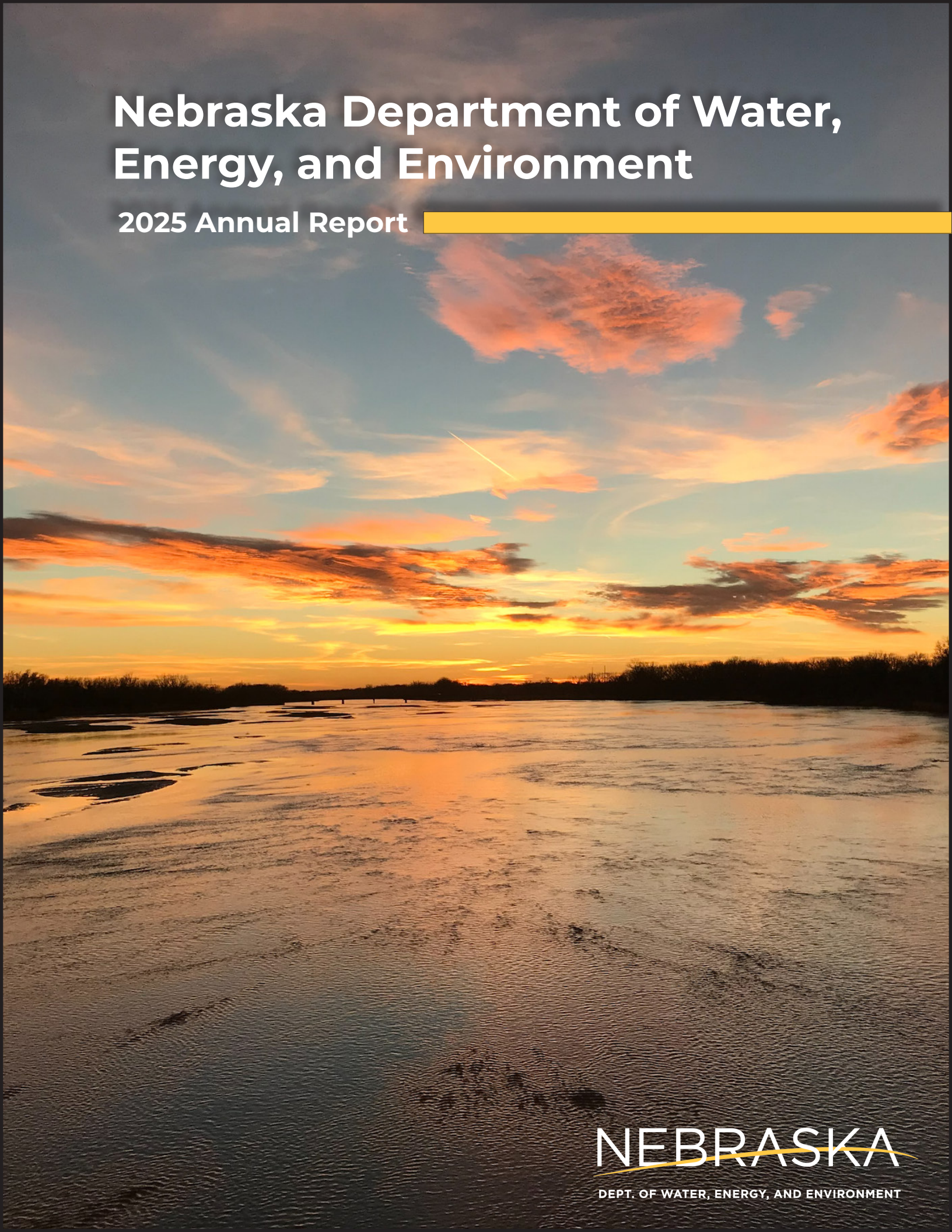
Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment

2025 Annual Report



NEBRASKA

DEPT. OF WATER, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT

Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment
FY2025 Annual Report to the Legislature

Welcome to the new Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment (DWEE)! This past year saw the introduction and passage of LB 317 which merged the former Department of Environment and Energy and the Department of Natural Resources to create this new agency. The merger will enhance the management and protection of our many vital state resources and place particular emphasis on the state's role in water management.

I was honored to be appointed by Governor Pillen as Director, along with Matt Manning, who was appointed to the newly created position of Chief Water Officer, a role established to preserve the abundant water resources Nebraskans have enjoyed for generations. On July 1, 2025, Matt and I officially assumed our new roles.

The vision for DWEE is: A Nebraska where water, energy, and environmental resources are sustainably managed and safeguarded through effective communications, collaboration, innovation, and stewardship —ensuring the prosperity of our communities and agricultural-based economy for future generations.

Matt Manning and Jesse Bradley at the official bill signing creating the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment (DWEE).

This vision will be curated by staying true to the following key values:

CUSTOMERS: We will consider the impact to our customers in everything we do, customers can be internal and external to the agency.

COMMUNICATION: We will effectively communicate throughout our organization and with our customers.

CULTURE: We will create a proactive culture of excellence that promotes teamwork and collaboration with each other and our customers, agency and stakeholder integrity, resource stewardship, science-based decision making, and innovation.

COLLABORATION: Proactively identifying effective solutions to support our customer's needs.

STEWARDSHIP: We are dedicated to the responsible management of Nebraska's water, energy, and environmental resources—protecting these vital resources today so they remain abundant and productive for future generations.

SCIENCE-BASED DECISION MAKING: Utilizing the best available data and research to drive informed policies and practices.

INNOVATION: We embrace new ideas and always ask, "How can we provide more value?"

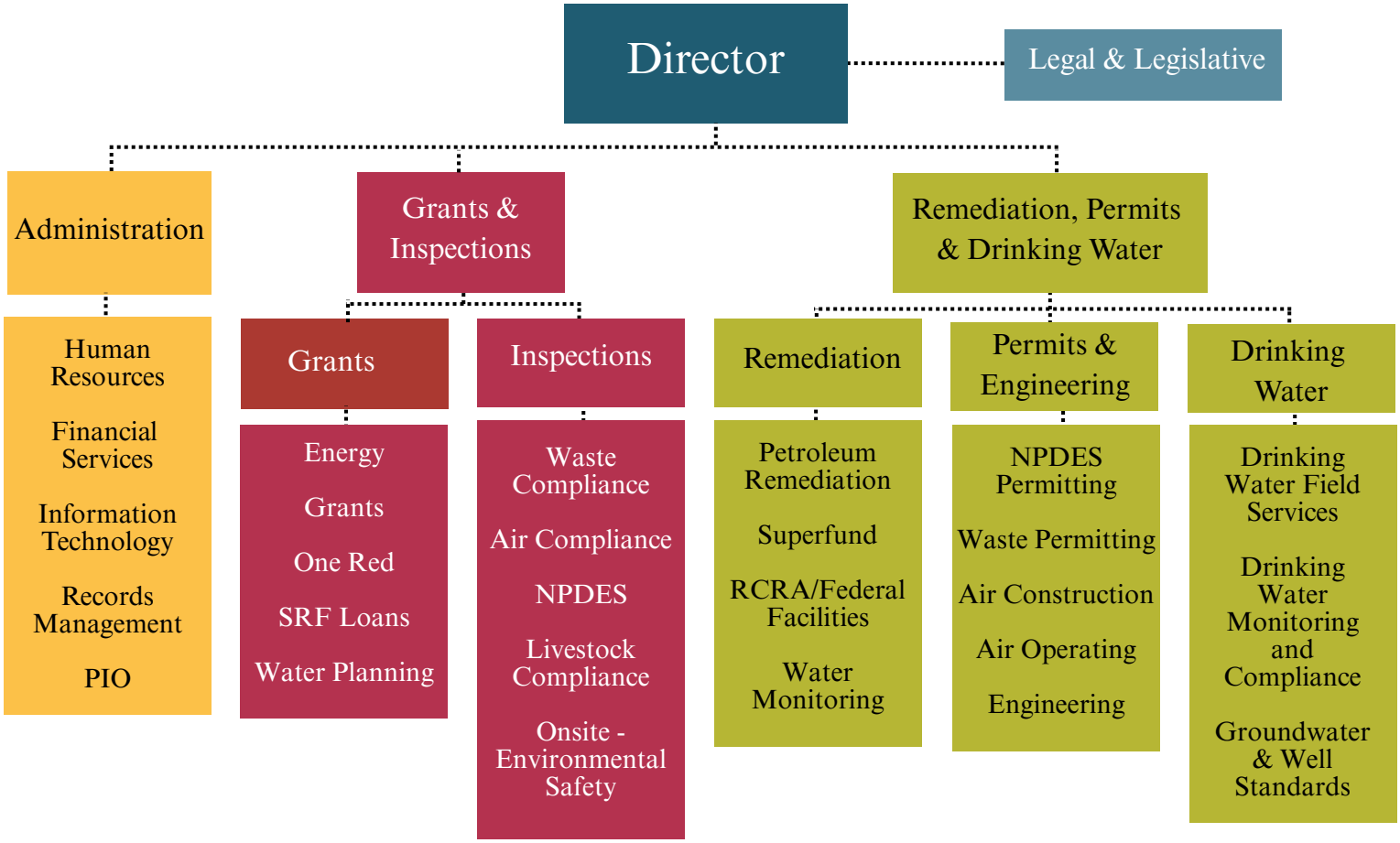
This year's annual report essentially combines the legacy reports from the two prior individual agencies into one annual report. Future reports will work to improve the integration of content in alignment with key organizational changes implemented as a result of the merger.

It's exciting to look back at the many ways our agency impacts the lives of all Nebraskans every day and celebrate those important accomplishments, while working hard to protect and develop our many natural resources into the future!

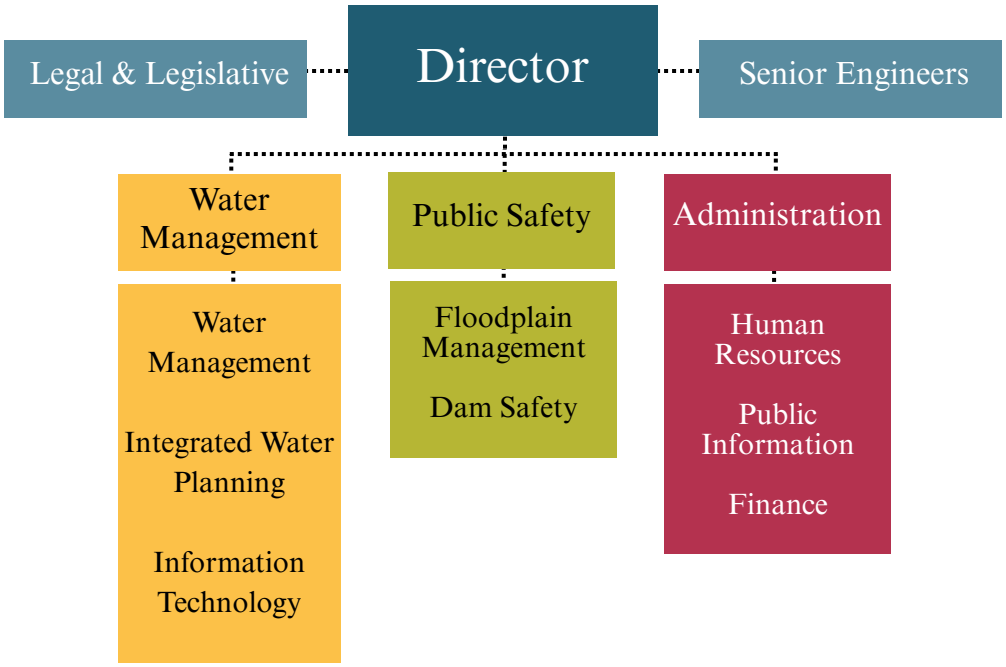
To begin the reports, we've provided the old and new organizational charts for your reference.

Jesse Bradley, Director

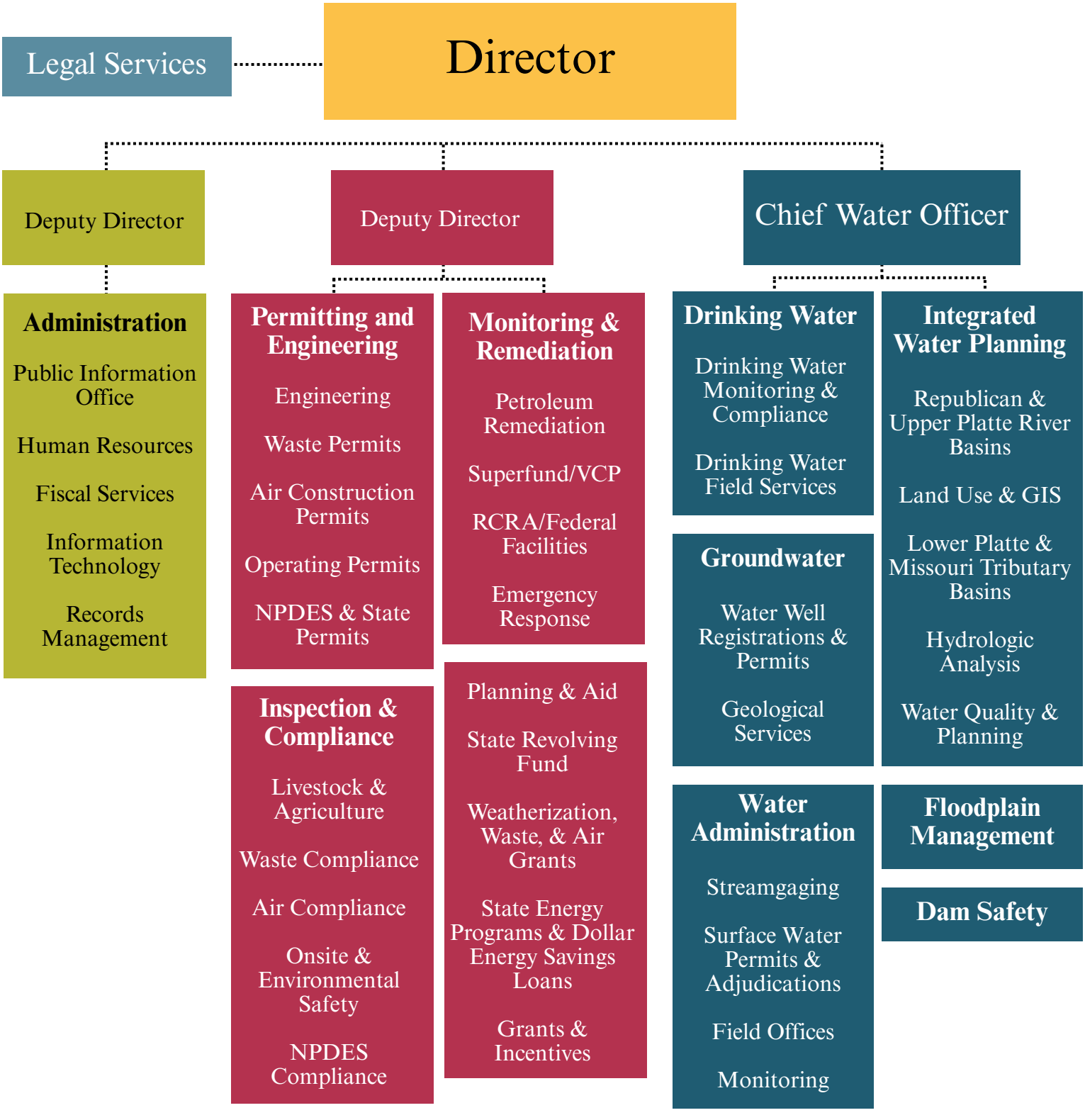
Department of Environment & Energy
2024/2025 Organizational Chart



Department of Natural Resources
2024/2025 Organizational Chart



Department of Water, Energy, & Environment Organizational Chart

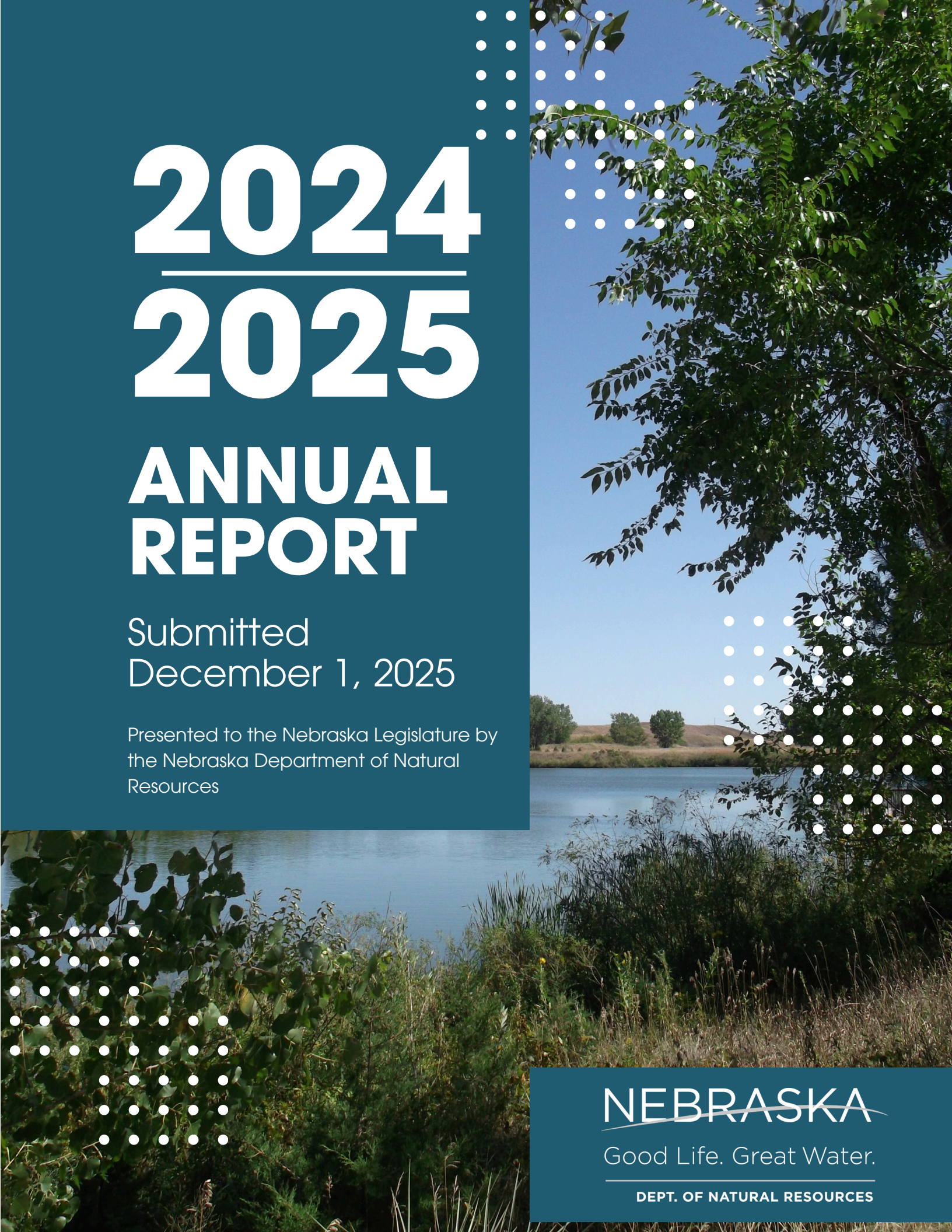


2024
2025

ANNUAL REPORT

Submitted
December 1, 2025

Presented to the Nebraska Legislature by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources



NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Water.

DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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Color-Coded Goals

Goal One
Establish strong state leadership, involvement, and support for science-based decision making that is necessary to sustain state and local water management outcomes.

Goal Two
Provide high-quality products and services through the performance of our duties in the areas of floodplain management, flood mitigation planning, dam safety, and survey to promote safety of all Nebraskans.

Goal Three
Develop and implement customized and decentralized water management plans established through collaboration with local Natural Resources Districts and stakeholders that provide for long-term sustainability of the state's water resources.

Goal Four
Encourage strong public engagement with multiple constituents and stakeholder groups in planning and implementation activities to ensure that local and state needs are addressed.

Goal Five
Protect existing water uses through collaborative investments in water resource projects, planning, administration, and permitting of surface water rights and the registration of groundwater wells.

Goal Six
Provide agency-wide services and support in the areas of information technology and transparent data sharing, business improvement, public information, and administration of state-aid funds in conjunction with the Natural Resources Commission.

Water Management

One of the key functions of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR) is the management of water resources throughout the state. Our agency oversees water management by administering interstate water compacts and decrees, planning for future water utilization, and handling surface water permitting and administration.

NeDNR is tasked by the legislature to execute several initiatives aimed at enhancing water management. Updates on these initiatives follows in this report.

In addition to these initiatives, NeDNR actively collaborates with local communities, agricultural sectors, and environmental organizations to ensure sustainable water use and conservation. By leveraging cutting-edge technology and data-driven approaches, the department strives to mitigate the impacts of droughts and floods, thus safeguarding the water supply for future generations. Public engagement and education are also pivotal components of NeDNR's strategy, fostering a collective effort towards responsible water stewardship. Whether through workshops, public forums, or educational outreach programs, the goal is to empower individuals and communities with the knowledge and tools needed to contribute to Nebraska's water security.

The Perkins County Canal

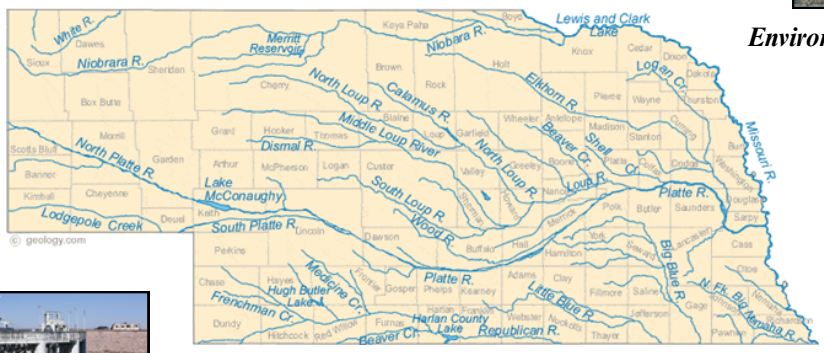
Safeguard water uses through collaboration

In 2022, the Nebraska Legislature enacted the Perkins County Canal Project Act to safeguard the state's water entitlements within the South Platte River Basin. Under the 1923 South Platte River Compact, Colorado committed to delivering 120 cubic feet per second (cfs) in the South Platte River during the irrigation season and 500 cfs during the non-irrigation season. However, the enforcement of the non-irrigation season provision is contingent upon the completion of the Perkins County Canal.

Beneficiaries of the Canal

Natural Resources Districts

Lake McConaughy



Environment and Wildlife

Municipalities

Hydropower and Power Plant Cooling

Agriculture

Given the rising population and the corresponding demand for water in the Front Range region, along with various proposed water development projects in Colorado's South Platte River Basin, it is vital to protect Nebraska's Compact rights. This protection is essential to meet the future water needs of our citizens and support the state's economy.

The NeDNR continues to move through the stages of design, permitting, and land acquisition as it advances toward the construction of the canal and its associated water storage reservoirs.

THE RESILIENT SOILS & WATER QUALITY ACT (RSWQA)

Promote inclusive public engagement

Ensuring the health of soil and water resources is vital for the future well-being of Nebraska's citizens. The Resilient Soils and Water Quality Act (RSWQA), established through LB925 and enacted by the Nebraska Legislature in 2022, mandates the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR) to form an advisory board. This board is responsible for identifying best management practices for producers statewide aimed at preserving and enhancing soil and water quality.

In response to stakeholder feedback, a dedicated website has been launched to facilitate the sharing of best practices and cost-sharing opportunities, as well as to connect agricultural professionals with experts in soil and water quality initiatives (https://nebraskastrategicagcoalition.org/).

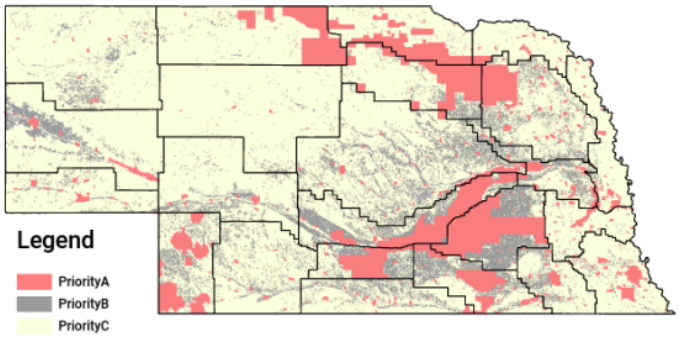
The NeDNR has created educational outreach materials and attended several events throughout the state, including the Women in Ag conference in Kearney this past February. Attending events like this allows the NeDNR to build relationships with producers.

NITROGEN REDUCTION INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Develop and implement customized water management plans established through collaboration with NRDs that provide long-term sustainability of the state's water resources

Nebraska is endowed with extensive water resources, encompassing both aquifer systems and surface water. Ensuring the quality of these water sources is of paramount importance for the state. To promote this objective, LB1368 was enacted to encourage farmers to adopt efficient and sustainable agricultural practices, thereby aiding Nebraska in safeguarding its natural resources.

Current, as of July 1, 2025, distribution of Priority A, Priority B, and Priority C areas. Priority areas may be updated by each NRD through their rules and regulations.



The Department has been assigned the responsibility of collaborating with the 23 Natural Resources Districts (NRDs) across the state to facilitate incentive payments for farmers who integrate innovative technologies into their farming practices. Currently, the Department is in the initial phases of engaging with a committee of NRD managers to implement this program, which includes identifying target areas and developing a framework for outreach and educational initiatives.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Safeguard water uses through collaboration

In response to COVID-19 economic challenges, the federal government enacted the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), with the NeDNR managing over $200 million. Key initiatives include:

- Assisting Lincoln in securing a secondary drinking water source due to environmental issues affecting the Platte River well fields.
- Funding repairs for the Gering-Fort Laramie Tunnel and Canal to ensure stable water supplies.

These projects enhance resilience against environmental challenges and support sustainable water management. Community engagement with local governments and residents fosters collaboration and stewardship over water resources. Long-term, these efforts aim to boost regional well-being and economic vitality, ensuring reliable water for future generations.

In July 2019, the No. 2 tunnel of the Goshen/Gering-Fort Laramie canal experienced a collapse, disrupting irrigation for over 50,000 acres of farmland, with approximately half of that area located in Nebraska.

This incident highlighted the urgent need for improvements to aging critical infrastructure that supports irrigation, hydropower, and various other benefits.

Gering-Fort Laramie Tunnel failure aftermath.

Surface Water Irrigation Infrastructure Fund

Ensure safety through quality flood management services

In response to the growing concern for the aging irrigation infrastructure that came to light with the collapse of the Goshen/Gering-Fort Laramie Tunnel failure in 2019, the Nebraska Legislature established the Surface Water Irrigation Infrastructure Fund (SWIIF) in 2022 to address the deterioration of irrigation infrastructure and to mitigate the risk of similar disasters occurring in the future.

Failures in irrigation infrastructure pose risks of flooding and interruptions to irrigators downstream of structures.

All available SWIIF funds have been allocated, and the Department has made concerted efforts to involve every irrigation district statewide in discussions regarding funding opportunities. Notable projects include the installation of head gates to automate water flow for the Alliance Irrigation District and the repair of concrete structures and canals within the Sargent and Ainsworth Irrigation Districts.

Water Sustainability Fund

Promote science-based water management with state leadership support that is necessary to sustain state and local water management outcomes

Bow Creek Watershed Project: Driving Water Sustainability and Soil Health

The Bow Creek Watershed Project (BCWP) has made significant strides in promoting water sustainability and soil health through a mix of hands-on education, innovative demonstrations, and strong community engagement.

Key Highlights & Progress

Impactful Field Day: A summer field day in Constance, NE, engaged over 50 attendees with a "Soil Their Undies" challenge and a pivotal demonstration where a soil moisture probe easily sank three feet into grazed forage crops, surprising ag professionals with evidence of incredible soil health. Drone seeding and spraying demonstrations also showcased advanced agronomy.
Research & Collaboration: Two demonstration farms conducted compost trials evaluating benefits on corn yield and nutrient content. UNL Capstone students provided valuable technical assistance reports to local farm operations.
Major Conference Success: BCWP co-hosted the Northeast Nebraska Ag Conference (NNAC), attracting 281 attendees and providing 17 hours of educational content from national and local experts. The event received strong positive feedback, with a consensus to continue.
Conservation Implementation: Five Best Management Practice (BMP) contracts were executed, covering 943.05 acres for practices like cover crops and grazing management. Two septic upgrade contracts were also completed.

Field Day participants were encouraged to get out into their fields with shovel in hand to bury a pair of undies and dig them up at least 60 days later. Why? To see the health of their soil! Healthy microbes in soil break down organic material, like the cotton in the undies. Photo **provided by Lewis and Clark NRD.**

Building on Success

Expanding Networks: Creating a platform for ongoing conversations among NNAC attendees and planning the 2025 NNAC.
Advanced Planning: Completing an additional complex Soil Health Management Plan (SHMP) and updating the Water Quality Management Plan in 2025.
Innovative Farm Tours: Organizing both day-trips and a 3-day bus trip (postponed due to weather) for farmers and mentors to explore innovative conservation practices.
New Equipment: The LCNRD has acquired a 30-ft CrustBuster AllPlant drill, projected for use on 1500 acres in 2025 for cover crops and other alternative crops.

High Likelihood of Success

The project is on track to realize its projected benefits, including increasing producer knowledge, confidence, and networks regarding BMPs, continuing demonstration farms and education events, and developing soil health management plans. The core goal of increasing BMP implementation on 5,000 acres through incentive and education contracts remains a key focus.

Public Safety

Keeping Nebraskans safe through planning and cooperative enterprises

Public safety is a fundamental responsibility of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR). Within NeDNR, divisions such as Dam Safety, Floodplain Management, and Groundwater Well Registrations are specifically tasked with safeguarding the well-being of Nebraska's residents. Each division plays a crucial role in ensuring the safety and security of the local environment and community.

The Dam Safety division, for instance, meticulously inspects and monitors the structural integrity of dams across the state. By identifying potential risks and enforcing necessary maintenance, they help prevent catastrophic failures that could endanger lives and property.

Beaver Lake Dam, 2025

Floodplain Management focuses on reducing the impact of flooding by overseeing land use planning and implementing protective measures. By collaborating with local governments and communities, they aim to minimize flood risk through informed decision-making and effective resource allocation.

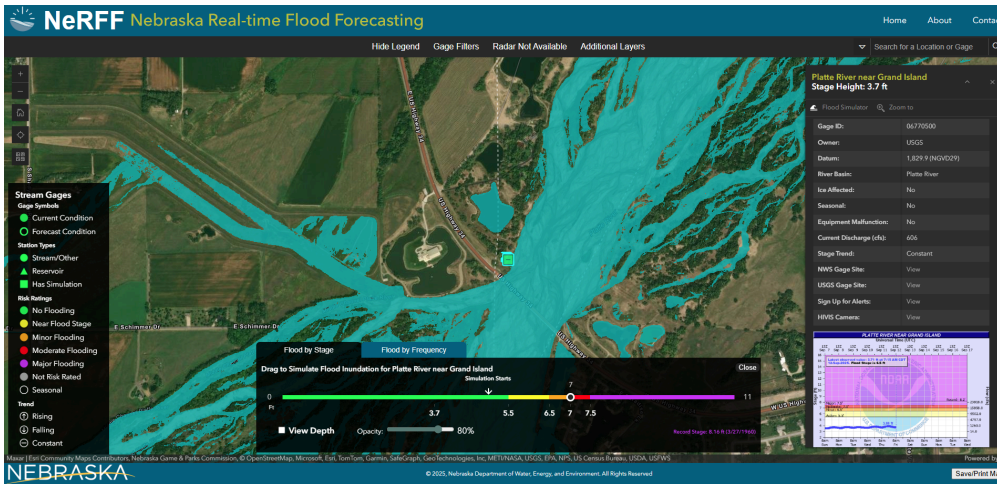
Groundwater Well Registrations ensures that all wells are properly documented.

Through these and other initiatives, the NeDNR is dedicated to fostering a safe and resilient Nebraska, where residents can thrive in harmony with their natural surroundings.

#NebraskaReady
NeRFF

The capacity to predict significant flooding events is crucial for safeguarding lives, property, and livestock. The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR) has introduced the Nebraska Real-Time Flood Forecasting (NeRFF) interactive map, which empowers state and local officials, as well as private citizens, to anticipate and respond to potential floods.

In response to the historic floods of 2019, NeRFF was developed over a two-year period and currently encompasses 48 gauge locations across 54 communities throughout the state.



NeRFF simulation at Grand Island.

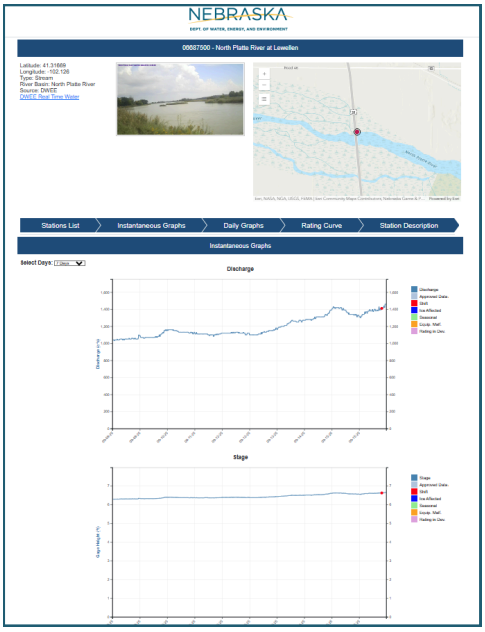
The award-winning website, nerff.nebraska.gov, integrates inundation and depth data, along with current and forecasted river stages provided by the National Weather Service. It also incorporates weather radar, dam and levee information, weather alerts, and details on critical infrastructure.

This gathering of data enables communities and individuals to make prompt, informed decisions regarding flood risks in real time.

The interactive map is continuously updated, with new data and additional gauge sites being added as they become available. For more information about NeRFF, please reach out to one of our floodplain management professionals at https://dnr.nebraska.gov/floodplain/contact.

The Hydrologic Imagery Visualization and Information System (HIVIS)

The Hydrologic Imagery Visualization and Information System (HIVIS) consists of a network of cameras strategically placed at stream gaging stations throughout the United States. These advanced HIVIS cameras play a vital role in capturing and documenting real-time conditions of rivers and streams, primarily aimed at enhancing public safety. Their ability to monitor events such as ice jams, flooding, and droughts facilitates proactive measures to address these issues and promotes greater public awareness.



A snapshot of the North Platte River at Lewellen, Nebraska on September 16, 2025.

Numerous stakeholders depend on these cameras, including:

- NeDNR
- Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- Natural Resource Districts (NRDs) such as Papio-Missouri River, Lower Platte South, and Lower Platte North
- Communities frequently impacted by ice jams

These organizations utilize the cameras to evaluate ice buildup and breakup, ensuring the safety of residents across the state. NeDNR Water Administration staff often consult these cameras throughout the year to align hydrograph data with on-the-ground observations, especially during periods of high or low flows and when icing conditions affect the stage-discharge relationship.

Currently, NeDNR is partnering with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to install additional cameras and aims to expand its network with new locations across the state. This fiscal year, six new cameras were installed.

NEBRASKA

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

2025 Annual Report

More information about the
Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy

NDEE's vision is everyone living, working and enjoying a healthy Nebraska environment. Our mission is to protect and improve human health, the environment and energy resources. We enforce regulations and provide assistance, but to fully accomplish this vital mission we need your help. We encourage you to work with us to ensure future generations can use and enjoy the precious natural resources we enjoy today.

The agency's mailing address:
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Lincoln, NE 68509-8922

Main phone number: (402) 471-2186
Toll-free number: 1-877-253-2603
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Records requests: (402) 471-3557

Visit our website at http://dee.ne.gov to view the agency's:

- News releases
- Agency Information
- Topics of Interest
- Rules and regulations
- Fact sheets and other publications
- Program information
- Public notices
- Enforcement resolution
- Job listings

Cover photo courtesy of Jeremy Bower, JRBStorm Photography

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CHAPTER 1:
Agency Overview

The Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) marked its 50th year as a state agency in 2021. The agency was originally created with the passage of the Environmental Protection Act in 1971. At that time, the agency was named the Nebraska Department of Environmental Control; it later became the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality in 1992. With the 2019 merger of the Nebraska Energy Office, the agency became the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy to better reflect its new focus. New changes were reflected in July, 2025, when the Department of Natural Resources merged with the Department of Environment and Energy to become the newly created Department of Water, Energy and Environment.

This report focuses on NDEE activities occurring in state fiscal year 2025 (July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025). NDEE was authorized for a staffing level of 268 full-time employees.

NDEE had a FY2024-25 annual budget of approximately $98 million. This includes money from federal grants, state taxes, and fees.

The table below shows a breakdown of NDEE budgeted funds as approved by the Nebraska Legislature. The columns listed as aid represent the agency's budget to be redistributed to other agencies, organizations, and individuals as grants and loans. The columns listed as operations represent amounts to be used for agency operation and contracts for such things as investigations and cleanups.

Funding Type	Operations: $ Amount	Percent of Operations Budgeted	Aid: $ Amount	Percent of Aid Budgeted
State General Funds (Tax $)	$4.9 million	10%	$1.0 million	2%
Cash Funds (Fees)	$22.0 million	45%	$21.2 million	44%
Federal Funds (Grants)	$22.2 million	45%	$26.6 million	54%
Total	$49.1 million		$48.8 million	

The following graphic depicts NDEE's FY2024-25 budget by funding source and percent budgeted by fund type and activity (aid or operations).

