

RESOURCE

A Monthly Publication of the Nebraska Environmental Trust

January 2021

Executive Director Corner

Well 2021 has finally made it here and none too soon. 2020 was a year unlike any in recent history. The COVID vaccine seems to be rolling out with a few minor hiccups, mostly in delivery. Our new cases in Lancaster County seem to be holding around the 100-200 each day, but unfortunately there have been 1 or 2 deaths a day, when earlier it was just one or two a week. The number of hospital beds being occupied by COVID patients appear to be dropping in Lancaster County and across the State. Let's hope we have turned the corner.

The NET Grants Committee completed their task of scoring grant applications and that product is listed in this newsletter and on our webpage. The Grants Committee's recommendations will be reviewed by the full board at our February 2, 2021, meeting. This meeting will be held at the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy's new headquarters building in northwest Lincoln, 245 Fallbrook Blvd., at 1:30pm. A public hearing on the full board's recommendations will be held at the April 8, 2021, board meeting. You can read a 200 word summary of all the 2021 grants on our website under "2021 Application Summary Booklet".



Pete Ricketts, Governor
Board of Trustees

District I

Jeff Kanger (Chair) -
Lincoln

James Hellbusch -
Columbus

John Orr - Blair

District II

Felix B. Davidson -
Valley

Paul Dunn - Omaha

Mark Quandahl -
Omaha

The Governor announced this week that he has appointed Josh Andersen of Edgar to replace Sherry Vinton to represent District 3. Sherry Vinton had served on the NET board since 2007 and was currently the second longest serving board member. She brought her ranching and landownership experience to the board and her insight on many subjects will be missed. The Governor has reappointed Rod Christen of Steinauer to represent District 3 and Jim Hellbusch of Columbus to represent District 1. Last month the Governor reappointed Mark Quandahl of Omaha to represent District 2.

Husker volleyball fans will finally get to see some volleyball in the coming weeks. Nebraska is ranked #5, but the Big 10 is loaded this season, as always. Wisconsin is ranked #1, Minnesota #7, and Penn State #9. Another Nebraska team, Creighton is ranked #15. Each day we see Husker football players enter the portal and the NFL draft, but we are seeing a few seniors signing up for the extra year that they are allowed because of the pandemic and a few transfers into our program. We have seen new recruits change their minds and decommit and others commit to Nebraska. With all of the shifts, there are a lot of questions for the fall. Both the men's and women's Husker basketball teams have had their ups and downs and we'll have to see how their seasons progress.

Happy New Year! Stay safe, practice social distancing, avoid crowds and wash your hands often.

Mark A. Brohman, Executive Director

2021 Grants Committee Recommendations For Funding Placed In Rank Order

The 2021 Grants Committee Recommendations For Funding Placed In Rank Order is now available on our website.

District III

Josh Andersen - Edgar

Rodney Christen -
Steinauer

Quentin Bowen -
Humboldt

Agency Directors

Jim Douglas, Nebraska
Game and Parks
Commission

Steve Wellman,
Nebraska Department
of Agriculture

Jim Macy, Nebraska
Department of
Environment & Energy

Tom Riley P.E.,
Director, Nebraska
Department of Natural
Resources

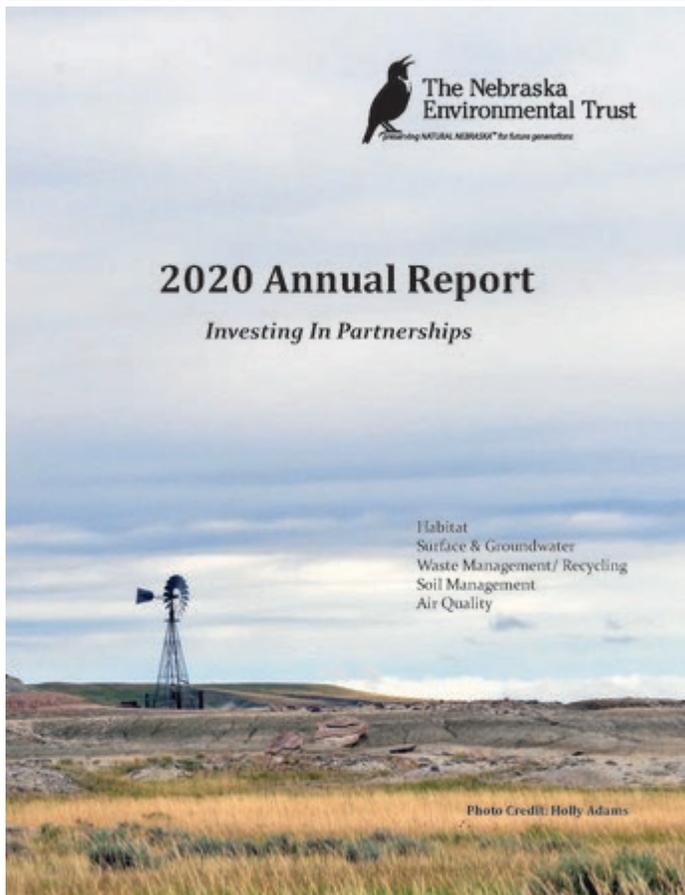
Dr. Gary Anthonie,
Nebraska Department
of Health and Human
Services

