned underground storage tanks (USTs) at former service stations and industrial facilities for eligible applicants and properties. For a UST to qualify for removal by the OTRP, the tank must be out of operation and cannot be tied to a liable or viable party. The UST must also be located on a Brownfields site, which must be owned by an organization that represents community interests; this may include city or county governments, non-profit organizations, economic development districts, regional councils of government, or other public entities. This program was developed and made possible by additional Section 128(a) funding made available through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, aka the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

During the past year, NDEE has completed ten Phase I ESAs, five Phase II ESAs, eight asbestos-containing materials surveys, five lead-based paint surveys, four mold surveys, one Brownfield Inventory, one Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives report, and a Ground Penetrating Radar investigation at a former service station to locate abandoned USTs slated for removal through the OTRP. NDEE also provided partial cleanup assistance for asbestos removal to five applicants.



Community Crops is a non-profit organization based in Lincoln, NE that provides education and resources for people to grow their own food. In 2022, Community Crops set their sights on a new community garden site on vacant land adjacent to the Charles H. Gere Library in Lincoln. The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD) requested environmental assessments to ensure the soil was safe for gardening. Being that Community Crops is a small organization with limited funding, Community Crops reached out to the NDEE Brownfields Program for assistance. The NDEE used nearly \$14,000 of Section 128(a) Brownfields Program funding to complete a Phase I ESA and conduct additional soil sampling that met the standards of the LLCHD. Following the assessment work, Community Crops was able to move forward with the garden site. The Gere Library garden has had a wonderfully successful first season serving 18 households (46 individuals), with 17% of these families being immigrants or refugees and 56% being low-to-moderate income.

Brownfields Program Enhancement and Public Outreach

Program enhancement and public outreach are key components that serve to educate the public on what a brownfield is and promote how NDEE's Brownfields Program can be used by communities for economic development. Workshops are arranged with a goal to increase knowledge and understanding of the environmental stigma attached to brownfield properties and how NDEE's resources can serve as a catalyst to bring these properties back to productive reuse. These workshops serve to connect stakeholders of Nebraska communities with resource providers and consist of presentations from a variety of people that play an important role in economic development.

Outreach activities completed in FY2024 include:

- Presentation at the March Environmental Meeting with the Nebraska Chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers in Lincoln – March 26, 2024.
- Interview at the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials, Inc. (ASTSWMO) Mid-Year Meeting in Boston, MA – April 23, 2024.
- Brownfields Redevelopment Workshop in Neligh, NE – May 21, 2024.
- NDEE University Presentation at NDEE Office in Lincoln – June 18, 2024.
- Presentation at the Relators Association of Lincoln, June Commercial Brokers Committee Meeting – June 26, 2024.



On April 23, 2024, NDEE's Brownfields Coordinator, Taryn Horn (Center), spoke at the ASTSWMO Mid-Year Meeting in Boston, MA. Taryn's session, called "BILding the Good Life in Rural Nebraska", highlighted Nebraska's efforts to support vital cleanups in small and rural communities using Section 128(a) funding provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. NDEE was asked to speak because of its experience providing assessments and cleanups to small and rural communities in Nebraska who otherwise lack capacity to address brownfields sites.

The NDEE Brownfields Program also meets one-on-one with community representatives as an outreach approach to discuss resources and develop strategies for the successful redevelopment of brownfield properties.

In FY2024, NDEE met with representatives of the following communities/organizations to discuss resources and next steps for redevelopment of their priority brownfield project listed below:

- City of Beatrice – Dempster Industries
- Seward County Community Development – Former Centennial School building in Utica
- Village of Elm Creek – Former service station at 340 E. Front Street
- Schuyler Community Development – Historical Top Notch building
- League of Nebraska Municipalities – Former office building.
- City of Lincoln – Additional projects in Haymarket area.
- City of Hastings – Former Middle School building.
- Lutheran Family Services – Former Dana College in Bellevue
- Blair Freeman – Former dumping ground at 2108 L Street in Omaha

Outreach efforts by the NDEE Brownfields Program also helped Centennial Public Schools (CPS) secure a technical assistance grant from the EPA. CPS has been working with the Village of Utica and Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership to seek support and redevelopment ideas for the former Centennial school building and bus barn in Utica. The technical assistance grant will help provide a feasibility study, site planning, and exploration of different use options for a Preliminary Reuse Framework Report.



On May 20, 2024, EPA announced that the City of Schuyler was selected to receive a Community-Wide Assessment Grant in the amount of \$500,000. A Community-Wide Assessment Grant provides funding for a grant recipient to inventory, characterize, and assess brownfield sites in their community; conduct a range of planning activities; develop site-specific cleanup plans; and conduct community engagement. NDEE assisted the City of Schuyler with their grant application by visiting with the former Economic Development Director, touring brownfields sites in Schuyler, and following up on available resources. NDEE also provided a travel stipend to the former Economic Development Director to attend the National Brownfields Training Conference. NDEE drafted a letter to the EPA in support of the City of Schuyler's efforts in applying for the grant and revitalizing their community. (Left: Brian Bywater – Schuyler Community Development; Right Meg McCollister – EPA Region 7 Administrator).

In addition to providing public outreach, NDEE awards travel stipends to local community representatives to attend the National Brownfields Training Conference and other educational brownfields workshops. In 2023, NDEE awarded six travel stipends to the City of Hastings, Schuyler Community Development, Southeast Nebraska Development District, City of Auburn, Civic Nebraska, and the Metropolitan Area Planning Agency to attend the National Brownfields Training Conference in Detroit, MI from August 8-11, 2023. In 2024, NDEE awarded one travel stipend to the City of Seward to attend the Brownfields Redevelopment Workshop in Neligh, NE on May 21, 2024.

To facilitate the leveraging of public resources, NDEE's Brownfields Program collaborates with EPA Region 7, KSU TAB, and other partners to identify and make available resources that can be used for brownfields activities. NDEE tracks leveraged resources by evaluating the dollars leveraged, cleanup and redevelopment jobs leveraged, and acres made ready for anticipated reuse. In the current Cooperative Agreement periods (starting on July 1, 2020 for Section 128(a) funding provided via the annual appropriation and October 6, 2022 for Section 128(a) funding provided via the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act), Nebraska has received \$4,594,920 in total funding and has leveraged \$2,479,957 in additional cleanup and redevelopment funding, 65.25 cleanup and redevelopment jobs, and 168.34 acres ready for anticipated reuse at 16 properties. Funding provided by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act has allowed the NDEE Brownfields Program to expand and develop new resources so a greater number of communities can address their brownfield properties and cultivate healthy,

resilient neighborhoods. Additional resources currently being developed as a result of this funding include cleanup programs to address mold and lead-based paint, as well as a technical assistance program that will allow a community to hire a consultant to assist with strategic planning and sustainability analysis for a brownfield redevelopment project.