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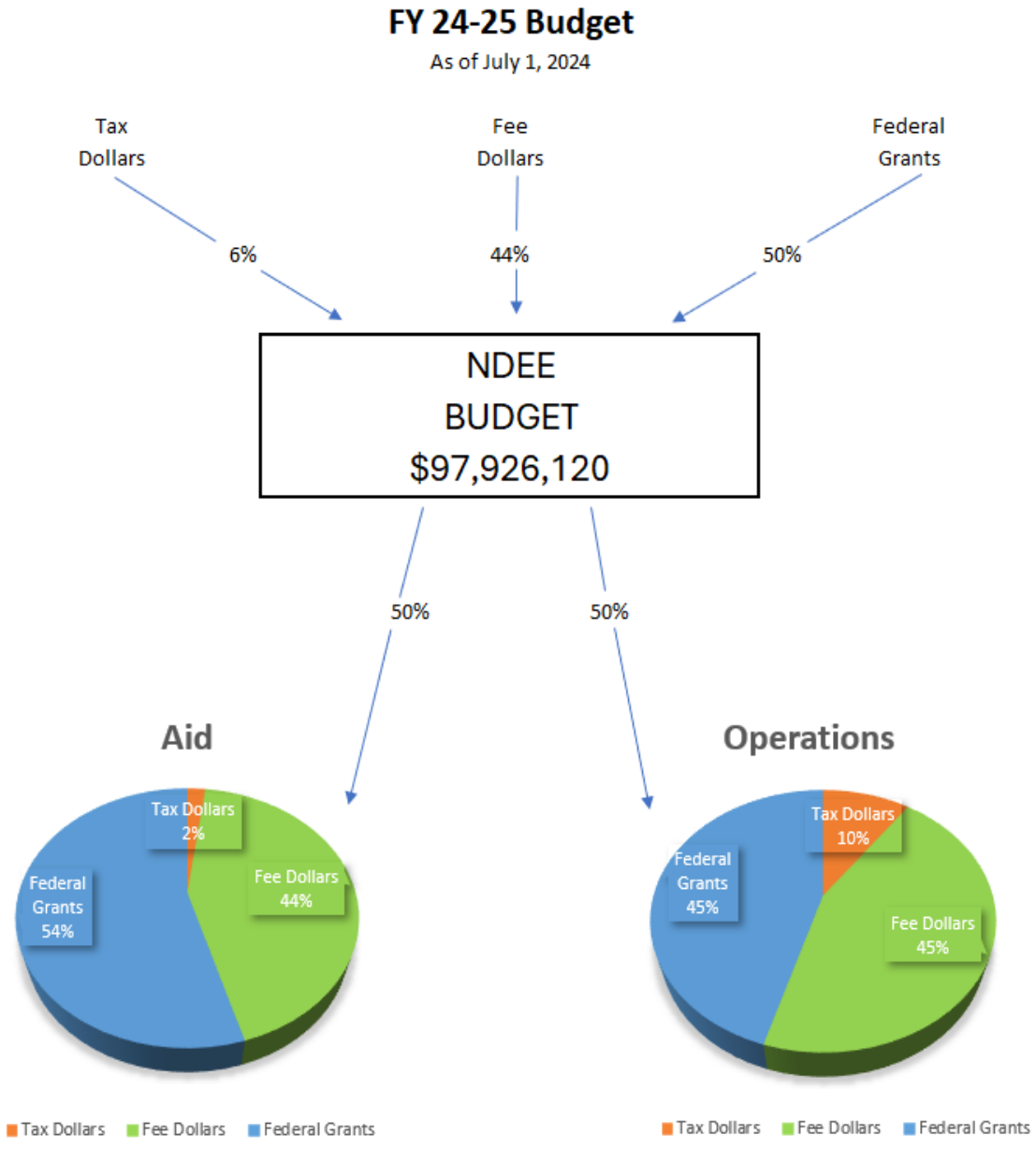


Significant Topics in 2025

The following are some of the significant topics, challenges, and accomplishments that NDEE addressed in FY2025:

NDEE and NeDNR merge into Department of Water, Energy, and Environment

The 2025 Nebraska Legislature took action in early May to pass LB 317 into law, officially merging the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR) with the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE). The newly formed agency, the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment, began operations on July 1, 2025.

Governor Pillen championed the merger as a strategic move to unify the state's efforts in managing both water quality and water quantity. With Nebraska experiencing rapid growth in industries such as hydrogen, advanced biofuels, animal processing, and data centers—all of which place significant demands on water—Pillen emphasized the importance of strengthening the state's ability to manage this critical resource effectively. The consolidation, according to state leadership, lays a stronger foundation for coordinated oversight under a single agency, helping ensure that water remains a sustainable asset for future development.

The merger is also seen as a step toward improving Nebraska's long-term management of environmental resources. For those who previously had to navigate both agencies separately, the new structure is expected to simplify planning and permitting processes, enhancing efficiency and service delivery.

Aligning environmental and water strategies under one roof is viewed as a forward-looking move. Leaders believe this integration will not only meet the demands of today's industries but also safeguard Nebraska's natural resources for generations to come.

NDEE releases report on statewide Nitrate Drinking Water Study

In January of 2025, NDEE released a report following the completion of the Nebraska Nitrate in Drinking Water Study. The goal of this study was to provide analysis and recommend viable solutions for nitrate-affected drinking water, including private domestic wells, which are not regulated by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

The study included nitrate sampling data from public water systems, the Nebraska Groundwater Clearinghouse, and from private domestic well owners who agreed to participate in the agency's free sampling effort that began in November 2023 and ran through March 1, 2024. Nearly 3,500 test kits were returned for analysis and inclusion in the study, making it the largest private domestic well nitrate sampling effort in state history.

The final report is available on the DWEE website here: https://dee.nebraska.gov/water/nitrate-drinking-water-study.

In addition to the final report, the study allowed NDEE to develop additional resources, including a Geographic Information System (GIS) predictive nitrate groundwater concentration model, an interactive, web-based GIS tool to assess nitrate risk for private domestic wells, a nitrate outreach toolbox and guidance documents, a public water system assistance ranking system to target outreach and funding, and nitrate summary reports available to community water systems to show trends in their source water.

Strategic Planning

Strategic planning influences both the internal operations and external responsibilities of the department. Internally, it identifies opportunities for improvement, enhances team efficiency, and encourages a forward-looking mindset among staff and leadership. Externally, it supports a more proactive approach to meeting the needs of Nebraskans by guiding resource planning and allocation. Several years ago, the Department developed vision and mission statements providing clear direction for a one to five year period.

In June, 2025, after the merger creating the new agency, DWEE's leadership shared a new vision and mission statement moving forward:

Vision: A Nebraska where water, energy, and environmental resources are sustainably managed and safeguarded through effective communications, collaboration, innovation, and stewardship — ensuring the prosperity of our communities and agricultural-based economy for future generations.

Mission: The Nebraska Department of Water, Energy and Environment is committed to protecting and enhancing Nebraska's water, energy, and environmental resources through science-based decision-making, strong partnerships, and cooperative efforts.

Values:

- **Customers**: We will consider the impact to our customers in everything we do; customers can be internal and external to the agency.

- **Communication**: We will effectively communicate throughout our organization and with our customers.

- **Culture**: We will create a proactive culture of excellence that promotes teamwork and collaboration with each other and our customers, agency & stakeholder integrity, resource stewardship, science-based decision making, and innovation.

- **Collaboration**: Proactively identifying effective solutions to support our customer's needs.

- **Stewardship**: We are dedicated to the responsible management of Nebraska's water, energy, and environmental resources—protecting these vital resources today so they remain abundant and productive for future generations.

- **Science-Based Decision Making**: Utilizing the best available data and research to drive informed policies and practices.

- **Innovation**: We embrace new ideas and always ask, "How can we provide more value?

In the months ahead, agency leadership will continue to shape and refine strategic plan elements that build on the shared vision and guide the Department's future actions.

2025 Legislative Summary

The Nebraska Legislature enacted six legislative bills in 2025 that had a direct impact on NDEE.

LB 36: This piece of legislation was the Natural Resources Committee priority package which incorporated provisions from several additional bills. Two bills included in the package, LBs 309 and 459, created additional duties for the Department.

- LB 309 created the Safe Battery Collection and Recycling Act. The Act requires battery manufacturers to pay for the collection and recycling of portable and medium format batteries at the end of their useful life. Beginning in 2028, producers and retailers may not sell any covered battery or battery containing product unless they are a member of a battery stewardship organization (BSO) approved by the department. Each BSO is required to submit a battery stewardship plan to the department by Jan. 1, 2027, and must provide free and accessible collections sites across the state. The bill also mandates public education efforts to increase awareness about battery recycling and assigns oversight to the NDEE. Fees for the operation of this program will be set in regulation by the Department, and startup costs will come from the Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Fund.

- LB 459 created the Home Weatherization Clearinghouse within the department. The clearinghouse is required to establish an information hub for home weatherization project funding. It also will assist in coordinating efforts by state and local agencies to optimize the execution of those projects. The Department is to utilize existing resources to carry out the new responsibilities.

LB 167: This bill amended the Nebraska Litter Reduction and Recycling Act to extend the sunset date of the Act from September 30, 2025, to September 30, 2030. The Act, established in 1979, has provided funds to support programs across the state 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 thousand on products that commonly contribute to litter.

LB 247: This bill changes provisions of the Integrated Solid Waste Management Act to increase a fee on landfill operators from $1.25 to $2.34 per ton of solid waste, six cubic yards of uncompacted solid waste or three cubic yards of compacted solid waste. The bill directs 65% of the fees to the Integrated Solid Waste Management Cash Fund, with the remainder going to the Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Fund. Under the bill, the Solid Waste Cash Fund, which is used to cover the costs of responding to spills or other environmental emergencies, also may be used to provide cost share, operation and maintenance for remediation of federal Superfund sites. In addition to the fee increase, LB247 repeals a provision allowing the Legislature to direct transfers from the Petroleum Release Remedial Action Cash Fund to the Superfund Cost Share Cash Fund.

LB 288: This Urban Affairs Committee bill amending the Middle Income Workforce Housing Investment Act also included a provision of LB 531 which provided an exception to the Nebraska Affordable Housing Act. Provisions of LB531 prohibit the Nebraska Department of Economic Development from requiring any new construction project or rental conversion project that receives funding from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund to comply with the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). Additionally, the measure provides an exception that NDEE is not required to review building plans and specifications for compliance with the 2018 IECC if the plans

already have been reviewed by a county, city or village enforcing a local building code that includes the international code's requirements.

LB 317: This bill merged two agencies, NeDNR with NDEE, into a new agency which is renamed the Department of Water, Energy and Environment (DWEE). The merger became operational on July 1, 2025. The former director position of the NDEE will lead the new agency. The former Department of Natural Resources director becomes the Chief Water Officer, who will head the new Division of Water and report directly to the DWEE director. The Chief Water Officer will be appointed by the governor and subject to confirmation by the Legislature.

LB 346: This legislation eliminated certain state boards and councils outlined in NDEE related statutes. Effective July 1, 2026, the Advisory Council on Public Water Supply, the Natural Gas Fuel Board, the Advisory Committee on Solid Waste Management, the State Emergency Response Commission, the Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Advisory Committee, and the Climate Assessment Response Committee will be terminated.

CHAPTER 2:

Administration/Legal/ Management Services

The Administrators, Legal and Management Services provide administrative, legal and day-to-day support services to the effective operations of the Department.

Administrators

The Administrators of NDEE provide oversight and policy direction in all areas of NDEE's activities. The Administrators include the Director, Deputy Directors, Legal Counsel, and Environmental Managers. The Director and Deputy Directors are responsible for the overall function and coordination of NDEE activities.

NDEE Environmental Managers (Division Administrators) are responsible for coordination with other local, state and federal agencies. Staff serve on various committees within the state. The Administrators are also responsible for coordination and negotiations with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. A significant amount of the agency's funding derives from the EPA, and substantial coordination is required. In addition, the agency coordinates certain activities with the U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Director coordinates agency activities with the Governor's Office and the Nebraska Legislature. The Director is responsible for ensuring that NDEE effectively responds to state legislative activities and actions.

The Deputy Director of Administration serves as the manager of the Management Services Division and is largely responsible for day-to-day administrative activities and Agency operations. The Deputy Director is also given responsibility on a case-by-case basis for coordinating special activities which cross the divisional lines of responsibility.

The Deputy Directors coordinate the various agency programmatic activities.

Legal Division

The Legal Division provides legal and other assistance to the Director, Agency, and Environmental Quality Council. Legal Division responsibilities include:

- Supporting enforcement case development and return to compliance;
- Preparing administrative orders and other enforcement actions for the Agency;
- Coordinating Agency response to variance requests;
- Representing the Agency in administrative proceedings;
- Preparing judicial referrals to the Attorney General;
- Assisting the Attorney General as requested;
- Serving as hearing officers for public and administrative contested case hearings;
- Assisting review and development of proposed legislation, rules and regulations;
- Advising the Director and Agency staff on duties and program responsibilities;
- Advising the Environmental Quality Council as requested;
- Drafting and reviewing contracts, leases, environmental covenants, and other documents
- Reviewing other Agency documents as requested; and

Representing the Director and Agency as requested by the Director. The Legal Division works cooperatively with the Attorney General, Secretary of State, Legislature, Governor's Policy Research Office, and other state and federal agencies on a variety of interagency functions, including adoption of rules and regulations, litigation involving the Agency, and legislative activities.

Management Services

The Management Services Division provides administrative and technical support to NDEE programs. The Deputy Director of Administration heads the division. The division's staff is divided into six areas — Fiscal Services, Human Resources, Records Management, Information Technology, Public Information, Emergency Response and Grants/Contract Coordination.

Fiscal Services

The Fiscal Services Section is responsible for agency finance and accounting functions, which includes managing NDEE purchasing, spending, receipting, budgeting, forecasting, and auditing responsibilities. The section has seven staff who offer financial advice and assistance to programs and also conduct financial reviews of grantees. Fiscal Services also provides significant staff assistance to support key programs and to serve as advisors in regard to financial planning, in addition to the collection, tracking and reporting applicable fees. The Fiscal Team was challenged to create ways to streamline, condense or simplify processes used in the past.

Major accomplishments during fiscal year 2025:

- Successfully assisted in the creation, discussion, and final business plan that joined NDEE and NeDNR, two agencies with distinct and separate fiscal processes by the merger date of July 1, 2025.
- Aligned Department practices to reflect recent changes implemented by DAS and AS Materiel which updated state guidelines and policies, with a focus on procurement activities. We will continue to update Department policies in a timely manner when DAS provides new procedures.
- Assisted agency leadership review policies, positions, programs, and expenditure patterns, to support the budget preparation during the 2025 Legislative Session.

Human Resources

The Human Resources Section consists of three staff members, who together plan, direct, coordinate, and administer the day-to day human resource operations. The Human Resource team supports the agency efforts to provide a working environment that strengthens individual and organizational performance.

Human Resources has a Training Coordinator which is responsible for analyzing training needs, developing curriculum and consults with the managers and supervisors of the agency to assess training needs and develop programs to match these needs. The coordinator continually evaluates procedures to monitor and analyze course effectiveness, updates the curriculum as needed and identifies opportunities for staff personal and professional growth.

Staff retention continues to be an important goal for NDEE. Staff turnover impacts continuity in NDEE's programs and activities, and results in additional costs for recruitment and training of replacement staff members. NDEE strives to foster and maintain an employee-friendly workplace by offering transfer and promotional opportunities for qualified internal applicants. The agency continues to look for ways to retain and attract new talent. The State of Nebraska implemented a 2% plus a 3% performance increase for on July 1, 2024.

NDEE monitors diversity to encourage the receipt of applications from qualified members of protected groups by seeking to recruit members of protected groups.

The summary on the right shows staffing activity for FYs 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025. With historically low unemployment, the agency has been very fortunate to have the opportunity to hire and promote 63 of the best and brightest new employees during this fiscal year timeframe. The agency continues to anticipate a large number of retirements over the next few years, as the baby boomer generation is reaching retirement age. We have been actively developing redundancy in positions (succession planning) to avoid a significant loss of agency knowledge and expertise.

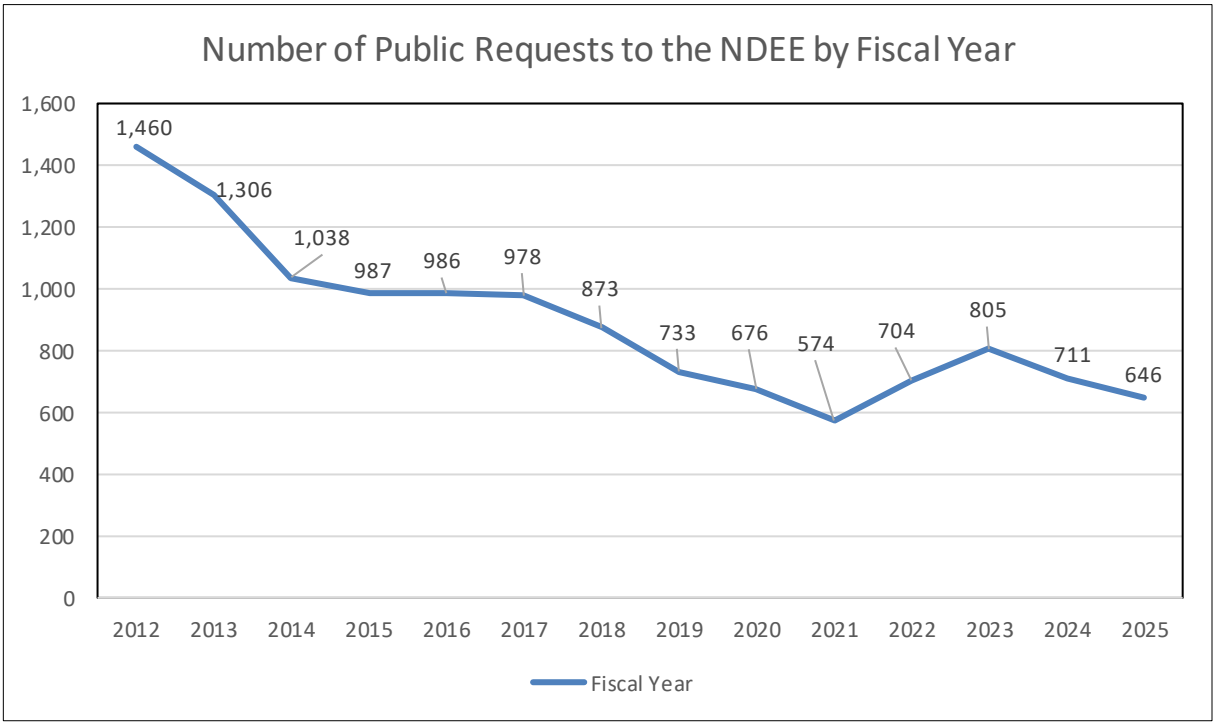
Staffing	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
New Hires	25	32	35	39	45
Retirements	17	9	9	7	9
Resignations/ Terminations	11	18	12	27	23
Transfers	4	8	6	18	9
Promotions	24	29	47	22	18

Records Management

The Records Management Section is responsible for managing the agency's paper and electronic records, centralized mail handling process, and requests for public information. Section employees also furnish support functions to agency programs.

In FY2025:

- DWEE has more than 1.7 million records scanned and stored in the Enterprise Content Management System (ECM) utilizing OnBase software applications from Hyland Software.
- Of these, over 1.3 million records are publicly available on the agency's document portal.
- In FY2025, the Records Section imaged over 13,000 legacy paper files into the ECM system. All documents associated with these files are available to view on the agency's public portal.
- The Records Section indexed over 123,000 documents into the Integrated Information System (IIS) and ECM.
- Staff in the Records Section completed 646 public records requests. The average response time for fulfillment was 2.65 days.
- Since the implementation of the OnBase ECM system, the agency's public records requests have declined by over 50%, largely in part to the accessibility of the information available on the agency's public portal.



Information Technology

The Information Technology (IT) Section responsibilities are to assist NDEE users with any problems or concerns that are not PC hardware or software related, maintain the midrange IBM Power 10 server, web page support, GIS support and development, and application development.

The application development staff is continuing development on a new notifications interface, began development of a new Tier II Reporting interface and a new Dollar and Energy Saving Loans (DESL) interface to provide process improvement for the Agency staff.

During the first part of 2025, staff actively collaborated with IT staff from the Department of Natural Resources to facilitate the successful merger of the two agencies. Through regular coordination, shared expertise, and joint planning, the teams worked diligently to support a seamless transition that maintains service quality, enhances operational efficiency, and upholds the security and integrity of all IT systems.

The Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) has assigned one OCIO support staff to the Fallbrook Blvd building for PC hardware and software support. This will help the IT staff focus and be more efficient in accomplishing other work that is not PC support.

Public Information Office

The Public Information Office serves as NDEE's initial source of communication with the public and media. The services of the Public Information Office are used by all divisions of NDEE.

A primary responsibility of this office is to handle questions from the public and media (newspaper, television, radio and web) regarding NDEE's activities.

The Public Information Office is responsible for the writing and distribution of news releases on a wide range of environmental topics that are of importance to the public. The office is also involved in the production of a number of other publications, including this annual report, brochures, fact sheets and guidance documents. These publications can be obtained by contacting the Public Information Office or by visiting NDEE's website, http://dee.ne.gov.

An important component of the website is to promote two-way communication. As part of those efforts, the agency's main e-mail address is provided at numerous locations on our website. That e-mail address is: NDEE.moreinfo@nebraska.gov. The Public Information Office coordinates responses to those e-mails. The site also features "Report a Problem," with a link to the e-mail address to report an environmental issue of concern at NDEE.problem@nebraska.gov. The site includes phone information and procedures relating to reporting a spill or complaint. The agency has moved toward providing more standardized forms on its website, including those that can be filled online or submitted electronically.

NDEE also maintains social media accounts on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube to share agency updates, offer a resource for its audiences, and provide another way to reach the agency.

Additionally, the PIO team provides support for the small business and environment assistance program. You can review the discussion of the Department's environmental assistance activities in Chapter 4.

Emergency Response Program

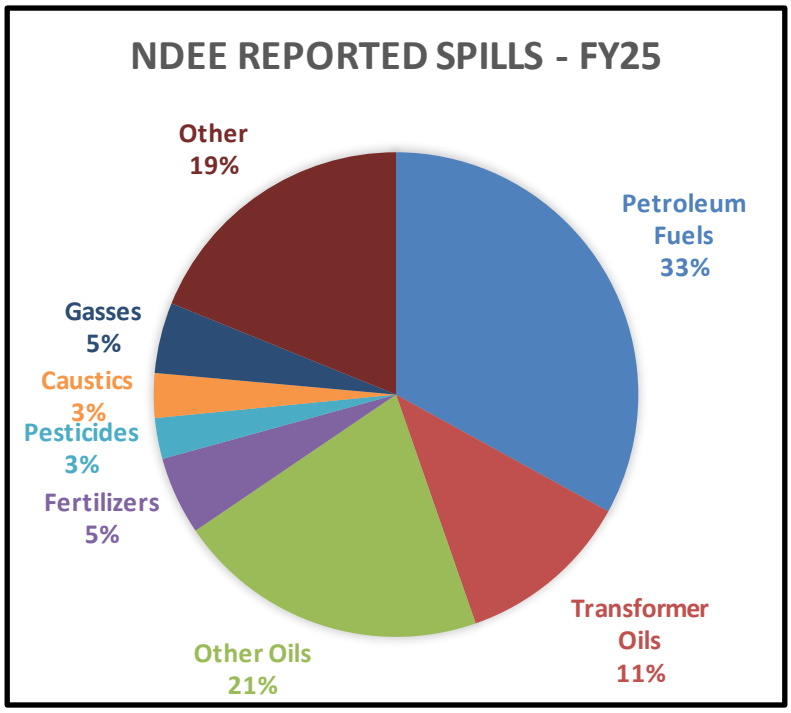
Through the Emergency Response Program, NDEE staff provide technical and regulatory assistance to those responsible for spills, leaks, and accidents that pose a hazard to the environment or public health. Assistance is also provided to those at the local level who are the first on the scene at these releases; typically, this is the local fire department.

Pesticide Spill - Saunders County (NOV 2024)

The Emergency Response Program Coordinator is responsible for training, equipping, and coordinating staff who, in addition to their responsibilities to other programs, provide initial documentation, assistance and response to spills. These individuals have the responsibility to maintain an emergency response system that is on call 24 hours a day.

The Emergency Response Program assists in arranging for the disposal of harmful and potentially hazardous materials. The Program represents the environmental interests of the state at the scene of a petroleum/chemical spill or other environmental emergency. All personnel are members of the Nebraska Hazardous Incident Team and coordinate closely with the local, state, and federal agencies involved in emergencies.

The NDEE recorded 373 reports of spilled materials during Fiscal Year 2025. This number is generally what we would expect to receive based on the past 10+ years. Petroleum accounts for approximately two-thirds of the reported spills the NDEE receives.



In addition to reported spills, the NDEE recorded 385 citizen complaints. Complaints are referred to and reviewed by all appropriate agencies.

NDEE personnel, in partnership with the Nebraska State Patrol (NSP) and State Fire Marshal (SFM), completed annual training related to responding to an illegal clandestine drug manufacturing (March). NDEE hosted and presented training to the Nebraska Hazardous Incident team in June. Also in June, USEPA and NDEE trained NDEE staff, local health and fire officials in performing environmental sampling at environmental incidents.

Continuity of Operations

The Department has the responsibility to continue operations in the aftermath of any disaster that adversely affects its facilities and resources. The agency's *Continuity of Operations Plan* describes how we will react, respond, and recover from an incident or disaster that causes a disruption of the agency's essential functions. In March of 2025, the city of Lincoln experienced a widespread and lengthy power outage. The agency was able to fully function, in part, due to elements contained in this plan.

A functional exercise, testing the ability to reach/notify staff as described in the plan, was completed in May.

Quality Assurance

The EPA has requirements for conducting quality management activities for all environmental information to ensure that the Department's decisions are supported by data of known and documented quality. In turn, the Department is responsible for reviewing the procedures a project will use to collect and analyze samples, store, and manage data, and ensure the reports they write are of high quality. The *Quality Management Plan* is the framework for Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs) which are written to outline these procedures. Management Assistance Division staff help coordinate the review of QAPPs by appropriate personnel throughout the Department. Staff were provided in-house refresher training on the agency's *Quality Management Plan* in December.

Grants/Contract Coordination

The Grant Coordinator is responsible for:

- Completing federal grant applications.
- Ensuring compliance with grant conditions and requirements, particularly reporting requirements.
- Maintaining and coordinating all official record of correspondence with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 7 grants office.
- Tracking of grant applications through the award process, and follow-up of reporting and conditions.
- Ensuring NDEE programs meet reporting deadlines, consolidating reports and verifying they are sent to and received by EPA.
- Ensuring all required sub-awards are reported to the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act Sub-award Reporting System.
- Corresponding with EPA Headquarters to ensure NDEE stays in compliance with Federal grant guidance and new requirements.
- Providing assistance with Requests for Proposals, contract development.
- Working with the Fiscal Services Section to ensure communication regarding grants, contracts and programs.
- Working with Records Management Section to verify all agreements and contracts are in the Enterprise Content Management system (documents imaged).

Funding of Management Services

The Management Services Division provides essential administrative and technical support to the Department. Some activities in Management Services are program specific, but many are not. Funding for the Division is provided by two methods: 1) the majority of the staff salaries and activities are funded through an overhead charge to the Department's various programs; 2) Program-specific staff time and activities are charged to those programs and the grants associated with them.

CHAPTER 3:
Environmental Quality Council

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

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

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

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

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

Council Members

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

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

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

CHAPTER 4:
Air Quality Programs

The objective of the Air Quality Programs is to maintain and protect the quality of the outdoor air in Nebraska. Thousands of tons of pollutants are emitted into the air in the state each year from industrial and other human activities. These air pollutants can affect human health, cause property damage, harm the environment, and reduce visibility. The Air Quality Programs work to maintain Nebraska's air quality by implementing state and federal air quality regulations, through permitting and compliance activities for stationary sources, and by monitoring outdoor ambient air for regulated pollutants. Nebraska's air quality rules are set forth in Nebraska Administrative Code (NAC) *Title 129 – Nebraska Air Quality Regulations* (Title 129).

Nebraska enjoys good ambient air quality, with all parts of the state in compliance with federal and state ambient air quality standards.

The regulated air pollutants of most concern are particulate matter, ozone, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, and lead. These pollutants are subject to National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). All areas of the state are currently in attainment, meaning that the state has air at least as clean as the federal health-based standards for these pollutants. Maintaining compliance with these federal standards is important to protect the public health. NAAQS nonattainment could result in additional requirements and significant economic costs to regulated facilities and the state. The Department also regulates the emission of substances defined by the EPA as hazardous air pollutants (HAPs), which are toxic substances known to cause cancer or have other serious health impacts. Title 129 does not include any requirements specifically for the control of odors, however, many of the pollutants that are regulated do have an odor, so by minimizing such pollutants, odors may in turn be reduced.

The Air Quality Programs are found in several Divisions of the Department. In the Permitting and Engineering Division, air quality construction permits and operating permits are issued and air dispersion modeling is performed. The Inspection and Compliance Division compiles emission inventories and conducts inspections and other compliance and enforcement activities. The Remediation and Monitoring Division maintains an ambient air quality network and evaluates stack tests. Regulatory development, as well as state implementation plan maintenance is done within the Legal Division.

Finally, agreements with three local agencies: Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, Omaha Air Quality Control, and Douglas County Health Department, are managed through the Planning and Aid Division. These local agencies have accepted responsibility for various facets of the air quality program within the jurisdictions of those agencies including air quality monitoring, permitting, and enforcement.

Air Quality Permitting

An air quality permit sets practical enforceable limits on the amounts of pollutants that a facility may emit, ensuring that facilities are constructed and operated in a manner that protects the quality of the surrounding ambient air. The Department issues two main types of air quality permits: construction permits and operating permits. A construction permit may be required for a facility before the construction or modification of an emission unit. An operating permit may be required for an existing facility source of certain air pollutants. Currently, there are over 1,200 facilities that have received a construction permit and/or an operating permit.

Title 129 provides for two types of construction and operating permits: individual and general. Some sources are not eligible for coverage under general permits. Some sources will require a construction permit but may not require an operating permit.

Individual permits are available for all regulated sources. These permits include all requirements applicable and specific to that source and location. Because it is tailor made for the source, significant time and labor is required for each permit issued. The individual permit process generally includes a required public notice with a 30-day comment period, which also offers the public the opportunity to request a public hearing.

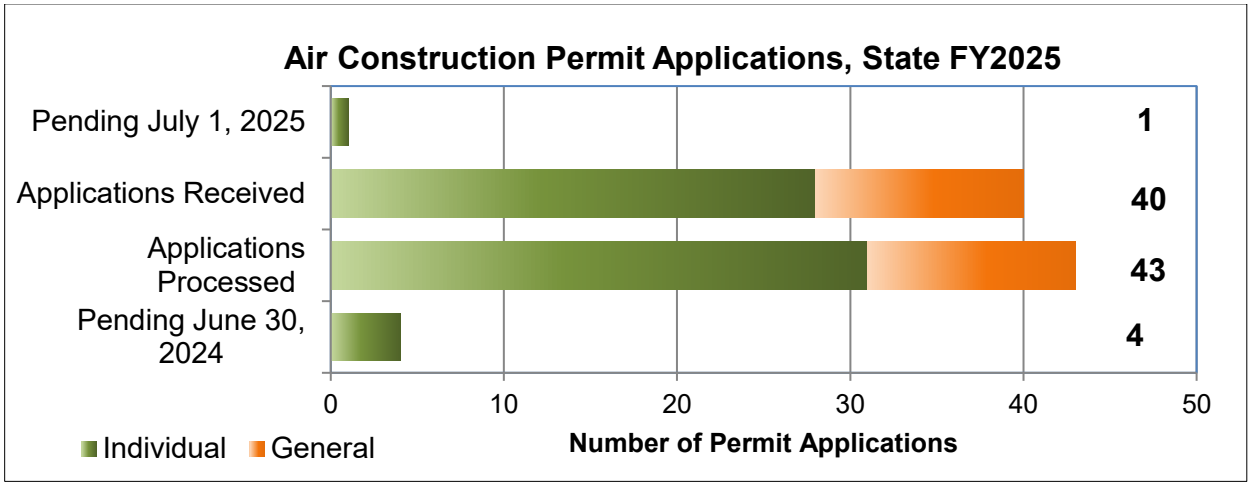
A general permit covers all sources in a particular industrial category, provided that the source meets the applicability criteria, applies for, agrees to the conditions of and obtains coverage. Requirements for a general permit are established in that general permit. Each general permit is issued only once (including the public notice period). Eligible applicants then apply for and obtain coverage without the need to develop an individual permit for that facility or to go through a public comment period each time coverage is approved for an eligible source under that general permit.

General construction permit coverage is currently available for eligible sources in nine categories (including time-sensitive construction activities), and general operating permit coverage is available for one category (certain size of incinerators). Approval of general permit coverage takes much less time for the agency and for the facility than an individual permit. An online-only application process is used for general permit coverage, and approval may take only 5 days or less.

Construction Permit Program

The Department has maintained a construction permit program for air contaminant sources since the 1970s. The program is referred to as the New Source Review (NSR) program and has two categories; a minor source program (state) and a major source program (federal Prevention of Significant Deterioration). Both programs require facilities to obtain a permit before they construct, reconstruct, or modify any air contaminant source or emission unit where there is a net increase in the potential to emit above thresholds specified in Title 129 for particular pollutants. Only sources with potential emissions at or above these thresholds are required to obtain a construction permit. A construction permit is valid for the life of the covered emission unit(s).

The following graph summarizes construction permit applications received, processed, and pending during the 2025 state fiscal year. (Note: The *Processed* category includes permits issued, withdrawn, denied, and determinations of no permit required.)

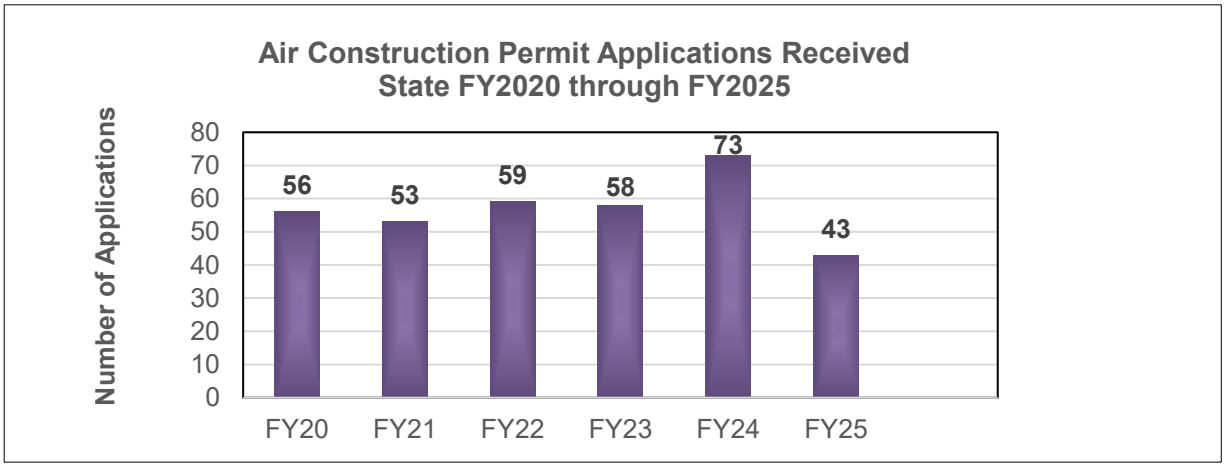


The Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) program applies to construction of new major sources or modifications to existing major sources that emit significant levels of certain types of pollutants. The purpose of the PSD program is to protect air quality in areas where the air is cleaner than the ambient air quality standards while still allowing industrial and economic growth. The objective is to continue to maintain compliance with the health-based ambient air quality standards.

For facilities regulated under the construction permit program that emit pollutants at levels sufficient to trigger PSD requirements, air engineering staff conduct additional, more rigorous reviews to ensure that best available control technology will be employed to minimize impacts on the environment. The Department must also ensure that the source will not cause or contribute significantly to any deterioration of air quality or violations or exceedances of the ambient air quality standards.

The PSD program helps to protect visibility in nearby national parks and wilderness areas. The Department notifies federal land managers and nearby States and Tribes, as applicable, of pending PSD decisions so those authorities can share relevant concerns for potential impacts.

The economy and business activity in the state impact the number of air quality construction permit applications received each year. The following graph shows the number of construction permits received annually from state FY2020 through FY2025.



Air Dispersion Modeling

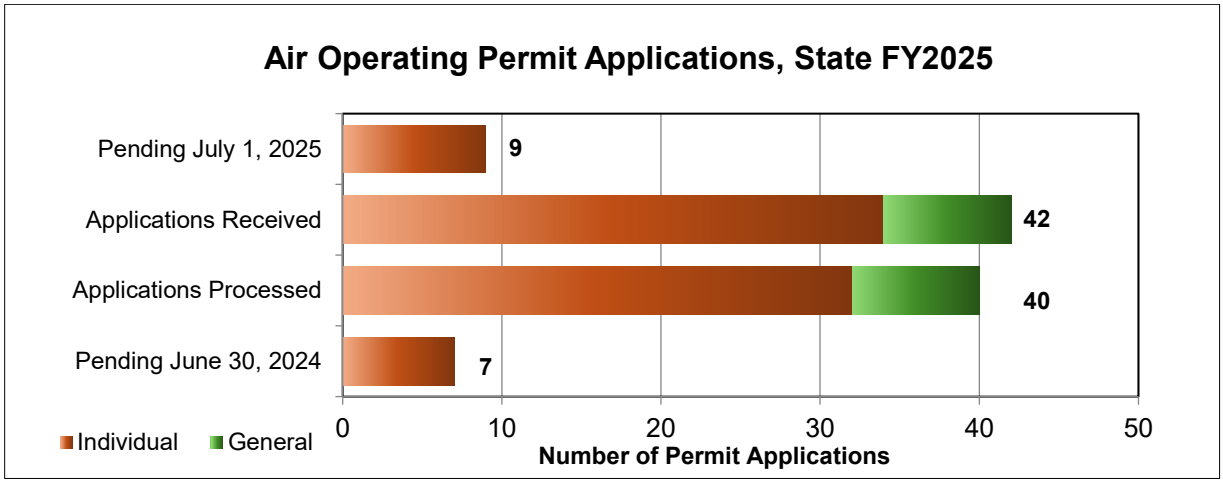
Air dispersion computer models predict how air pollutants emitted by a facility spread and disperse. These models are utilized during the permitting process to verify that a new source of air pollution will not exceed the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) or cause degradation in air quality beyond the maximum allowable increment. Models used for permitting purposes estimate downwind concentrations from a proposed facility prior to its construction. These regulatory models use expected emissions, meteorological and geographical data, and other factors to estimate ground level concentrations of air pollutants at a large array of locations outside of the facility fence line. In a relatively short amount of time, a model can predict the maximum potential ground-level impact of facility emissions in a standardized and cost-effective manner.

Modeling is required with most air quality construction permit applications as part of the Department's review. An air dispersion model is the primary tool used to determine if, as permitted, the emissions from a new or modified facility or modification will comply with current health-based ambient air quality standards. Models are also used as a design tool to analyze the effects of different pollution control strategies. The air dispersion modeler reviews the inputs and outputs of the models that facilities provide as part of their construction permit applications. These reviews include facility emissions and meteorological data, background concentrations, existing nearby facilities, the modeling protocol, and the final modeling results.

Operating Permit Program

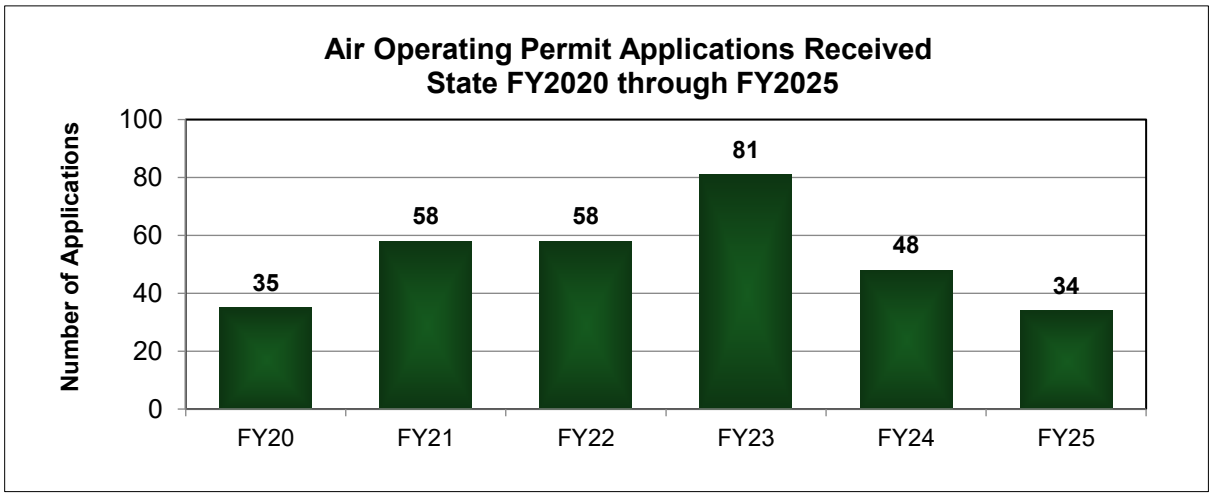
As required by Title V of the Federal Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, Nebraska issues operating permits for Class I (major) sources of certain air pollutants. The Department also regulates minor sources using Class II operating permits as required under Nebraska law. Application for an operating permit is required by Title 129 within 12 months of startup of a regulated air contaminant source. Until recently, Title 129 provided for operating permit terms up to five years, after which the permit must be renewed. When Title 129 was revised in September 2022, changes to the operating permit program were made which allow the Department to issue Class II operating permits for a term longer than five years. An operating permit contains all applicable requirements for emission points at a facility. For a large, complicated, growing facility, an operating permit incorporates requirements from all construction permits issued for the facility, providing the source with one permit document to help compliance with all associated air permitting requirements.