Trust Staff

Written comments may be sent to the Trust prior to final approval by the Board in April. Comments may be sent to holly.adams@nebraska.gov before April 6th, 2021.

Click on the link below to view the list:

[https://environmentaltrust.nebraska.gov/grants/pdf_docs/2021%20Grants%20Comm.%20Recommendations%20-1-8-21%20\(002\).pdf](https://environmentaltrust.nebraska.gov/grants/pdf_docs/2021%20Grants%20Comm.%20Recommendations%20-1-8-21%20(002).pdf)



2020 Nebraska Environmental Trust Annual Report

Our Annual Report for 2020 is currently being published and will be distributed soon. To view our Annual Report you may click the link below:

https://environmentaltrust.nebraska.gov/docs/pdf/2020%20Annual%20Report_web%20version.pdf

Mark A. Brohman
Executive Director

Holly Adams
Grants Administrator

Sheila Johnson
Public Information
Officer

Pam Deines
Administrative
Secretary

[Position Vacant]
Grants Assistant

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Recent Board Member Appointments To Nebraska Environmental Trust Board

The following members were appointed or re-appointed to the Nebraska Environmental Trust Board recently by Governor Pete Ricketts.

Rod Christen of Steinauer was re-appointed for another term from 3/11/2021 - 3/10/2027. Mr. Christen was first appointed to the Board in March of 2009 by Governor Heineman and has now served on the Board for almost 12 years representing District 3. He was a recipient of the 2007 Leopold Conservation Award and the 2008 Nebraska Land Stewardship Award presented by the Partnership for All Bird Conservation as a result of wildlife friendly practices and land stewardship.

Also re-appointed to the Board was Mr. Jim Hellbusch of Columbus who was re-appointed for a second term to represent District 1. Mr. Hellbusch was first appointed to the Board in March 2015 by Governor Ricketts. His appointment runs from 3/11/2021 - 3/10/2027. Mr. Hellbusch owns Duo Lift, a company that manufactures wagon lifts to enhance farming operations. Today, Duo-Lift manufactures one of the largest lines of fertilizer trailers and running gears in the country and is known throughout the industry as a manufacturer of high quality equipment with special emphasis on safety.

Mr. Mark Quandahl of Omaha who replaced Mr. Bob Krohn in September of 2020 also received his re-appointment to the Board in December. He represents District 2 and will serve from 3/11/2021 - 3/10/27. He served as the State's Director of Banking and Finance for over five years. Mr. Quandahl is a former Nebraska State Senator (Chairman of Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee), former Nebraska State Board of Education member and a member of the Nebraska State Bar Association.

A new appointment to the Trust is Mr. Josh Andersen of Edgar. Mr Andersen will serve from 1/12/2021 - 3/10/2025. He replaces Sherry Vinton from District 3.

The Trust Board is comprised of 14 members representing the State of Nebraska and its citizens. Nine citizen representatives are appointed by the Governor to serve six year terms. Three representatives are chosen from each congressional district, serve without pay and represent a wide variety of natural resource interests. Five agency directors make up the remaining seats on the board to provide coordination with existing state resources. A staff of five handles the day-to-day activities of the organization.