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Program

The NDEE received authorization from the EPA in 1985 to administer portions of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) program. Nebraska Administrative Code (NAC) *Title 128 - Nebraska Hazardous Waste Regulations* incorporates the applicable RCRA regulations, which the NDEE updates as Federal regulations change.

The purpose of the RCRA program is to ensure proper management of hazardous wastes from the point of generation until final disposal. Activities performed under the RCRA program include:

- Helping hazardous waste generators maintain compliance through a Compliance Assistance Program
- Performing compliance inspections and enforcement actions
- Investigating complaints
- Reviewing groundwater contamination monitoring and remediation systems
- Reviewing permit applications and determining whether permits should be issued for proposed treatment, storage, and disposal (TSD) facilities
- Reviewing/approving closure and post-closure plans for hazardous waste storage areas and disposal sites
- Permitting and regulating the clean-up of hazardous waste that has been released to the environment through the RCRA Corrective Action program
- Maintaining data systems to support decision-making and making information available to the public.

The Compliance Assistance Program helps Nebraska businesses, government entities, and the public comply with hazardous and solid waste regulations in a non-enforcement setting. This program works with the regulated community in a partnership that promotes hazardous waste minimization and pollution prevention to encourage waste generators to take steps that actually reduce the amount of hazardous waste being generated in the state saving them resources, time and costs. An additional product of these efforts is that it ultimately reduces the number of regulatory requirements on our industries by helping hazardous waste generators generate less RCRA hazardous wastes.

Compliance and enforcement activities include investigating complaints and inspecting hazardous waste generators and transporters (including accompanying US EPA Region 7 on their inspections); hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities; and used oil marketers and burners. Other compliance and enforcement activities include conducting comprehensive groundwater monitoring evaluations and operation and maintenance inspections of sampling and analysis procedures for RCRA cleanup sites to ensure that useful and representative data is being collected to review and document progress.

The RCRA program also conducts extensive permitting and closure activities to prevent the release of hazardous substances into the environment. Closure actions are required for treatment, storage, or disposal facilities that discontinue operations or that have operated without a permit. Permits are required for all operating treatment, storage, and disposal facilities. Post-

closure permits are required for treatment, storage, and disposal facilities that have gone through closure and have contamination remaining on-site.

There is one operating hazardous waste storage and treatment facility in Nebraska: the Clean Harbors Environmental Services, Inc. incinerator near Kimball, which began operation in 1994. This facility has a compliance inspection twice per year and undergoes annual performance test burns to demonstrate proper operation and compliance with applicable Title 128 – Nebraska Hazardous Waste Regulations and its permit to operate requirements. Operational and physical changes at the Clean Harbors incinerator, made to improve the performance of the facility and ensure compliance with applicable regulations, result in numerous permit modifications. In addition, Clean Harbors has announced plans to expand the Kimball facility. The Air Quality Construction permit and the RCRA permit have been issued. Nebraska also oversees two active hazardous waste storage facilities that do not treat hazardous waste.

Corrective action addresses past and present activities at RCRA facilities that resulted in hazardous waste and hazardous constituents being released into soil, groundwater, surface water, and air. Corrective action requires investigation and remediation of the release of hazardous constituents from regulated facilities. These regulations make current and former owners of a property responsible for past mismanagement of hazardous waste. NDEE has administered the RCRA Corrective Action Program since January of 2017.

Significant Accomplishments

Significant corrective action accomplishments during FY2024 include the modification of the RCRA permits for both Safety-Kleen facilities (Grand Island and Omaha) and Clean Harbors Environmental Services Inc (Kimball).

EPA requires generators use the e-manifest module that is part of the national RCRAInfo database. Nebraska assists generators in the use of the e-manifest system, which provides a more efficient way for tracking the shipment of hazardous waste electronically. It provides a notification system so that those in the chain (generator, transporter, and disposal facility) can see and manage the movement of wastes, as well as for States and EPA to lessen the time spent reviewing paper manifests. The reduction in the use of paper since system implementation has reduced costs and saved generators time by being able to manage the manifest information and correct discrepancies easier. This has provided multiple benefits including less solid waste, and space savings for not having to store all that paper. This system also provides the public a way to review wastes generated and disposed by generators, and the process it followed to be properly disposed.

Nebraska's RCRA program continues to help generators notify and manage their generator status by having them electronically file through the secure Industry national RCRAInfo database. In addition, Nebraska assists facility hazardous waste managers to prepare their Hazardous Waste notification form electronically. NDEE then is notified and approves the requests electronically, which saves NDEE and the hazardous waste facilities time, equating to money saved. Each generator then has electronic notification (email documentation) of the last time their status was updated and by whom. In the rare occurrence that a generator files a notification by mail or thorough an email to the RCRA program staff work with that generator to get them set up to file electronically and upload the information while working with that generator to complete their notification.

Program Funding

Funding for RCRA program activities is provided by an EPA grant, which requires a 25% state match.

The RCRA program collects an annual fee from commercial hazardous waste treatment and disposal facilities. Currently, one facility in Nebraska performs hazardous waste treatment and disposal. The fees are based on the total yearly volume or weight of hazardous waste treated or disposed. Fees are due March 1 and are remitted to the state general fund.

Currently, the RCRA Program oversees the following active sites:

- 92 Large Quantity Generators (greater than 2,200 pounds of hazardous waste generated per month)
- 443 Small Quantity Generators (between 220 and 2,200 pounds generated per month)
- 1,479 Very Small Quantity Generators (Federal Status – less than 220 pounds per month)
- 1 Hazardous Waste Incinerator Facility
- 3 Treatment, Storage or Disposal Facilities
- 24 Hazardous Waste Transporters

Location by County of Large Quantity Generators in Nebraska Regulated Under RCRA			
Buffalo 3	Hall 4	Platte 2	Washington 2
Cass 1	Kimball 1	Red Willow 1	Wayne 1
Cheyenne 1	Knox 1	Sarpy 9	York 1
Cuming 1	Lancaster 26	Saunders 2	
Dodge 1	Madison 2	Scottsbluff 2	
Douglas 22	Otoe 1	Seward 2	
Fillmore 1	Phelps 2	Stanton 1	
Gage 1			