The chart on the following page provides statistics on the number of operating permit applications received, processed, and pending during the 2024 state fiscal year. These statistics include general permit coverage approvals. The current general operating permit for small incinerators was issued in SFY2018, replacing the previous five-year general operating permit that expired that year. The general operating permit coverages issued in SFY2022 were for new applicants requesting coverage for small incinerators. The current general operating permit for small incinerators is available through an efficient online process, whereas the previous general permit required a paper application.



The Nebraska operating permit program also offers an innovative alternative for major sources that have taken measures to keep their emissions very low, called the Low Emitter Rule. To be eligible, a Class I (Title V) source must document five years of actual emissions at or below the minor source (Class II) threshold levels, meet other requirements established in the regulations, and not otherwise be required to obtain an operating permit. Since its inception in 1997, the Low Emitter Rule has allowed over 100 active sources to opt out of their Class I (Title V) operating permits, with no identifiable degradation of air quality in Nebraska.

The five-year renewal cycle, past delays in issuing renewals, and other factors have resulted in wide variations over time in the numbers of operating permits up for renewal each year. The chart below summarizes air quality operating permit applications received from State FY2020 through FY2025 (applications for all application types, including permit revisions, general operating permits, low emitters, etc.).



Permit Program Process Improvements

Individual construction and operating permits are complex, highly technical documents that must address all emission points for various pollutants at a facility in a manner that is enforceable as a practical matter. Processing a permit application includes complex analysis with multiple steps and personnel. The Operating Permits Team continuously is improving the process for the completion of operating permit renewals and applications. These projects resulted in a significant

reduction in the time needed to prepare and process an operating permit renewal application. One applicant has estimated an 80% reduction in their application preparation time. The Air Programs have documented similar savings in staff time to process the renewal.

Each construction and operating permit include a fact sheet, which provides a technical description of the facility, applicable regulatory requirements, and a statement of basis for each permit condition. Air Program staff have also made significant fact sheet process improvements and continuously revisit permit fact sheets to pinpoint opportunities for streamlining and to continue to make fact sheets more uniform and easier to understand, making compliance easier for facility staff, which also assists the efforts of agency compliance inspectors.

With the completed and ongoing process improvements and other ongoing efforts, the average time required to reach a decision on a construction permit application has improved significantly. The operating permit application backlog has also significantly improved with the completed process improvement events. Although some impacts of improvements may not be realized in the immediate future, sources with permits being issued now see processing times significantly improved at permit renewal time.

The Air Quality Permitting Programs have consistently had a significant amount of staff turnover, leading to recurring discussions about permit decisions, regulations, and other challenges. The Air Program has revamped new employee onboarding procedures to help the training process. The improved training process has allowed the Air Quality Permitting Programs to be able to increase consistency in the permitting process as well as being able to work with new permit writers in a more efficient manner to help achieve a better understanding of the process faster.

Air Compliance

Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Program

The Clean Air Act requires the EPA to set National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for pollutants considered harmful to public health and the environment, which are called criteria pollutants. The Act established two types of national air quality standards: primary standards, which are intended to protect public health, and secondary standards, intended to protect the environment. National standards have been established for the following six pollutants:

- Particulate Matter (PM)
  - With a diameter of 10 micrometers or less (PM10)
  - With a diameter of 2.5 micrometers or less (PM2.5)
- Sulfur Dioxide (SO2)
- Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2)
- Carbon Monoxide (CO)
- Ozone (O3)
- Lead (Pb)

Nebraska has an additional ambient air quality standard for Total Reduced Sulfur (TRS). The TRS standard was adopted by the Environmental Quality Council in 1997 and is a public health-based standard.

Nebraska Ambient Air Monitoring Network

The State of Nebraska operates an ambient air-monitoring network to determine compliance with the NAAQS and with state air quality standards. The Nebraska network also includes a site for

monitoring regional haze impacts that is part of a national program to help protect visibility in our National Parks and Wilderness areas.

Three agencies are involved in the day-to-day operation of the network: NDEE, Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, and Douglas County Health Department. Omaha Air Quality Control (part of the Omaha Public Works Department) also provides technical support for network-related activities.

The Nebraska monitoring network includes sites at which air quality is monitored to evaluate attainment with the standards and other health and welfare-associated priorities. The Department evaluates the adequacy of its monitoring network in accordance with federal regulations each year. Changes may be made to the network due to changes in monitoring regulations, updates to the ambient standards, perceived changes in pollution trends, and/or funding issues. Loss of site access is another consideration that occasionally affects the network.

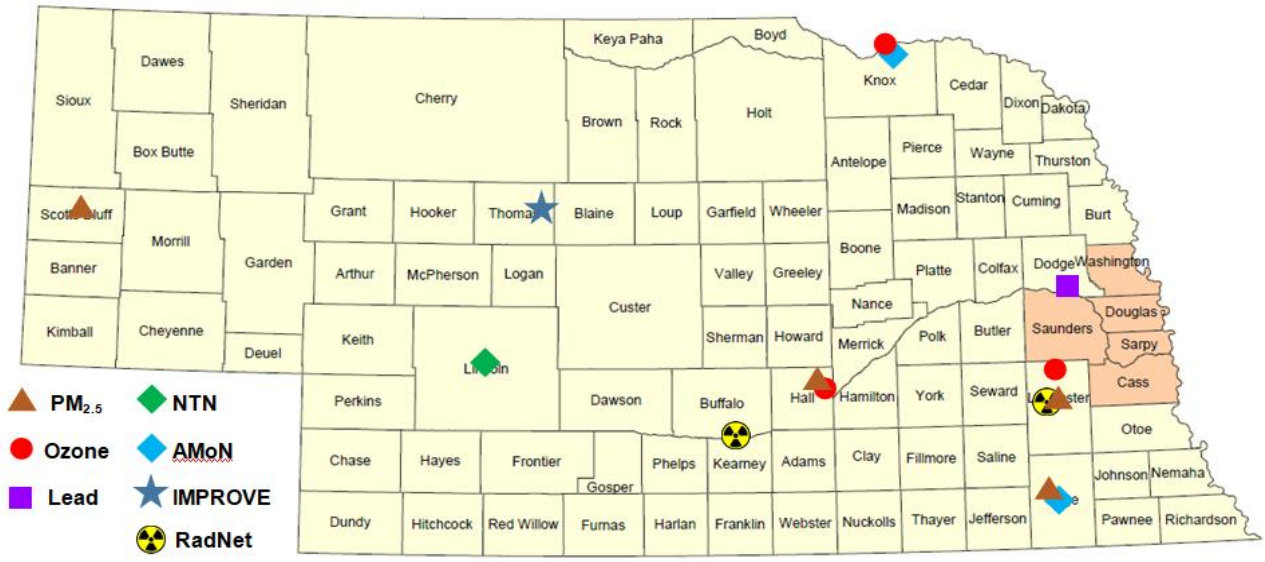
Most of the sites in the monitoring network evaluate pollutants for which standards are established *(i.e.*, particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10), carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, lead, nitrogen dioxide and ozone). Some sites monitor for more than one pollutant. The NCore site in Omaha is part of a National Core Network that monitors for nine pollutant parameters. There are two additional types of sites in the network: Interagency Monitoring of Protected Visual Environments (IMPROVE) and National Atmospheric Deposition Program/National Trends Network (NADP/NTN) sites. See the following maps for locations of air monitoring sites.

The air monitoring sites operated by NDEE and the local air agencies are supplemented by sites that are part of national research networks operated by EPA. These sites are described in the following paragraphs.

IMPROVE monitors provide information for studying regional haze that may impact the visibility in listed federal Class I National Park and Wilderness Areas. There is one IMPROVE monitoring site at Nebraska National Forest at Halsey, Nebraska. This site provides data on pollution trends and transport.

Four locations in Nebraska are part of the National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP), which includes several networks that measure pollutants deposited by rain and snow. The site at Mead (Saunders County) is part of the Mercury Deposition Network (MDN). The Mead and North Platte (Lincoln County) sites are part of the National Trends Network (NTN), which measures a suite of chemicals including sulfate and nitrate. The Ammonia Monitoring Network (AMoN) measures ammonia concentrations in the air at rural sites, including the Santee Sioux site in Knox County and a location at Homestead National Historic Park in Gage County.

Nebraska Monitoring Sites Outside of the Omaha Metropolitan Statistical Area



$PM_{2.5}$
Lincoln (Lancaster County) Grand Island (Hall County) Scottsbluff (Scotts Bluff County) Beatrice (Gage County)

Lead
Fremont (Dodge County)

Ozone
Davey (Lancaster County)
Grand Island (Hall County)
Santee (Knox County) operated by EPA

RadNet
Lincoln (Lancaster County)
Kearney (Buffalo County)

IMPROVE
Nebraska National Forest (Thomas County)

National Atmospheric Deposition Program
North Platte (Lincoln County) - NTN
Santee (Knox County) – AmoN
Homestead (Gage County) - AMoN

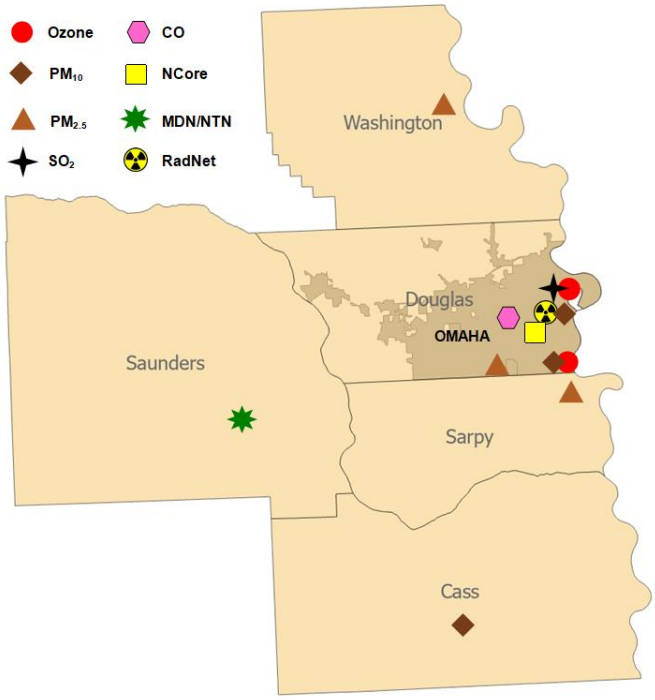
The Nebraska counties in the Omaha-Council Bluffs Metropolitan Statistical Area are indicated by orange shading.

RadNet is a nationwide system that monitors air, precipitation, and drinking water to track radiation levels in the environment. RadNet air monitoring sites are located in Omaha, Lincoln, and Kearney.

The state map above shows the monitoring sites that are located outside of the Omaha-Council Bluffs Metropolitan Statistical Area (counties shown in orange). Four of these sites are operated by the Department, either directly or under contract. The two sites in Lancaster County are operated by the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department with NDEE oversight.

The map on the following page shows the location of the monitoring sites in the Nebraska portion of the Omaha-Council Bluffs Metropolitan Statistical Area (two sites monitor two pollutants and are represented by overlapping pairs of symbols). Nine of these sites, located in Douglas, Sarpy, and Washington Counties, are operated by the Douglas County Health Department with oversight by the Department. A PM10 site in Weeping Water in Cass County is operated by NDEE. The National Atmospheric Deposition Program site at Mead is operated by the University of Nebraska.

Monitor Locations in the Nebraska Portion of the Omaha-Council Bluffs Metropolitan Area



NCore (multipollutant site)
4102 Woolworth Avenue

Carbon Monoxide
Omaha, 4102 Woolworth Avenue (NCore Trace Monitor)
Omaha, 7747 Dodge Street

Ozone
Omaha, 4102 Woolworth Avenue (NCore)
Omaha, 1616 Whitmore Street
Omaha, 2411 O Street

Sulfur Dioxide (SO_2)
Omaha, 4102 Woolworth Avenue (NCore Trace Monitor)
Omaha, 1616 Whitmore Street

$PM_{2.5}$
Omaha, 4102 Woolworth Avenue (NCore) Omaha, 9225 Berry Street
Bellevue, 2912 Coffey Avenue Blair, 2242 Wright Street

PM_{10}
Omaha, 19th & Burt Streets Omaha, 2411 O Street
Omaha, 4102 Woolworth Avenue (NCore) Weeping Water, 102 P Street

NADP/NTN
Mead, Saunders County

Updates to the Monitoring Network

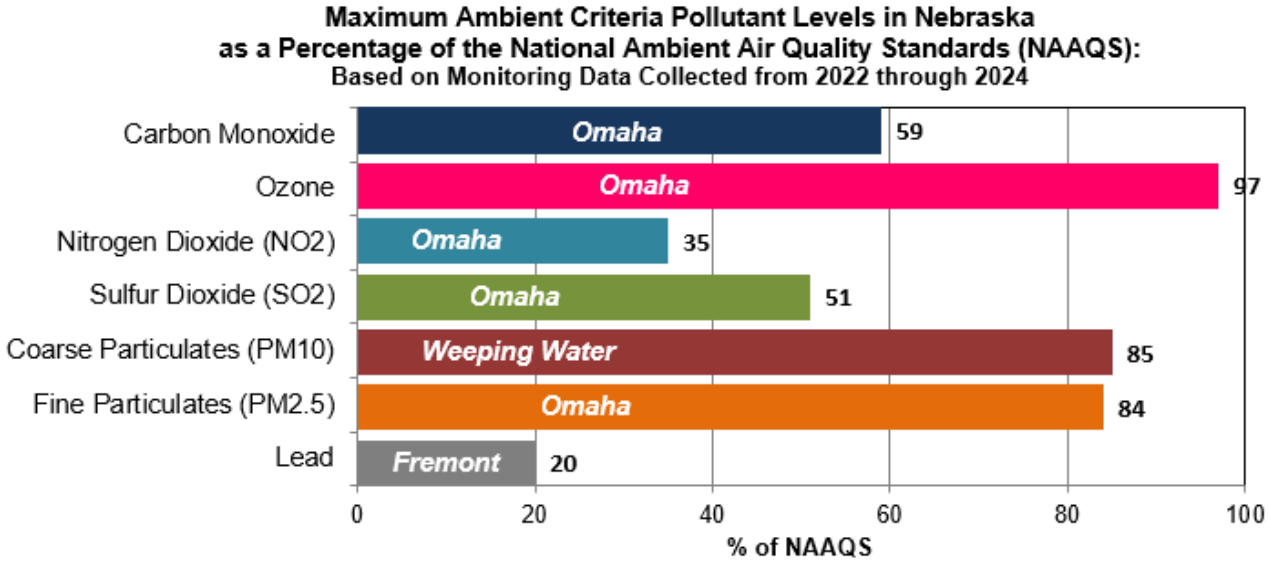
NDEE has used funds from an Air Monitoring Direct Award (under an Inflation Reduction Act program) to establish continuous ozone monitoring in Grand Island, Nebraska's fourth largest city by population. The new monitor was installed at the current $PM_{2.5}$ monitoring site during the first quarter of 2025.

Monitoring Information Online

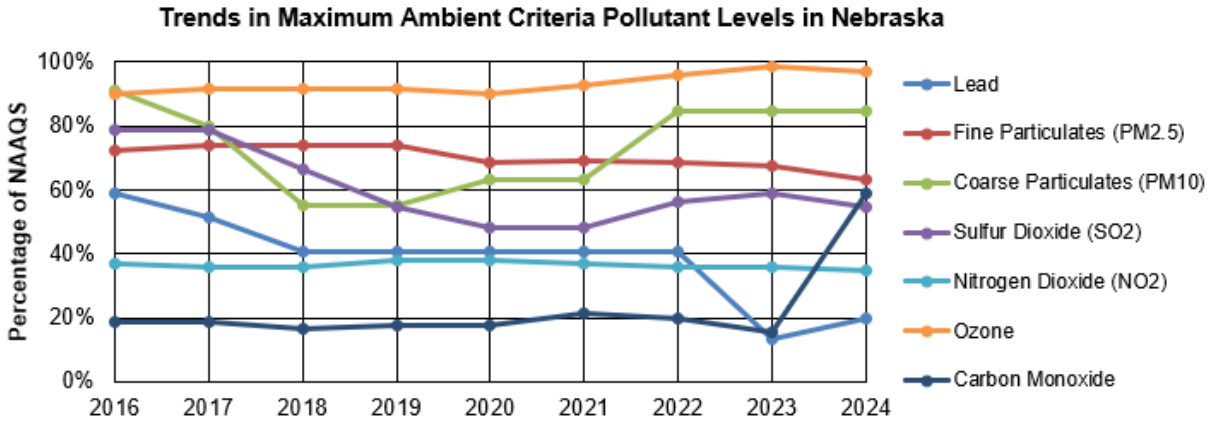
Data from continuous ozone and PM2.5 monitors in Lincoln, Omaha, Grand Island, Homestead National Historical Park, and Scottsbluff are reported hourly to the EPA AirNow system, which makes current air quality information available to the public on the web at http://www.airnow.gov. EPA uses the data to calculate an hourly Air Quality Index (AQI) for each monitor location. The AQI is a numeric rating of the current air quality that provides the public with a quick and simple means to evaluate current air quality in each metro area. The Douglas County Health Department and Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department websites provide links to current AQI values for their cities. The Douglas County Health Department also participates in the ENVIROFLASH program that allows members of the public to sign up to receive air quality alerts via email.

Compliance with National Ambient Air Standards (NAAQS)

Current air quality monitoring data shows that all areas of Nebraska are in attainment (in compliance) with the NAAQS. The chart below shows where the highest air pollutant levels are being detected in Nebraska for each criteria pollutant and how their levels compare to the NAAQS. A reading of greater than 100% would mean that the NAAQS standard was exceeded, but the highest readings for all criteria pollutants are below 100%.



In March 2024, EPA revised the primary annual $PM_{2.5}$ standard by lowering the regulatory level from 12.0 micrograms per cubic meter to 9.0 micrograms per cubic meter. Recent data from all monitoring sites in Nebraska are in compliance with both the old and new standard. However, in March 2025 EPA announced that it would reconsider the 2024 revised standard.



The chart above shows trends in the maximum measured levels of criteria pollutants in Nebraska from 2016 through 2024. The value for each pollutant and year is the maximum measured at any monitoring site in the state (as a percentage of the NAAQS for that pollutant, based on the previous three years of data). Ozone is the criteria pollutant of most concern, as maximum levels have remained above 90% of the NAAQS at a number of urban and rural monitor sites in Nebraska as well as in the adjacent states. Levels for ozone, NO2, CO, and PM2.5 have remained fairly constant or have declined slightly since 2016, while the maximum SO2 level has decreased significantly since 2017. The level and location of the maximum PM10 readings have fluctuated widely during this period.

The Department compiles an annual Ambient Air Monitoring Network Plan that provides a more detailed analysis of ambient air monitoring data, pollutant trends through time, and NAAQS compliance. These reports are available on the Department website: https://dee.nebraska.gov/forms/publications-grants-forms.

Inspections and Facility Compliance

The Compliance Program is responsible for conducting compliance inspections of air pollution sources, responding to citizen complaints, observing and evaluating emission tests, and the acid rain program. Consistent with the Nebraska Environmental Protection Act, the Air Quality Program attempts to obtain compliance with environmental regulations first through voluntary efforts. Voluntary compliance has helped bring about a better working relationship with the regulated community without sacrificing environmental quality. However, enforcement actions are pursued by the Department when compliance issues are serious, chronic or otherwise cannot be resolved. This table lists the compliance activities conducted by the Department during the year.

FY2025 Air Compliance Activity	NDEE
On-site Inspections	241
Facility Stack Tests Conducted On-Site Observations Conducted	102 29
Continuous Emission Monitoring Audits Conducted On-site Observations Conducted	45 8
Complaints Received	48
Burn Permits Issued Burn Permits Denied Burn Permits Withdrawn	33 5 0

Emission Inventory and Emission Fees

Each year the Department conducts an inventory of emissions from major industrial sources and a representative sample of lower-emitting minor industrial sources. Emission inventories are due on March 31 each year for the previous calendar year. Every three years, the Department assists the EPA in preparing a comprehensive national inventory of emissions. The 2023 national inventory has been submitted and uses emissions reported by sources for the calendar years 2021-2023. The emissions inventory is used to support the planning efforts for national rulemaking and to assess trends in emissions through time.

The Department also uses the emission inventories to determine the assessment of annual emission fees. Facilities that emit major sources of air pollution are required to pay emission fees for each ton of pollutant emitted during the previous calendar year. The maximum emission for which a fee is assessed is 4,000 tons per pollutant. For electrical generating facilities with a capacity between 75 and 115 megawatts, the maximum emission for which a fee is assessed is 400 tons per pollutant. The Department attempts to set the fee rate at the minimum level needed to pay reasonable direct and indirect costs of developing and administering the air quality permit program. An analysis detailing how the Department arrived at the fee rate is made available to fee payers. The rate for emissions generated in 2024 was $47 per ton.

The Department transitioned to an online reporting system called State and Local Emissions Inventory System (SLEIS) during calendar year 2019. Training sessions for those new to the system continue on an annual basis.

Planning for Air Quality Issues in Nebraska

The National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) are established by EPA for six pollutants: carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$ and PM_{10}), and sulfur dioxide. These standards are established in primary and secondary forms: primary NAAQS are protective of health, and secondary NAAQS are protective of vegetation, animals, buildings, and visibility.

EPA periodically reviews the NAAQS using the most current scientific information available and revises or retains the standards as warranted. When a new or revised standard is issued, states determine their compliance (attainment) status with respect to the standard and submit to EPA their recommendations for attainment or nonattainment designations for areas within the state. State Implementation Plans (SIPs) are then developed to describe how the state meets the CAA requirements for the NAAQS, specifically describing how the Department will implement, maintain, and enforce the standard.

At the present time, Nebraska is in attainment with each of the NAAQS. Planning activities currently underway at NDEE include:

- Preparation of designation recommendations for areas of the state to address the recently revised secondary sulfur dioxide (SO2) standard,
- Proposed revisions to Title 129 – Air Quality Regulations, and
- Finalizing the Regional Haze Progress Report for the second planning period.

In March 2025, EPA announced its intention to review and reconsider numerous regulatory actions undertaken by the previous administration, which include plans to reconsider the 2024 revised fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$) standard. Shortly after this announcement members of the

Clean Air Scientific Advisory Board (CASAC), which conducts NAAQS reviews and advises EPA on the adequacy of the standards, were dismissed. In May 2025 EPA invited nominations of scientific experts for appointment to this committee. No further information on the status of the CASAC is currently available and, as a result, the timelines or schedules for future NAAQS reviews are unknown at this time. The current NAAQS are described at https://www.epa.gov/criteria-air-pollutants/naaqs-table.

Sulfur dioxide (SO_2)

The 2010 sulfur dioxide (SO_2) standard required states to demonstrate attainment in areas surrounding large sources of the pollutant. EPA finalized the Data Requirements Rule (DRR) in 2015 to assist in implementation of the 2010 standard, requiring characterization of the air quality near sources that emit 2,000 tons per year or more of SO_2. Sources in Nebraska subject to this rule include coal-fired power plants, specifically Whelan Energy Center (Adams County), Sheldon Station (Lancaster County), North Omaha Station (Douglas County), Gerald Gentleman Station (Lincoln County), and Nebraska City Station (Otoe County).

EPA issued its designations of attainment for Nebraska areas near these sources in 2016, 2018, and 2021; all areas continue to comply with this standard. Nebraska's SIP revision for this NAAQS was approved in 2018.

The DRR requires annual reporting (termed "ongoing requirements") for areas characterized by modeling; in Nebraska, sources subject to these requirements are near Whelan Energy Center and Gerald Gentleman Station. This year's report was submitted as part of Nebraska's annual Ambient Air Monitoring Network Plan in July 2025. Facility emissions data indicate that all areas in Nebraska continue to demonstrate attainment with the federal standard.

The most recent review of the primary NAAQS was finalized in 2019, and the secondary NAAQS was revised to an annual standard in 2024. Current monitoring data demonstrates that all areas in the state are in attainment with the revised secondary standard, and the Department will submit designation recommendations to EPA by December 2025.

Ozone (O_3)

EPA issued revised ozone standards in 2015, lowering the standard from 0.075 parts per million (ppm) to 0.070 ppm. In November 2017 EPA designated the entire state of Nebraska in attainment and approved Nebraska's SIP revision in April 2020.

In December 2020, following a review of the standard, EPA retained the current NAAQS; in October 2021 it announced a decision to reconsider the previous administration's retention decision. At this time no further information is available regarding the periodic review of this NAAQS.

Particulate Matter (PM)

EPA finalized its review of the PM standards, initiated based on its concern that the standards retained in 2020 are not adequate. A final rule with a revised annual $PM_{2.5}$ standard was issued in February 2024. The primary (health-based) annual standard was strengthened, and the secondary annual standard and primary and secondary 24-hour standards were retained. Nebraska submitted its designation recommendations to EPA in January 2025, demonstrating attainment with the standard for all areas of the state.

In March 2025 EPA announced that it would reconsider the 2024 revised standard, noting that the rule was the subject of litigation in the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals. Thus far no regulatory

action has been published to address Nebraska's designation recommendations, and NDEE is awaiting further guidance and information from EPA regarding SIP development.

Lead (Pb)

The most recent review of the Lead NAAQS was finalized in 2016, retaining the previous standards. Nebraska was designated in attainment with the NAAQS by EPA in 2011 and the state's SIP revision was approved in 2014 and the state's SIP revision was approved in 2015. Subsequent SIP revision is not required when NAAQS are retained.

EPA began its most current review of the lead standard in 2021 and published Health Risk and Exposure Analyses in November 2024. At this time no further information is available regarding the periodic review of this NAAQS.

Carbon Monoxide (CO)

Nebraska was designated in attainment with the carbon monoxide NAAQS in 1991.

EPA's most recent NAAQS review was finalized in 2011 with the retention of the primary standards originally established in 1971; secondary standards were revoked in 1985. At this time no further information is available regarding the periodic review of this NAAQS.

Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2)

Nebraska was designated in attainment with the NO_2 NAAQS in 2012, and EPA approved the SIP revision in 2018.

EPA's most recent reviews of the primary and secondary NAAQS were finalized in 2018 and 2024, respectively, with the retention of the previous standards. At this time no further information is available regarding the periodic review of this NAAQS.

Regional Haze

Regional Haze is the term used to describe impaired visibility at national parks and wilderness areas (Class I areas) caused by particulates in the atmosphere. EPA issued the Regional Haze (RH) Rule in 1999 to improve visibility in these areas, requiring state and federal agencies to work together to achieve this goal. Numerous amendments to the Rule have been issued to describe the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR) as an alternative to Best Available Retrofit Technology (BART) for particular pollutant sources, and describe additional regulatory requirements for SIPs. In addition, EPA continues to provide guidance and technical support documents to assist states in preparing SIPs.

In December 2024, EPA proposed to revise the RH Rule to extend by three years the due date, to 2031, for SIPs for the third implementation period. In March 2025 EPA Administrator Zeldin announced that the agency will restructure the RH program based on significant gains in visibility improvement at Class I areas across the country. Revised rulemaking has not yet been published.

Nebraska submitted its initial RH SIP for the first implementation period (2008- 2018) in July 2011; in 2012, EPA issued a partial approval/partial disapproval of the SIP. The disapproved portions include the BART analysis for sulfur dioxide for NPPD's Gerald Gentleman Station (GGS) and the state's long-term strategy for regional haze insofar as it relied on the BART determination. EPA issued a Federal Implementation Plan (FIP) that relies on CSAPR to satisfy BART for sulfur dioxide at GGS. This source participates in the CSAPR trading program, which allots each source an emissions budget for SO_2 and permits trading of allotments. The remaining disapproved portion

(long-term strategy) was addressed by a proposed FIP published in August 2024. Prior to this proposal, no additional control measures have been required, and the proposed FIP has yet to be finalized.

The Department submitted its first RH Five-Year Progress Report in April 2017, and submitted its SIP revision for the second implementation period in August 2024. This SIP revision addresses portions of the initial SIP and progress report, as well as state obligations for the current implementation period that ends in 2028. EPA review and rulemaking are pending.

Municipal Solid Waste Landfill Plan

On May 21, 2021, EPA finalized the federal implementation plan for municipal solid waste landfills (MSWL), which implements the 2016 emission guidelines and compliance times for existing MWSLs in states where a state plan is not in effect; Nebraska is one of these states.

The federal rule is codified at 40 CFR Part 60 Subpart Cf: Emission Guidelines and Compliance Times for Municipal Solid Waste Landfills. The emission guidelines apply to landfills constructed prior to July 17, 2014 which accepted waste after November 8, 1987, and lowered the threshold for which facilities must install gas collection and control equipment from 50 megagrams (Mg) per year to 34 Mg/yr of nonmethane organic compounds (NMOCs).

Air Toxics Program

EPA currently lists 188 substances as hazardous air pollutants, or air toxics, which are air pollutants known to cause cancer and other serious health impacts. The Department developed an Air Toxics Notebook, found on the agency website, as a reference tool for the air toxics program and developed a set of web pages for the New Sources Performance Standards (NSPS), which are federal rules that apply largely to new stationary sources.

Both sets of rules have been issued by EPA. The Notebooks are intended to help the regulated community and the public understand the air toxics and NSPS regulations. For each standard the Notebook contains a page that provides applicability information, regulatory citations, amendment dates, guidance documents, and forms.

Smoke Awareness Program

The impact of prescribed fires and wildfires on Nebraska's air quality continues to receive attention statewide. In early to mid-spring, ranchers and land managers burn an average of two million acres of tallgrass prairie in the Flint Hills of Kansas and Oklahoma to control invasive plant species and to encourage growth of pasture grasses. Unpredictable spring weather conditions may provide only a few days of optimal weather for burning, which can result in widespread burning and large amounts of smoke on those days. Wind from the south is typical during the spring and Nebraska air quality may be affected by elevated concentrations of fine particulates and ozone for 24 – 48 hours following these events.

Rangeland prescribed burning and wildfires also occur in Nebraska, with the number of incidents and acres burned due to human-caused fires increasing dramatically since 2020, with 2022 the second worst year for wildfires in state history. Prescribed burning is one management tool used to prevent wildfires.

Air quality impacts in Nebraska from wildfires continue to draw more interest due to drought

conditions in the state over the past few years and due to recurring annual wildfires in Canada and the Pacific northwest. Impacts that persist over several days due to heavy smoke from wildfires are becoming more common and often impact large areas of the United States, typically in the form of fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$). In June 2023, portions of the state were impacted by elevated ozone levels – a pollutant that forms when nitrogen oxides (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) react in the presence of sunlight. Elevated ozone levels are uncommon in Nebraska and these occurrences were attributed to Canadian wildfire smoke impacting the area. Air quality in 2024 and thus far in 2025 has been minimally impacted by smoke from prescribed burning and wildfires within the state, from other states, and from Canada.

The Department continues its collaborative efforts with key stakeholder agencies and held its annual pre-season meeting in March 2025. Participants included staff from NDEE and other Nebraska agencies, local health departments, EPA, University of Nebraska, National Weather Service, adjacent state and local air agencies, and land managers who rely on prescribed fire as a management practice. Other department activities included outreach and notification of potential smoke and air quality impacts, collaboration with Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and local air agencies to develop guidance for schools and youth sports, and planning for future burn seasons.

Tasks performed by NDEE staff during the 2025 burn season include:

- Monitoring air quality ($PM_{2.5}$ and ozone levels)
- Generating maps showing fire locations and smoke plumes
- Reviewing weather and smoke forecasts, prescribed fire and smoke updates from Kansas, and smoke prediction models
- Updating the NDEE Smoke Awareness webpage with current information on smoke impacts and pollutant monitoring
- Discussions with the National Weather Service (NWS) and DHHS to determine the likelihood for smoke impacts and to generate advisories/alerts for the public
- Coordinating Air Quality Advisories with the DHHS
- Generating and coordinating Air Quality Alerts with the NWS
- Providing email updates to stakeholders on air quality conditions and wildfire conditions
- Interpreting and deploying NWS software technologies.

Department staff coordinate and consult with other partner agencies on days when heavy burning and smoke impacts are predicted. If a health advisory is warranted, NDEE staff coordinate with DHHS to issue a Smoke Advisory, and with NWS to issue an Air Quality Alert to the public. To date in calendar year 2025, advisories and alerts were issued for the following dates:

- April 11
- April 15-16
- June 3-4
- July 31
- August 1

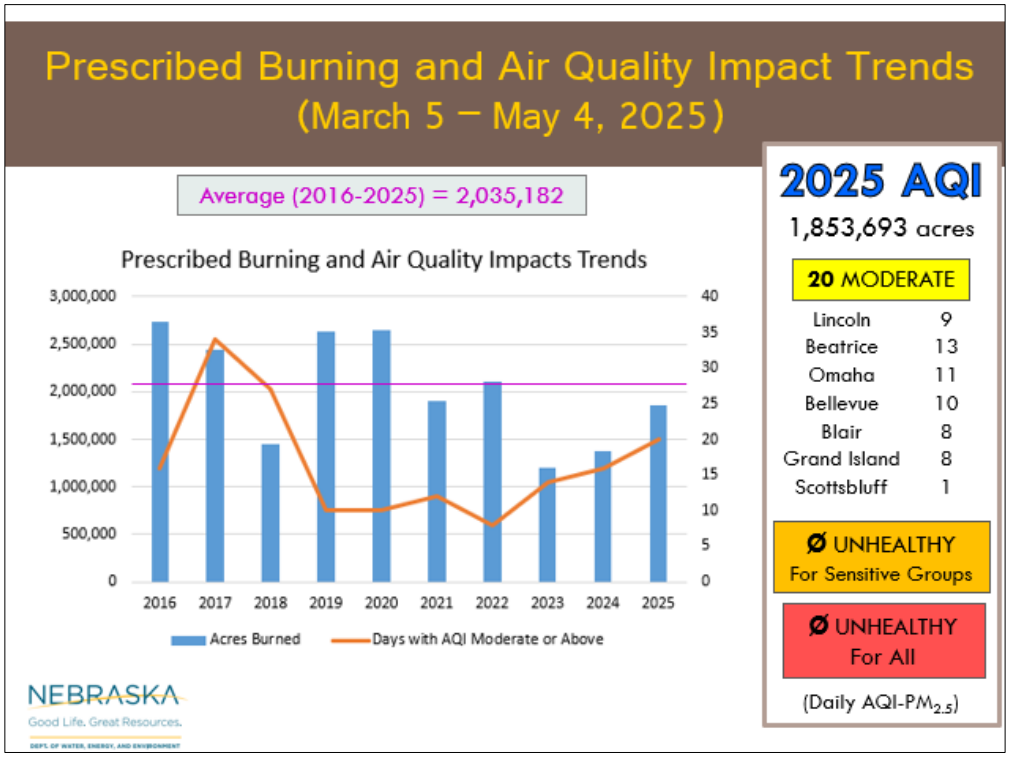
The Department takes a conservative approach to ensure that advisories and alerts are not issued unless confidence in predicted conditions and consensus among partner agencies is strong.

EPA uses the Air Quality Index (AQI) to report air quality conditions to the public through its webpage at https://www.airnow.gov/. The AQI is similar to a yardstick that runs from 0 to 500 – the higher the value, the greater the amount of air pollution and greater the health concern. AQI values ranging from 0 to 50 (*Good* AQI) and from 51-100 (*Moderate* AQI) are indicative of pollutant concentrations in compliance with the NAAQS. At concentrations within the *Moderate* AQI category, those who are unusually sensitive to air pollution may experience health effects such as coughing or shortness of breath.

Higher AQI values (101-150) fall within the *Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups* AQI category; those in sensitive groups may experience health effects such as coughing or shortness of breath at this AQI level. Sensitive groups include people with heart or lung disease, older adults, children and teenagers, minority populations, and outdoor workers. At the *Unhealthy* AQI level (151-200), it's possible that everyone may experience health effects.

Because the annual primary $PM_{2.5}$ standard is used as the lower breakpoint for the Moderate AQI range, the AQI scale was revised to reflect the 2024 revised standard value for this pollutant. With this change, the Department anticipated more days with Moderate AQI during prescribed burning and wildfire seasons; this was the case during prescribed burning seasons in 2024 and 2025, however, the severity of impacts (i.e., daily AQI levels) did not change significantly. In 2023, there were 13 days with a daily (24-hour) AQI level at Moderate or higher; the number of days in 2024 and 2025 (thus far) were 16 and 20, respectively. It's important to note that Moderate AQI is reflective of elevated levels of $PM_{2.5}$ or ozone that are at or below the primary (health-based) NAAQS.

During the 2025 the Flint Hills prescribed burn season (March 5 – May 4, 2025), Nebraska experienced a total of 20 days with an AQI for $PM_{2.5}$ in the *Moderate* range (30% of days) and no days in the *Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups* or *Unhealthy* range, as noted in the chart below. This is essentially unchanged from 2024. There were six days (10%) with *Moderate* AQI for ozone during this period; all but one of these days was concurrent with a *Moderate* AQI day for $PM_{2.5}$. During prescribed burn seasons for the previous five years (2020-2024) Nebraska has averaged 12 days in the *Moderate* category, less than one day in the *Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups* category, and no days in the *Unhealthy* category.



Through mid-August 2025, wildfires contributed to 26 days with *Moderate* AQI or higher, five of which were in the *Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups* AQI and none in the *Unhealthy* AQI. By contrast, in 2023, the state experienced 70 days with an ozone AQI of *Moderate* or higher; of these days, 21 were in the *Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups* AQI range and two were in the *Unhealthy* AQI range.