Dave and Bill Scribs with Bing Chen

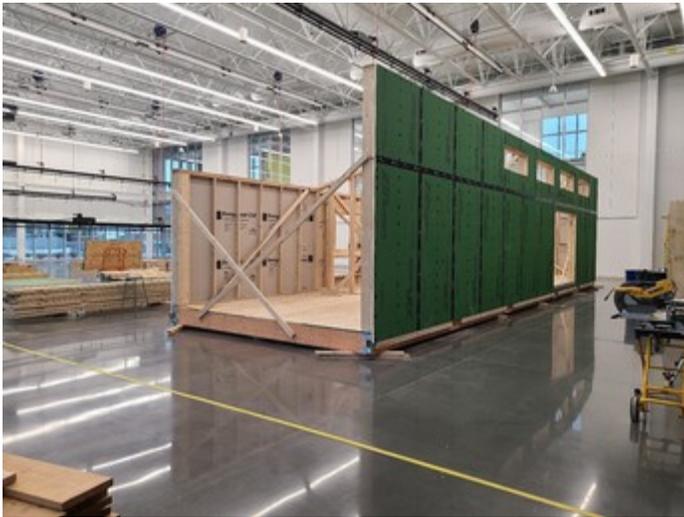
Sustainable Small House Project

The “Sustainable Small House” (SSH) of the University of Nebraska’s multidisciplinary project made significant gains at Metropolitan Community College (MCC) by students in their construction program during the Fall quarter. The SSH exterior structure was framed. First the floor was created and then the side walls were erected. The senior capstone team at UNL in the roof water reclamation project from the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering created

their proposal. Orders were placed for entry ways and patio doors that are energy efficient. The projected building completion date is the summer of 2021. The Carrier Infinity which has the industry's highest efficiency with a SEER 42 rating was ordered for delivery to MCC. They are awaiting a price quote for the Rheem hybrid (i.e., heat pump) hot water heating system. Construction of the floor and wall sections was completed recently. The structure will be transferred to a site on the campus of the University of Nebraska-Omaha.

They plan to test the viability of having it manufacturable and demonstrate the robustness of its structure by having it be transportable, complete with a photovoltaic array. The orders for mechanical, electrical power generation, air quality control, water conservation through roof collection and water conserving devices, building penetration (windows and doors) have been made. Alpen of Niwot, CO, has been selected for windows and the Signet door (high R value ADA compliant). SEEMRAY was selected for the patio door because of its high insulative value. The Carrier Infinity mini split heat pump (SEER 42) and a Rheem heat pump hybrid hot water heater have been ordered. Both the Carrier and Rheem are industry leaders in thermal efficiency and will be tested at UNO. The Renew AIRE ERV air to air heat exchanger has arrived.

Dr. Bing Chen, Project Manager, said, "Sustainable Small House is a demonstration prototype that will test the performance of an ADA compliant structure the size of a studio apartment. To my knowledge it is the first known small house to incorporate: passive solar heating, solar PV electrical generation, roof collected rain water system and energy conserving appliances/mechanical systems. Future production models can be configured and manufactured to meet different needs such as homeless shelters, disabled veterans housing, handicap accessible homes for seniors and as assisted living units for families that wish to care for aging parents on existing properties. Being transportable gives the SSH added flexibility to meet a broad range of needs."



SSH from NE Corner at MCC December 16, 2020



The City of Omaha, Neb. will receive \$825,000 from The Recycling Partnership to significantly expand local collection infrastructure.

Credit: Colin Staub

The Recycling Partnership, a national industry group backed by brand owners and other corporate stakeholders, on Jan. 5 [announced](#) the grant in Omaha, Neb., a city of about 478,000

residents. It's the largest sum the organization has distributed for a single cart project in the six years the initiative has been active.

The \$825,000 in financial assistance will help Nebraska's largest city pay for 135,000 new recycling carts, replacing 18-gallon bins. By shifting the collection method to 96-gallon carts, the partners anticipate the city will generate 10,000 tons of additional recyclables per year.

Paul Dunn, solid waste program coordinator for the city of Omaha, described the project as part of a "top to bottom overhaul of waste collection in Omaha." He noted the city's program dates back to 1976, when curbside newspaper collection was launched.

The funding will also pay for education and outreach initiatives covering the new collection process, according to the project partners.

The Omaha grant project is tied to funding from the PepsiCo Foundation and is connected to The Recycling Partnership's 2019 Leadership Summit, according to the project partners.

The industry group estimates it has delivered more than 900,000 recycling carts across the U.S. over the last six years.

This article ran in Resource Recycling. Please follow the link for the original story: https://resource-recycling.com/recycling/2021/01/12/industry-group-provides-its-largest-cart-grant-to-date/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=internal&utm_campaign=Jan+TIF+RR

2021 Calendar:

- Tuesday, February 2, 2021 - 1st Quarter Board Meeting, NDEE
- Thursday, April 8, 2021 - 2nd Quarter Board Meeting - TBA

- Monday/Tuesday, August 2-3, 2021 - 3rd Quarter Board Meeting - TBD
 - Tuesday, September 7, 2021 - Grants Deadline
 - Thursday, November 4, 2021 - 4th Quarter Board Meeting - Ferguson House
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