



Beautiful News

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Everyone Can Stop Global Warming

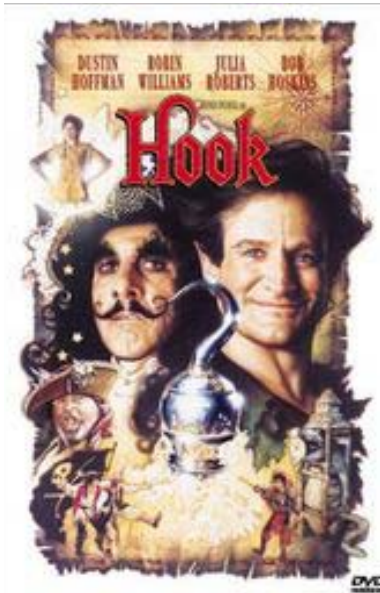
While the debate rages on about the validity of global warming, perhaps it is better to lay the debate aside and focus on community based solutions to the problem. Every small contribution can add up to a big difference for the future of our planet and the people that inhabit it. Here are some tips from a number of people in the 'global warming trenches'-as reported by Kendra Smith in *greenlight magazine*, April 2007.



Don't Wait - Take Action!

1. **Spend a month eating nothing that comes from farther than 50 miles.** You'll keep lots of carbon out of the atmosphere, you'll get to know your local farmers, and your food will actually taste like food. The local farmers market runs July through October in North Platte in Parkade Plaza.
2. Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents in your home and business. Florescent bulbs last 10 times as long and use considerably less energy. LD
3. Contact your political representatives and tell them that they must take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Policy-makers need to hear from their constituents that immediate action is needed to stop global warming. Diane Doucette
4. **Buy only post-consumer recycled paper products; the paper industry is the third greatest contributor to global warming emissions.** LD
5. Plan for a natural death, with a biodegradable casket and no chemicals. It could posthumously save 1 ton of emissions. DR
6. Don't use your dryer during warm months; use a clothesline instead!
7. Weatherize your home with caulk and weather stripping to prevent energy loss (and save money!!)
8. Use a natural gas fireplace instead of a wood one, or set up your home to heat entirely with natural gas to reduce emissions from coal burning.
9. **Plant a tree. Deforestation is responsible for one-fourth of the carbon emissions in our environment.**
10. Compost. It keeps vegetable peelings, tea bags, even animal hair from going to a landfill and producing methane.
11. Start a NO IDLE rule in your church or school driveway.
12. **Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle more.**
13. Get Involved in community planning in your town. We need to build buildings better to keep them safe from severe weather, add green spacing and trees to conserve energy, add bike lanes, and bike racks into urban centers, and concentrate businesses so people can walk and use mass transit.





Dive Inn Movie

A fundraiser for Keep North Platte & Lincoln County Beautiful

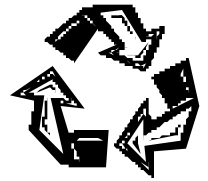
“Hook”

Movie Licensing sponsored by Nebraskaland National Bank

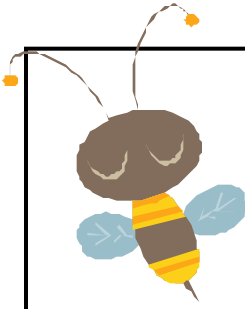
July 27th at sunset (roughly 9:15 pm)

Cody Park

\$5 per person, bring a chair or blanket !



How do pirates protect the environment? The 3 RRR's... Reduce Reuse Recycle
Come see RRR movie & support the 3 RRR's in your community!



Beauty and the Bees

Most of us have heard the dire reports from entomologists from across the country that we are losing our honeybee populations. The first reports came out in October of 2006.¹ Bees are the primary pollinators for as much as one-third of our popular agricultural

products.¹ The vanishing bee issue has been dubbed, “Colony Collapse Disorder”. There are many theories as to the cause of the decline in bee populations. What the disorder is, the effect on hives across the nation is the same. Bees fly away from their hives and never return. They leave behind the egg-laying queen and a few young workers.¹ While the scientists work to get to the bottom of this perplexing problem, it is important that we protect our wild bee populations from decline. According to Josie Glausiusz in the Discover article cited below, “One solution is to enhance the habitat for native bees around farmland-by planting hedgerows, for example, or leaving some land uncultivated...Another approach is to encourage managers of semi-artificial environments like golf courses to surround the greens with the types of plants, like sunflowers, lupines, and black-eyed susans that attract native pollinators.” The author suggest the following for the average person to help alleviate the situation, “ordinary people can help keep pollinators abundant. For example, they can scatter hole-punched bee blocks in their gardens in which wild bees can nest. Vaughan of the Xerces Society encourages planting lots of backyard flowering plants that bloom year-round.” Vaughan is also quoted in the article as saying, “But the best thing the average Joe can do is to reduce or eliminate his or her use of pesticides around the house. These kill more good pollinators than bad things.”.