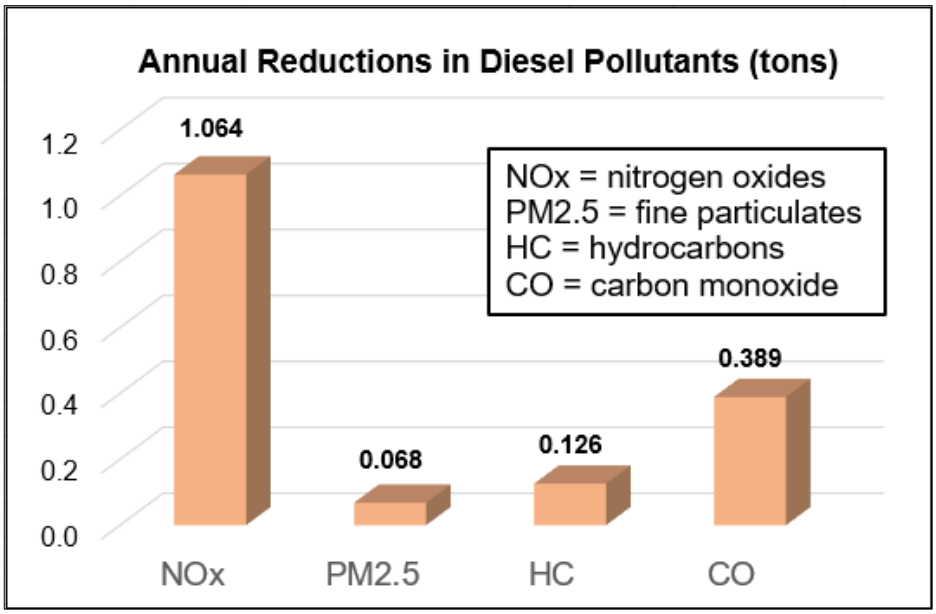
Though impacts from both prescribed burning and wildfires periodically affect local air quality these have not compromised the State's attainment status, and Nebraska remains one of the few states to maintain compliance with all of the NAAQS.

Nebraska Clean Diesel Rebate Program

The Department established the Nebraska Clean Diesel Program in 2008 to distribute federal funding received from the EPA to reduce diesel emissions, as authorized by Congress in the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA). The DERA program provides annual funding to states for the establishment of grant, rebate, and loan programs for the early replacement of diesel engines and vehicles and the installation of diesel emission controls. Starting in 2017, NDEE has elected to supplement the federal grant in most years with funds from Nebraska's portion of the *Volkswagen Diesel Emissions Environmental Mitigation Trust* (*VW Trust*; see next section), which earns bonus EPA funding.

Federal funding for the Clean Diesel Rebate Program that opened in late 2024 was delayed; in June 2025 NDEE opened applications for replacement of up to 12 diesel school buses and 5 diesel trucks.

In addition to annual allocations to states, the EPA DERA Program periodically offers competitive national grant opportunities. Through this program, in late June 2024 the Department was awarded $395,450 to provide rebates for the replacement of nine school buses and one refuse truck. The replacement school buses will be new diesel vehicles, while the replacement refuse truck will be fueled with cleaner-burning compressed natural gas. Estimated annual reductions in diesel pollutants expected from these replacement projects are shown below.



2024 DERA Competitive Grant Rebate Recipients

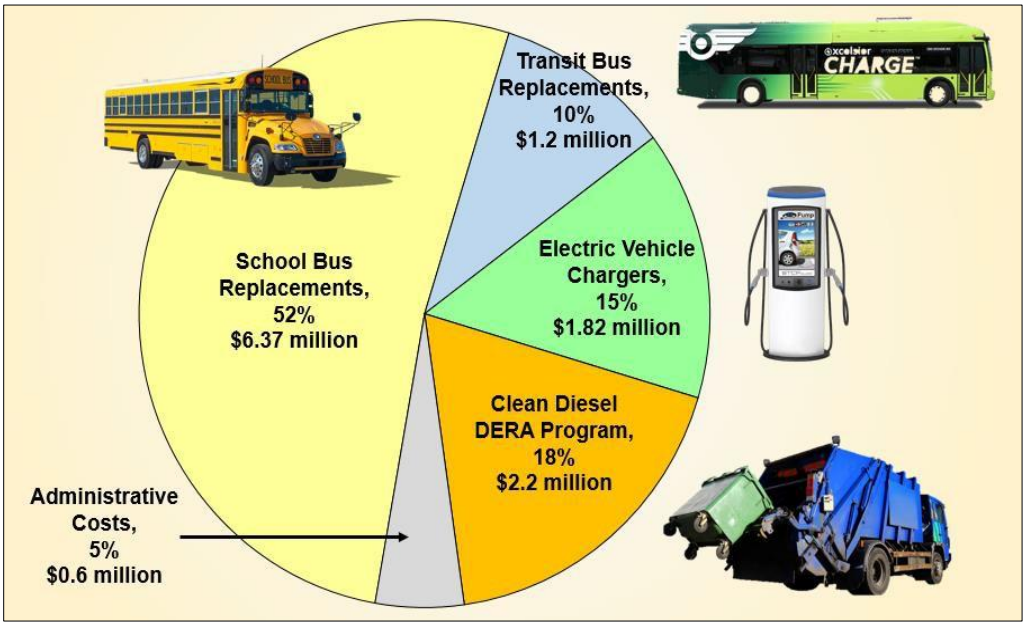
Name	Location	Replacement	Rebate Amount
Centennial Public School	Utica	Diesel School Bus	$28,500
Falls City Public Schools	Falls City	Diesel School Bus	$28,500
Gretna Public Schools	Gretna	Diesel School Bus	$28,500
Kimball Public Schools	Kimball	Diesel School Bus	$28,500
Norris School District 160	Firth	Diesel School Bus	$28,500
Palmer Public Schools	Palmer	Diesel School Bus	$28,500
Pawnee City Public Schools	Pawnee City	Diesel School Bus	$28,500
Sandy Creek Public Schools	Fairfield	Diesel School Bus	$28,500
Sumner-Eddyville-Miller Schools	Sumner	Diesel School Bus	$28,500
Uribe Refuse Services	Lincoln	CNG Refuse Truck	$127,500

Volkswagen State Trust Activities

NDEE is the lead agency administering funds allocated to Nebraska from the *Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust for State Beneficiaries, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia* (VW State Trust).The VW State Trust was established in 2017 as part of court settlements with Volkswagen AG and its subsidiaries to resolve charges that their diesel passenger vehicles were equipped with devices to circumvent emissions testing and allow them to emit excess nitrogen oxide gases in normal operation, in violation of the Clean Air Act. The initial allocation to Nebraska from the VW State Trust is approximately $12.25 million, which has been supplemented by over $238,000 in investment income. As directed by the Trust Agreement, these funds are to be used to undertake authorized actions to reduce nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions in Nebraska.

Beneficiary Mitigation Plan

In April 2020, NDEE submitted a revised Beneficiary Mitigation Plan that summarized how Nebraska intended to use the funds allocated to it under the Trust. The following table and figure present the project types selected for funding in Nebraska and the percentage of funds allocated to each type.

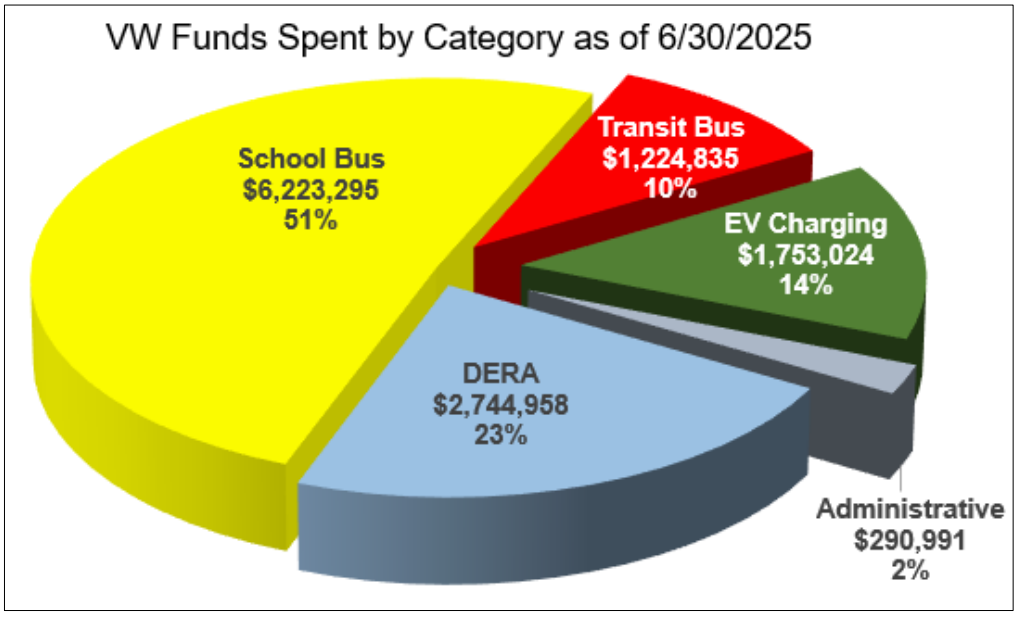


Planned Allocations of VW State Trust Funds by Mitigation Action		
Action	**Percent**	**Dollars**
Transit Bus Alternative Fuel Replacements (completed)	10%	$1,224,835
School Bus Diesel & Propane Replacements (completed)	52%	$6,369,141
Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (completed)	15%	$1,818,224
DERA: Diesel Irrigation Engine, School Bus, & Truck Replacements	18%	$2,223,729
Administrative Costs*	5%	$612,417
TOTAL	100%	$12,248,347.48

* The Trust agreement allows reimbursement of administrative costs up to 15% of each funded project.

Nebraska's Beneficiary Mitigation Plan was intended to provide the public with insight into the Department's intentions for the use of the mitigation funds and information about the specific uses for which funding is expected to be requested. Nebraska may adjust its goals and specific spending plans at its discretion by providing an updated Beneficiary Mitigation Plan to the Trustee. Each state beneficiary must expend at least 80% of its initial allocation by October 2, 2027; otherwise, the unexpended funds will be reallocated to other beneficiaries that have complied with that guideline. By June 30, 2025, the Department had expended 98% of the VW principal, meeting that threshold, and has set a goal of expending the remainder of Nebraska's share of the funds by the end of 2027.

Nebraska Diesel Emission Mitigation Program



NDEE established the Nebraska Diesel Emission Mitigation Program to use VW State Trust funds for projects to mitigate NOx emissions in Nebraska. The program has carried out projects in all of the categories laid out in the Beneficiary Mitigation Plan. As of the end of June 2025, NDEE has requested Trust funds for 11 projects and expended $12,237,103 of those funds. The distribution of spending in the different project categories is shown in the following chart. The transit bus, school bus, and electric vehicle charging rebate programs have been completed. Remaining funds are dedicated to DERA projects.

NDEE's Beneficiary Mitigation Plan set a goal to limit Mitigation goal administrative costs to no more than 5% of Trust funds spent. To date only 2.4% of Trust funds spent have been for administrative costs.

Climate Pollution Reduction Planning Grant

In August 2023 NDEE received a $3 million Climate Pollution Reduction Planning Grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop Nebraska's first state-wide climate action plans to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and other harmful air pollutants in the state. The grant requires two key deliverables proposing measures to reduce GHG emissions: 1) a Priority Climate Action plan to propose high-priority, short-term, readily implemented measures in one or more economic sectors, and 2) a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan exploring longer-term measures covering all of the state's economy.

The Nebraska Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) is Nebraska's first statewide climate action plan. It proposes over a dozen voluntary, high-impact, readily-implemented measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the state by 2030. The plan, which was submitted to EPA on March 1, 2024, was the result of a year-long planning effort that included significant input and advice from citizens and stakeholders across the state, including other state agencies, public power districts, agricultural trade groups, nonprofit and environmental organizations, and interested members of the public.

The plan includes measures that touch all sectors of Nebraska's economy and would provide benefits to both rural and urban communities. If implemented, the proposed voluntary measures and financial incentives would reduce air pollution, stimulate economic growth, create high-quality jobs, and enhance the quality of life for all Nebraskans. The planning effort included a significant focus on benefits to low-income and underserved rural and urban communities across the state. The Priority Climate Action Plan is available for download from the Department website: https://dee.nebraska.gov/aid/one-red-opportunity-nebraska-reducing-emissions-decarbonization/one-red-priority-climate-action-plan.

In the second phase of the planning program, NDEE is developing a Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP) to propose short-term and long-term greenhouse gas reduction measures across all sectors of Nebraska's economy. Like the PCAP, this plan will propose voluntary measures and financial incentives that could produce environmental and economic benefits across Nebraska. The plan will assess the potential benefits of these measures statewide and for low-income and underserved communities, which include both urban and rural areas. The CAP, which is due by December 1, 2025, will also propose long-term greenhouse gas reduction targets and analyze workforce impacts arising from the proposed actions and their associated training needs.

Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant

Submission of the Priority Climate Action Plan qualified Nebraska to apply to EPA for funding to implement measures in the plan. In late March 2024 DWEE submitted an application for a Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant, requesting $341 million dollars to implement eight of the measures in the PCAP. In August 2024, NDEE received the official award of $307 million toward that effort. The project period for this grant extends until September 30, 2029. The Department has submitted to EPA the detailed workplan and budget for this implementation grant and has begun developing the associated programs.

NDEE has established the ONE RED (Opportunity for Nebraska: Reducing Emissions and Decarbonization) program to complete the Comprehensive Action Plan and to establish the programs funded by the implementation grant.

NDEE has been working to set up the programs authorized by the grant award. For FY25, the first funding opportunity under ONE RED, the Irrigation Engine Rebate Program, was launched in fall of 2024, with applications closing in January 2025. This program is assisting over 60 farmers

with replacement of diesel irrigation engines with all-electric equipment, reducing diesel emissions and providing a lower-cost means of powering irrigation wells.

Small Business and Public Assistance Program

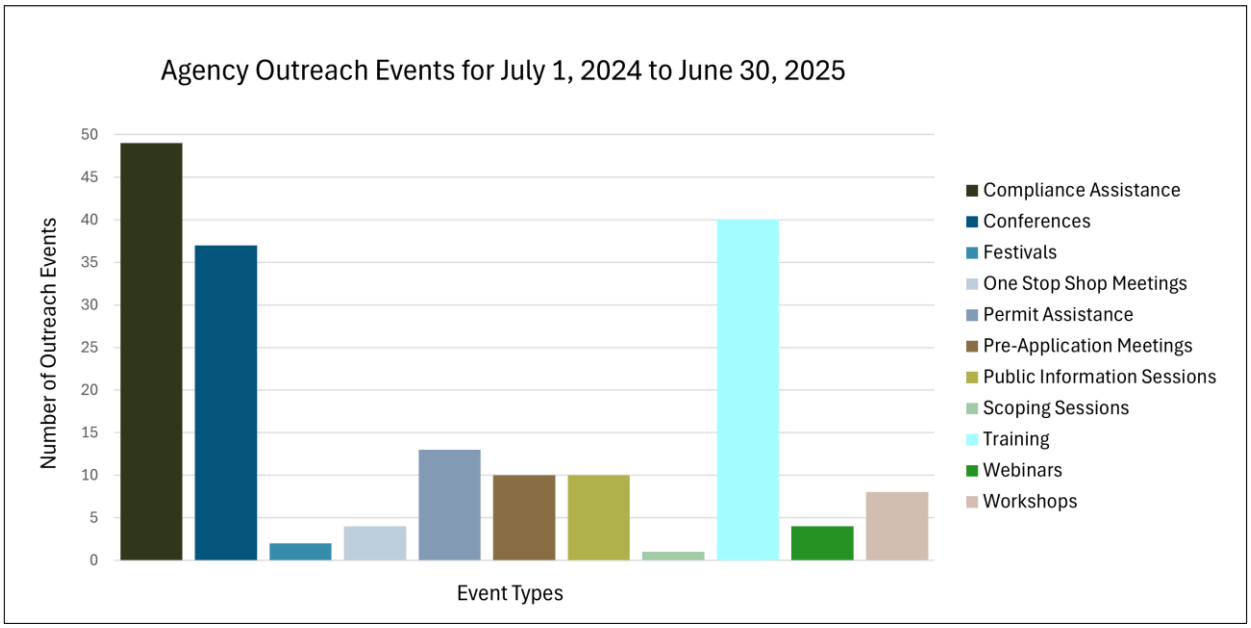
The Small Business and Public Assistance program and associated Small Business Compliance Advisory Panel (SBCAP) were created to comply with the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 to assist businesses in complying with air quality regulations. However, the Department now provides the same compliance assistance services and support to the Water Quality, Land Management, and Energy Programs.

Key activities of this program include developing guidance and outreach materials; responding to outside requests for information; hosting training and informational workshops, one-stop meetings to help new businesses determine their permit applicability; expanding partnerships; helping the regulated community understand their obligations under state and federal law; and promoting compliance and permit assistance visits to small businesses and municipalities.

NDEE's provides outreach to new businesses proposing operations in Nebraska within 10 days of a request for information, in addition to the services outlined below.

The following summarizes the primary compliance assistance activities offered by the agency.

- Compliance Assistance Visit (CAV): An on-site service offered by NDEE in response to a request by a business or regulated party to receive support for one or multiple environmental program areas to which they are currently subject or considering under proposed operations. Compliance assistance activities (see Individual Site Assistance/Training below) may be provided during an inspection; however, a CAV cannot be requested after an inspection that may result in enforcement until that issue is resolved. A CAV focuses on supporting the efforts of an entity to achieve voluntary compliance; however, it does not absolve it from receiving an enforcement action if egregious violations are found during the visit.
- Permit Assistance Visit (PAV): An on-site service (or meeting) offered by NDEE in response to a request by a business or regulated party to receive support under a new, modified, or existing permit to address permit related questions.
- One-Stop Permit Meeting: A One-Stop meeting allows for a newly proposed or expanding business and their selected representatives to engage with applicable NDEE permitting programs and other regulatory agencies. The goal of each meeting is to provide the permittee an opportunity to ask questions and receive direction toward attainment of the necessary permits to achieve environmental regulatory compliance.
- Scoping Meeting: A meeting within or outside of NDEE to introduce a new or proposed business to involved staff, programs, and agencies. The meeting may include a review of processes or technologies, tools, resources, and strategic partnerships to assist the business in making the appropriate contacts for applicable regulatory requirements or business needs.
- Individual Site Assistance/Training: An on-site service offered by NDEE in response to a request or during or after a Compliance Inspection.



Key accomplishments for the agency team during FY2025:

- Hosted and provided support to the Small Business Compliance Advisory Panel's annual meeting
- Participated in regular engagement opportunities with the Nebraska Industrial Council on the Environment (NICE), the Nebraska Natural Resource Districts and other industry and businesses interested in regulatory information
- NDEE programs provided 178 outreach/training events/presentations to the public and regulated community. The events provided information, trainings and updates on agency programs.
- Provided webinars on the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants and One Red programs and their development, and webinars on math for wastewater operators
- Conducted 13 Permit Assistance Visits to municipal and industry permittees and coordinated four additional permit assistance meetings
- Hosted 4 One-Stop Permitting meetings where new and expanding businesses talk with NDEE experts from multiple program areas regarding permitting questions
- Programs processed approximately 14,000 compliance assistance and permit assistance phone calls and emails from businesses and communities with compliance questions throughout the fiscal year
- Engaged in social media outreach via Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn, and monitored metrics in conjunction with these activities as part of the Public Information Office function.

The Department is committed to work on enhancements and improvements to its outreach and assistance activities which educate and inform Nebraska's regulated community in ways that will assist making regulatory compliance easy.

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 14, 2024, a hearing was held to decide the 2025 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 2025 were based on the actual applications received:

Category	2025 Eligible Requests	
Recycling	52%	$2,217,985
Public Education	46%	$1,973,446
Cleanup	2%	$105,007
Totals	100%	$4,296,438

The Department asked for the ability to adjust the percentages by up to 20% for the 2025 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 $5,000 or more per item. Equipment costing less than $5,000 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 with 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, 2024 - June 30, 2025	
Fund Balance June 30, 2024	**$2,291,413**
Revenues:	
New Tire Fees	$2,356,329
Business Fee	$836,081
Solid Waste Disposal Fee	$1,730,440
Interest, Grant Returns	$76,893
Miscellaneous	$0
Operating Transfers Out	($120,000)
Net Collections for FY Year 2025	**$4,879,743**
Expenditures:	
Administration	$339,936
Grant Funds Expended*	$4,508,411
Total Expenditures FY 2025	**$4,848,347**
Fund Balance June 30, 2025	**$2,322,809**

** 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.*

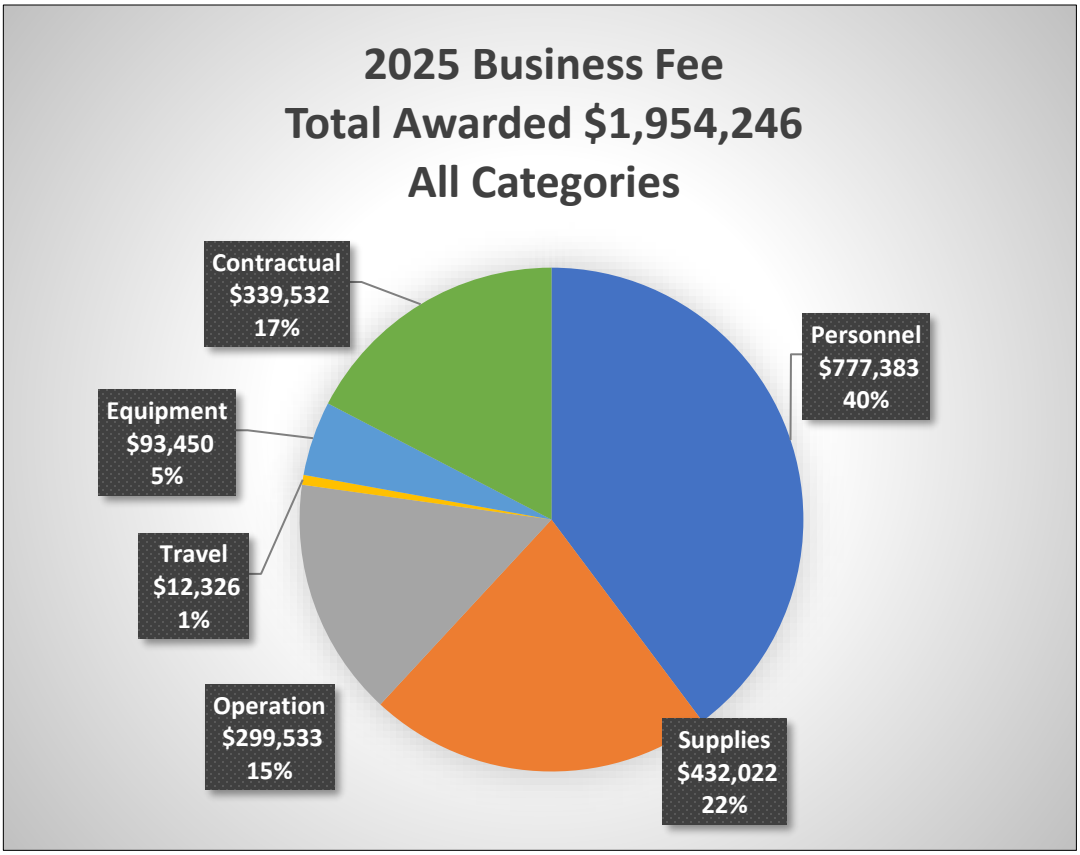
For calendar year 2025, the department awarded $5,502,343 for Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Grants to 81 projects. There were14 grants awarded from the Business Fee

category ($1,954,246), 10 awarded from the Disposal Fee category ($1,047,178), and 58 awarded from the funds prioritized for scrap tire projects ($2,500,919).

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 2025

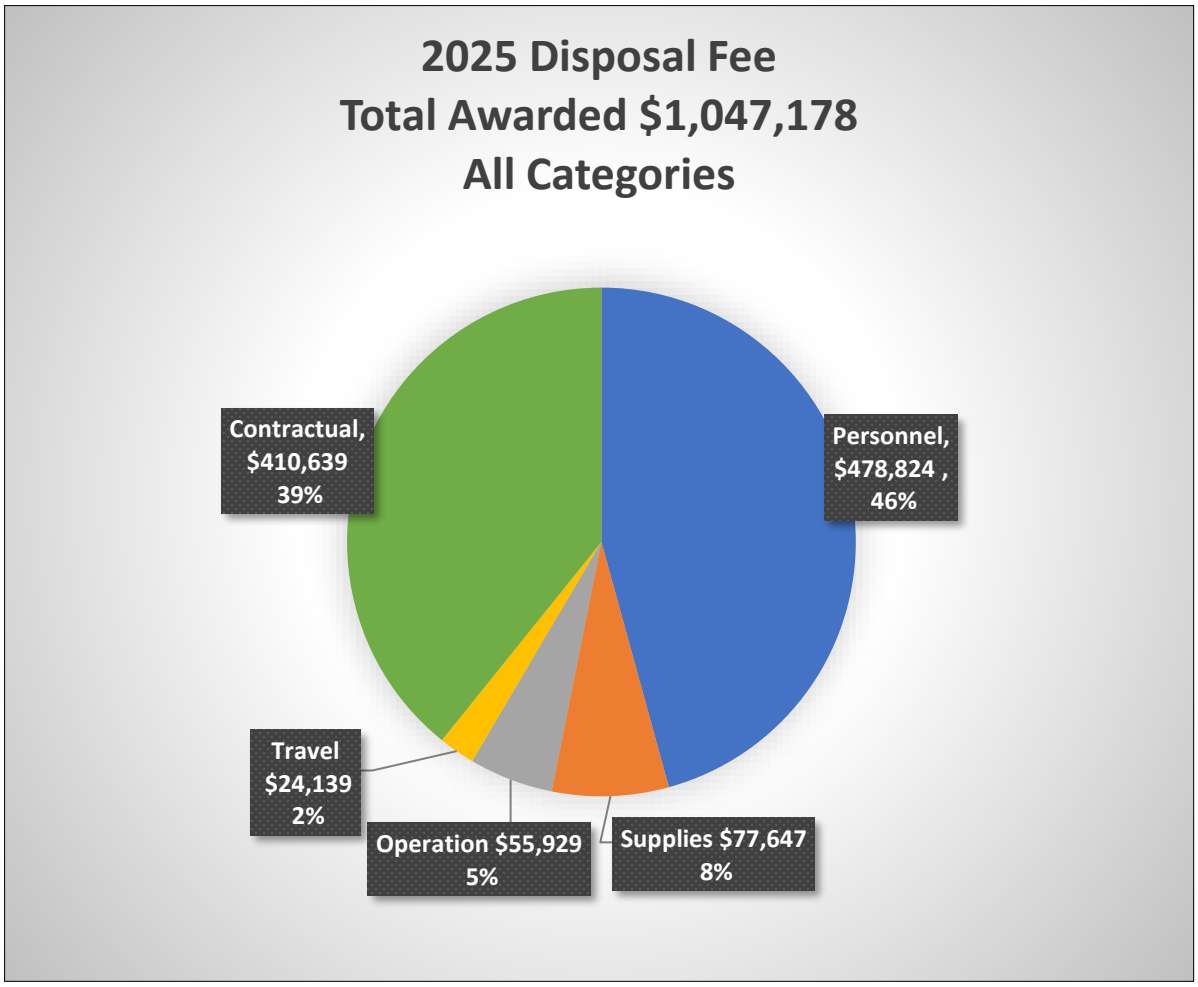
Business Fee

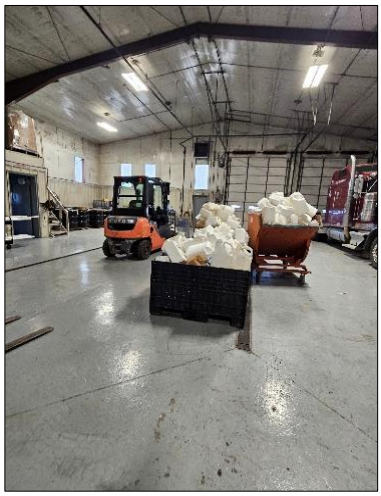


Pictures provided by Keep Chadron Beautiful who was awarded funds to enhance their recycling efforts for corrugated cardboard and white office paper.

Business Fee: $1,954,246 for 14 grants			
Alliance	Keep Alliance Beautiful	$131,038.00	Funds for operation of the recycling center and education materials
Chadron	Keep Chadron Beautiful	$74,159.00	Funds to continue the cardboard and office paper recycling for the City of Chadron
Fremont	Keep Fremont Beautiful	$24,083.00	Hold one-day electronics recycling event open to Platte County residents
Grand Island	Grand Island Area Clean Community System	$152,478.00	Funds to continue the HHW facility and properly dispose of materials
Grand Island	Grand Island Disposal, Inc. d/b/a Heartland Disposal	$173,201.00	Funds to purchase 94-gallon yard waste bins; skid loader and trailer to transport bins and recyclables
Kimball	Keep Kimball Beautiful	$17,094.00	Funds to continue residential recycling services and expand to the rural residents which will increase recyclables sent to the recycling center
Lexington	Lexington Area Solid Waste Agency	$59,151.00	Funds to host a one-day HHW collection event
Lincoln	Board of Regents, University of Nebraska, University of Nebraska-	$429,286.00	Funds to purchase waste/recycling stations for non-academic buildings
Lincoln	Keep Nebraska Beautiful	$204,000.00	Funds to operate food waste, material exchange, used oil collection, and a school chemical cleanout program statewide
Lincoln	Lincoln Public Schools	$157,130.00	Salary for Assistant Sustainability Coordinator to manage various district recycling, waste reduction and diversion programs, and organic composting programs, and other supply costs
Murray	Keep Cass County Beautiful	$2,257.00	Funds to host three electronic recycling collection events at three different locations
Oakland	Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D Council Inc	$52,564.00	Funds to host three HHW collection events
Ogallala	Western Resources Group	$395,707.00	Funds for the regional processing and shipping facility for recycled materials
Scottsbluff	Keep Scottsbluff Gering Beautiful	$82,098.00	Funds to hold a HHW event and Rx take back for the residents of Scottsbluff, Gering, and surrounding areas

Disposal Fee





Pictures provided by Red Willow County Household Hazardous Waste who was awarded funds to continue household hazardous waste collection through their new collection box program.

Disposal Fee: $1,047,178 for 10 grants			
Hastings	City of Hastings, Solid Waste Department	$14,008.00	Host one-day electronics recycling event
Kearney	City of Kearney/Kearney Area Recycling Center	$37,267.00	Operate a HHW facility
Lincoln	Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department	$359,518.00	Maintain and expand management services for hazardous waste
Lincoln	University of Nebraska-Lincoln	$58,957.00	Direct on-site waste reduction assistance to three Nebraska businesses focused on reducing their solid waste disposal
McCook	Red Willow County Household Hazardous Waste	$150,000.00	Manage Red Willow HW facility in McCook and transport HW for several other entities
Omaha	City of Omaha -- UnderTheSink HHW Regional Collection Facility	$371,839.00	Operate HHW Facility
Sidney	City of Sidney	$23,791.00	Operate recycling facility
Wayne	City of Wayne	$ 5,324.00	Continue household battery recycling program
Wayne	City of Wayne	$8,776.00	Hold annual one-day electronic recycling event
York	Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District	$17,698.00	Join Upper Big Blue NRD in a HHW event that will expand to include agriculture chemicals

Tire Fee

The scrap tire grants are funded by the $1 per tire fee on retail sales of new tires. In 2025, $2,518,134 was awarded to 63 projects.

- Scrap tire cleanup events: 22 grants, $1,007,898 awarded
- Completed projects for the partial reimbursement of the purchase of tire-derived products and/or crumb rubber: 36 grants, $1,493,021 awarded
- Proposed projects for the partial reimbursement for the purchase of tire-derived products and/or crumb rubber: 5 grants, $17,215

Scrap Tire Cleanup Events

Funding is provided to political subdivisions for tire collection site cleanups. Twenty-two scrap tire cleanup grants were awarded in 2025 to political subdivisions. The grants totaled $1,007,898 and proposed to clean up 6,005 tons of scrap tires.

Scrap Tire Cleanup Events: 22 grants, $1,007,898 awarded			
Central City	Merrick County Highway Dept	$34,360.00	Cleanup of 250 tons
Albion	City of Albion	$22,790.00	Cleanup of 130 tons
Alma	Lower Republican Natural Resources District	$30,282.00	Cleanup of 200 tons
Aurora	Hamilton County Highway Department	$30,750.00	Cleanup of 200 tons
Benkelman	City of Benkelman	$18,732.00	Cleanup of 125 tons
Columbus	City of Columbus	$46,102.00	Cleanup of 250 tons
Davenport	Little Blue Natural Resources District	$30,282.00	Cleanup of 200 tons
Fremont	City of Fremont	$60,600.00	Cleanup of 400 tons
Grand Island	Hall County Highway Department	$40,500.00	Cleanup of 250 tons
Hartington	Cedar County	$165,396.00	Cleanup of 1000 tons
Holdrege	City of Holdrege	$49,136.00	Cleanup of 350 tons
Mullen	Village of Mullen	$10,528.00	Cleanup of 50 tons
Nebraska City	County of Otoe dba. Otoe County	$87,568.00	Cleanup of 600 tons
Nelson	Nuckolls County Road Department	$24,230.00	Cleanup of 150 tons
Ogallala	Keith County	$69,000.00	Cleanup of 500 tons
Omaha	City of Omaha - Public Works Department	$87,528.00	Cleanup of 200 tons
Pierce	Pierce County	$23,114.00	Cleanup of 150 tons
Ponca	Dixon County	$13,552.00	Cleanup of 100 tons
Schuyler	City of Schuyler	$46,102.00	Cleanup of 250 tons
Stockville	Frontier County	$22,194.00	Cleanup of 150 tons
Valentine	Middle Niobrara NRD	$41,888.00	Cleanup of 200 tons
Wayne	Wayne County Roads Dept.	$53,264.00	Cleanup of 300 tons

Pictures are provided by Keep Keith County Beautiful who held a scrap tire collection event and collected an estimated 741 tons

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

In 2025, $1,493,021 was awarded to 36 projects to partially reimburse the purchase of tire-derived products and/or crumb rubber.

Picture provided by the Lincoln Public School, which was awarded for partial reimbursement of artificial turf made with crumb rubber for their new Northwest High School football field.

Partial Reimbursement for the Purchase of Tire-Derived Products and/or Crumb Rubber-Completed Projects: 36 projects, $1,493,021 awarded			
Bridgeport	Bridgeport Public Schools	$4,256.00	25% Completed Tiles
Fort Calhoun	Fort Calhoun Community Schools	$110,432.00	25% Completed Turf
Kenesaw	Kenesaw Public School	$4,525.00	50% Completed Mulch
Lincoln	City of Lincoln, Parks & Recreation	$7,436.00	25% Completed Tiles
Lincoln	City of Lincoln, Parks & Recreation	$3,234.00	25% Completed Tiles
Lincoln	City of Lincoln, Parks & Recreation	$5,004.00	25% Completed Tiles
Lincoln	City of Lincoln, Parks & Recreation	$1,846.00	25% Completed Tiles
Lincoln	City of Lincoln, Parks & Recreation	$1,437.00	25% Completed Tiles
Lincoln	City of Lincoln, Parks & Recreation	$2,701.00	25% Completed Tiles
Lincoln	City of Lincoln, Parks & Recreation	$5,833.00	25% Completed Tiles
Lincoln	of Lincoln, Parks & Recreation	$6,919.00	25% Completed Tiles
Lincoln	Lincoln Public Schools	$67,429.00	25% Completed Track
Lincoln	Lincoln Public Schools	$63,439.00	25% Completed Turf
Lincoln	Lincoln Public Schools	$97,464.00	25% Completed Turf
Lincoln	Lincoln Public Schools	$89,594.00	25% Completed Turf
Lincoln	Lincoln Public Schools	$47,884.00	25% Completed Track
Lincoln	Lincoln Public Schools	$109,582.00	25% Completed Turf
Lincoln	Lincoln Public Schools	$100,000.00	25% Completed Turf
Lincoln	Lincoln Sports Foundation	$17,045.00	25% Completed Turf
Lincoln	Nebraska Sports Center LLC	$29,154.00	25% Completed Turf
Lincoln	University of Nebraska-Lincoln Campus Recreation	$136,697.00	25% Completed Turf
Lincoln	Star City Optimist Youth Foundation	$75,898.00	25% Completed Turf
Omaha	Fort Calhoun Community Schools	$32,245.00	25% Completed Track
Omaha	Omaha Public Schools	$6,241.00	50% Completed Mulch

Oshkosh	Garden County Schools	$314.00	50% Completed Mulch
Papillion	Papillion LaVista Community Schools	$153,775.00	25% Completed Turf
Papillion	Papillion LaVista Community Schools	$58,589.00	25% Completed Turf
Papillion	Papillion LaVista Schools	$158,800.00	25% Completed Turf
Papillion	Papillion LaVista Schools	$48,662.00	25% Completed Turf
Plainview	City of Plainview	$20,493.00	50% Completed Mulch
York	Epworth Village Inc, DBA Epworth Family Resources	$8,878.00	50% Completed Mulch

Partial Reimbursement for the Purchase of Tire-Derived Products and/or Crumb Rubber- Proposed Projects: 5 projects, $17,215 awarded			
Friend	Andrew Cemetery, Friend, Nebraska	$454.00	25% Proposed Benches
Lincoln	RGEM Investments LLC	$2,250.00	50% Proposed Mulch
Morrill	Village of Morrill	$4,629.00	50% Proposed Mulch
Mullen	Village of Mullen	$6,048.00	50% Proposed Mulch
Superior	Nuckolls County Childcare Center	$3,834.00	50% Proposed 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 FY2025, the program provided 20 grants, totaling $63,807.58. Funds were provided to:

Illegal Dumpsite Cleanup Awards		
Lincoln/Lancaster County - 9	City of Omaha – 7	Seward County - 3
Adams 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 FY2025, the program provided $115,422.37 to three counties and five 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					
City of Cozad	$368.21	City of Omaha	$76,871.77	Saline County	$2,061.40
City of David City	$363.86	City of Grant	$117.75	Seward County	$1,104.85
City of Lincoln	$30,289.28	City of North Platte	$4,245.25		

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, 2024 - June 30, 2025	
Fund Balance June 30, 2024	**$3,916,230**
Revenues:	
Litter Taxes Collected	$3,174,204
Interest, Grant Returns	$38,044
Miscellaneous Adjustment	$0
Operating Transfer Out	($20,000)
Net Collections for FY 2025	**$3,192,248**
Expenditures:	
NDEE Administration	$178,421
Grant Funds Expended*	$2,688,930
Total Expenditures FY 2025	**$2,867,351**
Fund Balance June 30, 2025	**$4,241,127**

**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

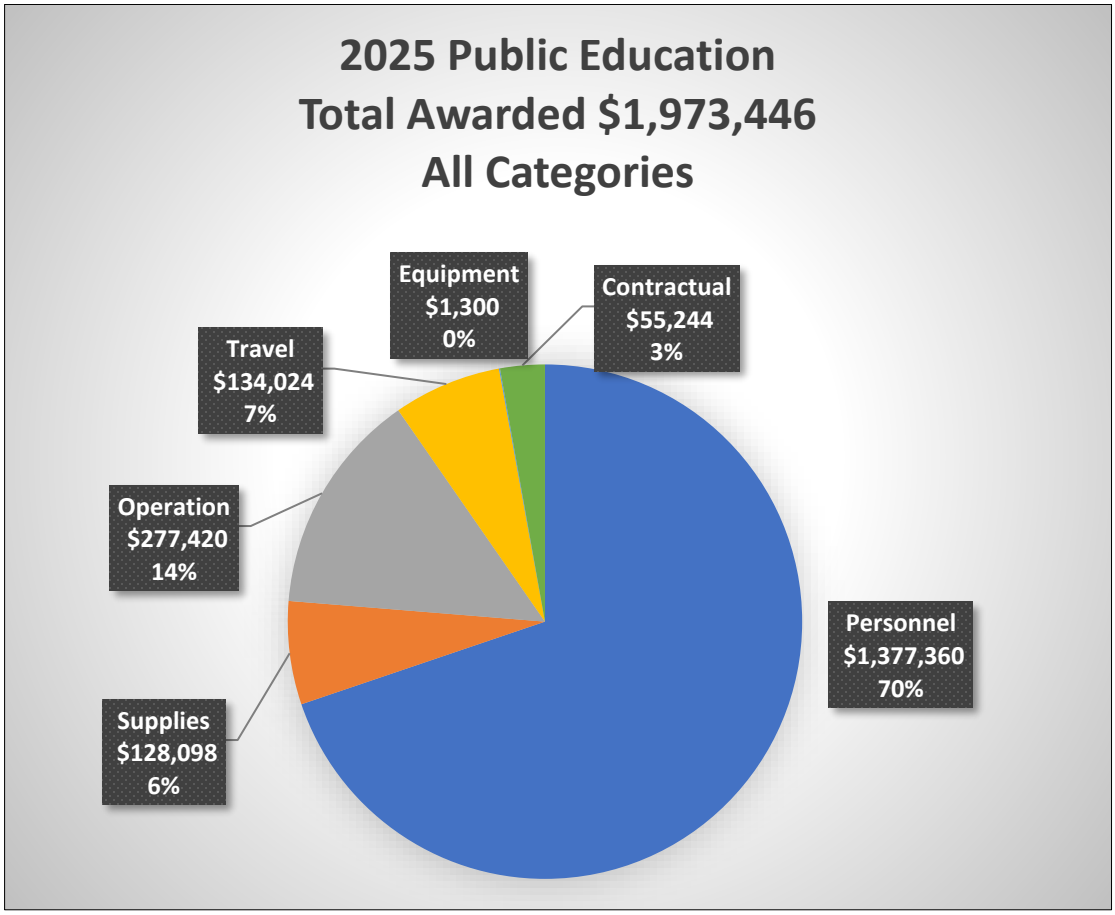
In 2025, $4,296,438 was awarded to 54 Litter Reduction and Recycling Grant recipients. Grant funding is awarded to several types of programs, including non-profit groups, public and private entities, and over 20 Keep America Beautiful affiliates. Many of these programs utilize the Litter Reduction and 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	(46%)	24 grants	$ 1,973,446
Cleanup	(2%)	11 grants	$ 105,007
Recycling	(52%)	19 grants	$ 2,217,985
Totals	**100%**	**54 grants**	**$ 4,296,438**

Public Education

In 2025, the department awarded 24 grants totaling $1,973,446 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 Omaha 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.