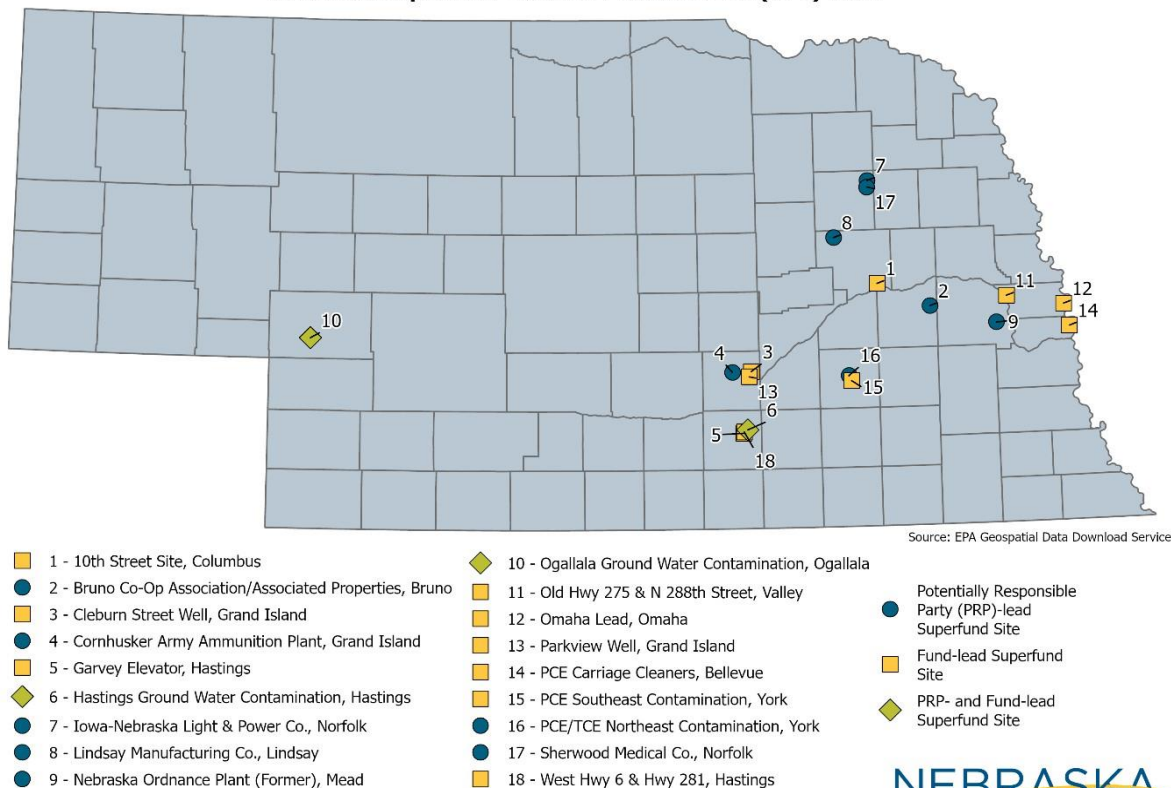
Summary of SFY2024 Activities		
Compliance	State	EPA
On-site Visits	1	*
Direct Assistance Contacts	653	*
Public Outreach Presentations (total 30 in attendance)	1	*
Complaints Received	15	*
Complaints Investigated	15	*
Complaints Closed	15	*
<i>*Data not available</i>		
RCRA Inspections		
Land Treatment Facilities	0	0
Treatment, Disposal, and Storage Facilities	2	2
Comprehensive Groundwater Monitoring Evaluations	0	0
Operation and Maintenance Inspections	0	0
Facility Self-Disclosure	0	0
Large Quantity Generator	6	7
Small Quantity Generator	12	1
Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators	1	1
Transporters	0	0
RCRA Permitting		
Closure Plans Finalized	0	0
Permits Issued/Renewed	1	0
Modifications	2	0
EPA Corrective Action Orders	0	0
RCRA Record Reviews		
Financial Assurance Closure/Post Closure	1	0
Corrective Action	17	0

Superfund Program

Thousands of contaminated sites exist nationally due to hazardous waste being improperly managed. The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) became federal law in 1980 to clean up these sites, which include manufacturing facilities, processing plants, landfills, and mining sites. Superfund is a federal cleanup program designed to investigate and cleanup sites contaminated with hazardous substances under CERCLA. Sites in the Superfund program that are listed on the National Priorities List (NPL) are considered the most highly contaminated and undergo longer-term remedial investigation and cleanups. These sites pose the highest risk to human health and the environment in the nation.

The investigation and remediation of contaminated sites under CERCLA are the primary responsibility of EPA and other federal agencies. NDEE participates in the Superfund process by serving as a technical support agency to EPA and as the environmental representative for the State of Nebraska. The EPA, with concurrence from the State of Nebraska, determines whether a site should be listed on the NPL.

Nebraska Superfund National Priorities List (NPL) Sites



Source: EPA Geospatial Data Download Service

Spatial Reference
Name: NAD 1983 StatePlane Nebraska FIPS 2600 Feet

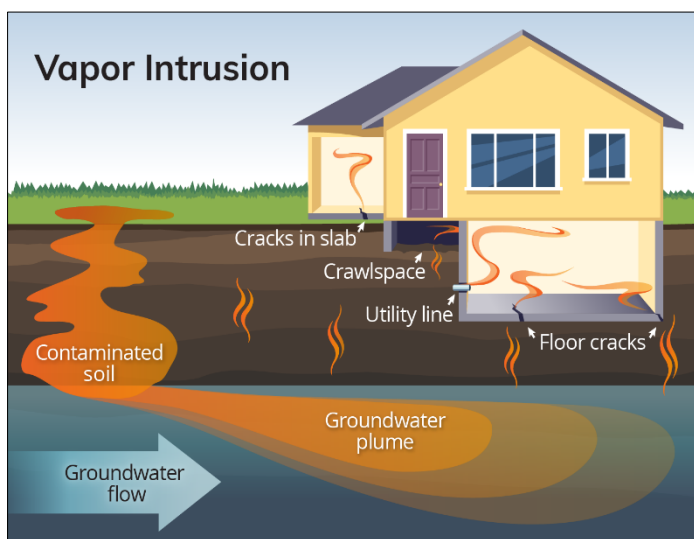


Date Created: 9/11/2023

This investigation and remedial work at Nebraska Superfund sites make a visible and lasting difference in communities across the state, giving people healthy places to live and work. NDEE provides technical assistance to EPA Superfund efforts across two programs: the Superfund Site Assessment Program and the Superfund Management Assistance Program.

Superfund Site Assessment Program

The Superfund Site Assessment Program identifies, assesses, and characterizes sites where hazardous substances are known or suspected to pose a threat to public health and/or the environment. Currently, the sites investigated in Nebraska consist primarily of areas around contaminated municipal and private drinking water supply wells or where there is a significant potential for groundwater contamination. It is also becoming more common to investigate sites for potential vapor intrusion from contaminated soil or groundwater.



