

GOVERNOR'S COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD NOMINATION

Name of Community or Multi-Community: Bassett **Population:** 636

Name of Project: Electronics Recycling

Project Contact Person: Joel Klammer

Day Phone: 402 684-3346 **Eve Phone:** 402 382-1878 **E-mail:** ncnercd@huntel.net

Category: Community Development **Subcategory:** Parks, Recreation and Environmental Awareness

Please identify which projects are also nominated for Special Project Awards: No

Date Project Started (mo./yr) 08/08 **Date Completed (mo./yr.)** 09/09

Is the project Annual/Ongoing? Yes _____ No X

Volunteer Hours 22 **Number of Volunteers** 10

1) Please provide a brief description of the project.

The purpose of this project was to promote awareness of the need to recycle electronic waste, to facilitate local recycling of electronic waste, and to reduce local input of electronic waste into landfills. The focus was on home computer systems and televisions, but a variety of electronic equipment was accepted during the collection. This project was part of the city wide clean-up day on May 28, 2009. The Rock County fair board allowed the use of one of the buildings at the fair grounds for the event. This was a huge assist to the project as it provided safe storage of the material until the recycling contractor was able to pick it up on June 4th. Individuals, businesses and schools delivered their unwanted electronic items to the site, where the contractor and volunteers sorted and packaged the items on pallets for shipping. The project was very successful with the collection goal of 7000 pounds achieved by mid afternoon. Primary funding for the project was provided by the Department of Environmental Quality through the "Litter Reduction and Recycling Grant Program." The grant was administered by the North Central Resource Conservation and Development Council.

2) Identify the planning and implementation of the project.

The project was initiated by the Bassett City Council representative on the North Central Resource Conservation and Development Council. She proposed that the RC&D administer an electronic recycling project and it was adopted by the council. Proper disposal of home computers and televisions is needed to keep toxic chemicals out of landfills, as well as to reduce the overall volume of waste. A collection targeting electronics had not been done in Bassett, and as technology advances, old computers become obsolete. In addition, with the switch in television broadcast signal at the time, it was anticipated that many old televisions would need to be properly recycled. A grant application was made to the Department of Environmental Quality in September of 2008 and funding

was approved in early 2009. Based on three contractor bids, the grant provided funds to pay for the collection of about 7000 pounds of electronic waste. It was decided to incorporate the electronic waste collection with annual city wide clean up day, which was held on May 28, 2009. Volunteers to help on the collection day were recruited primarily through the Rock County High School FFA chapter. Following the collection the material was hauled off by the recycling contractor. Coordination with the contractor was through the North Central RC&D.

One of the goals that our community has set for itself is to promote environmental awareness. Our community currently has held a tire amnesty day every other year for the past six years. Bassett also has held a household hazardous waster day in the spring for the past five years. The community would like to create a recycling center within Bassett down the road. So, this project of electronics recycling fits nicely with our environmental awareness goal.

3) Describe volunteer involvement in planning and implementing the project.

The project was coordinated through the North Central RC&D, which is a volunteer led organization. In addition, two adult and 8 high school FFA youth volunteers assisted with the unloading and packaging of the materials on the collection day under the direction of the recycling contractor. They provided a total of 22 hours of labor. A local volunteer also provided a forklift to load the pallets of waste into a semi-trailer for transport. These volunteer hours were utilized as in-kind match in the grant application. The volunteer hours, along with other local contributions by the fair board and the city of Bassett allowed the project to be accomplished with a modest amount of local cash input. The project volunteers were recruited by the North Central RC&D and through the Rock County HS FFA chapter.

4) Identify Project Outcomes.

Aside from the obvious goal of reducing hazardous waste in our landfills, this project was intended to raise awareness of the need to recycle electronic equipment. Many residents are unaware of the hazardous material used in the manufacture of computers, televisions and other electronic devices. By having a specific collection for these items during the city wide cleanup, it highlighted the need for proper recycling.

Since this was the first collection of this type in the area, we had to estimate the demand, and there was some concern that we would not be able to reach our goal and fully utilize the opportunity. However, the response was excellent, with the goal of 7000 pounds reached early in the afternoon. Although this is not an annual project, the success of this project will lead to future electronic recycling collection events as needed.

5) Describe how resources were identified and used to successfully implement the project.

Primary funding for this project was provided through a "Litter Reduction and Recycling Grant" from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. Additional cash resources were provided for advertising the event by the project sponsors, the City of Bassett and the North Central RC&D. The building used for the collection event and temporary safe storage of the items collected was provided by the Rock County Fair Board. The labor force used to carry out this project was a combination of volunteers, city and RC&D employees, and a paid contractor.

6) Future Plans

The city of Bassett holds an annual city wide clean-up and hazardous waste collection. This electronic recycling event was in addition to those efforts to address a specific need. Future electronic recycling collections will be planned as needed. It is estimated that collections will be done every 2 to 4 years. In order to reduce the dependence on grant funds and make these collection events sustainable, fees may be charged at future collections.

7) Please describe what aspects (if any) of the project were especially unique or creative?

The unique aspect of this project is that it was the first electronic only collection event in Bassett. The “first” of any project always brings excitement, along with some uncertainty. This project was successful not only in terms of reaching the goal for the collection, but also in terms of community involvement and support.



Electronic Recycling



ELECTRONICS RECYCLING COLLECTION

**Household & Businesses
Welcome**

Thursday, May 28

South Metal Building, Rock Co. Fairgrounds
12:00 noon-6:00 p.m.

ITEMS TO BE COLLECTED:

**Computers
Monitors
Fax Machines
Television Sets
Fluorescent Light Bulbs
Batteries (all kinds)**

Questions or for more information:
North Central RC&D 402-684-3346

Co-Sponsored By: NDEQ and North Central RC&D



Cleaning of the Rock

Cleaning of the Rock is scheduled for May 28. Residents will be busy cleaning, getting rid of unused items and the city will have collection areas to help out.

North Central RC&D is sponsoring an electronics recycling site for household and businesses at the Rock County Fairgrounds in the south metal building from noon until 6 p.m. Items to be collected include computers, monitors, fax machines, televisions, fluorescent light bulbs and batteries.