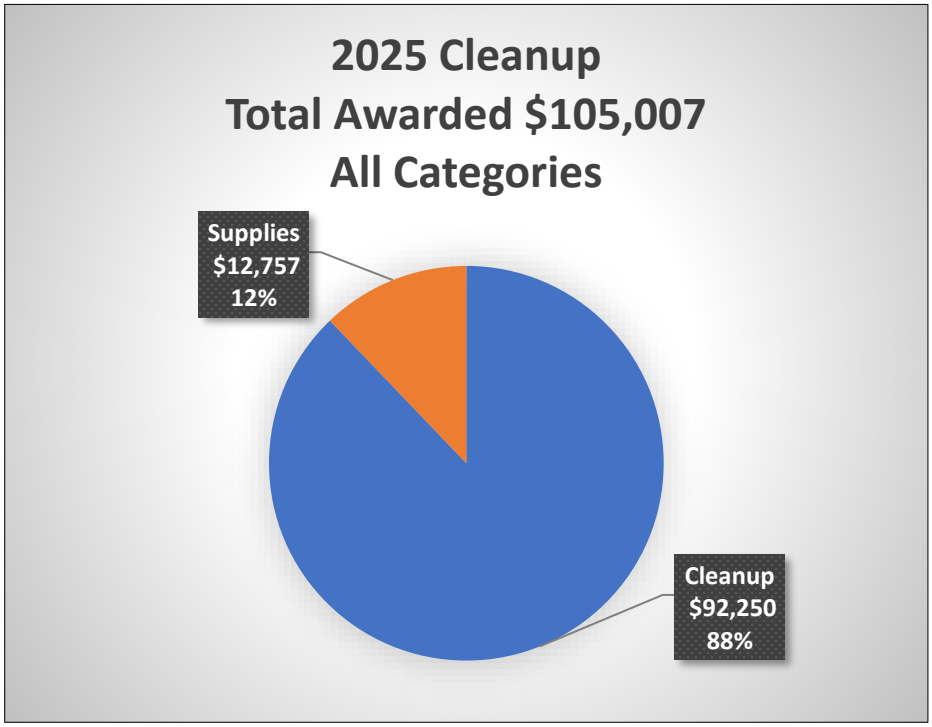
Public Education Awards: $1,973,446 for 24 grants			
Alliance	Keep Alliance Beautiful	$36,905.00	Provides litter reduction and recycling education. This includes school programs, summer camps at the library, Earth Day and America Recycles Day programs and community events at library and rec center. Recycling center for education.
Beatrice	Keep Beatrice Beautiful	$102,635.00	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	$49,623.00	Waste reduction and recycling education. Event recycling for fairs and festivals. Partners for recycling trailers, electronics and battery recycling, bicycle repurposing, scrap metal and iron cleanup, and Burwell Clothing Closet.
Chadron	Keep Chadron Beautiful	$103,892.00	Classroom presentations and activities on littering and recycling; community presentations; recycling at public events; public service announcements about special events; sponsoring community cleanups.
Columbus	Keep Columbus Beautiful	$56,642.00	Provide education and services to the public to increase recycling and litter prevention awareness. Operates 2 recycling trailers for curbside recycling, further develop local recycling programs; and provide hard to recycle material programs.
Fremont	Keep Fremont Beautiful	$108,763.00	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	$60,601.00	Educates on recycling through in class programs, distributing brochures with local recycling resources, and being present at events to educate the public.
Kimball	Keep Kimball Beautiful	$24,928.00	Educational programs on recycling in Kimball and Banner County schools and summer programs; provide printed materials with City of Kimball utility bill; publicize litter-free events via newsletters and social media.
Lexington	Keep Lexington Beautiful	$85,470.00	Recycling and landfill education in schools 4 days/wk plus summer classes; host summer cleanups; working with elderly residents and with student parents to reach older populations.
Lincoln	City of Lincoln-Solid Waste Management	$36,135.00	Improve food and recycling waste diversion by identifying and how food is wasted, barriers to curbside recycling, and lack of awareness. Will purchase materials for educators, books for education in school libraries, perform outreach and travel for professional development.

Lincoln	Keep Nebraska Beautiful	$128,725.00	Operating Nebraska Litter Hotline in six counties; working with 149 locations to educate students throughout 40 communities; working with schools on litter cleanups; providing recycling curriculum to Community Learning Centers, affiliate coordination for KAB.
Lincoln	Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department	$149,118.00	Classroom presentations, outreach to festivals/events, and strategic messaging. Encourage litter cleanups to individuals/organizations. Address external barriers that cause littering.
Lincoln	Nebraska Recycling Council	$103,917.00	Support, promote/increase organics recycling, food recovery, compost, biochar, and waste reduction. Educate organics/compost, add to NRC data/mapping. Research best practice food waste disposal reducing GHGs. Climate action plan foundation with NE 2024/2025 waste characterization study.
Lincoln	Nebraska Recycling Council	$176,482.00	Public education program focuses on litter reduction, waste reduction, recycling, proper household hazardous waste disposal, and recognition. Projects are in three main categories: Public Education and Information, Recycling and Proper Disposal Promotion.
Murray	Keep Cass County Beautiful	$102,454.00	Provide education and resources for litter prevention and waste reduction. Will teach about littering and efficient resource management by avoiding and minimizing waste through reusing, reducing, recovery, and recycling.
Nebraska City	Keep Nebraska City Beautiful	$70,054.00	Litter cleanups, recycling in schools, education to create public awareness for the harmful effects of litter. Added Christmas lights recycling, ink cartridge, toner and battery recycling to office programs. Aiming to start city wide recycling drop off.
Norfolk	Keep Norfolk Beautiful	$27,811.00	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 and Lincoln County Beautiful	$110,311.00	Instill environmental values through summer camps, cleanups, and community events. Will educate classrooms, employees, and industry on environment, recycling, and reducing waste. Goals also include reducing local litter/waste, and increasing recycling.
Ogallala	Keep Kieth County Beautiful, Inc.	$118,527.00	Provide education and community programs about environmental issues, and recycling rights. Litter reduction through source reduction, increasing Hefty Renew bag usage, recycling right, food waste elimination and sustainable waste management.
Omaha	Keep Omaha Beautiful	$181,625.00	Programs on litter prevention, waste reduction, recycling, and composting: 1) school-based education; 2) community outreach; 3) curriculum workshops for

			educators; 4) multi-media Recycle Right education campaign.
Schuyler	Keep Schuyler Beautiful	$31,899.00	Litter reduction/recycling education with school presentations and distributing educational materials at public events. Will do cleanup events, pumpkin/tree take back, and Christmas light recycling.
Scottsbluff	Keep Scottsbluff Gering Beautiful	$41,992.00	Educational presentations at public events, social media, and website updates; distribution of litter bags; promotion of Christmas tree recycling and other recycling/clean up events.
Sidney	Keep Sidney Beautiful	$58,612.00	Promote proper recycling, work with schools to establish recycling programs, host and participate in cleanup events, continue to combat ongoing litter problems and improper usage of recycling system.
Wayne	City of Wayne	$6,325.00	Education campaign on Zero Waste: (1) Zero Waste marketing campaign spread awareness how and where to reduce, reuse, and recycle in Wayne; (2) public events celebrating Earth Day; and (3) presentations on zero waste efforts/tips to schools, organizations, municipalities, and other requesting entities.

Cleanup

In 2025, the department awarded 11 grants totaling $105,007 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 892 road-side miles and 1,690 acres of public areas.

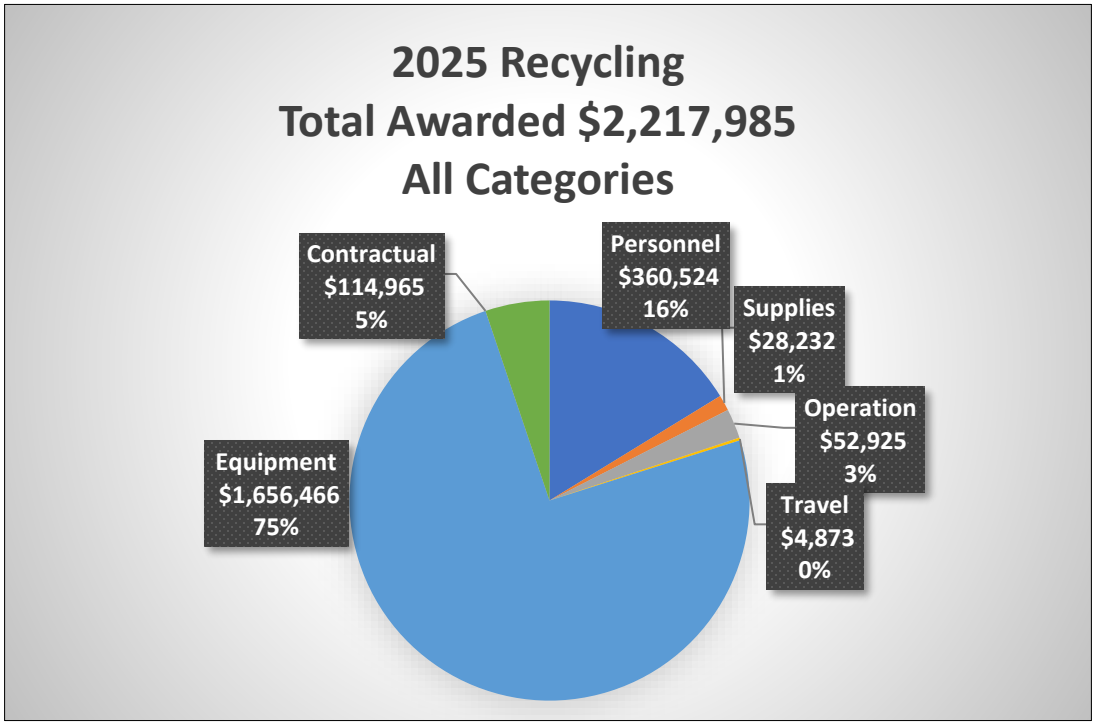


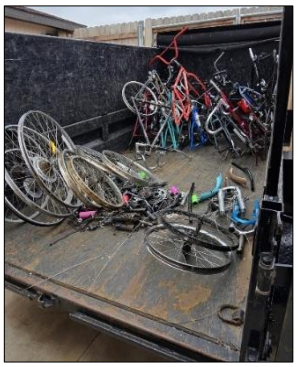
Pictures provided by Grand Island Area Clean Community System, who was awarded funding to clean up public roadways and areas around Grand Island.

Cleanup Awards: $105,007 for 11 grants			
Beatrice	Keep Beatrice Beautiful	$14,434.00	150mi @ $75 = $11,250, 90ac @ $15 = $1,350, Supplies=$1,834
Chadron	Keep Chadron Beautiful	$7,585.00	100mi @ $75=$7,500. Supplies= $85
Grand Island	Grand Island Area Clean Community System	$7,059.00	80mi @ $75 = $6,000, 25ac @ $15 = $375, Supplies= $684
Lincoln	Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department	$30,000.00	100mi @ $75 = $7,500, 1,500ac @ $15 = $22,500
Murray	Keep Cass County Beautiful	$2,250.00	20mi @ $75 = $1,500, 50ac @ $15 = $750
North Platte	Keep North Platte and Lincoln County Beautiful	$24,855.00	320mi @ $75 = $24,000. Supplies=$855
Ogallala	Keep Keith County Beautiful, Inc.	$4,125.00	50mi @ $75 = $3,750, 25ac @ $15 = $375.
Omaha	Keep Omaha Beautiful	$8,275.00	Supplies=$8,275
Scottsbluff	Keep Scottsbluff Gering Beautiful	$5,158.00	60mi @ $75 = $4,500.. Supplies = $658
Sidney	Keep Sidney Beautiful	$498.00	2mi $75 = $150. Supplies = $348
Steinauer	Steinauer Community Club	$768.00	10mi @ $75 = $750 Supplies = $18

Recycling

In 2025, the department awarded 19 grants totaling $2,217,985 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 the Lincoln Bike Kitchen, which was awarded funding to operate their bicycle recycling facility in Lincoln.

Recycling Awards: $2,217,985 for 19 grants			
Alliance	Keep Alliance Beautiful	$95,014.00	Operate a recycling center and program in Box Butte County. Added another baler for more efficient recycling processing. Implemented curbside recycling and a senior program. Presents at schools and organizations on recycling.
Chadron	Keep Chadron Beautiful	$12,640.00	Organize, promote, and stage a one-day electronic recycling event for the residents of Chadron and surrounding communities including Crawford, Rushville, Hay Springs, and Gordon.
Columbus	Keep Columbus Beautiful	$25,072.00	Collect recyclables at two drop-off locations and transport to Schuyler for sorting/processing; will maintain the 2 semi-trailers that pick up recycling.
Davenport	Little Blue Natural Resources District	$15,365.00	2-week Household Hazardous Waste Collection event for nine counties. Items recycled or reused to the highest degree; ex: oil, paint cans, chemicals, and batteries. Will educate, raise public awareness, and promote event.
Dodge	Village of Dodge	$11,708.00	Continue to educate and promote recycling in Dodge, Nebraska and surrounding areas. Provide recycling service for the Dodge and Snyder area along with a business outside of North Bend.
Kimball	Keep Kimball Beautiful	$77,711.00	Management and operation of Kimball Recycling Center, including collection, processing, and transportation.
Lexington	Keep Lexington Beautiful	$35,684.00	Manage recyclables at five drop-off locations, hold two shredding events, and two pharmaceutical collection events.
Lincoln	City of Lincoln- Solid Waste Management	$394,722.00	Funds to purchase a roll-off truck, mini rear-load truck, and waste management stations to collect and transport recyclables to material recovery facility.
Lincoln	Lincoln Bike Kitchen	$13,500.00	Provides refurbished bikes and parts to the community, for free. Free access to professional tools with team of knowledgeable volunteers, to help others develop basic maintenance skills to keep their bikes in good shape.
Nebraska City	Nebraska City Utilities	$135,744.00	Purchase a skid loader and mulching head to clear right -of- way. Equipment will grind/mulch brush and small trees to reduce waste. Will lend equipment to other entities to maximize usage and waste reduction.
North Platte	Keep North Platte and Lincoln County Beautiful	$44,877.00	Continue to reduce waste generated in North Platte and Lincoln County and increase recyclables collected and used. Will accomplish through drop-off, school, and business recycling programs. Local composters take yard waste compost it for farm usage or sold to local producers.

Oakland	Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D Council Inc	$4,940.00	Conduct an electronic waste collection event in Dodge County in summer or fall 2025. Anticipate 12,000 lbs of e-waste collected.
Omaha	City of Omaha Compost Operations	$500,000.00	Purchase grinder for compost facility. Replace failing equipment at Omaha's Oma-Gro. Compost facility is relocating over the next 18 months. Site preparations and utility installation done at new location.
Omaha	Green Recycling Enterprises, LLC	$94,982.00	Provides recycling containers at public events, host locations, and municipalities. GRE will create a program to reduce waste and provide recycling options at gas stations, events and host locations. Green Recycling services multiple counties.
Omaha	Spectracom, INC d/b/a River City Recycling	$211,000.00	Purchase 3 trailers to haul complete tires to be ground into tire chips.
Schuyler	Keep Schuyler Beautiful	$80,826.00	Personnel and some operating expenses for Colfax County Recycling Center. The facility collects recyclables for sorting and baling.
Scottsbluff	Langer Industrial Service	$415,000.00	Purchase and install shred/grinding equipment for scrap tire to become crumb rubber.
Tekamah	Papio Missouri River NRD	$18,000.00	Electronic waste collection event
Thedford	Upper Loup Natural Resources District	$31,200.00	Collection, processing and transportation of recyclable materials to and from NRD recycling facility, in Thedford and to end- market. Continued funding for recycling program, contractual services for recycling. Services multiple counties.

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)
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
2025	$2,217,985	$1,973,446	$105,007	$4,296,438	$4,296,438
			Total Amounts	**$17,962,053**	**$24,559,442**

**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)
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	$4,323,265
2025	$1,047,178	$1,954,246	$3,001,424	$3,426,682
		Total Amounts	**$26,519,062**	**$34,813,138**

**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)
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2025	$1,047,178	$1,954,246	$3,001,424	$3,426,682
		Total Amounts	**$26,519,062**	**$34,813,138**

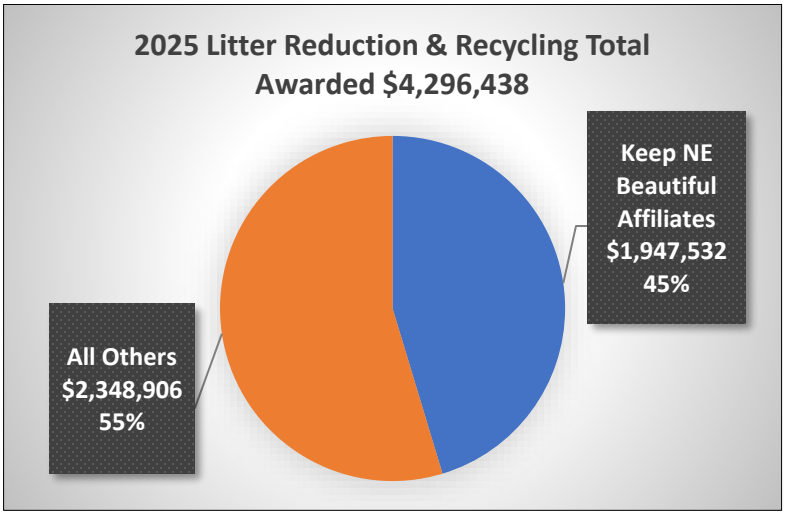
Amounts Awarded for Deconstruction, Illegal Dumpsite, and Landfill Disposal Rebates

Grant Year	Awarded Deconstruction Grants	Awarded Landfill Disposal Rebate	Awarded Illegal Dumpsite
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
2025		115,422	63,807
Total	**$186,662**	**$835,406**	**$677,069**

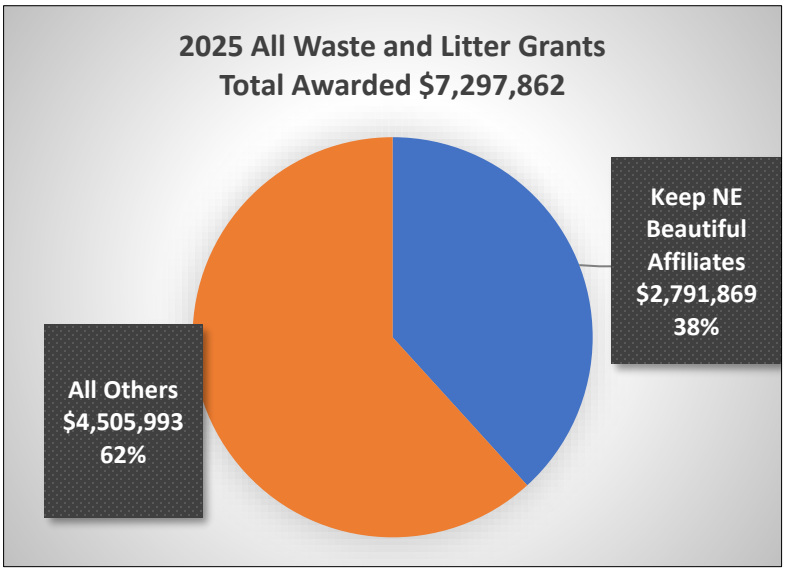
Keep America Beautiful Nebraska Affiliate Funding for 2025

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.

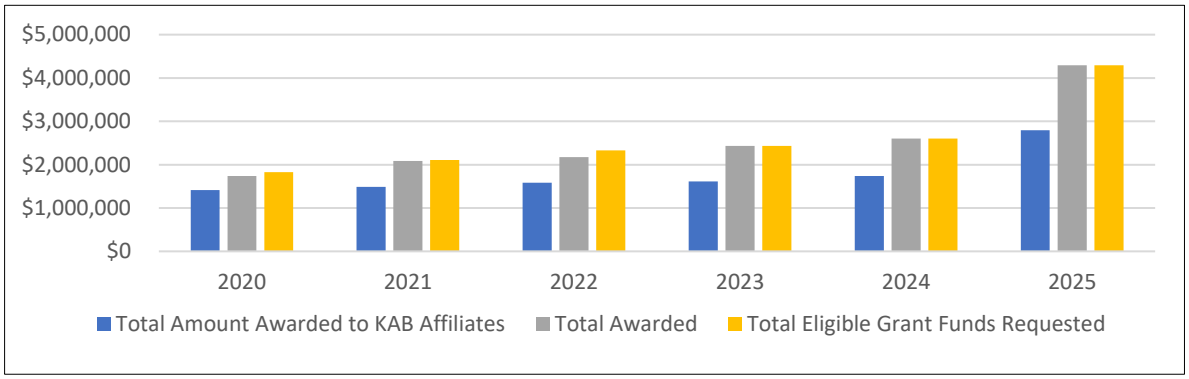

2025 Litter Reduction & Recycling Total
Awarded $4,296,438
Keep NE Beautiful Affiliates $1,947,532 45%
All Others $2,348,906 55%


2025 Waste Reduction & Recycling Total
Awarded
$3,001,424
All Others $2,157,087 72%
Keep NE Beautiful Affiliates $844,337 28%


2025 All Waste and Litter Grants
Total Awarded $7,297,862
Keep NE Beautiful Affiliates $2,791,869 38%
All Others $4,505,993 62%

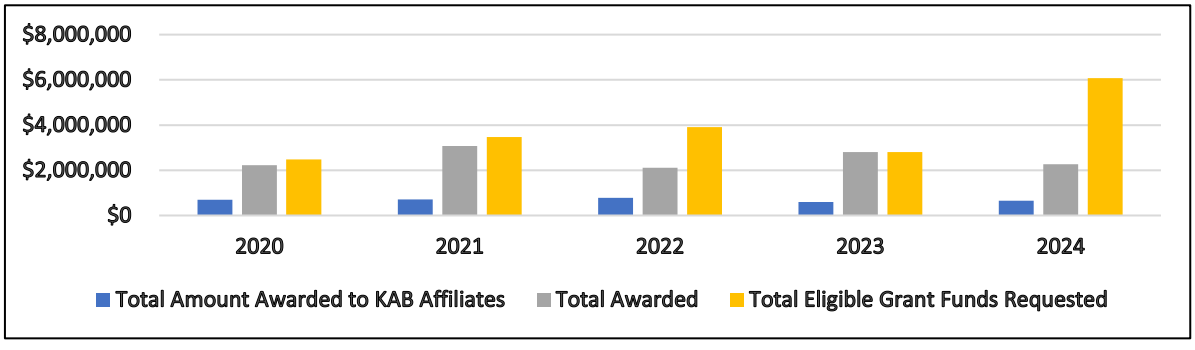
2020-2025 Awarded Litter Reduction and Recycling Grants to Keep America Beautiful (KAB) Nebraska Affiliates

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
2025	$2,791,869	65%	$4,296,438	$4,296,438



2020-2025 Awarded Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Grants to Keep America Beautiful (KAB) Nebraska Affiliates

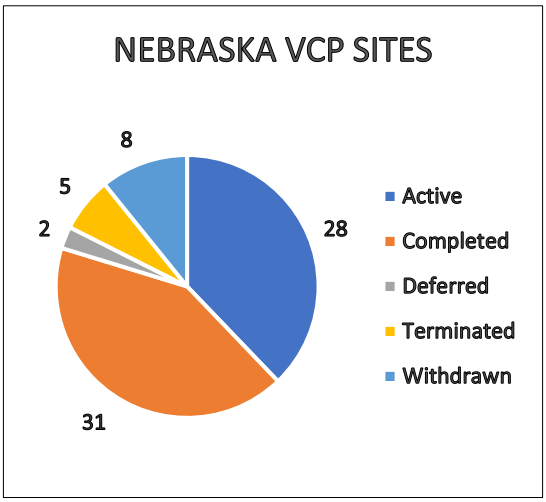
Grant Year	Total Amount Awarded to KAB Affiliates	Percent Awarded to KAB Affiliates	Total Awarded	Total Eligible Grant Funds Requested
2020	$689,675	31%	$2,228,367	$2,481,692
2021	$714,693	23%	$3,067,101	$3,469,624
2022	$778,583	37%	$2,117,673	$3,904,767
2023	$596,797	21%	$2,798,018	$2,798,018
2024	$649,649	29%	$2,259,851	$4,323,265
2025	$844,337	28%	$3,001,424	$3,426,682



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 state program serves as an alternative cleanup program to 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, 74 sites have entered the VCP. Currently, 28 sites are active in the VCP. Two sites have been deferred to the EPA Superfund program. Eight sites withdrew from the program, and five sites have been terminated from the program due to lack of activity in completing the investigation and/or cleanup. Thirty-one sites have successfully completed cleanup requirements; thirty sites have received "No Further Action" letters from NDEE; one site received an 'Acknowledgement Letter' for specific cleanup work completed, but not an official No Further Action letter.



NDEE continues to have significant interest from applicants enrolling properties or sites into the VCP. Six new sites enrolled in the VCP this fiscal year which include the former PCS Nitrogen site in Bellevue; the North Platte Former Manufactured Gas Plant (FMGP) site in North Platte; the Lozier West Plant in Omaha; and the former Lincoln sites of Nature's Variety, IMS Properties, and Alter South.

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

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, AltEn, LLC site in Mead, and Vishay Dale Electronics, Inc. Site #6 in Columbus.

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.

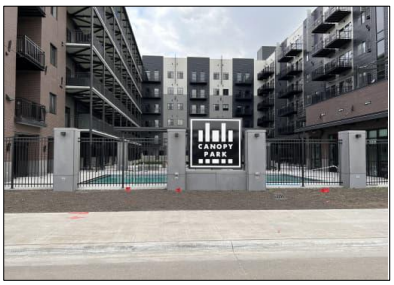
Picture of the former IMS Properties building located at 540 L Street in Lincoln that historically served as an industrial powder coating facility. The building was demolished in the summer of 2025, and soil cleanup is currently ongoing as part of the City of Lincoln's West Haymarket Park project.

As part of the West Haymarket Park redevelopment project in Lincoln, the City of Lincoln enrolled the former Nature's Variety, former IMS Properties, and former Alter South sites into the Nebraska VCP for NDEE guidance and oversight. The historical industrial use of the properties has caused underlying soils to be contaminated with heavy metals and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. Approved remedial actions include excavating contaminated soil, placing a protective barrier over soil with residual contamination, and backfilling the excavation with clean soil. Proposed park amenities include skate parks, a dog park, public areas, paved walking trails and sidewalks, playgrounds, a community building, and an open-air hearth.

NDEE is currently reviewing Remedial Action Reports for the J.A. Woollam Co., Inc. site in Lincoln, Lewis and Clark Landing/Heartland of America Park Redevelopment site in Omaha, and former Max I. Walker Cleaners – Baker Square site in Omaha. The West Haymarket Block 4 site in Lincoln completed the VCP and received a No Further Action letter on January 8, 2025.

Excavation and disposal of contaminated soil

Vapor mitigation system granular layer and membrane



Excavation and disposal of contaminated soil

The West Haymarket Block 4 site in Lincoln is located at the northwest corner of Canopy Street and 'N' Street. Historically, the site operated as a former manufactured gas plant and lumber yard. These previous operations resulted in the contamination of soil, soil gas, and groundwater with metals, volatile organic compounds, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. The remedial action included soil excavation, installation a vapor mitigation system, and implementation of institutional controls (including an Operations and Maintenance Plan) to prevent direct exposure to contaminated soil and groundwater and maintain the effectiveness of the vapor mitigation system. The site successfully completed the remedial action and is now occupied by a mixed-use building (including the Canopy Park Apartments).

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
48th & 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
PCS Nitrogen	Bellevue	7/9/2024	Active
North Platte FMGP	North Platte	9/5/2024	Active
Lozier West Plant	Omaha	1/8/2025	Active
Former Nature's Variety	Lincoln	3/27/2025	Active
Former IMS Properties	Lincoln	3/27/2025	Active
Former Alter South	Lincoln	3/27/2025	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
West Haymarket Block 4	Lincoln	2/4/2020	Completed 1/8/25
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) identify 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.
- Removal of orphan underground storage tanks (USTs) and associated piping can be completed to assess whether contamination from USTs has been released to the environment. Soil and groundwater sampling is completed as part of the removal, as well as backfilling the excavation and restoring the surface.
- Cleanup grants provide partial assistance for asbestos abatement, lead-based paint abatement or encapsulation, cleanup of building materials contaminated with mold, 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.

During the past year, NDEE has completed nine Phase I ESAs, five Phase II ESAs, seven asbestos-containing materials surveys, two lead-based paint surveys, two mold surveys, and removed two orphan USTs and associated piping at one site. NDEE also provided partial cleanup assistance for asbestos removal to five applicants.

Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church (MMMBC) in North Omaha was bequeathed a former fueling and auto service station located across the street from their church building. MMMBC has a vision to redevelop the property into an Intergenerational Center (rendering on the following page). The proposed Intergenerational Center will host community events, recreational activities, and training programs to provide economic growth and improve overall well-being for the North Omaha community. State Fire Marshal documents indicated that two 6,000-gallon gasoline underground storage tanks were left in place and had not been used since 1986. MMMBC had concerns about redeveloping the site due to the presence of the tanks and any associated releases, so they reached out to NDEE for assistance. The Orphan Tank Removal Program used Section 128(a) funding to conduct a Ground Penetrating Radar Survey to identify the location of the tanks and dispenser piping. Once the locations were identified, the contractor moved forward with the removal of the tanks and piping, and the NDEE Petroleum Remediation Section's contractors completed environmental sampling activities and over excavation of contaminated soil. All these activities were completed at no cost to MMMBC. In addition to tank removal activities, the NDEE Brownfields Program completed a Phase I ESA, Phase II ESA, and asbestos-containing materials survey; and provided a matching cost share to remove asbestos-containing materials from the building so the building could be safely demolished.

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, webinars, meetings, and speaking engagements 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 outreach activities serve to connect stakeholders of Nebraska communities with resource providers and may consist of presentations from a variety of people that play an important role in economic development.

The Village of Upland shows NDEE, KSU TAB, and EPA the collapsed commercial building adjacent to their village office building during the Brownfields Resources Roadshow.

Outreach activities completed in FY2025 include:

- Speech at the City of Schuyler as part of Schuyler Community Development's check presentation for their $500,000 Brownfields Community Wide Assessment Grant awarded by the U.S. EPA Region 7 – July 24, 2024
- Networking at the National Rural Economic Development Association Annual Conference – City of Omaha, November 13-15, 2024
- Live webinar tilted "Spring Cleaning! Tips and Resources for Nebraska Communities to Revitalize Those Eyesore Properties." – March 12, 2025
- Brownfields Resources Roadshow! – June 2-12, 2025

As part of the Brownfields Resources Roadshow, the NDEE Brownfields Coordinator along with representatives from the Kansas State University Technical Assistance to Brownfields Program (KSU TAB) and EPA Region 7 traveled to various communities across Nebraska to tour their priority

brownfield sites and discuss the brownfield redevelopment resources that can help. NDEE, KSU TAB, and EPA met with the following communities as part of the roadshow:

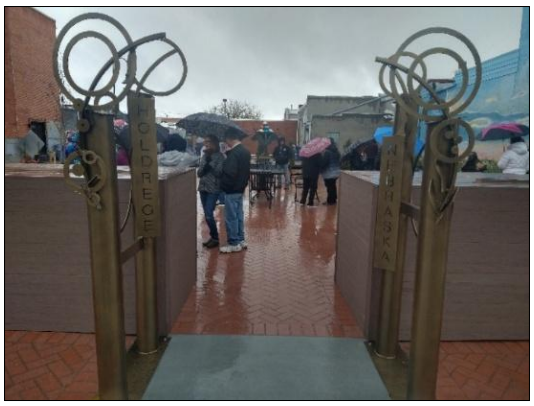
- Maya Economic Development Corporation – June 2, 2025
- Albion Economic Development Corporation – June 3, 2025
- Holt County Economic Development and the City of O' Neill – June 3, 2025
- Omaha Tribe of Nebraska – June 4, 2025
- Benkelman Community Redevelopment Authority – June 9, 2025
- Village of Upland – June 10, 2025
- City of Minden – June 10, 2025
- Spencer Economic Development Corporation – June 11, 2025
- Southeast Nebraska Economic Development District – June 12, 2025

In addition to the Brownfields Resources Roadshow, the NDEE Brownfields Coordinator met one-on-one with representatives of the following communities or organizations to discuss resources and the next steps for redevelopment of their priority brownfield projects:

- City of Beatrice
- City of Lincoln
- RDG Planning and Design
- Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development and New Day Planning
- Open Door Mission
- Small Business Compliance Advisory Panel
- City of Omaha
- Village of Lodgepole
- Sienna Francis House
- City of Bassett

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 $3,761,452 in additional assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment funding, 78 cleanup and redevelopment jobs, and 567.24 acres ready for anticipated reuse at 29 properties with 1.04 acres of new green space created. 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.

Rain couldn't keep the citizens of Holdrege away to celebrate the completion of the awaited Midtown Sculpture Garden. On November 9, 2024, the citizens of Holdrege gathered together to witness the ribbon cutting ceremony officially opening the new public gathering space for their community. The site was previously home to a vacant building that contained asbestos and was structurally unsound. The NDEE Section 128(a) Brownfields Program provided funding to assist with asbestos removal and disposal costs so the building could be safely demolished.



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 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 FY2025 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:

- 95 Large Quantity Generators (greater than 2,200 pounds of hazardous waste generated per month)
- 462 Small Quantity Generators (between 220 and 2,200 pounds generated per month)
- 1,499 Very Small Quantity Generators (Federal Status – less than 220 pounds per month)
- 1 Hazardous Waste Incinerator Facility
- 3 Treatment, Storage or Disposal Facilities
- 25 Hazardous Waste Transporters

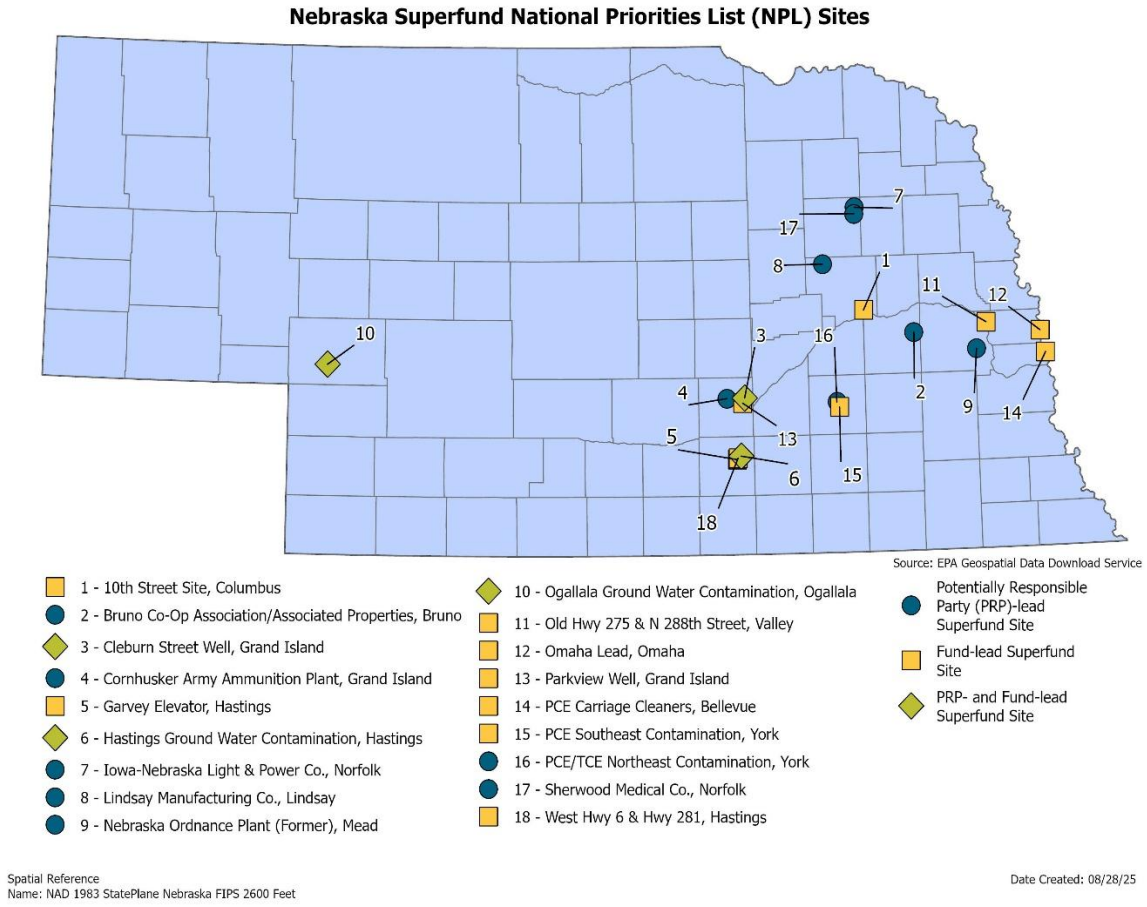
Location by County of Large Quantity Generators in Nebraska Regulated Under RCRA			
Buffalo 3	Kimball 1	Platte 5	Washington 1
Cheyenne 1	Knox 1	Red Willow 1	Wayne 1
Cuming 1	Lancaster 26	Sarpy 9	York 1
Dakota 1	Lincoln 1	Saunders 1	
Dodge 2	Madison 2	Scottsbluff 2	
Douglas 24	Otoe 1	Seward 2	
Hall 4	Phelps 2	Stanton 1	
Hamilton 1			

Summary of SFY2025 Activities		
Compliance	**State**	**EPA**
On-site Visits	0	*
Direct Assistance Contacts	713	*
Public Outreach Presentations (total 30 in attendance)	2	*
Complaints Received	7	*
Complaints Investigated	7	*
Complaints Closed	7	*
		**Data not available*
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	10	7
Small Quantity Generator	11	1
Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators	4	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.