What is Vapor Intrusion?

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are a class of chemicals that are volatile (evaporate easily) and form a vapor in the air. Vapor intrusion is a way that these volatile chemicals in soil and groundwater near and under buildings can enter and build up inside the buildings, similar to how radon can enter a home. Common uses of VOCs included dry cleaning, treatment of stored grain, and industrial operations. Breathing in certain VOCs at elevated levels can cause adverse health effects based on overall age and health, the length of exposure, and the type of chemical.

Image courtesy of the Washington State Department of Ecology

Site assessment steps:

1. **Pre-CERCLA Screening Assessment.** This step is a review of existing information on a potential site to determine whether a release has occurred requiring further evaluation through the Superfund process.
2. **Abbreviated Preliminary Assessment/Preliminary Assessment.** This step involves collecting background information such as property ownership, operational history, and geology/hydrogeology, and performing a site reconnaissance.
3. **Site Inspection.** This step involves sampling environmental media, such as soil, soil gas, and groundwater, and evaluating vapor intrusion into indoor air of building structures. In some situations, a combined Preliminary Assessment and Site Inspection is conducted.

4. Expanded Site Inspection. This step is performed at large and/or complex sites to collect additional soil and groundwater samples to further define the extent of contamination.
5. Site Re-Assessment. This step is performed at some sites if new information is obtained that indicates that a threat to public health and/or the environment may exist.

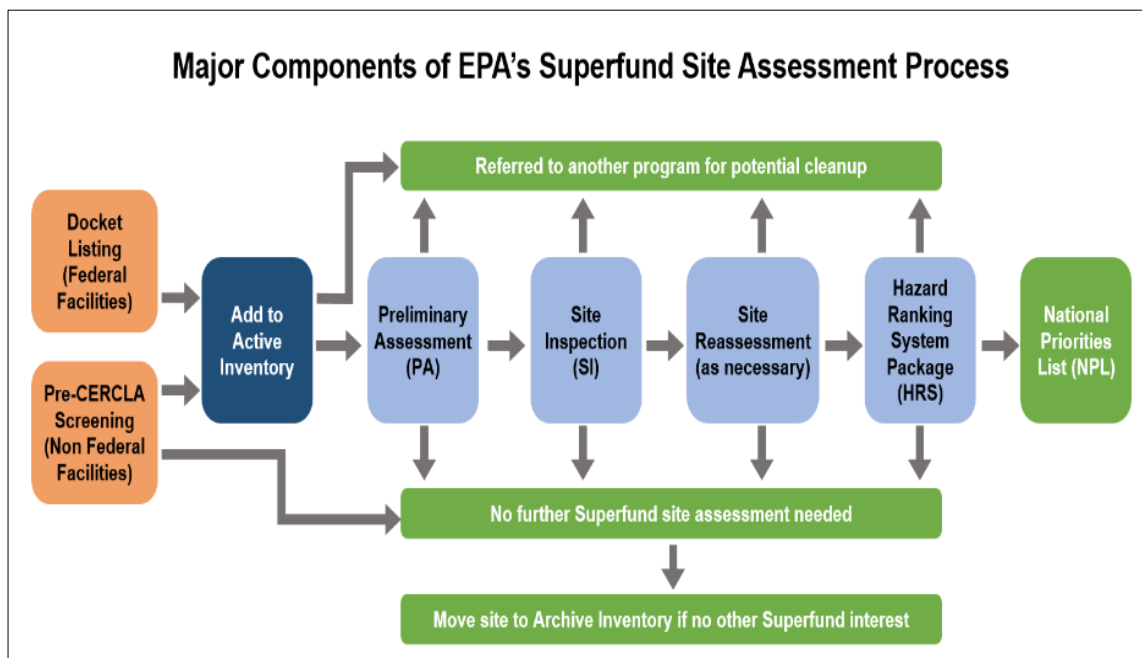
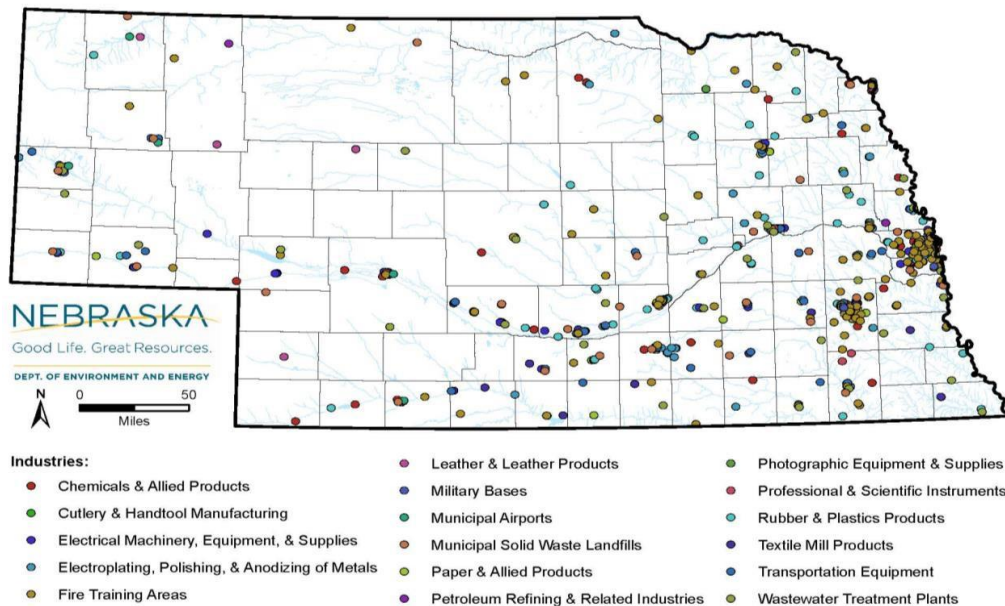


Image courtesy of the EPA

NDEE often uses inventories to guide its prioritization of site assessment projects. In 2017, NDEE compiled a Statewide Inventory of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). PFAS are a large group of man-made chemicals that have been used in consumer products, industrial processes, and firefighting foams since the 1940s. PFAS are resistant to heat, oils, stains, grease, and water, and break down very slowly over time. These unique properties contribute to their wide use and persistence in the environment. The figure on the following page illustrates the locations of industries present across the state that potentially used or manufactured PFAS based on the 2017 Statewide Inventory.