1 “Across the Country honeybees are vanishing. What will farmers do if the buzzing stops? By Josie Glausiusz, Discover Magazine, July 2007

2007 Great American Cleanup Results Lincoln County, Nebraska

6,911 volunteers logged 12,967.25 hours of service

159,899 pounds of litter, junk, and debris collected

164.75 miles of streets, roads, and highways cleaned

174 community outreach presentations with 3766 in attendance

50,900 pounds of aluminum/steel collected for recycling

4,464 pounds of PET bottles collected for recycling

2,581 flowers & bulbs planted

Thank you to all of our incredible volunteers and sponsors for making North Platte & Lincoln County a beautiful place to live, work, and play!



Wipe Out Wireless Waste

KNPLCB is now collecting cell phones! Sprint will donate the net proceeds to our affiliate to help keep our community green & clean! We also collect inkjet & laser cartridges for recycling and as a fundraiser!



Pick up a postage paid envelope to recycle your used cell phones at 715 S. Jeffers/ 3rd Floor

Don't Be A Tosser!

24 Hour Recycling Trailers

**Senior Center
900 East 10th**

**1st United Methodist Church
1600 West E**

**Regional Recycling
810 East 7th**

Cardboard: Break down boxes to conserve space.

Paper: Pastel or white only, please NO dark colors.

Magazines: Keep separate from paper & newsprint, take to Regional Recycling.

Aluminum: Empty & Crush.

Steel (Tin Cans): Rinse. No need to remove label.

Plastic #1 & #2: Remove lid & drain liquids. Check for the chasing arrow symbol with a 1 or 2 in the middle to identify plastic.

Newsprint: Place in curbside, yellow top containers.

Used Vehicle Oil: Collect in used milk jug, place with refuse cart or take to Transfer Station.

Cell Phones or Inkjet/Laser Cartridges: Accepted at Senior Center, UPS Store, & KNPLCB offices at 715 S. Jeffers.



North Platte Litter Index Down 2nd Year in a Row

A team of eleven volunteers toured all four wards of the City of North Platte on Thursday to determine the amount of visible litter in the community. The annual review, called the Litter Index, is part of the evaluation process for Keep North Platte & Lincoln County Beautiful. The Litter Index is applied annually, at approximately the same time each year, and results are reported to the Keep America Beautiful office. In 1998, Keep America Beautiful, Inc. retained Dr. J. Winston Porter, president of Waste Policy Center and former U.S. EPA Assistant Administrator, to serve as manager of this litter measurement tool development project. KAB assembled a team of experts in the field of litter and in a broad range of related disciplines, to form a Litter Measurement Technical Committee. The result of this process was the development of the KAB Litter Index. The Litter Index enables KAB affiliates to utilize trained scorers to assess the visual impact litter has on

their communities. The tool uses a four-point, Likert-type ordinal scale, and was tested for statistical validity and refined in six field test sites. Gelb Consulting Group, Inc. based in Houston, Texas, reviewed the data collected from these six test sites. Dr. Daniel Ward of Gelb concluded that the inter-reliability was very high. The Litter Index helps the community and the nation to identify national trends regarding litter and related community issues. Volunteers visit each ward of the community touring a selected route of streets. The tour includes back alleys, streets near railway lines, main roads, business districts, and residential areas. Volunteers rate the amount of litter on a 4 point scale



Volunteers Keep North Platte & Lincoln County Beautiful

with 1 representing "No Litter", 2 represents "Slightly Littered", 3 represents "Littered", and 4 represents, "Extremely Littered". The overall city score was a 1.3, the score is an average from forty sub-area scores (ten sub-areas per ward). The score indicates that the majority of the community has virtually no visible litter and some areas have a higher amount of litter. Visually assessing the community is an essential part of the education planning process. The data gathered by conducting the Litter Index helps to determine the types of litter prevention and community improvement programs to implement locally. Volunteers included members of City Council, Code Compliance officers, KNPLCB Board members, and RSVP volunteers. KNPLCB will use information collected during the Litter Index to tailor its community education programs for the upcoming year.

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Cigarette Litter Prevention Program

Following the initial Litter Index tour, a group of two KNPLCB staff and one volunteer counted each piece of cigarette litter, including butts, packaging, and lighters in an initial test area. The test area was located in the blocks from Jeffers to Willow and from Hahn to William in North Platte, Nebraska. KNPLCB has joined with the national Cigarette Litter Prevention Program sponsored by Keep America Beautiful. Program implementation is planned for this summer and will include a four step process: 1. Review of Litter Laws; 2. Public Service Announcements; 3. Placement of ash receptacles; and 4. Distribution of 1000 pocket ashtrays. The group received a \$2500 grant to participate in the program. Volunteers counted a total of 4012 pieces of cigarette related litter in this small area. The majority of the litter was located in business parking lots with only 2.4% in the residential section of this neighborhood. Most of the litter was located at corners or near the curbs of the streets and was more prevalent in areas that did not have visible ash recep-

tacles. Cigarette butts are the number one litter problem in the nation. About 95% of cigarette filters are composed of cellulose acetate, a form of plastic which does not quickly degrade and can persist in the environment. According to KNPLCB's Director, Angela Raby, "While cigarette litter may seem small, it adds up to a big impact on the places we live. Cigarette litter is unsightly. It gathers in corners, gutters, and outside doorways. Increasing amounts of litter in business districts and other signs of disorder create a sense that no one cares about the community." Cigarette litter is also harmful to waterways and wildlife. About 18% of litter, traveling primarily through storm water systems, ends up in local rivers and waterways. Marine life and animals can be threatened when they mistake the litter for food. Cigarette litter requires additional sidewalk and street sweeping, greenway and park maintenance, storm drain cleaning, and increased maintenance of storm drain filters. Business owners bear the expense of cigarette litter clean-up around their establishments including entrances, exits, and adjacent sidewalks, and parking lots. Only about 10% of ciga-