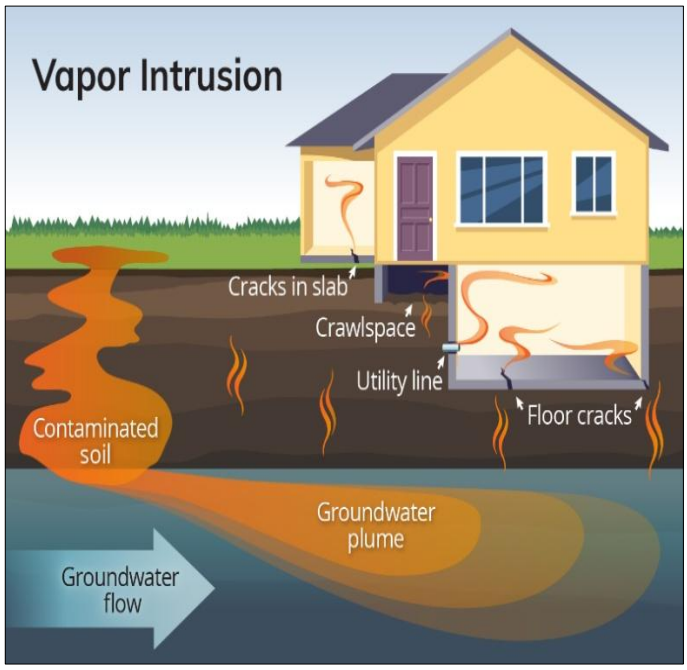
The investigation and remediation of contaminated sites under CERCLA are the primary responsibility of EPA and other federal agencies. NDEE participates in the Superfund process by serving as a technical support agency to EPA and as the environmental representative for the State of Nebraska. The EPA,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



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 include 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, 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.

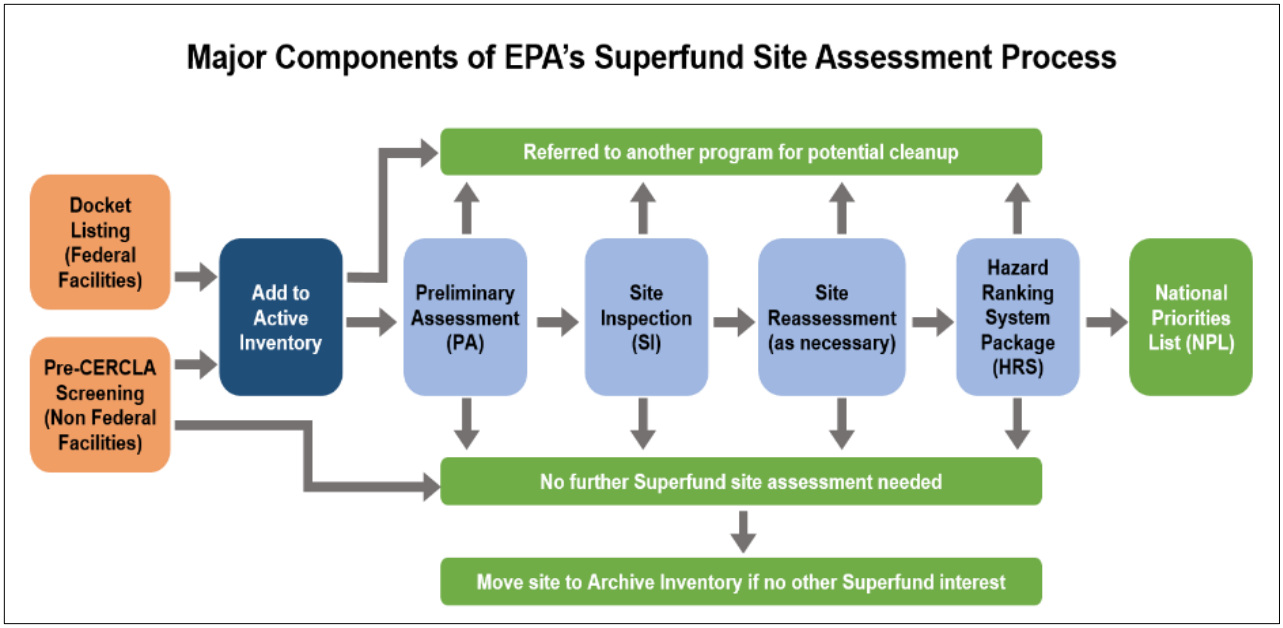
2. Abbreviated Preliminary Assessment/Preliminary Assessment. This step involves collecting background information such as property ownership, operational history, and geology/hydrogeology, and performing a site reconnaissance.

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.

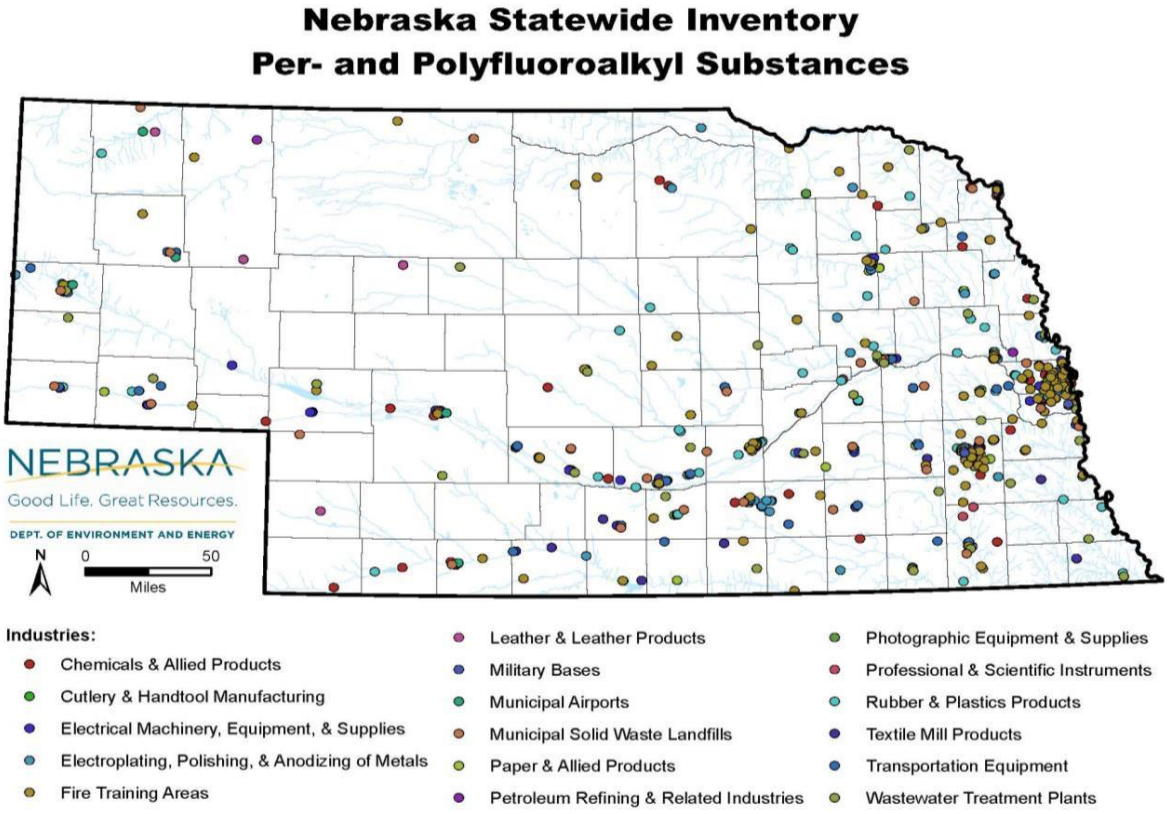
6. Site Scoring under the Hazard Ranking System. At any point during the assessment process, a site can be scored to assess the potential for a site to post a threat to human health or the environment. If a site scores high enough, it could be suggested for the NPL.



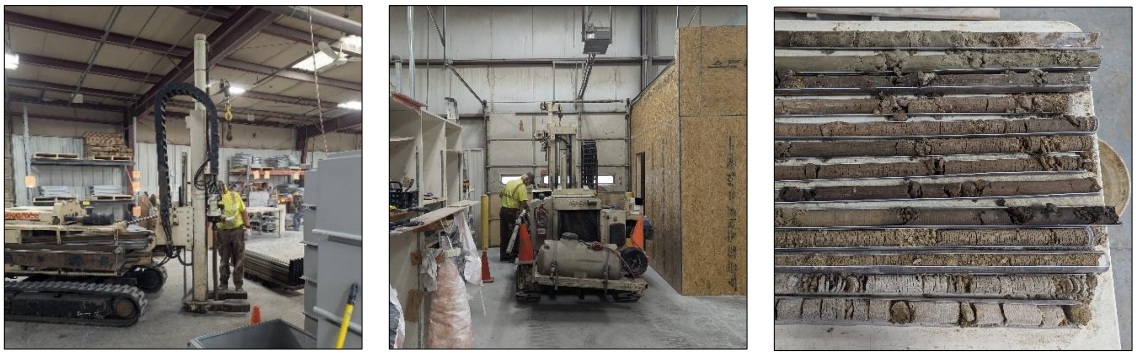
Not all sites that score high will end up on the NPL. Often, a site is referred to another program for remediation, such as the Voluntary Cleanup Program.

NDEE uses inventories to prioritize 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. EPA has identified PFAS as contaminants of emerging concern that can have adverse health effects if found in drinking water, leading them to adopt a National Primary Drinking Water Regulation, including standards for a subset of PFAS, in April 2024.

The figure below illustrates the locations of industries in the 2017 Statewide Inventory. It should be noted that the 2017 Statewide Inventory focused on industries that potentially used or manufactured PFAS, such as metal and chrome plating facilities, fire training areas, and sites where aqueous film-forming foam was used. However, due to the scope of the inventory and research methods used, additional facilities such as landfills, wastewater treatment plants, civilian and military airports, past aviation crash sites, oil spill sites, or other large fire sites were not included.



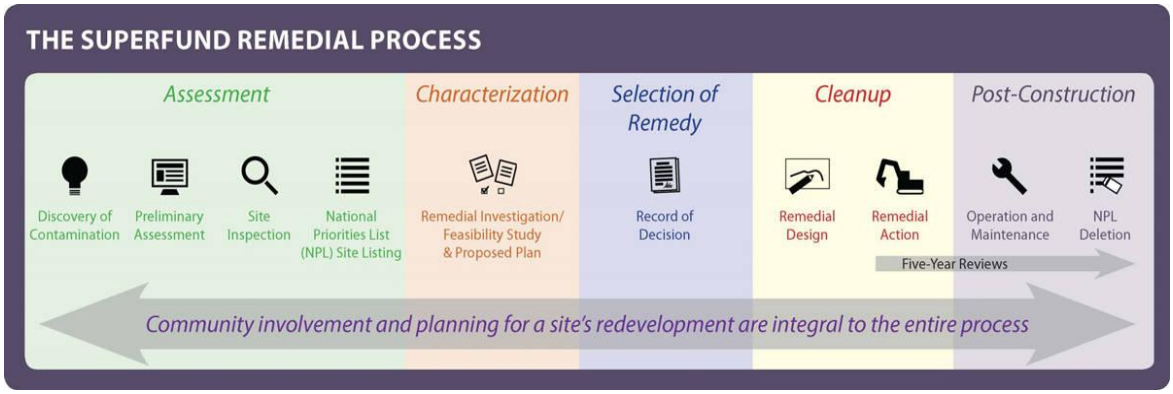
During the past year, NDEE has performed work on seven Pre-CERCLA Screening Assessments, two Abbreviated Preliminary Assessments, three Site Inspections, one Expanded Site Inspection, and three Site Re-Assessments.



In July and November of 2024, NDEE conducted an Expanded Site Inspection (ESI) at the Aurora Highway 34 North site in Aurora, Nebraska. The purpose of the investigation was to determine whether contamination detected at the property during previous investigations was from a source beneath the building or whether the contamination was from an off-site source. NDEE's contractors used a Direct Push Technology (DPT) rig to complete groundwater, soil, and soil gas sampling of the area beneath the Fiberglass Products Inc. building. As part of the investigation, soil cores are logged to create a clearer picture of the subsurface geology. The investigation did not find evidence of a release beneath the building.

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. Fifteen of the sites are in the cleanup phase and three sites (the 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/csitinfo.cfm?id=0702001
Bruno Co-Op Association/Associated Properties, Bruno	https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0702000
Cleburn Street Well, Grand Island	https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0701986
Cornhusker Army Ammunition Plant, Grand Island	https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0702020
Garvey Elevator, Hastings	https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0704351
Hastings Ground Water Contamination, Hastings	https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0701973
Iowa-Nebraska Light & Power Co., Norfolk	https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/CurSites/csitinfo.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

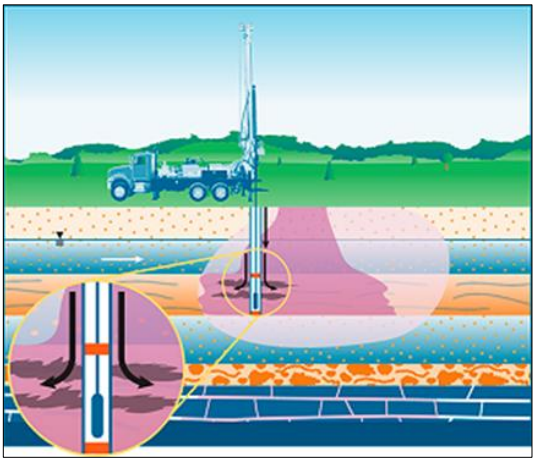
Ogallala Ground Water Contamination, Ogallala	https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0702287
Old Hwy 275 & N 288th Street, Valley	https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0704272&msspp=med
Omaha Lead, Omaha	https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0703481
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 to pay for the cleanup, so federal funds are used.

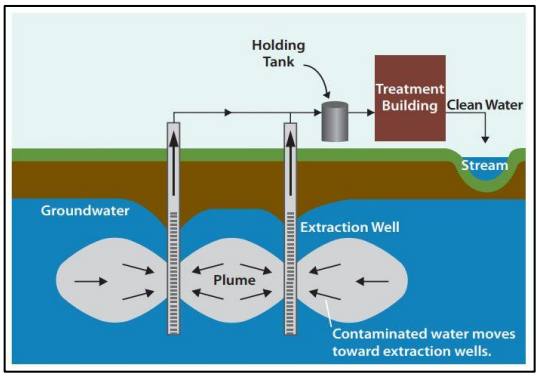
Of the 18 active Nebraska sites on the National Priorities List, seven are being addressed by the responsible party. The remaining 11 sites either are or will be partially or fully financed by Federal and State funds (i.e., “fund-lead”). For fund-lead sites, the State of Nebraska enters into contracts 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 FY 2004-2007, NDEE received Nebraska Environmental Trust grant funding to pay these costs. In FY 2018-2025, the Legislature authorized NDEE to fund these costs through an annual transfer of up to $1.5 million from the Petroleum Release Remedial Action Cash Fund into the Superfund Cost Share Cash fund. In 2025, the Legislature passed a bill to allow NDEE to pay its State cost obligations from the Integrated Solid Waste Management Cash Fund through an increase in the fee collected to support this cash fund.

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 is 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.



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)



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)

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.

NDEE's contractor collects a quarterly water sample from one of sampling ports on the groundwater extraction and treatment system.

NDEE's contractor collects a quarterly air sample from one of the collection points at the effluent for the air stripper.

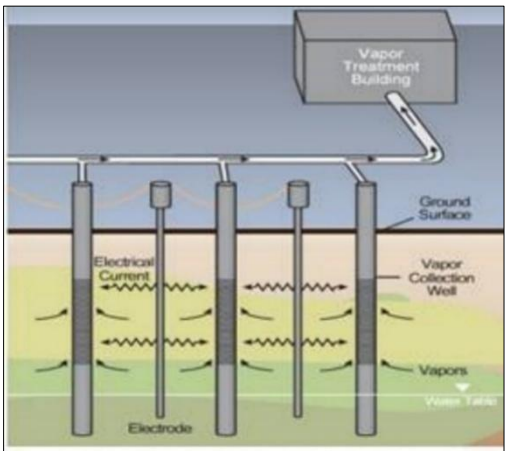
IIJA funds are being used for cleanup at the Garvey Elevator OU 1 subsite in Hastings, Hastings Second Street OU 12 subsite, Parkview Well OU 2 subsite in Grand Island, and PCE Southeast OU 1 and OU 2 subsites in York.

- At the Garvey Elevator OU 1 subsite, IIJA funds are being used for operation and maintenance of a 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.

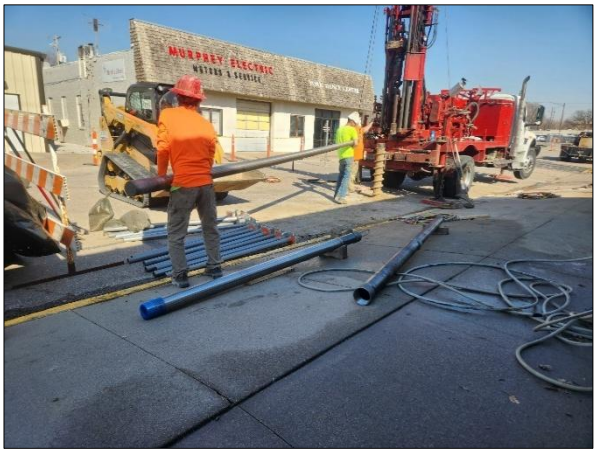
- At the Hastings Second Street OU 12 subsite, IIJA funds are being used for the

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.

- 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.
- 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.



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)



The PCE Southeast Contamination Site was contaminated due to improper disposal at two former dry cleaners in downtown York. The site was discovered during private well sampling in the area. The contamination is present in the groundwater, soil, and soil gas. EPA is using in-situ thermal treatment beneath the two former dry-cleaners to address the contaminated soil. Source remediation at one of the dry cleaners is complete and is underway at the second one. Once the source areas have been addressed, the groundwater contamination will be addressed using a groundwater treatment and extraction system.

(Left) Installation of the in-situ thermal system near Chances "R" Restaurant & Lounge in York, Nebraska. Workers are installing the screen for one of the extraction wells in this photo.

(Right) The in-situ thermal system is installed and ready to operate. The asphalt has been covered in a concrete thermal blanket. Shown in the background are the power delivery system and row of completed soil vapor extraction wells.

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.

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.

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 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

Nebraska Solid Waste Program Base Activities

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.

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 (C&D landfills), fossil fuel combustion ash disposal areas (FFCA), industrial waste landfills, 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 permitted and 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, provided 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 Compliance Programs jointly oversee the following:

Total Permitted Facilities in FY2025	
Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Areas (Landfills)	22
Solid Waste Compost Sites	7
Transfer Stations	36
Materials Recovery Facilities	3
Construction & Demolition Waste Disposal Areas	31
Delisted Waste Disposal Area	1
Processing Facility	2
Fossil Fuel Combustion Ash Disposal Areas	6
Total	108

The following table indicates the number of inspections, complaints, and permitting-related activities that the program was involved with in FY2025:

Summary of FY2025 Activities	
Compliance	
Facility Inspections (General)	140
Facility Closure Inspection	0
Facility Construction Inspections	10
Facility Comprehensive Renewal Inspections	18
Complaints Received	223
Complaints Investigated	223
Complaints Closed or Referred	223
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 FY2025, 13 operating and two 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 FY2025, 15 operating and six 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 FY2025 investigations or remedial measures were continued at 34 active and three 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 FY2025, groundwater investigations continued at one site, and remedial actions continued at seven 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, FY2025	
Renewed Hauler Permits	23
New Permits Issued	8
Permits Expired	2
Financial Assurance Reviews	8

CHAPTER 6:
Water Programs

The goal of the Water Programs is to protect the surface water and groundwater resources for all purposes in Nebraska. This chapter describes the programs administered by the Water Programs, including petroleum remediation programs, surface water and groundwater monitoring and assessment programs, water quality planning, agriculture programs, wastewater permitting and certification programs, financial assistance programs, and drinking water programs.

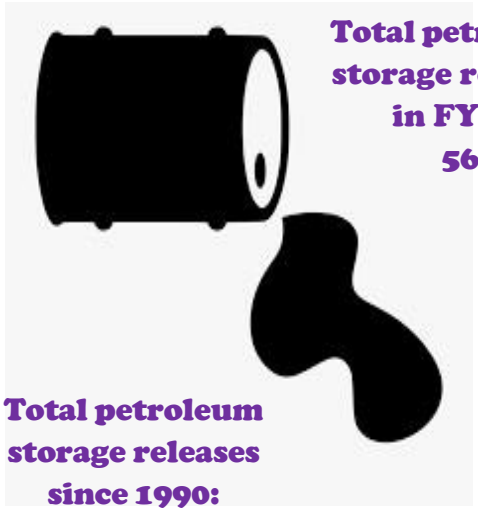
Petroleum Remediation Program

Activities regarding the Petroleum Remediation Program involve two interrelated areas:

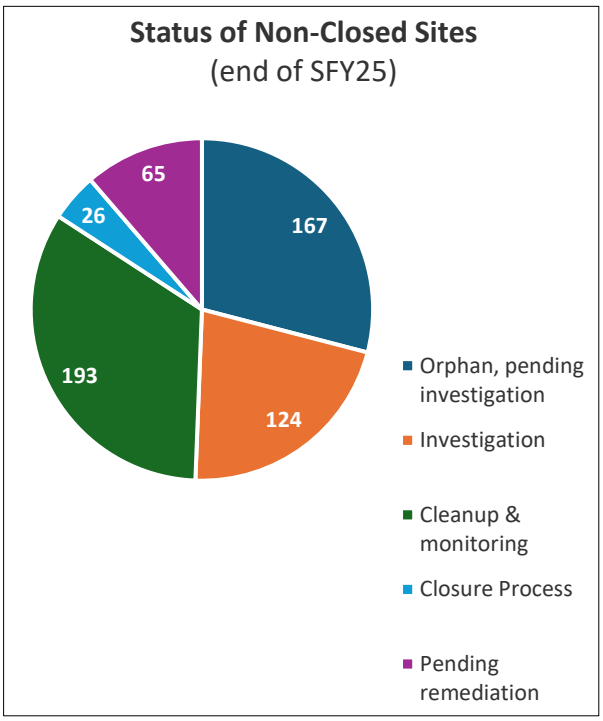
1. Overseeing the **investigation and cleanup** of petroleum contamination resulting from leaking above ground and underground storage tanks as well as other sources such as pipeline leaks and transportation spills; and
2. Administering a **financial assistance program** for persons responsible for investigation and cleanup costs due to petroleum releases from tanks.

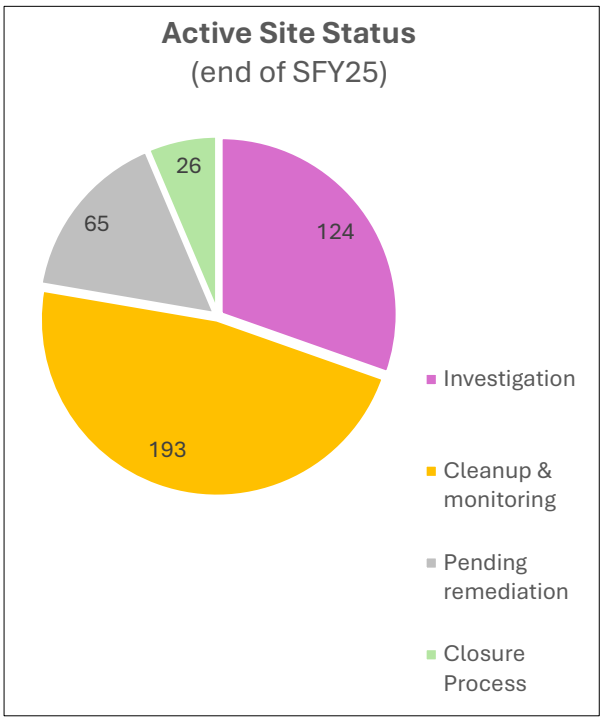
Investigation and Cleanup

The first step in the Petroleum Remediation Program is the review of tank removal assessment reports or other documentation to determine whether contamination exists. If contamination is present, NDEE decides whether more investigation and cleanup are required. NDEE also determines whether parties who caused the contamination are available and financially capable of assuming responsibility.



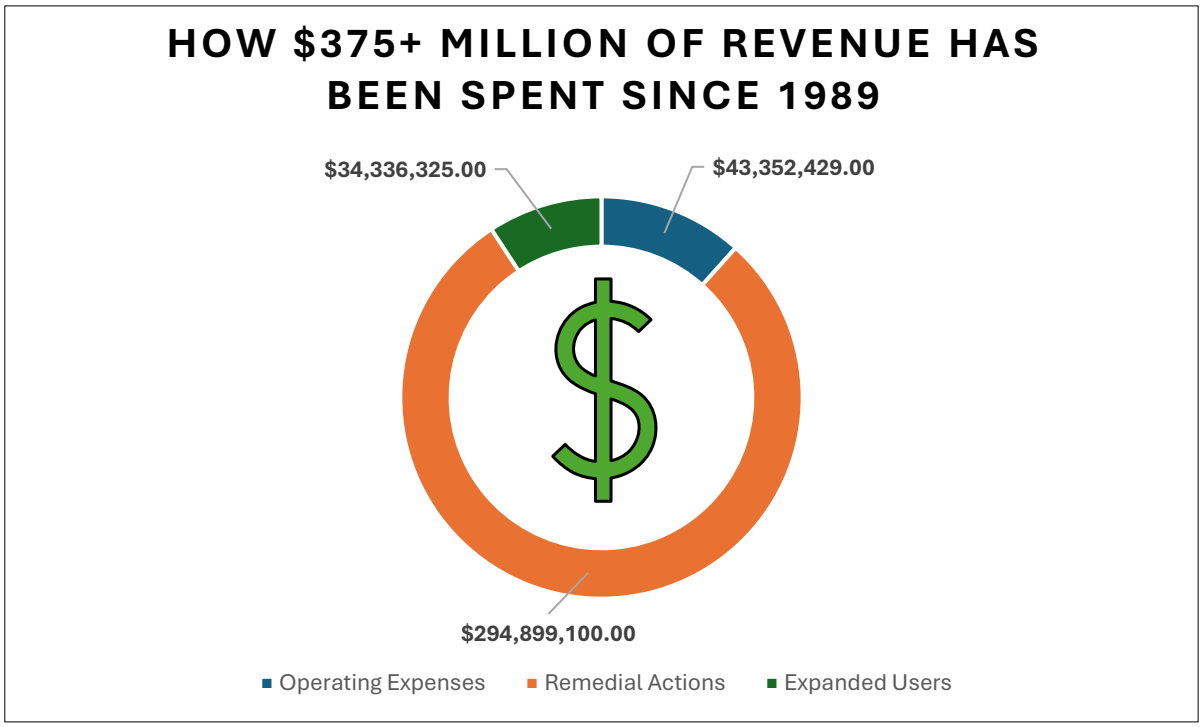
The program has incorporated Risk-Based Corrective Action (RBCA) procedures into regulations and accompanying guidance. The RBCA process allows for the evaluation of all petroleum release sites based on the risk they pose to human health and the environment. Those that pose no significant risk are closed; those that pose significant risk are prioritized for further work. Since 1999, the program has been collecting site-specific information needed for Tier 1, the first step in the RBCA process. Sites that fail Tier 1 are activated for Tier 2, which is a more detailed investigation and the next step in the RBCA process. In FY 2025, 65 Tier 1 / Tier 2 investigations were initiated. If sites fail Tier 2, they are normally scheduled for cleanup. In FY 2025, 262 referrals were received through the notification system (spill reports, complaints, and other).





Financial Assistance – Petroleum Release Remedial Action Reimbursement Fund

When contamination has been found at a site and NDEE has determined that more investigation and/or cleanup is required, NDEE will also determine the "Responsible Person." This term refers primarily to those who owned or operated the tank or other source when the release occurred. Those entities determined to be a Responsible Person may be eligible for reimbursement through the Petroleum Release Remedial Action Reimbursement Fund.



The Fund was created by the Legislature to help tank owners pay for the costs associated with assessing and cleaning up any petroleum releases from tanks as well as meet the $1 million financial responsibility requirement established by EPA for underground storage tanks. Costs for both underground and above-ground tank releases are eligible for reimbursement. The program's activities in this area include receiving and processing applications for reimbursement from the fund and subsequently issuing reimbursements for eligible costs. To assist applicants, the program developed a guideline entitled "Reasonable Rates Schedule and Reimbursement Guidance Manual" which is available on the web site.

Revenue was $12.1 million in FY25. During the year, NDEE reimbursed about $3.2 million to Responsible Persons for work done at 130 different sites, and $5.8 million was spent to clean up 165 different orphan sites. An additional $494,420 of revenue was transferred to NDEE's Superfund program, as directed by legislation passed in 2017. As of June 30, 2025, over $294 million total has been spent on site cleanups.

Responsible Person Sites

Air sparge/soil vapor extraction remediation system at the site of a former gas station.

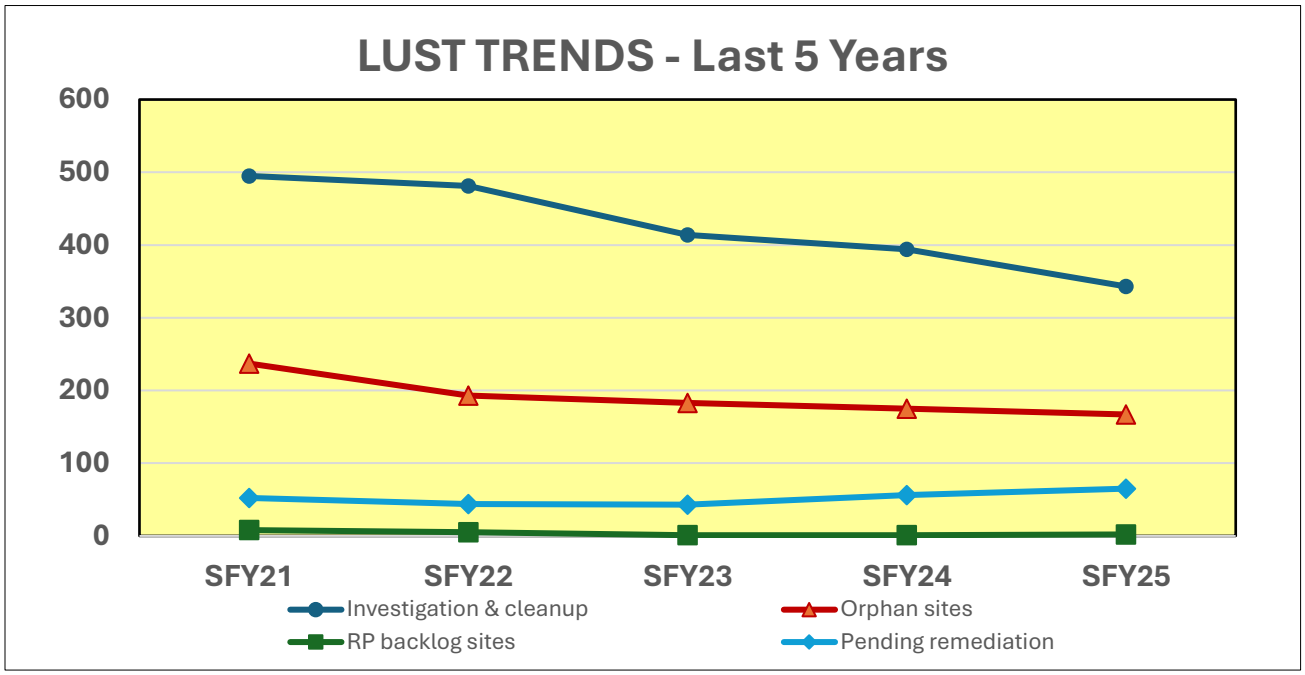
Previously, there had been hundreds of sites where the responsible person was known, but NDEE had not required work to begin. These were lower priority sites, and there was not sufficient funding to reimburse potential costs under the reimbursement fund. The sites were placed on a waiting list (backlogged) until funding was available. NDEE worked steadily to bring that list to zero. By November 2018, there were no more responsible person sites waiting on NDEE to require and approve work. Now when new spills are reported, they are worked on immediately with no waiting required. This helps speed property transactions and redevelopment.

Orphan Sites

In situations involving "orphan" sites (sites where there is no viable responsible person), investigation and remediation costs are paid with federal and/or state funds. In FY 2025, there were 234 active sites for investigation and/or cleanup using State contractors. At the end of FY 2025, there were 165 orphan sites backlogged and not yet investigated.

Leaking Underground Storage Tanks

Another name for the entire program is the acronym **LUST**. Many states use this term for their state petroleum cleanup programs.



Equipment Reuse

As sites are undergoing cleanup, NDEE pays for the purchase of remediation equipment. When sites are cleaned up, NDEE seeks to reuse that equipment at other sites. Since June 2005, NDEE has reused hundreds of pieces of equipment, thus greatly reducing the need to buy new equipment. This reuse program has saved Nebraska taxpayers over $8 million in new equipment costs and allowed that money to be used for cleanup of additional sites.

$551,919 savings in FY '25

Over $8 million since 2005

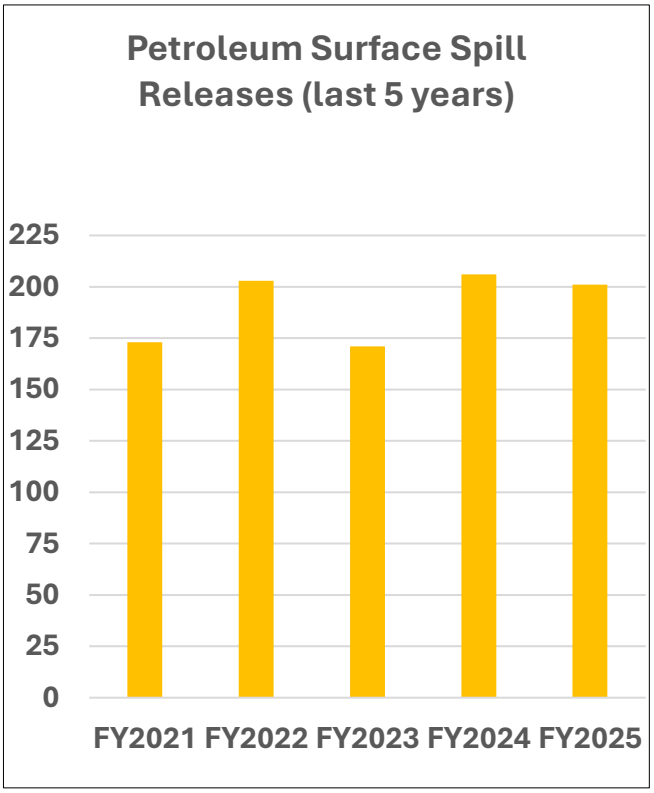
Voluntary Remedial Action

Tank owners can perform voluntary remedial action prior to NDEE's approval of their plans and still be eligible for reimbursement consideration in the future. This allows sites to move forward on their own initiative. To date, 238 suspended or backlogged leaking underground storage tank sites have been closed based on voluntary submittals.

Surface Spills

NDEE has long been aware that many trucking companies, petroleum distributors, emergency response managers, and law enforcement agencies are unaware of Nebraska regulations regarding response to a petroleum spill onto road surfaces and shoulders, especially when groundwater and/or surface water is threatened.

Therefore, the Petroleum Remediation Section developed a brochure for distribution throughout the State explaining NDEE regulations and recommendations for cleaning up after a spill. We have distributed the brochure to all Nebraska county emergency managers, many law enforcement entities, as well as many trucking companies and private citizens.



Frequently Asked Questions about the Sale and Purchase of a Retail Petroleum Convenience Store

January, 2020

The Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) Petroleum Remediation Section often fields questions from real estate agents, lenders, and the public regarding the sale or purchase of a convenience store/gas station. Many of the questions relate to concerns about environmental problems due to leaks of petroleum from the fuel storage tank system or concerns about costs the buyer may incur if the system needs to be upgraded to meet current requirements. Here are some commonly asked questions and suggested methods the public can use to gather information needed to make an informed buying or selling decision.

Contact for more information

NDEE-Petroleum Remediation Section http://deq.ne.gov/NDEQProg.nsf/OnWeb/LUST	(402) 471-2186
NDEE Records Management Section http://dee.ne.gov/NDEQProg.nsf/OnWeb/PRR	(402) 471-3557
NE State Fire Marshal-Fuels Division https://sfm.nebraska.gov/fuels-safety	(402) 471-9465

Sale & Purchase of Retail Petroleum Convenience Store

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As a response, PRS developed a brochure for distribution to the public containing some commonly asked questions and suggested methods the public can use to gather information needed to make an informed buying or selling decision.

More information is available on the Petroleum Remediation website at: https://dee.nebraska.gov/land-waste/petroleum-remediation/leaking-underground-storage-tank-and-surface-spill-site-information

Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Programs

Surface Water Assessment Programs

Cresent Lake in Garden County

Staff working with the Surface Water Monitoring and Assessment programs collect physical, chemical, and biological water quality samples from streams and lakes; implement surface water improvement projects; and prepare surface water quality reports. Some monitoring programs collect stream and lake samples throughout the state, but most monitoring is focused on one to three major river basins each year in conjunction with a six-year rotating basin monitoring strategy. Monitoring data are used to document existing water quality conditions, assess the support of beneficial uses (such as aquatic life, recreation, and public drinking water supply), and prioritize water quality problems. Current monitoring partners include the Natural Resources Districts (NRDs), Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC), University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), Central District Health Department (CDHD), United States Geological Survey (USGS) and United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

Each year, surface water samples are collected at hundreds of locations across the state, resulting in over 36,000 individual field measurements and laboratory analyses.