Nebraska Statewide Inventory Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances



EPA has identified PFAS as contaminants of emerging concern that can have adverse health effects if found in drinking water supplies. One of the main uses of PFAS is in aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF), which is a commercial surfactant solution used to extinguish hydrocarbon fires. Other high priority processes and facilities identified in the Statewide Inventory include metal and chrome plating facilities and fire training areas. Due to the scope of this inventory and research methods utilized, there were additional facilities which may have used, manufactured, or accumulated PFAS-related materials that are not included in this inventory, including wastewater treatment plants, landfills, and sites where AFFF was used, such as past and present civilian and military airports, past aviation crash sites, oil spill sites, or other large fire sites.

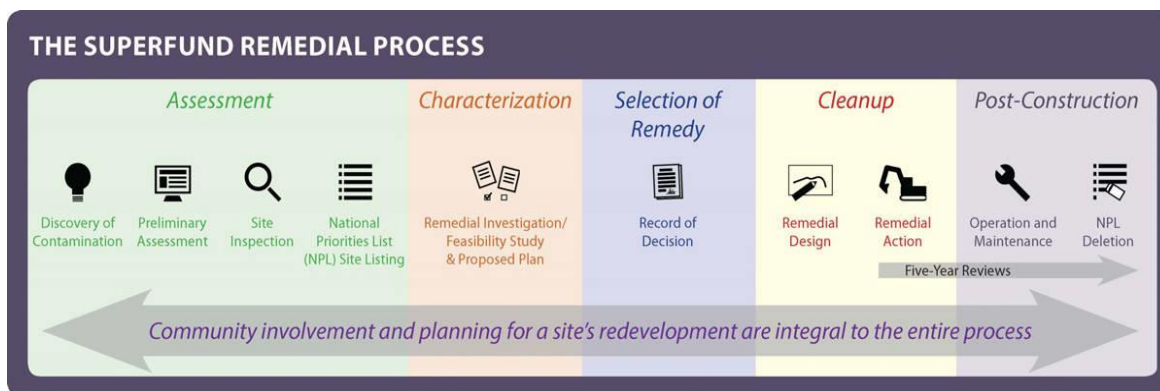
During the past year, NDEE has performed work on three Pre-CERCLA Screening Assessments, three Abbreviated Preliminary Assessments, three Site Inspections, one Expanded Site Inspection, and six Site Re-Assessments.



In March 2024, NDEE completed an Abbreviated Preliminary Assessment at the Bare Ave & 2nd Street Private Wells site in North Platte. The purpose of the Abbreviated Preliminary Assessment was to assess the impact on drinking water sources downgradient from several businesses that may have used PFAS in western North Platte, including several dry cleaners, a former electroplater, a business related to tarps and covers, a railroad yard, and two fire stations. Samples were collected from private wells (left), a municipal well (center), and temporary wells (right) to determine the existence and possible extent of groundwater contamination by PFAS

Superfund Management Assistance Program

The Superfund Management Assistance program provides management and technical support to EPA at NPL sites in Nebraska. This assistance includes reviewing technical documents and participating in the Superfund remedy selection process. As the most heavily contaminated sites in the nation, NPL sites are generally large and complex, because they often involve more than one contaminated media and have multiple sub-units with varying contaminants. The activities at these sites are organized into several phases, including site assessment, characterization, remedy selection, cleanup, and post-construction activities. NDEE also participates in public meetings with citizens and local officials in the development of cleanup plans.



Nebraska currently has 18 active NPL sites. One site, the Waverly Groundwater Contamination Site, was removed from the NPL on November 20, 2006, upon achieving the cleanup goals for the site. Fourteen of the sites are in the cleanup phase and four sites (the Iowa-Nebraska Light & Power Company site in Norfolk; Old Hwy 275 site in Valley; PCE Carriage Cleaners site in Bellevue; and PCE/TCE Northeast Contamination site in York) are relatively new to the NPL and are in the site study stage.

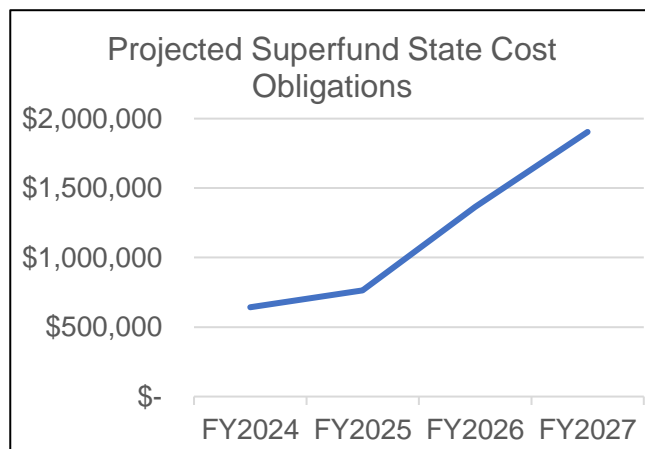
Below is a list of the 18 active NPL sites. Aside each site name is an EPA web address that provides more detailed information about the site.

Active National Priorities List Sites in Nebraska	
Site Name	EPA Web Address
10th Street Site, Columbus	https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csinfo.cfm?id=0702001
Bruno Co-Op Association/Associated Properties, Bruno	https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csinfo.cfm?id=0702000
Cleburn Street Well, Grand Island	https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csinfo.cfm?id=0701986
Cornhusker Army Ammunition Plant, Grand Island	https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csinfo.cfm?id=0702020
Garvey Elevator, Hastings	https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csinfo.cfm?id=0704351
Hastings Ground Water Contamination, Hastings	https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csinfo.cfm?id=0701973
Iowa-Nebraska Light & Power Co., Norfolk	https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/CurSites/csinfo.cfm?id=0702377&msspp=med

Lindsay Manufacturing Co., Lindsay	https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0701913
Nebraska Ordnance Plant (Former), Mead	https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0702031
Ogallala Ground Water Contamination, Ogallala	https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0702287
Old Hwy 275 & N 288th Street, Valley	https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0704272&msspp=med
Omaha Lead, Omaha	https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0703481
Parkview Well, Grand Island	https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0704456
PCE Carriage Cleaners, Bellevue	https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0710226
PCE Southeast Contamination, York	https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0706200&msspp=med
PCE/TCE Northeast Contamination, York	https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0706105&msspp=med
Sherwood Medical Co., Norfolk	https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0702086
West Hwy 6 & Hwy 281, Hastings	https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0704738

Under the Superfund program, EPA has the authority to mandate the parties responsible for the contamination to either perform the cleanup or provide reimbursement for EPA-led cleanup. If the responsible parties are no longer in business or cannot be identified, then EPA has the authority to finance and perform the cleanup itself. State cost obligations occur when the responsible party lacks the financial resources so federal funds are used to pay for the cleanup.