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rette butts are deposited in litter receptacles. Because a cigarette butt is relatively small, many smokers discount its impact on the environment. The Cigarette Litter Prevention Program that will be implemented during the upcoming summer months was field tested for two years by other Keep America Beautiful affiliates in over a dozen U.S. cities and was found to reduce cigarette litter by as much as 46% by implement the four strategies.

Permanent Year Round Collection Site Planned for Fall of 2007

The City of North Platte announced that it will receive \$61,785 from the Nebraska Environmental Trust for the "Household Hazardous Waste Satellite Collection Facility" project. The Trust Board announced funding for the project at its last meeting on April 5 in Lincoln. The project is one of the 69 projects receiving \$11,818,742 in lottery proceeds this year from the Nebraska Environmental Trust. Grant writing and planning assistance was provided to the City of North Platte by Keep North Platte & Lincoln County Beautiful. Keep North Platte & Lincoln County Beautiful has worked with the City since 1998 to retain funding from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality in order to hold one day collection events two times a year at no costs to residents. In 2006, KNPLCB surveyed participants at their spring collection event on the need for a permanent year-round collection facility. Less than 1% said that the facility would be Not at All Useful, and the majority felt that there was a need in Lincoln County for such a facility. The funds will be used by the city to build a satellite household hazardous waste collection facility to handle local disposal needs. The facility would provide year round access to an appropriate disposal option for area residents. The City of North Platte is

working closely with Keep Nebraska Beautiful and other state leaders to work towards a statewide household hazardous waste program to better coordinate the disposal needs on a statewide basis. Keep Nebraska Beautiful leaders conducted a survey to assess how cities and counties felt about the need for the development of a state household hazardous waste program. The results of the survey were overwhelmingly in favor of the implementation of a statewide household hazardous

waste program. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, "household hazardous wastes are sometimes disposed of improperly by individuals pouring wastes down the drain, on the ground, into storm sewers, or putting them out with the trash. The dangers of such disposal methods may not be immediately obvious, but certain types of household hazardous waste have the potential to cause physical injury to sanitation workers; contaminate septic tanks or wastewater treatment systems if poured down drains or toilets; and present hazards to children and pets if left around the house."

It is because of the potential danger of household hazardous waste to surface and ground water, as well as to public health and other environmental media including air and land, the funds will be used to build a permanent household hazardous waste



Volunteers pour paint at our bi-annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event spring of 2007. The grand opening of the new facility is planned, along with a collection date for late September of 2007.

collection facility within city limits. This facility will provide Lincoln County and surrounding area residents a safe year round disposal facility. The City of North Platte plans to open the facility this fall, after all staff complete required training. The facility will be open two week days per month to the public. The facility will also feature a SWAP shop (Stored Waste Abatement Program). SWAP shop items will be listed on KNPLCB and City websites. Any usable household cleaners, paint, or other products will be listed in the SWAP print out to the public. SWAP items will then be made available at no charge to the public on a first come-



We're Turning 30! Keep North Platte & Lincoln County Beautiful will begin its 30th year of providing quality, action-oriented environmental programming in 2008. We rely on community donations to make our programming possible. **Please help us celebrate and continue our mission by making a tax-deductible donation today!** At KNPLCB, we turn every dollar donated into over \$14.00 in measurable community benefits. You can be sure that your donation is making a real difference where YOU live. Please clip and return this form with your donation.

715 S. Jeffers / 3rd Floor
 PO Box 313
 North Platte, NE 69103
 Phone: 308-534-8100
 Fax: 308-535-6767
 E-mail: knplcb@yahoo.com
 www.keepnorthplattebeautiful.org

 Name of Donor

 Address

 City/State/Zip

 Amount Enclosed

Suggested Donation Levels

- Student/Senior \$15.00
- Individual \$25.00
- Family \$50.00
- Business/Contributing Organization \$250.00

Thank you for your donation.



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Green Vision/Green Thumb Award Nominations

Now Seeking Nominations!

Do you live near the most beautiful yard in the county? Has your local business gone green by adding recycling programs & keeping their property green & beautiful?

We want to know about it!

Help us honor those that go the extra mile to make our community a BEAUTIFUL place to live.

Who's eligible?

Any home or business in North Platte & a 10 mile surrounding area, must not have won in last three years.

Nominations accepted through August 10th.

Volunteer judges will view homes between Aug. 11th –Aug. 24th.

Judges needed-call us to volunteer.

Nominate Online by visiting...www.keepnorthplattebeautiful.org

or Call us at 534-8100