NDEE's surface water monitoring programs have different purposes. Brief descriptions of the basin monitoring strategy, as well as other water quality monitoring programs, are provided as follows. Additionally, a more detailed overview of the programs is provided on the Department's Surface Water Monitoring and Assessment webpage available online.
https://dee.nebraska.gov/water-quality/surface-water-monitoring-and-assessment

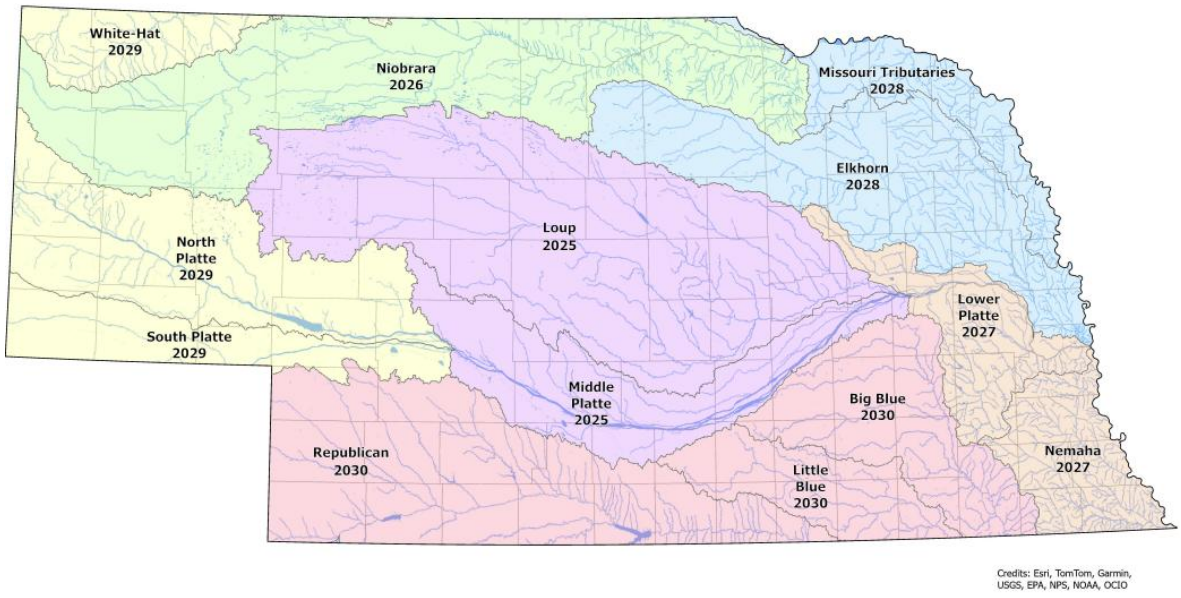
Basin Rotation Monitoring Program

- Water quality sampling focuses on one to three major river basins per year.
- During a six-year cycle all 13 major river basins in the state are intensively monitored.
- Weekly monitoring of rivers and streams from May-September.
- Fourteen parameters analyzed at each sampling location.
- In 2025, NDEE sampled 40 sites within the Loup and Middle Platte River Basins.

Measuring instream discharge

Collecting water samples

Six-year Basin Rotation Monitoring Schedule

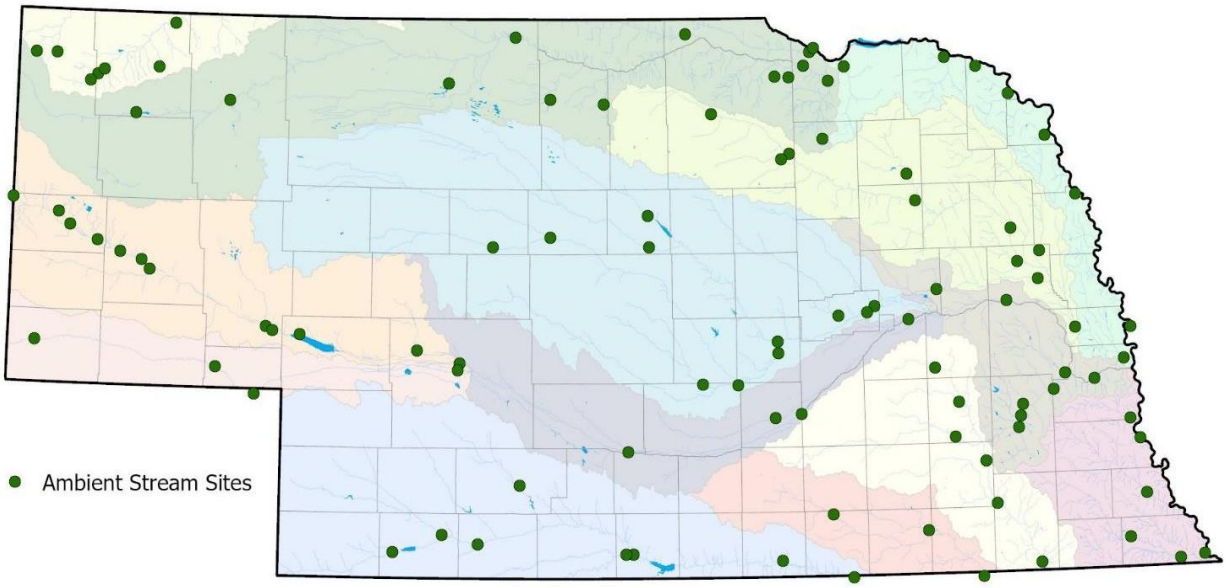


Ambient Stream Monitoring Program

- Network of 101 fixed stations located on main stem and tributary streams including six stations on the Missouri River.
- Thirty-four parameters analyzed at each sampling location.
- Samples are collected monthly, year-round.
- Provides information on the status and trends of water quality in streams within each of the state's 13 major river basins.

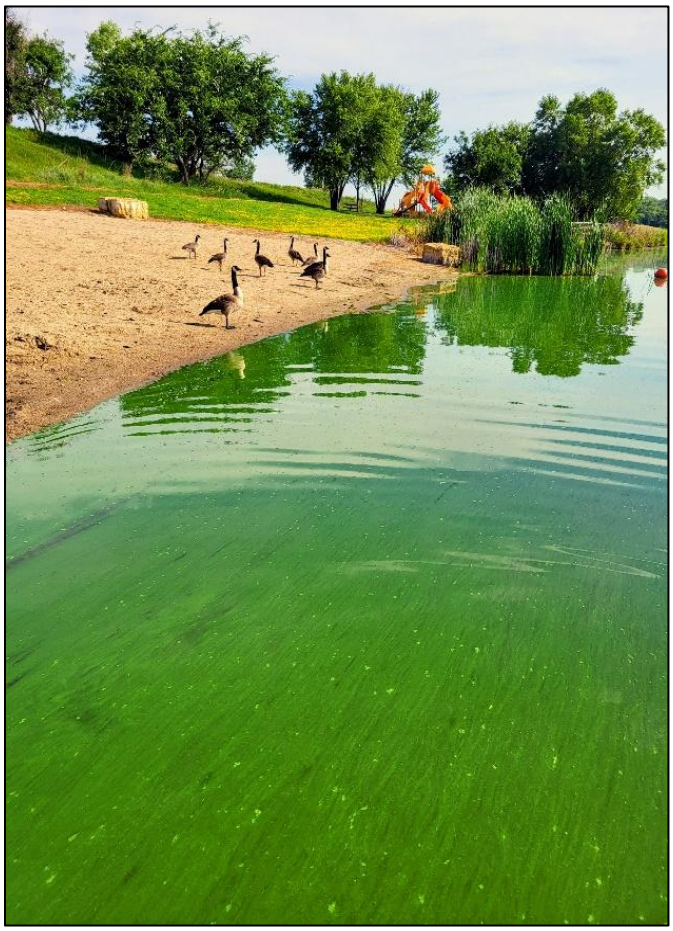
Collecting field measurements from a stream

Locations of NDEE Ambient Stream Monitoring Program Sites



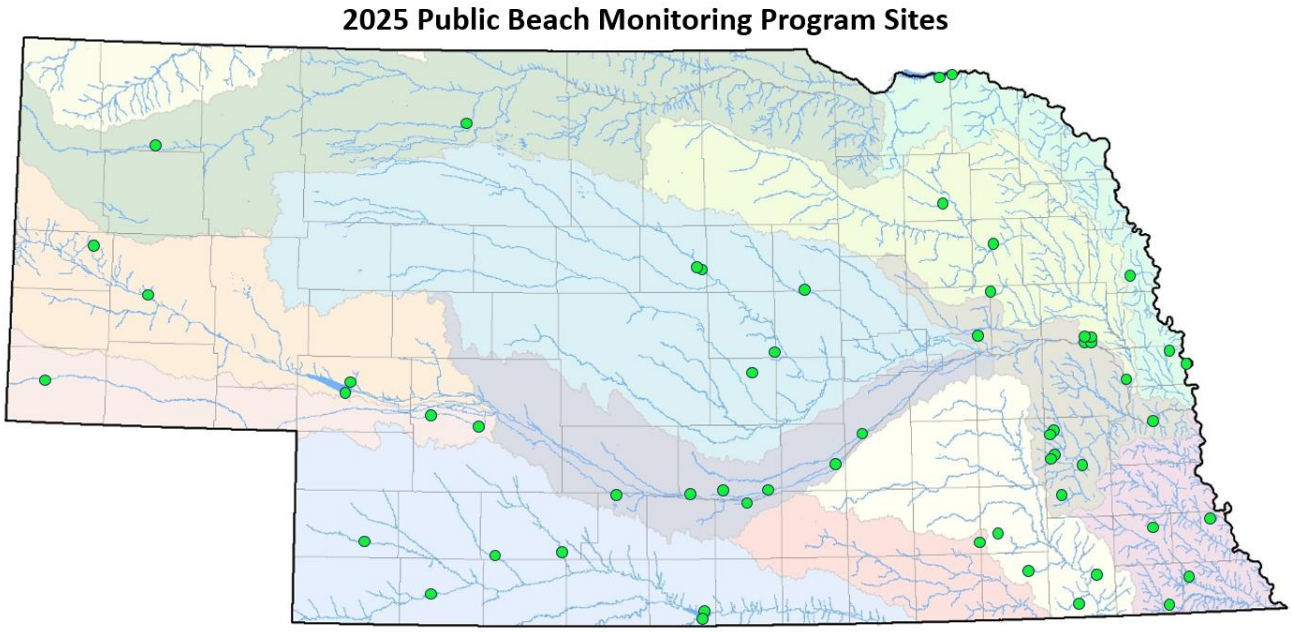
Public Beach Monitoring Program

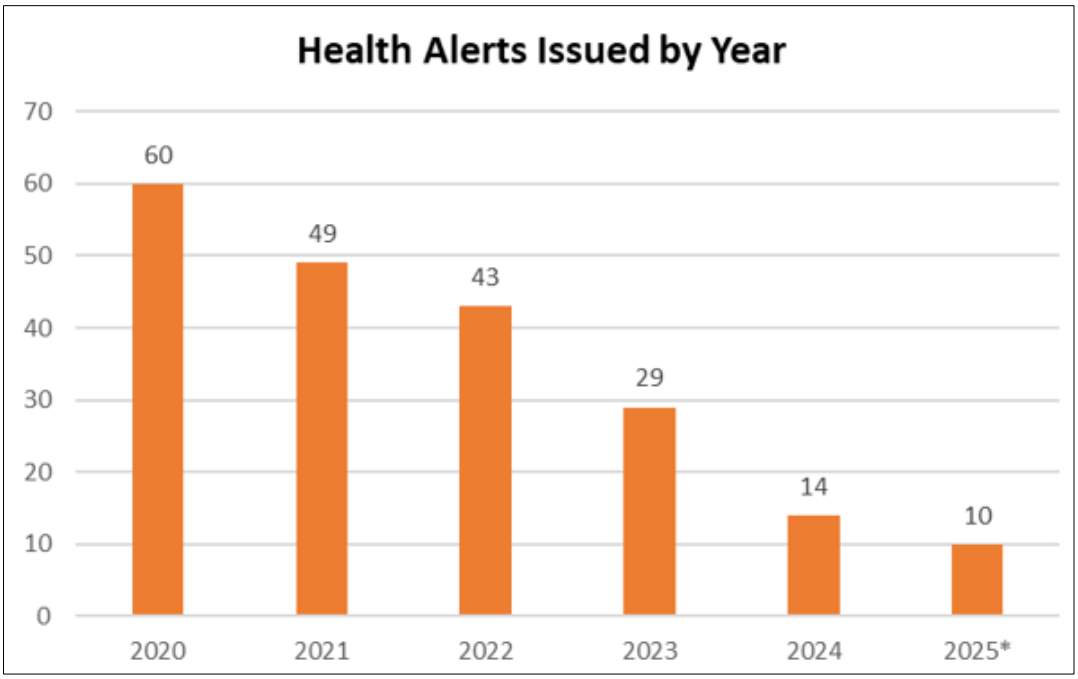
- Nebraska is at the forefront of national sampling and public notification for events related to Harmful Algal Blooms with sampling dating back to 2004.
- 56 public beaches at 51 lakes across Nebraska are sampled weekly May through September during 2025 (Figure 1).
- Samples are analyzed for *E. coli* bacteria and the cyanobacteria toxin, microcystin. The EPA recreational guidelines for *E. coli* is 235 colonies/100 mL and 8 ppb for microcystin.
- Beginning in 2020, USEPA changed their recommended recreational guidelines for microcystin from 20 ppb to 8 ppb. Figure 2 shows the number of Health Alerts since the change to the microcystin guideline.
- When a lake tests above 8 ppb a "Health Alert" is issued and signs are posted at affected beaches warning the public that the beach is closed to swimming.
- A Health Alert is not issued for a beach testing above 235 colonies/100 mL for *E. coli*. The public is urged to make their own informed decision of whether to utilize a lake for recreation or not when *E. coli* levels are above the recommended guideline.
- Risks to humans come from external exposure (prolonged contact with skin) and from ingesting the water.



Harmful algal bloom on the surface of Iron Horse Trail Lake in Pawnee County

- Symptoms from ingestion can include headaches, nausea, muscular pains, abdominal pain, diarrhea, and vomiting. Severe cases could include seizures, liver failure, and respiratory arrest. The severity of the illness is related to the amount of water and the concentrations of the toxins ingested.
- Children are at risk for more intensive symptoms, because of their smaller body size.
- Results are reported each week during the summer on the NDEE's Beach Watch web page. The weekly and past results are available online at https://deq-iis.ne.gov/zs/bw/
- Directions to sign up for the Listserv email are at the bottom of the Beach Watch web page.
- Beach Watch also added an interactive map of beach sites and results available at https://gis.ne.gov/portal/apps/experiencebuilder/experience/?id=5e204827d1344382aa3b353cabe094e5





**Denotes sampling through August 2025.*

Stream Biological Monitoring Program

- Diversity and numbers of resident aquatic macroinvertebrate and fish communities are evaluated to assess the overall health of streams.
- Sampling also provides information on changing abundances and ranges of fish in the state.
- Sites chosen with a probabilistic sampling design within the framework of the basin rotation schedule.
- Thirty-two sites (4 completed in partnership with Nebraska Game and Parks Commission) were sampled in 2025 within the Loup and Middle Platte River basins.

Electrofishing the Platte River

Northern Plains Killifish

Collecting aquatic macroinvertebrates

Stonefly nymph

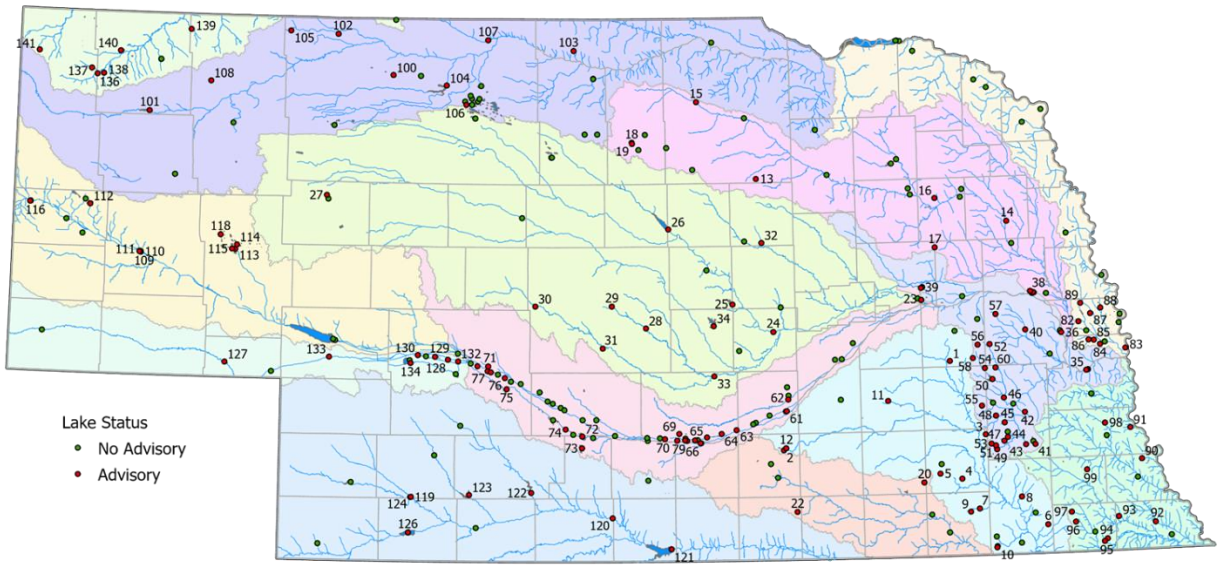
Fish Tissue Monitoring Program

- NDEE annually monitors waterbodies for contaminants in fish through Nebraska's Fish Tissue Monitoring Program (FTMP) program.
- Data gathered from these monitoring efforts are used to assess risk to humans from consuming impacted fish, posting consumption advisories, measuring long-term trends in regional contaminants such as mercury and polychlorinated biphenyl compounds (PCBs), and to monitor for emerging contaminants of concern.
- Current fish tissue consumption advisories at 141 locations (136 lakes and 5 river/stream segments; see maps on the next page).
- In 2025, 71 lakes and 2 river locations were sampled within the Middle Platte and Loup River basins.
- The most recent report can be found on NDEE's Fish Tissue Monitoring page.

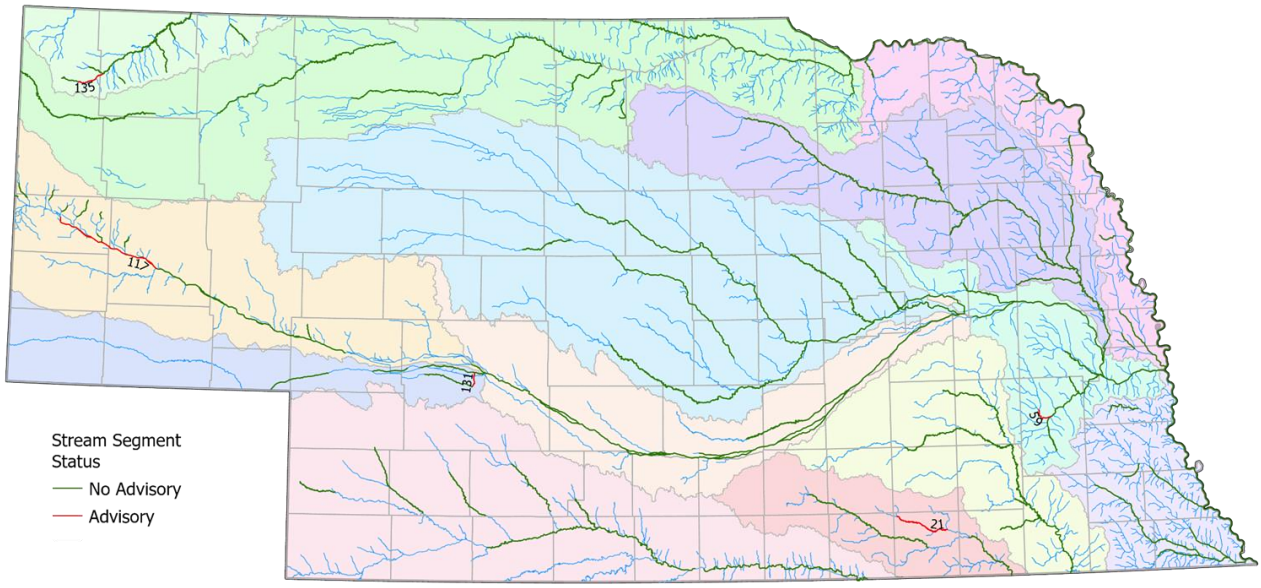
Weighing a walleye before tissue sample collection

Collecting a fish tissue plug sample from a channel catfish for analysis

Lake - Fish Consumption Advisory Sites in Nebraska Through 2024



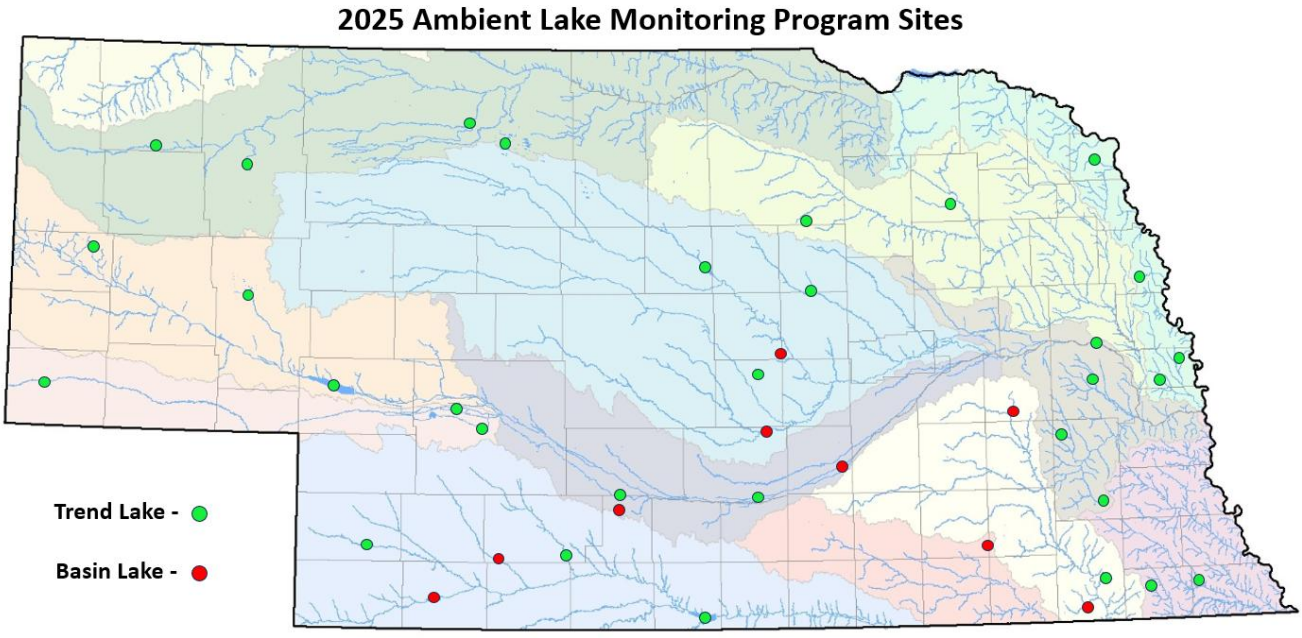
Stream - Fish Consumption Advisory Sites in Nebraska Through 2024



Ambient Lake Monitoring Program

- Data from 24 trend lakes (sampled every year) and nine basin lakes (sampled according to basin rotation schedule) were collected monthly May through September in 2025.
- Seven additional trend lakes are sampled for this program by staff from the USACE and the Lower Loup and Nemaha NRD's.
- Thirteen parameters are analyzed at each lake.
- Depth profile data are taken at deep water and mid-lake locations to determine stratification.
- Data are used to evaluate water quality suitability for fish and aquatic organisms to survive and reproduce.
- Long-term changes to water quality can be assessed.

Meter used to collect depth profile data of water temperature, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, and pH, at Merritt Reservoir south of Valentine.



Fish Kill and Citizen Complaint Investigations

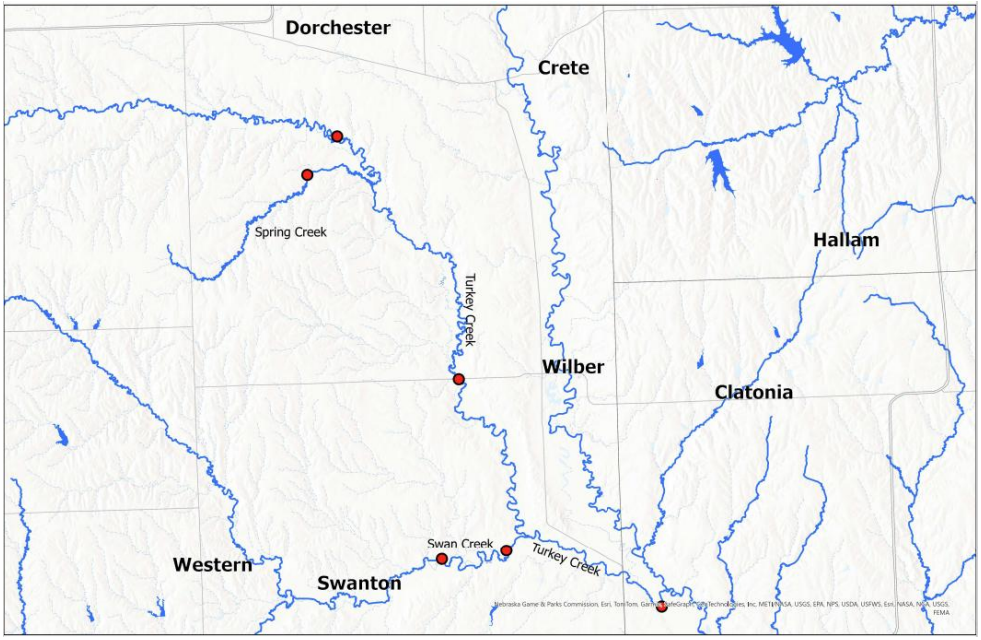
- Dead fish and other surface water concerns are relayed to NDEE throughout the year.
- Onsite investigations and water quality sampling performed at sites of many of the complaints.
- Eleven fish kills investigated from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025: Eight resulted from low dissolved oxygen levels and three resulted from an unknown cause.
- Eighty-four complaints about surface water pollution were taken by the Monitoring Section in the last year; many were forwarded to other NDEE programs.

Fish kill due to low dissolved oxygen levels in Swan Creek Lake 5A in Saline County

NRD Watershed Special Studies

- NDEE has partnered with several NRDs on Watershed Special Studies with strategic plans to monitor the sources and quantities of pollutants entering these systems from specific sub-watersheds.
- Information gathered allows a complete assessment of stream segments where data is insufficient to determine if all designated uses are met.
- Allows finer calibration of predictive models to allocate pollutant loads to specific sub- watersheds and to quantify load reductions from sub-watershed conservation projects.
- Sampling partners of past Watershed Special Studies include the Lower Loup NRD – South Loup River, Lower Platte North NRD – Wahoo Creek, Lewis and Clark NRD – Bow Creek and Lower Big Blue NRD – Turkey Creek Special Study.

Turkey Creek Special Study sampling locations within the Turkey Creek Watershed



Regional Monitoring Network

Sensor deployed in East Branch Verdigre Creek

- Collaboration between the USEPA and numerous states, tribes, and other organizations to collect continuous stream discharges and temperatures and other chemical and biological data.
- Data are used as baselines for long term comparisons of stream condition.
- Having many sensors deployed nationwide that collect continuous data allows USEPA and other partners to detect significant yet subtle trends in stream condition.
- NDEE has been monitoring seven streams since May 2017.
- Each location has a sensor that collects water level and temperature every thirty minutes, typically bolted to a post driven into the stream bottom.

Nebraska Water Quality Integrated Report

States are required by the federal Clean Water Act to prepare a biennial water quality report called the Integrated Report. The Integrated Report provides a comprehensive summary of the status and trends of surface water quality in Nebraska and includes a list of impaired surface waters that do not support their assigned beneficial uses. The most recent Integrated Reports are available on NDEE's web site at: https://dee.nebraska.gov/aid/water-quality-planning/impaired-waters-and-total-maximum-daily-loads-tmdls

Groundwater Assessment Programs

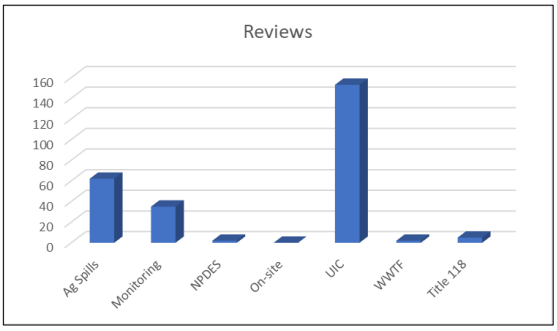
Groundwater Quality Monitoring Report

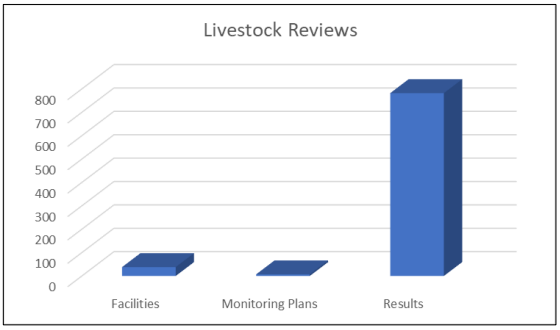
The Groundwater Quality Monitoring Report summarizes the water quality monitoring efforts of the Natural Resources Districts, NDEE, and other state, local and federal agencies. The 2023 Groundwater Quality Monitoring Report can be accessed on the NDEE website at https://dee.nebraska.gov/sites/default/files/publications/2024%20Nebraska%20Groundwater%20Quality%20Monitoring%20Report.pdf. The statistics and maps showing nitrate-nitrogen groundwater monitoring results were all created using the Clearinghouse. This data is accessible to the public as the Nebraska Groundwater Quality Clearinghouse at http://clearinghouse.nebraska.gov.

Hydrogeologic Studies and Reviews

The Groundwater Section is responsible for hydrogeologic review of various NDEE programs to determine possible effects on groundwater quality and to recommend possible courses of action. These reviews are completed for projects that address leaking underground storage tanks, surface spills, underground injection control, wastewater treatment facilities, septic systems, NPDES permits, livestock waste control facilities, and for outside entities, such as the Natural Resources Districts' Groundwater Management Plans

In addition, the Groundwater Section performs reviews and oversees remediation if a situation does not fall under another agency program and is of environmental significance. Section personnel continue to take responsibility under Nebraska Administrative Code (NAC) *Title 118 — Groundwater Quality Standards and Use Classification* for many site investigations and have sampled and supervised site cleanups.





Underground Injection Control (UIC)

The Underground Injection Control (UIC) program reviews and issues permits, conducts inspections, and performs compliance reviews for wells used to inject fluids into the subsurface. There are six classes of injection wells:

- Class I injection wells are for the injection of wastewater below the lowermost underground source of drinking water.
- Class II wells are associated with oil and gas production and are regulated by the Nebraska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission.
- Class III wells are used to inject fluids for the purpose of extracting minerals.
- Class IV wells are associated with the injection of hazardous waste, which are illegal, and have never been allowed in Nebraska.
- Class V injection wells are any wells not included in the other specific classes. Common examples of Class V wells include open loop heat pump systems, large capacity septic systems, and subsurface drip irrigation systems.
- Class VI wells are associated with the injection of carbon dioxide for permanent disposal. This class of wells is currently regulated by the EPA.

Currently the State of Nebraska has five permitted Class I wells. Two of these are issued to Crow Butte Resources, Inc., a uranium facility near Crawford. The other three are issued to the City of McCook, Kugler Oil Company in Culbertson, and Nebraska Public Power District near Sutherland. The only Class III wells in the state are at the Crow Butte Resources, Inc. Class V wells are located throughout the state and make up the majority of Nebraska UIC wells.

Mineral Exploration Program

The Mineral Exploration program reviews and issues permits, conducts inspections, and performs compliance reviews for holes drilled, driven, bored, or dug for the purpose of mineral exploration. These permits are issued to persons exploring for potential mineral resources such as consolidated rock; sand and gravel; or material commingled, in solution, or otherwise occurring beneath the surface or in waters of the State and are regulated under NAC *Title 135 – Rules and Regulations for Mineral Exploration Holes*. This type of exploration specifically excludes oil and gas exploration, which is regulated by the Nebraska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission.

Wellhead Protection

The State Wellhead Protection (WHP) program is a voluntary program which assists communities and other public water suppliers in preventing contamination of their water supplies. State WHP activities include delineating the zones of influence which may impact public supply wells, training communities on how to inventory all potential sources of pollution within these vulnerable zones, working with the local officials to identify options to manage these potential pollution sources, developing monitoring plans and contingency plans to provide alternate water supplies and site new wells. Over 118 community water supplies have approved Wellhead Protection plans as of June 30, 2025.

The Department develops and updates wellhead protection (WHP) areas for public water systems across the state to help communities safeguard their drinking water sources. By using advanced groundwater modeling and data from regional studies, NDEE efficiently delineates capture zones and evaluates potential impacts to water quality. This approach not only improves the accuracy and consistency of WHP maps and reports but also allows the Department to spend more time collaborating directly with local leaders and assisting communities in managing and protecting their groundwater resources.

Source Water Assessment and Protection

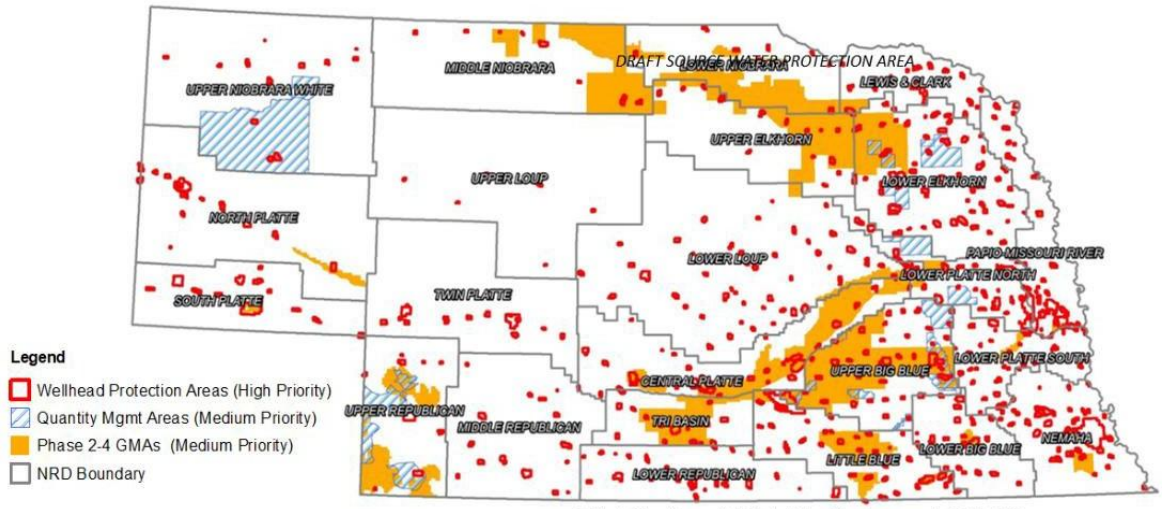
The State Source Water Protection (SWP) Program is a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to political subdivisions operating a Public Water System (PWS) serving a population of 10,000 or less experiencing financial hardship. The goal of Nebraska's SWP Program is to assist communities with protecting their drinking water at the source.

SWP Program Grants have been distributed to complete 100 separate Source Water Protection projects throughout the state since 2004. In SFY2025 SWP funds were allocated to the City of Fullerton, totaling $54,000. Funding will be used for the proper decommissioning of up to 25 unused, abandoned private wells, two municipal wells, and the conversion of one abandoned municipal well into a monitoring well. Funding is authorized under Section 1452 of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and administered through Nebraska's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) 15% Set-Aside.

The Source Water Protection program coordinates closely with the CWA 319 program to engage Nebraska's communities and producers and develop alternative 9-element Watershed Management Plans known as Drinking Water Protection Management Plans (DWPMP) that proactively address nonpoint source contamination. These plans bring together key stakeholders and increase on-the-ground adoption of agricultural best management practices (BMP). The first DWPMP was accepted by EPA in summer of 2016. Since then, nine plans have been completed and approved through Nebraska's SWP Program. Upon approval of the plan, a community becomes eligible for Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 319 funding. Three plans received financial assistance in SFY2025.

The 2018 Farm Bill dedicated 10% of total conservation funds (with the exception of Conservation Reserve Funds), to be used for source water protection each year. NDEE worked with the NRCS to develop the priority areas in Nebraska where funds are focused. This effort is meant to address excessive nutrients and other impairments of drinking water. For Nebraska, this effort will primarily focus on groundwater as it is the predominant source for drinking water in the state. The highest priority areas include community public water systems WHP areas and NRD groundwater management areas (Phases I - IV) that include WHP areas.

NRCS Priority Areas for the National Water Quality Initiative



Total Medium & High Priority Areas: 8,006,050 acres

The Phase 2-4 and Quantity Management Areas that intersect a Wellhead Protection Area are medium priority.

A Phase I area covers an entire NRD district. In specific areas within an NRD where nitrate reaches a determined threshold, they may move into Phase II, III or IV areas. Some NRDs only define areas as I - III, while others go from I - IV. Each NRD determines the 'trigger' (or contaminant level) that would move a Phase area into the next level. Each Phase level has requirements for landowners/producers to follow. Moving from a Phase I to a Phase II level often means that producers need to complete an educational requirement such as nutrient management or fertilizer application training. Phase II-IV may also require that certain Best Management Practices (BMPs) may be required such as split application of fertilizer, cover crops, or not applying fertilizer in the fall for example. Best management practices incentive payments will go to the NRCS - EQIP eligible owner/operators of agricultural land who install conservation practices relating to water quality and quantity.

The farm bill helps many Nebraska communities enact voluntary Drinking Water Protection Management Plans, and the priority in funding from NRCS may ensure that all community public water systems have on-the-ground practices that work to reduce nitrate in source water protection areas.

Water Well Standards and Contractors' Licensing Program

This program is tasked with inspecting all domestic wells and 25% of all other wells drilled in the previous calendar year. Program personnel include three inspectors and one administrative assistant. Inspectors are using iPads equipped with GPS and mapping software to assist in completing inspections.

Starting July 1, 2021 all licensing tasks were moved to the NDEE Water Well Standards Program. The Program is responsible for licensing and regulating over 800 licensed water well professionals which includes administering examinations on a quarterly basis.

Advising the Program is the Water Well Standards and Contractors Licensing Board. The board is comprised of five government representatives (including NDEE, DHHS, UNL Conservation and Survey Division, Nebraska Resources Districts and Nebraska Department of Natural Resources) and five non-government entities (including pump installation contractors, irrigation water well contractors and equipment suppliers/manufacturers). Board members meet quarterly to make decisions related to issues such as application fees, rules and regulations, continuing education units and disciplinary action.

Water Quality Planning

The stated public policy of Nebraska related to water quality includes conserving water and to protect and improve the quality of water for human consumption, wildlife, fish and other aquatic life, industry, recreation, and other productive, beneficial uses (Neb. Rev. Stat. 81-1501(1)). NDEE carries out this important mandate, in part, through water quality planning along with water quality standards.

Surface Water Quality Standards

NDEE develops surface water quality standards which are found in NAC *Title 117 – Nebraska Surface Water Quality Standards*. Through these standards, waterbodies in the state are assigned beneficial uses in one of the following categories:

- Public water supply
- Aquatic life
- Agriculture
- Industry
- Recreation
- Aesthetics

Each beneficial use has water quality criteria for chemical and physical parameters that are developed to be protective of that use. For example, when considering nitrogen, waters assigned for public water supply will have a different criteria for nitrogen than waters assigned beneficial use for recreation. These criteria form the basis of water quality protection for all surface water quality programs conducted by NDEE. The federal Clean Water Act (CWA) also instructs states to review and revise their water quality standards on a regular basis. This is done every three years, and is known as a “triennial review”.