Of the 18 active Nebraska sites on the National Priorities List, seven are being addressed by the responsible party. The remaining eleven sites either are or will be partially or fully financed by Federal and State funds (i.e., “fund-lead”). For fund-lead sites, the State of Nebraska enters into contracts with EPA and agrees to pay 10% of the capital costs of constructing the cleanup system, 10% of initial startup operation costs, and 10% of on-going operation and maintenance costs for the first ten years of the project. State cost obligations may be waived for a portion of the cleanup if EPA uses funds derived from a settlement (or other instrument) with potentially responsible parties or if funds are provided by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) of 2021. After the initial ten years, the State pays 100% of the operation and maintenance costs. Initially, NDEE funded these costs with legislative appropriations of General Funds. During 2004-2007, NDEE received Nebraska Environmental Trust grant funding to pay these costs. Beginning in FY18, the Legislature authorized NDEE to fund these costs through a transfer of up to \$1.5 million from the Petroleum Release Remedial Action Cash Fund into the Superfund Cost Share Cash fund.



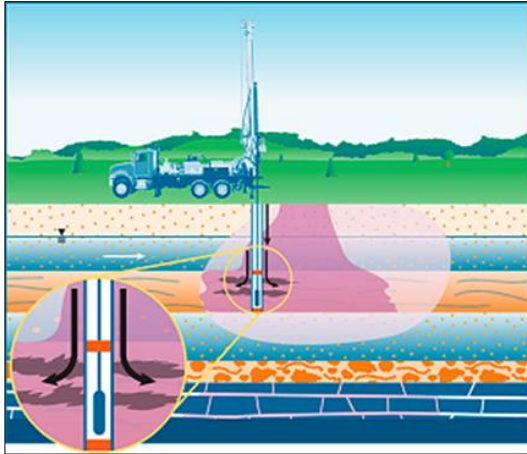
For FY2024, NDEE's cost share was \$642,560.87. Future projections of these costs are \$763,609 in FY2025, \$1,365,711 in FY2026, and \$1,904,094 in FY2027. In FY2025, NDEE is not expected to have a 10% cost share for remedial activities at Fund-lead sites due to the use of IIJA funds; however, it will retain its responsibility for 100% of the operation and maintenance costs at the five sites described below.

During the last year, NDEE paid 100% of operation and maintenance costs related to cleanup at the Cleburn Operable Unit (OU) 3 subsite in Grand Island, Columbus 10th Street site, Hastings Second Street OU 20 subsite, Ogallala OU 2 subsite, and Parkview Well OU 1 subsite in Grand Island.

- At the Cleburn OU 3 subsite, NDEE is completing routine groundwater sampling. The Cleburn OU 3 subsite was contaminated as a result of dry-cleaning operations.
- At the Columbus 10th Street site, NDEE initiated a pilot study in FY 2023 for in-situ treatment near the southern municipal well field. Additional data was collected in FY 2024. The results of this pilot study will be evaluated during the next fiscal year. NDEE is also completing routine groundwater sampling, vapor intrusion sampling, and vapor mitigation system inspections. The Columbus 10th Street site was contaminated as a result of dry-cleaning operations.
- At the Hastings Second Street OU 20 subsite, NDEE is completing routine groundwater sampling and in-situ treatment. The Hastings Second Street OU 20 subsite was contaminated from operation of a coal gas plant.
- At the Ogallala OU 2 subsite, NDEE is completing routine groundwater sampling, vapor intrusion sampling, and vapor mitigation system inspections. The Ogallala OU 2 subsite was contaminated as a result of dry-cleaning operations.
- At the Parkview Well OU 1 subsite, NDEE is operating and maintaining a groundwater extraction and treatment system. NDEE is also completing routine groundwater sampling, vapor intrusion sampling, and vapor mitigation system inspections. The Parkview Well OU 1 subsite was contaminated from industrial operations.



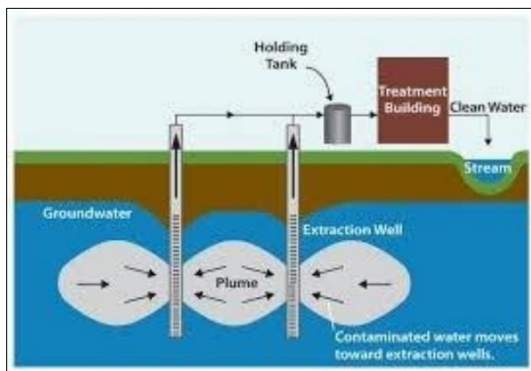
This photo shows one of the two air strippers inside the groundwater treatment plant at the Parkview Well OU 1 subsite. Groundwater is pumped to the top of the air stripper, and then runs through the perforated trays. The contaminated air goes out the top of the air stripper. The treated groundwater is either pumped to a storm water drain or to one of the discharges into Kenmare Lake.



What are In-Situ Injections?

In-situ remediation treats contamination “in place” using chemical or biological approaches. This can be done below ground surface and with minimal disturbance by injecting the chemical or biological substrate directly into the groundwater. The substrate is injected at the appropriate depths and locations to allow it to come into direct contact with the contamination.

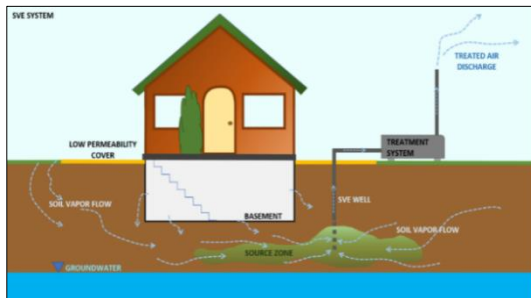
Image courtesy of the Interstate Technology Regulatory Council (ITRC)



What is Groundwater Extraction and Treatment?

Groundwater extraction and treatment uses extraction wells to pump groundwater to an aboveground treatment system. Once treated water meets regulated standards, it is discharged for disposal or beneficially reused.

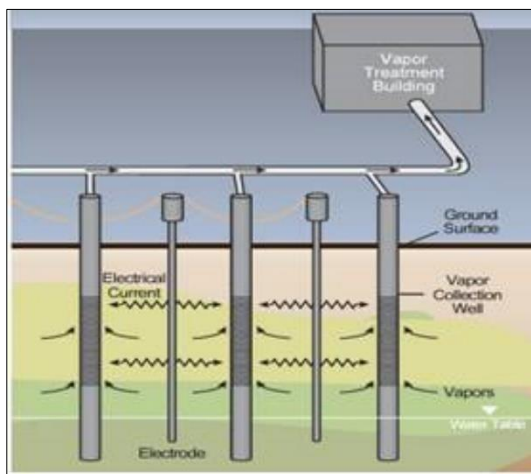
Image courtesy of the EPA



What is Soil Vapor Extraction?

Soil vapor extraction uses wells to extract soil vapor to reduce or eliminate sources of contamination in the unsaturated zone. The off-gas is typically treated before being discharged into the atmosphere

Image courtesy of ITRC



What is In Situ Thermal Treatment?

In situ thermal treatment treats contamination “in place” using heat. The heat is generated using either electrodes, steam, or underground heaters, which vaporize chemicals in soil and groundwater. The chemical vapors move through soil and groundwater toward vapor collection wells and are then piped to the ground surface to be treated before being discharged into the atmosphere.

Image courtesy of the EPA

IIJA funds are being used for cleanup at the Garvey Elevator OU 1 subsite in Hastings, Hastings Second Street OU 12 subsite, Parkview Well OU 2 subsite in Grand Island, and PCE Southeast OU 1 and OU 2 subsites in York. The use of IIJA funds is expected to result in a cost savings of \$2,622,747 in NDEE's cost share.

- At the Garvey Elevator OU 1 subsite, IIJA funds are being used for operation and maintenance of a soil vapor extraction system and groundwater extraction and treatment system, and for routine groundwater sampling. The Garvey Elevator OU 1 subsite was contaminated from the use of liquid fumigant at a grain storage facility.
- At the Hastings Second Street OU 12 subsite, IIJA funds are being used for the construction and operation of an in-situ thermal treatment system. The Hastings Second Street OU 12 subsite was contaminated from operation of a coal gas plant.



The top photo shows a wellfield for an in-situ thermal treatment system at the Hastings Second Street OU 12 subsite. Heaters are placed close together to reach the targeted temperatures. In this area, vapor extraction wells are installed with the heaters to remove vapors and keep them from cooling and blocking the system. This strategy keeps the vapor temperature high in the extraction wells, preventing condensation and blockage. From this wellfield, the vapors are pulled into the blowers where they are sent to the treatment phase.



The bottom photo shows blowers (on the right) that move contaminated vapor from the wellfield to three treatment units (on the left) at the Hastings Second Street OU 12 subsite. The blowers control the air flow and adjust their speed as needed. The treatment units use natural gas to heat and clean the vapor. Usually, two units work together, with a third used during busy times. Safety devices monitor the vapor to prevent explosions, automatically adjusting or shutting down if necessary. The cleaned air is then released into the atmosphere.

- At the Parkview Well OU 2 subsite, IIJA funds are being used to perform in-situ injections. The Parkview Well OU 2 subsite was contaminated from industrial operations.



The above photos show the *in situ* injections at the Parkview Well OU 2 subsite. Chemicals called oxidants are mixed with water above ground (left) and are pumped underground into contaminated groundwater (center). Real time monitoring (right) is used to ensure that the oxidants are delivered to the correct locations and depths. These oxidants break down the volatile compounds in the groundwater to byproducts like carbon dioxide and water. This is an efficient and cost-effective way to treat groundwater.

- At the PCE Southeast OU 1 and OU 2 subsites, IIJA funds are being used for the construction and operation of an *in-situ* thermal treatment system. The PCE Southeast OU 1 and OU 2 subsites were contaminated as a result of dry-cleaning operations.



On May 23, 2024, EPA hosted an event to highlight the ongoing cleanup of the PCE Southeast Superfund Site in York, NE. EPA Region 7 Administrator Meg McCollister (right) and York Mayor Barry Redfern (left) gave remarks on the success of the cleanup, which is funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The event included a walking tour of the site to observe the cleanup, which uses *in situ* thermal treatment to destroy chemicals. Photo courtesy of the

January 2024, EPA updated its Residential Soil Lead Guidance, which lowered the screening level for lead in soil at residential properties from 400 parts per million (ppm) to 200 ppm (where there is a single source of lead) or 100 ppm (where there may be other sources of lead exposure, such as lead in air or water).

In Nebraska, the primary impact that this update will have is in regards to the Omaha Lead site. The Omaha Lead site is associated with two former lead-processing facilities, American Smelting and Refining Company, Inc. (ASARCO) and the Aaron Ferer & Sons Company (later the Gould Electronics, Inc.) lead battery recycling plant. Both the ASARCO and Aaron Ferer/Gould facilities released lead-containing particulates to the

atmosphere from their smokestacks, which were deposited on surrounding residential properties.

As a result of the update to the Residential Soil Lead Guidance, EPA Region 7 will evaluate the residential soil cleanup level for lead to ensure it is consistent with the updated guidance and risk assessment methods. The EPA will determine whether additional actions should be taken to further reduce the risk of future elevated blood levels in young children at the site.

Federal Facilities

Defense and State Memorandum of Agreement (DSMOA) Program

Under the DSMOA program, NDEE oversees investigation and cleanup of munitions and hazardous substances at current federal facilities, such as Offutt Air Force Base, and formerly used defense sites (FUDS), such as the former Nebraska Ordnance Plant near Mead. The cleanup efforts are conducted by a Department of Defense (DOD) component, such as the Air Force or the Army Corps of Engineers. Investigation and cleanup of hazardous substances follow the Superfund CERCLA process. Some sites must first be investigated and cleared of munitions and unexploded ordnance before CERCLA work can begin. NDEE also reviews previous no-further-action decisions for facilities and if needed, provides non-concurrence with recommendations for further work. During FY2024, investigation and cleanup activities for hazardous substances were conducted at two active sites and 13 formerly used defense sites, and military munitions response activities were performed for one site.

PFAS were found at five DSMOA sites prior to FY2024. NDEE is coordinating with EPA and the DOD components to determine the appropriate response activities at these sites. Follow-up investigations are ongoing at Offutt Air Force Base.

Former USDA/CCC Grain Storage Facilities

Nebraska contains 332 former U.S. Department of Agriculture/Commodity Credit Corporation (USDA/CCC) grain storage facilities. The soil, groundwater, and soil vapor at and near many of these former grain storage facilities is contaminated with carbon tetrachloride, which was commonly used as a grain fumigant during their operation. The USDA/CCC is currently prioritizing, investigating, and cleaning up these former grain storage facilities, and installing vapor mitigation systems in occupied buildings as needed. Investigation and cleanup follow the Superfund CERCLA process. NDEE oversees these efforts under a Nebraska Voluntary Cleanup Program agreement with the



Photo shows a direct-push rig preparing for in-situ enhanced bioremediation injections into the aquifers beneath the Former Lincoln Air Force Base Atlas "F" Missile Site 1 in Elmwood, NE.

USDA. During FY2024, remedial actions were conducted at three sites, investigations were ongoing at six sites, and new groundwater and vapor intrusion investigations were started at nine sites.

Solid Waste Program

Every day, tons of solid waste are disposed of at landfills across the state. The purpose of the Solid Waste program is to ensure proper management of solid waste, which includes solid waste typically collected and disposed in municipal landfills, and other non-hazardous waste. Solid Waste regulations are incorporated in NAC *Title 132 - Integrated Solid Waste Management Regulations*. The regulations provide technical criteria for land disposal areas and solid waste processing facilities. In May 2023, Title 132 marked a milestone of 30 years. Duties assigned to this program include:

- Permit issuance, renewal, and modification;
- Response to inquiries related to facility operations;
- Compliance inspections and enforcement actions;
- Investigation of citizen complaints;
- Alternate waste management method approvals;
- Groundwater investigations and groundwater/soil remediation projects at permitted and non-permitted facilities;
- Gas emissions monitoring related to landfills and other permitted sites;
- Closure inspections and monitoring of closure and post-closure activities;
- Conducting public information sessions and hearings related to permits;
- Financial assurance review and monitoring compliance; and
- Assisting regulated facilities and the general public in recycling, re-use, and proper management of waste-like materials.

The program regulates municipal solid waste disposal areas (landfills), construction and demolition disposal areas, fossil fuel combustion ash disposal areas, industrial and delisted hazardous waste disposal areas, and land application sites for the disposal (one time and repeated) or treatment of special wastes. In addition, solid waste processing facilities, such as compost sites, material recovery facilities, transfer stations, and medical waste processing facilities are regulated by this program.

Permit modification requests are routinely submitted by permitted facilities. Responses to the modification requests are particularly time-critical since the facility may need to expand or construct new waste disposal cells in order to meet their disposal capacity needs.

The LB1101 Solid Waste Management Programs Study published in 2017 provides a complete description of Nebraska's solid waste programs and reported that the average remaining capacity for waste disposal is approximately 39 years.

The Waste Permit programs coordinate with other NDEE programs to ensure that permits issued include adequate protection of all environmental media. The requirements in solid waste permits include protection against excessive emissions of landfill gas to the atmosphere, storm water runoff controls, and restrictions on accepting hazardous waste for disposal at a landfill, amongst other regulatory requirements.

Currently, the Waste Permit and Waste Compliance Programs oversee the following facilities:

Total Permitted Facilities in FY2024	
Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Areas (Landfills)	22
Solid Waste Compost Sites	8
Transfer Stations	36
Materials Recovery Facilities	4
Construction & Demolition Waste Disposal Areas	31
Delisted Waste Disposal Area	1
Processing Facility	2
Fossil Fuel Combustion Ash Disposal Areas	7
Total	111

The following table indicates the number of inspections, complaints, and permitting-related activities that the program was involved with in FY2024:

Summary of FY24 Activities	
Compliance	
Facility Inspections (General)	140
Facility Closure Inspection	0
Facility Construction Inspections	10
Facility Comprehensive Renewal Inspections	18
Complaints Received	156
Complaints Investigated	155
Complaints Closed or Referred	155
Permitting	
New Permits Issued	0
Permit Renewals	21
Major Permit Modifications	2
Public Hearings	0
Permits Transferred	0
Financial Assurance Reviews	142
Facilities Closed	0

Assessment Monitoring and Remedial Measures

All solid waste disposal areas (facilities) accepting municipal solid waste, industrial waste, delisted hazardous waste and fossil fuel combustion ash are required to conduct groundwater monitoring. The purpose of the groundwater monitoring is to detect any release of contaminants from the facility that may impact groundwater quality. A phased approach is used from the initial detection of a potential release to making decisions on cleanup actions after groundwater contamination has been fully investigated.

The first phase is detection monitoring. During this phase, a facility will monitor for a discrete number of contaminants that would be indicative of a potential release of contaminants from the facility. During FY2024, 13 operating and 2 closed facilities conducted detection monitoring. If one or more of the parameters being monitored exceed background levels, the facility must begin assessment monitoring, which includes a more extensive list of contaminants. During FY2024, 16 operating and 5 closed facilities conducted assessment monitoring.

If during the assessment monitoring phase, contaminant concentrations are detected above a groundwater protection standard, the facility is required to characterize the nature and extent of the release and, if necessary, assess and conduct remedial measures. In FY2024 investigations or remedial measures were continued at 4 active and 2 closed landfills.

Title 118 Groundwater Investigations and Remedial Actions

Several municipal solid waste disposal areas that closed prior to 1993 have conducted groundwater investigations and remedial actions pursuant to NAC *Title 118 – Groundwater Quality Standards and Use Classification*. In FY2024, groundwater investigations continued at 1 site, and remedial actions continued at 9 sites.

Financial Assurance and Fees

All permitted solid waste landfills are required to provide financial assurance for closure and post-closure maintenance and monitoring. All privately owned permitted solid waste processing facilities are required to provide financial assurance for closure.

Program Funding

The Waste Permit Section collects permit fees and annual operating fees for all solid waste management facilities. Quarterly disposal fees, based on cubic yards or tonnage, are collected from all municipal solid waste landfills as well as transfer stations moving waste for disposal out of state. Fifty percent of the quarterly disposal fees are redistributed as grants and for administration of the Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentives Grants Program, and 50% of the quarterly disposal fees are utilized for costs of administering the solid waste program and for investigation and remediation of contamination from solid waste facilities and for other statutorily authorized activities.

Waste Tire Management Program

The NDEE also administers the waste tire management program. Approved beneficial uses of waste tires are outlined in NDEE regulations. Waste tire haulers are required to obtain individual permits annually and post financial assurance. Financial assurance is designed to provide adequate funds to clean up any waste tires that are illegally disposed by the transporter.

Waste tire management facilities (except tire dealers) are allowed to accumulate up to 500 tires while maintaining mosquito control and fire prevention measures. Accumulation of more than 500 waste tires at any location is prohibited by rule.

Compliance assistance is an important aspect of this program. Program activities include responding to inquiries from local and state sources, developing guidance documents, conducting site visits, and providing technical advice. The NDEE develops and maintains guidance documents explaining on a wide variety of topics, including the proper use of waste tires for blow-out and bank stabilization. Direct financial assistance is also available through the Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentives Grant program.

The waste tire compliance assurance program includes facility inspections, complaint investigations, and appropriate enforcement actions. Compliance activities are included in the summary of activities for the Solid Waste Program.

Waste Tire Permit Totals, FY2024	
Renewed Hauler Permits	23
New Permits Issued	8
Permits Expired	2
Financial Assurance Reviews	8