Nebraska completed its most recent Triennial Review in early 2025. The current standards are available on NDEE’s website. In addition to developing the standards, staff develop and implement procedures for applying the standards to surface water quality programs, such as NPDES permits.

Impaired Waters and Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)

The Federal CWA, Section 303(d), requires states to prepare a list of impaired surface waters. These are waters that do not support the assigned beneficial uses as listed in NAC *Title 117 - Nebraska Surface Water Quality Standards*. From this list, states are instructed to prepare TMDLs that include the pollution control goals and strategies necessary to improve the quality of these waters to where they meet water quality standards associated with their beneficial uses and can be removed from the 303(d) list of impaired waters.

As in previous years, NDEE has opted to combine the required CWA Section 303(d) list with the Section 305(b) report on the general status of water quality in the state. This combination is referred to as the Integrated Report (IR). The 2022 Integrated Report was finalized in August 2023 and is available on the NDEE website along with past IRs and additional information regarding impaired waters: https://dee.nebraska.gov/aid/water-quality-planning/impaired-waters-and-total-maximum-daily-loads-tmdls.

Stormwater infrastructure tour, Omaha

The following table summarizes NDEE's most recent work in this area. A comprehensive list of approved TMDLs for Nebraska is available through NDEE

IR Category	TMDL/5-alt Name	# of Waterbodies	Pollutant	Status
4a				
	Republican River Basin	5	*E. coli*	TMDL submitted to EPA in December, 2023. EPA approved in May, 2024.
5-alt[1]				
	--	--	--	No 5-alts currently in development.

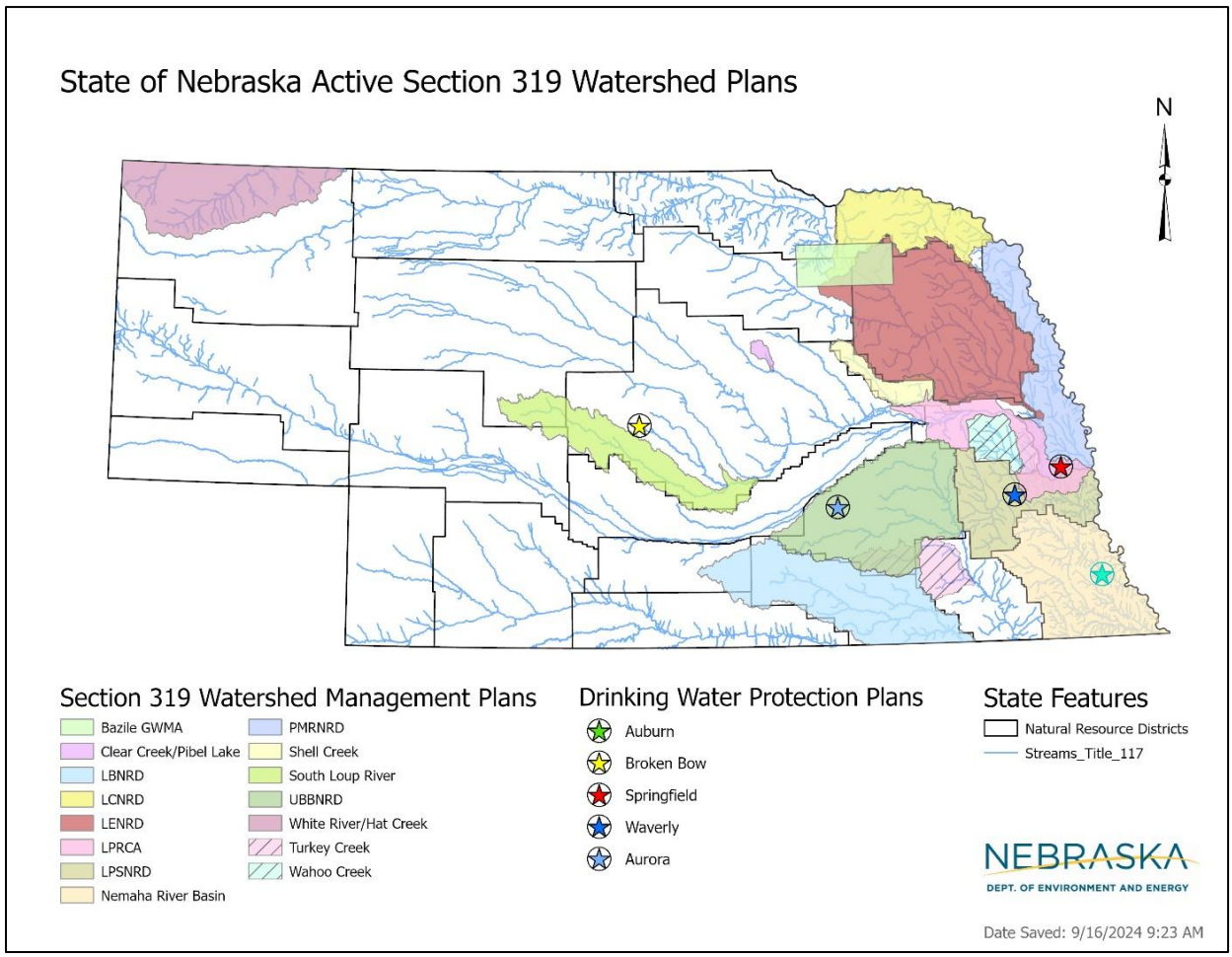
[1]In 2015, NDEQ (now NDEE) and EPA created the "5-alt" alternative to developing TMDLs for impaired waterbodies in order to address missing TMDLs in areas where project sponsors have targeted restoration work. This alternative restoration approach allows the state flexibility to align efforts with public interests to restore impaired waters more effectively and efficiently.

Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program

The goal of the Nebraska Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program is to protect and improve water quality impacted by nonpoint source pollution through an integrated statewide effort. The program is of particular significance because nonpoint source pollution is the most prevalent, widespread cause of water quality degradation in Nebraska, and is associated with runoff and percolation from agricultural and urban areas to waters of the state. The program is largely funded by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through Section 319 of the federal CWA and involves key federal, state, and local partners.

State nonpoint source concerns and priorities are defined in the Nebraska Nonpoint Source Management Plan: "Strategic Plan and Guidance for Implementing the Nebraska Nonpoint Source Management Program – 2021 through 2036," available at https://dee.nebraska.gov/forms/publications-grants-forms/wat119. The program emphasizes watershed and groundwater management area planning, targeting impaired waters on the 303(d) list, and community participation in water quality management plan development. Projects emphasize implementation of 9-Element watershed management plans or Alternative to 9-Element plans in the case of groundwater quality plans.

Included in the major program highlights this year were the development of Project Implementation Plans for: Eagle Run, Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance, Soldier Creek. We have also been working to develop Watershed Management Plans for: Lake Hastings WBP, Papio-Missouri River NRD WMP, Lower Elkhorn NRD WMP, and Lower Platte South NRD WMP.

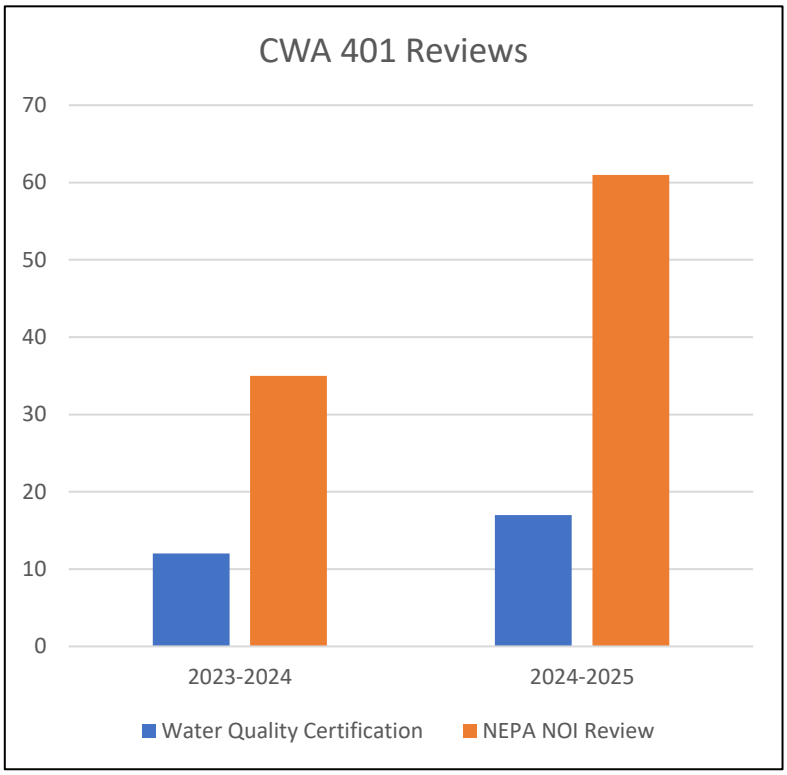


Water Quality Data Handling and Storage

NDEE continues adding Nebraska surface water quality information to the EPA's Water Quality Exchange (WQX) electronic storage system for water quality data. This will make Nebraska surface water quality information available to anyone who has an internet connection. The website for this information is https://www.epa.gov/waterdata. During FY2024, NDEE continued to add surface water monitoring results to the WQX database. NDEE has developed an internal database application which has increased the efficiency of processing surface water monitoring data, resulting in significant time savings.

CWA Section 401 Water Quality Certification

The Water Planning Section administers the Water Quality Certification Program in accordance with Section 401 of the CWA. This program evaluates applications for federal permits and licenses that involve a discharge to waters of the U.S. and determines whether the proposed activity complies with *Title 117 - Nebraska Surface Water Quality Standards*. If the activity is likely to violate the standards, conditions for complying with the standards will be issued with the certification, or certification will be denied. In fiscal year 2024 there were seventeen certifications issued which is an increase of 29% from the previous year.



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Section 404 Dredge and Fill Permits and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission licenses are examples of federal regulatory programs that require State Water Quality Certification before federal permits or licenses can be issued. For projects that may impact surface water quality that do not require a 404 permit, the agency reviews the project and issues a letter of recommendation if the project is not anticipated to negatively impact water quality. Lastly, the department reviewed sixty-one projects that are required to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act for any impacts to natural resources and the potential need to comply with programs administered by the Department.

Agriculture Programs

The responsibilities for the Agriculture programs are divided amongst the Permitting and Engineering Division and the Inspection and Compliance Division. The Permitting and Engineering Division is responsible for issuing state construction and operating permits, issuing National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits, and issuing licenses to Chemigation Applicators. The Inspection and Compliance Division conducts inspections of livestock operations, investigates complaints, and implements the Agricultural Chemical Containment Program. Beginning on July 1, 2025 (FY 2026), these activities have been consolidated into the Livestock and Agriculture section of the Inspection and Compliance Division.

Livestock Waste Control Program

Overview

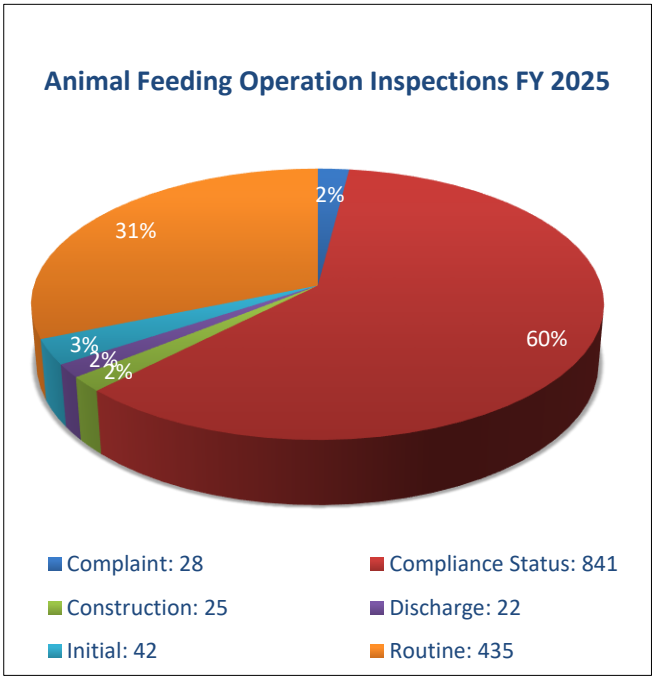
The NDEE is charged with the overall responsibility to protect Nebraska's surface water and groundwater from discharge of livestock waste from any of the thousands of Animal Feeding Operations (AFOs) in Nebraska.

To accomplish this responsibility, the NDEE administers NAC *Title 130 - Livestock Waste Control Regulations*. The NDEE focuses primarily on the 882 active large Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) required to have permits but also works with approximately 2,191 active Medium Animal Feeding Operations (AFOs) and over 7,000 active small AFOs. The NDEE uses inspections, permitting, and periodic groundwater monitoring to fulfill this responsibility. The program also implements the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program for CAFOs.

Amendments to Title 130 became effective in 2011 to reflect changes in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) CAFO Rule for NPDES permitting, which primarily involved who needs to apply for NPDES permit coverage. The changes were necessary to ensure the Department would continue to administer the NPDES permit program for EPA. As a result, only CAFOs that discharge or have the potential to discharge are required to apply for NPDES permit coverage.

Inspections

The LWC Compliance and Inspection staff conducted a total of 1,393 livestock waste control inspections in SFY2025. The chart above illustrates the breakdown by type of inspection. A concerted effort continues to revisit medium-sized operations to ensure compliance with Title 130 and the EPA CAFO Rule. In addition, the LWC inspectors continue to contact and visit Class I sites to determine the current operating status of these AFOs. The Class I designation is a size category that is no longer in use by the LWC program. A Class I site could be considered a large, medium or small AFO by current regulations.



A short description of each type of inspection follows:

Initial Inspection: Before constructing a new operation or expanding an existing operation, all medium and large AFOs - whether or not the operation currently is permitted - must request an initial inspection to be conducted by LWC Compliance and Inspection staff. The reason for this inspection is to determine if livestock waste control facilities (LWCF) must be constructed, expanded, or modified to prevent a discharge and to properly manage the livestock waste generated by the operation.

Post-Construction Inspection: Upon completion of any required construction of a LWCF, Compliance and Inspection staff conduct a post-construction inspection to verify the LWCF was constructed as approved by the Department.

Routine Inspections: Once a CAFO or an AFO has received a permit and the Department has approved operation of the LWCF, Compliance and Inspection staff will conduct periodic routine inspections to monitor operation of the livestock waste control facilities, management of the operation's livestock waste, and the records these CAFOs and AFOs are required to maintain. Routine inspections are regularly scheduled at an AFO, involving a detailed, extensive review of the operation's recordkeeping and waste management at the operation.

Discharge Inspections: Discharge inspections are conducted when a discharge at a livestock waste control facility is reported. Permitted facilities are required to self-report all discharges to the Department.

Complaint Inspections: When a complaint is received, LWC Compliance and Inspection staff will investigate and may conduct an on-site inspection.

Compliance Status Inspections: Generally conducted to verify the AFO's operating status or level of compliance with a specific requirement; these inspections are usually less urgent, non- emergency situations.

Construction and Operating Permits SFY2025

Type of Application or Permit	Applications Received	Permits Issued
New permits	6	11
Modified permits	25	29
Transfer permits	17	12
TOTAL	**48**	**52**

State Permitting

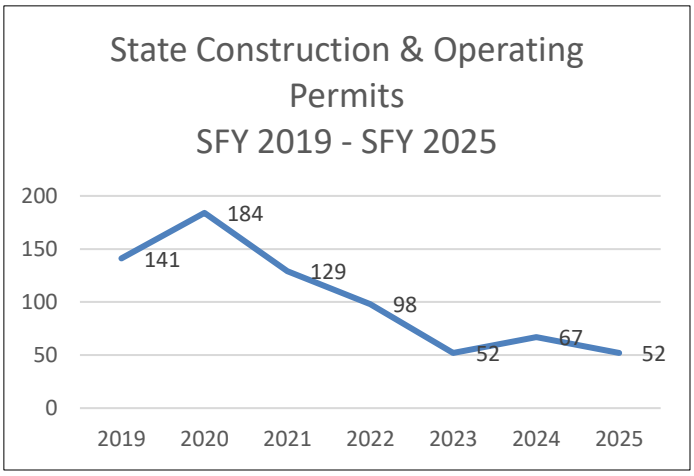
After conducting an initial inspection, the NDEE may require the AFO to submit an application for a Construction and Operating Permit – the state permitting process for livestock waste control facilities – prior to construction of livestock waste control facilities.

The Department received a total of 48 permit applications and issued 52 permits during SFY2025, as shown in the table to the right.

Permits were evaluated by the State and NPDES Permit staff. As part of the application review, staff evaluate compliance with Title 130. An agronomist evaluates the sufficiency of the nutrient management plan, an engineer reviews the adequacy of the design of the livestock controls, and a geologist from the Drinking Water and Groundwater Division evaluates whether there may be a potential threat to groundwater. The Natural Resource District and the County Government where the new/expanded AFO are provided an opportunity to share comments with the NDEE on the

application prior to public notice. Once the review team is satisfied that the facility will meet Title 130 requirements, a notice of intent to issue a permit is publicly noticed and open for public comment. There is no opportunity for the public to request a hearing on state construction and operating permits.

The chart on the right shows the total number of state permits issued annually for livestock waste control facilities since SFY2019. During this time, the department updated some existing Construction Permits, Construction Approvals and Operating Permits to Construction and Operating Permits if the AFOs updated their nutrient management plans (NMP) to current Title 130 standards.



Once a permitted AFO has completed its construction project, the LWC Inspectors conduct a post-construction inspection. If the post-construction inspection shows the construction was completed as approved, the NDEE notifies the AFO that operation of the new livestock waste control facility is approved and animals may be confined at the approved location.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit

The State and NPDES Permit staff also oversee the NPDES permitting process for livestock, issuing coverage under individual NPDES permits and NPDES General Permits for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations. NPDES permits expire every five years, and permittees are required to submit a reissuance application to continue NPDES permit coverage.

The table at right summarizes the number of NPDES applications received and permits issued for livestock waste control facilities in FY2025. More permits were issued than applications received due to the issuance date of NEG023000. Many applications were received prior to the coverage period. They were issued while on extension.

NPDES PERMITS – SFY2025		
Type of NPDES Application/Permit	Applications Received	Permits Issued
GENERAL PERMIT FOR CAFOS CONFINING CATTLE		
New Coverage	16	23
Modified or Transferred	9	11
Reissued	109	118
SUBTOTAL GENERAL PERMIT:	**134**	**152**
INDIVIDUAL PERMITS		
New Coverage	0	0
Modified or Transferred	0	1
Reissued	2	2
SUBTOTAL INDIVIDUAL PERMIT:	**2**	**3**
NPDES TOTALS:	**136**	**155**

There are approximately 480 CAFOs subject to an NPDES General Permit. In order to balance out workload, the NDEE divided up coverage of the NPDES-subject facilities over 4 separate general permits. Many individual permittees are now obtaining coverage under a general permit. In SFY 2025, NDEE worked towards the reissuance of general permit NEG020000, which was signed and issued in August 2025. There are approximately 130 facilities expected to seek coverage under that permit.

Fees

An annual fee is assessed on all permitted Large CAFOs and all CAFOs covered under an NPDES permit. The fee is determined based upon the number of head of livestock for which the operation has a permit. The fees provide 20% of the Department's costs to administer the livestock waste control program, as required by statute. The Department received $316,887 in annual permit fees. In addition, the Department received $19,750 in initial inspection fees, $29,728 in permit application fees, $1,550 in late payment fees, and $11,584 in investment income for a total of $379,499 in fees.

General information about the Livestock Waste Control Program, including applications, fact sheets, forms, guidance documents, copies of the NPDES General Permit and the four general permits, Title 130 regulations, and public notices of permit issuance or denial, can be found on the Department's website at http://dee.ne.gov.

Chemigation Program

The Chemigation program, which functions in cooperation with Nebraska's 23 Natural Resources Districts (NRDs), works to ensure that users of irrigation systems applying fertilizers and pesticides do not contaminate the sources of irrigation water. These regulations are contained in NAC *Title 195 – Chemigation Regulations.*

Since 1987, the NRDs have inspected irrigation systems used for chemigation for functioning safety equipment and issued site permits. Chemigation permits are issued annually and are reported to the Department on a calendar year basis each March. The 29,226 chemigation permits issued in Calendar Year (CY) 2024 constituted a 1.2% decrease in permits issued compared to CY2023.

A chemigation applicator must be certified by the Department every four years. To receive certification, an applicator must complete training and testing, which is provided under contract with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Nebraska Extension. Applicator certifications also are reported on a calendar-year basis.

In CY2025 1,1997 applicators were trained, tested, and certified, bringing the current number of certified chemigation applicators to 5,274. Information about chemigation applicator training dates and certified applicators is available after January 1 of each year at https://dee.nebraska.gov/land-waste/agriculture/chemigation-program. Title 195 was updated on April 19, 2020.

Agricultural Chemical Containment Program

The Agricultural Chemical Containment program regulates the construction and use of commercial and private facilities for the storage, loading, and rinsing activities of bulk liquid fertilizers and bulk liquid and dry pesticides. These regulations are contained in NAC *Title 198 - Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Agricultural Chemical Containment*.

The regulations administered by this program provide specific requirements for design by a Nebraska Registered Professional Engineer, construction materials, containment capacities, and maintenance. Although no permit or registration is required, the operation must have a construction plan for the facility and a management program.

The Department and the Nebraska Department of Agriculture have a cooperative agreement that outlines the procedure for coordinating inspection activities between the two agencies. The agreement enhances the communication between the agencies and provides specific protocols to be followed when investigating Agricultural Chemical Containment complaints. Title 198 was updated on April 25, 2020.

Water Permitting and Certification Programs

There are a number of certification and permitting programs relating to wastewater treatment facilities, ranging from certification of those who work on septic systems to the permitting of large municipal facilities. These programs include:

- **Onsite Wastewater Treatment Facilities Program** – This program administers system design, professional certification, and system registration requirements that affect mostly smaller wastewater treatment or storage systems, such as septic systems, household lagoons, holding tanks, and anyone doing work on these types of facilities.

- **Wastewater Treatment Facility Operator Certification Program** – This program administers the certification program for wastewater treatment facility operators to ensure proper operation and maintenance of these facilities.

- **Environmental Safety** – The Environmental Safety Program inspects the following types of facilities: public swimming pools, recreational camps, and mobile home parks. The Environmental Safety Program also performs well and septic inspections upon request for property transfers. The Department has Memorandums of Understanding with the Nebraska Departments of Health and Human Services and Agriculture to perform food inspections at the following facilities: schools, college food service (operated by university), senior centers, and childcare centers (upon referral from the DHHS Licensure Unit).

- **Wastewater Engineering Program** – The wastewater engineering program reviews and issues permits for commercial, industrial, and municipal wastewater facilities that are planned for construction. The program also maintains regulations for the operation and maintenance of wastewater facilities and for the proper abandonment of facilities when they are removed from service.
- **Drinking Water Engineering Program** – The drinking water engineering program provides engineering plan review; issuance of construction permits; inspection of newly constructed projects for issuance of approvals for placement into service; and technical assistance and advisory contacts with owners/operators of public water systems, consulting engineers, state, federal and local officials, organizations, and the general public in matters relating to siting, design, construction, maintenance, and operation of public water systems. In addition to public water systems, the program provides similar services for all new and substantially modified public swimming pools and spas.

- **The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program** – This program is responsible for regulating discharges of pollutants to Waters of the State to maintain and protect the water quality of Nebraska's streams, lakes, rivers, and groundwater.

- **The Nebraska Pretreatment Program** – This program functions to protect municipal wastewater collection and treatment systems from damage or overloading by industries.

Onsite Wastewater Treatment Facilities Program Overview

The requirements administered by the Onsite Wastewater Program cover septic systems, wastewater holding tanks, individual household wastewater lagoons, and other decentralized wastewater treatment systems not connected to municipal wastewater treatment systems. The majority of onsite systems are for single households. However, there are onsite or decentralized systems that provide wastewater treatment for multiple houses (these systems are sometimes called cluster systems), mobile home parks, churches, recreational facilities, camper trailer parks, a variety of businesses with high strength wastes (such as restaurants, butcher shops, and wineries), equipment maintenance buildings, and other commercial or industrial facilities. The U.S. EPA estimates that nearly one in four households depend on onsite systems for wastewater treatment.

The Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Contractors Certification and System Registration Act (the Act) passed in 2003 required that anyone doing work associated with onsite wastewater systems be certified by the State of Nebraska. The Act provided for the registration of all onsite wastewater systems constructed, reconstructed, altered, or modified. The law also provided for certification and system registration fees to support the program. The Act was amended in 2007 to provide for application fees for permits and subdivision approvals as well as waiving fees for government inspectors. A certification by examination is required for professionals to obtain initial certification. Currently, 518 people hold onsite wastewater certificates. Some professionals obtain certification in multiple categories. The categories of certification are Installer (Master and Journeyman), Pumper (Master and Journeyman), Inspector, and Soil Evaluator. Certificates must be renewed every two years. Current certificates expire December 31, 2025, and may be renewed via continuing education requirements or re-examination.

The registration requirement for onsite wastewater systems provides a statewide inventory of new or modified onsite systems. Since registrations began in 2004, over 32,000 systems have been registered, with 1,399 systems registered in FY2025.

The Section received 59 complaints. Typical types of complaints that are investigated include: failed systems that have a surface discharge, and which may pose a threat to public health or the environment, and systems installed by individuals who are not certified by NDEE. In addition, the Section fields approximately 2,500 calls and emails annually from individuals seeking compliance assistance.

Wastewater Treatment Facility Operator Certification Program

Competent and qualified operators are a critical component to ensure that wastewater treatment plants are well run and protect the environment. The life span of treatment facilities can be prolonged and proper operation and maintenance programs can protect the owner's substantial financial infrastructure investment. The Wastewater Treatment Facility Operator Certification Program was established to help accomplish this. The program administers the operator certification program, which includes administering certification exams, issuing certificates, evaluating continuing education programs, tracking certificate compliance, processing certificate renewals, and conducting facility ratings to determine operator needs, in addition to continuing to evaluate ways to help wastewater treatment facility operators obtain continuing education to maintain their certification and help them do their jobs.

The Department contracts with the Association of Boards of Certification (ABC) for testing services for the Operator Certification Program. Program staff administers nationally-accredited certification exams to new wastewater operators and operators wishing to advance their credentials, and issues certification renewals for operators who have obtained the necessary Department-approved continuing education as provided for in NAC *Title 197 – Rules and Regulations for the Certification of Wastewater Treatment Operators in Nebraska*. In FY2025, a total of 193 exams were administered with an overall pass rate of 58%. There are currently 1011 certified wastewater operators in the State of Nebraska.

Municipal, commercial, compatible industrial facilities, and non -compatible industrial facilities are required to employ certified operators based on the point rating assigned to each facility by NDEE. The point rating for each facility is based on the design flow, type of treatment, instrumentation and control systems, and laboratory analysis requirements at each location. Certified Operators for municipal, commercial, and compatible industrial facilities are classified under the following categories: Class L (lagoons), Class I, Class II, Class III, and Class IV, according to the type of facility and its point rating. Certified operators for non-compatible industrial facilities are classified under the following categories: Industrial I, Industrial II, Industrial III, and Industrial IV, according to the type of facility and its point rating. Staff will continue to monitor those facilities that are required to have certified operators and work with them to help them comply with the regulations.

This photo shows a Wastewater Treatment Facility for Lincoln.

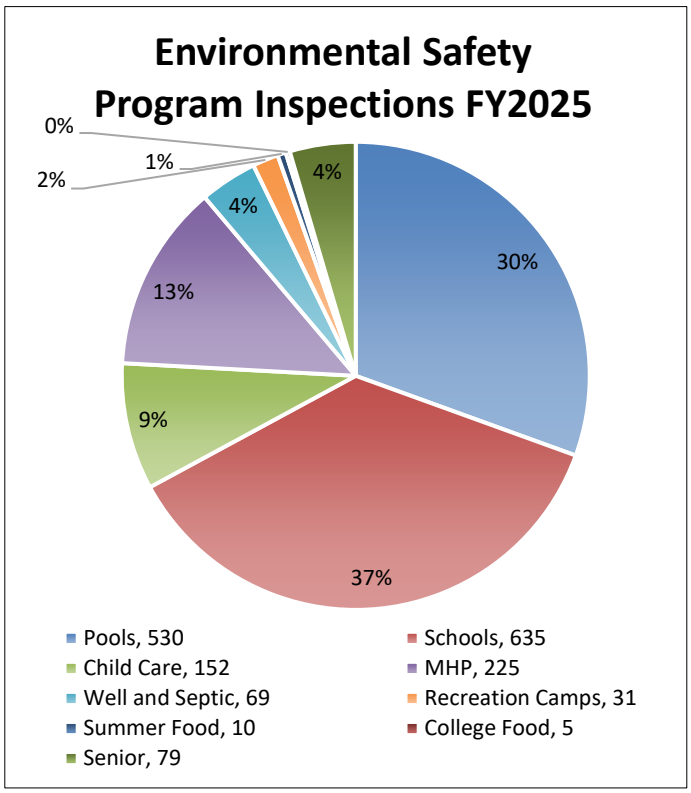
NDEE also reviews applications and issues operator certification exemptions for towns and other entities that have full-retention non-discharging lagoon wastewater treatment facilities that may not require qualified operators due to very limited maintenance and operational needs. The exemption is for a fixed four-year period and the period under current review will close at the end of calendar year 2025. NDEE has contacted 250 facilities potentially eligible for the exemption and, of these, issued four-year operator exemptions to 208 facilities.

Environmental Safety Program

The Environmental Safety Program provides oversight and inspections of public swimming pools and spas, including municipal pools as well as those located at hotels, apartments, and recreational facilities. During inspections staff evaluate water chemistry, safety equipment, personnel training, bathhouses, and mechanical areas. The program also provides training to individuals who would like to become certified pool operators within the State of Nebraska.

Additionally, NDEE has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Nebraska Department of Agriculture to perform food inspections at the following facilities: schools, college good service (room and board for students, senior centers and childcare centers (upon referral from the DHHS Licensure Unit).

Environmental Safety staff also inspect recreation camps and mobile home parks to assure conditions are safe, sanitary, and comply with NAC *Title 178 - Environmental Health*. Sanitarians also conduct evaluations of private drinking water supplies and onsite wastewater treatment systems at the request of homeowners, purchasers, or mortgage lending institutions. Many lenders require an inspection of the onsite water and wastewater treatment systems for compliance with applicable State of Nebraska regulations prior to granting a zloan. During the evaluation, staff visually inspect the water well and the onsite wastewater treatment system and collect water samples to test for bacteria and nitrates.



NDEE partners with local health departments to perform inspections of some facilities within their jurisdictions. The partnerships include: Douglas County, Lincoln-Lancaster County, Sarpy County, Two Rivers, Central District Health Departments.

During FY2025, the Environmental Safety Program staff completed 1,736 inspections. The chart above shows a breakdown of FY2025 inspections.

Engineering Section

Wastewater & Onsite Construction

Industries, commercial facilities, and municipal utilities are required to submit the plans and specifications for their wastewater projects, including sewer mains and lift stations to NDEE for review and approval. The construction documents are reviewed to make sure that the collection systems and treatment facilities will function properly, are able to meet treatment standards as well as meet discharge limits and protect the public and the environment from adverse effects. During FY2025, the Engineering Section received 205 applications for wastewater projects. The average time for review was 12 days.

Nebraska's design standards for wastewater facilities are found in NAC *Title 123 - Rules and Regulations for the Design, Operation and Maintenance of Wastewater Works*. These standards are updated periodically to keep Nebraska in alignment with regional standards.
The state's design standards are written to encourage the use of proven technologies but have also allowed the use of innovative designs where they are appropriate. The last update became effective on September 4, 2019. This update addressed duplicative language and provided clarity to the reader. The update also removed an exemption for not requiring a construction permit for pretreatment facilities if the facility discharged to a public owned treatment works in another state.

NAC *Title 124 - Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems* requires Department approval prior to construction of any subdivision with any lot less than three acres where onsite wastewater treatment

is proposed, or if design standards cannot be achieved. Common examples are if a system cannot meet setback distances or the 4-foot groundwater separation distance prescribed in the regulation. Department engineers review construction/operating permit applications. In FY2025, the program received 47 applications for construction/operating permits and 8 applications for subdivision review and approval. The average time for review was 12 days.

Public Water System & Swimming Pool Construction

Plans and specifications are required to be reviewed and approved by the NDEE for many types of projects at public water systems such as new wells, new intake structures, new or modified treatment plants, transmission mains and pump stations. The NDEE engineers also inspect newly constructed projects for issuance of approvals for placement into service to assure proper adherence to specifications. During FY2025, NDEE received 176 projects for review which took an average of approximately 20 days to review. NDEE engineers inspected 130 projects that had completed construction to place into service.

In 2010, NAC *Title 179, Chapter 7: Siting, Design, and Construction of Public Water Systems* became effective. As a result, public water systems can enter into a three-year agreement to construct water distribution main projects without having to submit plans and specifications for review and approval. These systems are subject to an annual audit as a condition of the agreement. There are a total of 24 public water systems that have agreements with the agency. Of the 24 systems, NDEE conducted audits of 13 systems. Eight systems that were not audited had not completed any projects and three were not audited due to distance and low number of projects completed but will be audited in the coming fiscal year.

Another public health and safety review conducted by the engineers is the review of plans and specifications for swimming pools and spas. The NDEE reviews pools for places such as hotels, apartment complexes, health clubs, and municipalities. Reviews are conducted in accordance with NAC *Title 178, Chapter 2: Design Construction, Operation, and Maintenance of Public Swimming Pools (effective July 27, 2020)*. During FY2025, NDEE received 61 projects for review which took an average time of approximately 24 days to review. Additionally, NDEE engineers inspected 59 pools to assure adherence to the rules and specifications.

Other Engineering Activities

The Engineering Section also reviewed justifications provided by professional engineers for any new drinking water well siting that does not meet the setback distances identified in Title 179 NAC 7. A total of 8 new well site justifications were reviewed. In addition, the engineering staff worked with NDEE and city officials to evaluate encroachment issues that may be of concern to existing public

drinking water wells. Three encroachment related issues were evaluated and resolved. In addition, three operation and maintenance manuals for DWSRF projects were reviewed. The engineering team works closely with the State Revolving Fund Section and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) programs.

The Engineering Section also works with communities that need to upgrade their facilities, meeting with municipal officials, funding agencies, and consulting engineers to develop affordable projects for Nebraska's communities.

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program

The NPDES Program is responsible for regulating discharges of pollutants to Waters of the State in order to maintain and protect the water quality of Nebraska's streams, lakes, rivers, and groundwater. NPDES programs also include:

- **Combined Sewer Overflows**, which addresses those municipalities that have combined storm water and wastewater sewer systems. Currently, the City of Omaha is the only municipality operating a combined sewer in the state.

- **Wastewater Treatment Sludge and Bio-solids Disposal**, which are requirements for treatment and disposal of municipal and industrial wastewater sludges and bio-solids.

- **Storm Water Permit Program**, which involves: 1) Construction sites of a specific size; 2) the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permits for medium and large municipalities; and 3) Industrial facilities.

NPDES Permits

Anyone who directly discharges pollutants to Waters of the State is required to obtain a permit. NPDES permits control pollutant discharges by establishing wastewater limitations for pollutants and/or requiring permittees to maintain certain operational standards or procedures. Permittees are required to verify compliance with permit requirements by monitoring their wastewater, maintaining records, and/or filing periodic reports.

NDEE is responsible for developing and issuing NPDES permits, and for ensuring that permitted facilities comply with permit requirements. The regulatory basis for this program is through an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) delegation agreement with the Department and NAC *Title 119 - Rules and Regulations Pertaining to the Issuance of Permits under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System.* The Nebraska NPDES program encompasses a number of different types of discharges including municipal, commercial, and industrial wastewater discharges; livestock waste control; industrial discharges to public wastewater treatment systems (also known as the Nebraska Pretreatment Program); municipal combined sanitary and storm sewer overflows (CSO); and construction, industrial, and municipal storm water discharges. Livestock NPDES permits may be found under the Agriculture Program.

Most NPDES permits limit the discharge of pollutants by establishing effluent limitations for specific pollutants such as biochemical oxygen demand, total suspended solids, and ammonia, among others. The permittee is then responsible for testing their wastewater discharge to ensure that the limits are not exceeded. Permits may also limit toxicity in effluents and permittees may be required to demonstrate that their wastewater is not toxic to aquatic organisms (e.g., daphnia or fathead minnows) and to be able to determine the presence of additional or unknown pollutants. Permits may also require development of Best Management Practice Plans to minimize or control pollutant discharges.

The permit development process involves identifying the pollutants of concern, and then developing permit limits based upon the more stringent of either technology-based standards or water quality-based standards. Technology-based standards reflect effluent quality that can be achieved using treatment technology that is available to the permittee. NDEE Title 119 sets technology-based standards for municipal facilities and many types of industrial facilities.

Technology-based standards can also be developed on a case-by-case basis when necessary.

Water quality-based limits are the limits necessary to meet the in-stream water quality standards established in NAC *Title 117 - Nebraska Surface Water Quality Standards*. In some instances, where a surface water/groundwater interconnection may be of concern, NPDES permit limits may be based upon NAC *Title 118 - Groundwater Quality Standards and Use Classification*.

Permits may be developed and issued on an individual site-specific basis, or they may be developed and issued to apply to facilities with similar activities or effluent characteristics. These two types of permits are respectively referred to as individual permits and general permits. To date, the Department has developed and issued general permits for the following activity categories: hydrostatic testing, dewatering, land application of concrete grooving/grinding slurry, pesticides applications to, over, and near Waters of the State, gasoline contaminated groundwater remediation projects, petroleum product contaminated groundwater remediation projects, construction site storm water, and industrial site storm water. Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permits have been issued to entities, including metropolitan areas and counties that meet the criteria of the NPDES Storm Water Program.'

There are 594 facilities with discharge authorizations under individual permits (municipal, industrial, and pretreatment), and 26 municipal storm water permits (MS4). There are currently 3294 active authorized discharges under other general permits. The general permits include 1,708 active authorizations under the construction general storm water permit, 495 dewatering, 150 hydrostatic testing, 906 industrial storm water, 9 pesticide, and 26 Treated Ground Water Remediation Discharge sites.

Municipal and Industrial Facilities

Industrial and municipal facilities are both grouped as major or minor facilities based upon their size and/or their potential to impact the receiving stream.

Municipal and industrial facilities are required to verify compliance with numeric permit limits by monitoring their effluents (i.e., self-monitoring). Monitoring frequency can vary from daily to annually depending upon the pollution and impact potential of the facility. The facility must report monitoring results to NDEE, typically on a quarterly basis. However, monitoring results that indicate non-compliance with permit requirements must be reported verbally within 24 hours. Records of all monitoring activities must be kept for a period of three years.

The Section verifies compliance through a variety of activities including reviewing discharge monitoring reports, following up on complaints and incident reports, conducting on-site inspections, and performing effluent monitoring inspections. Inspections are planned and conducted to align with the federal fiscal year.

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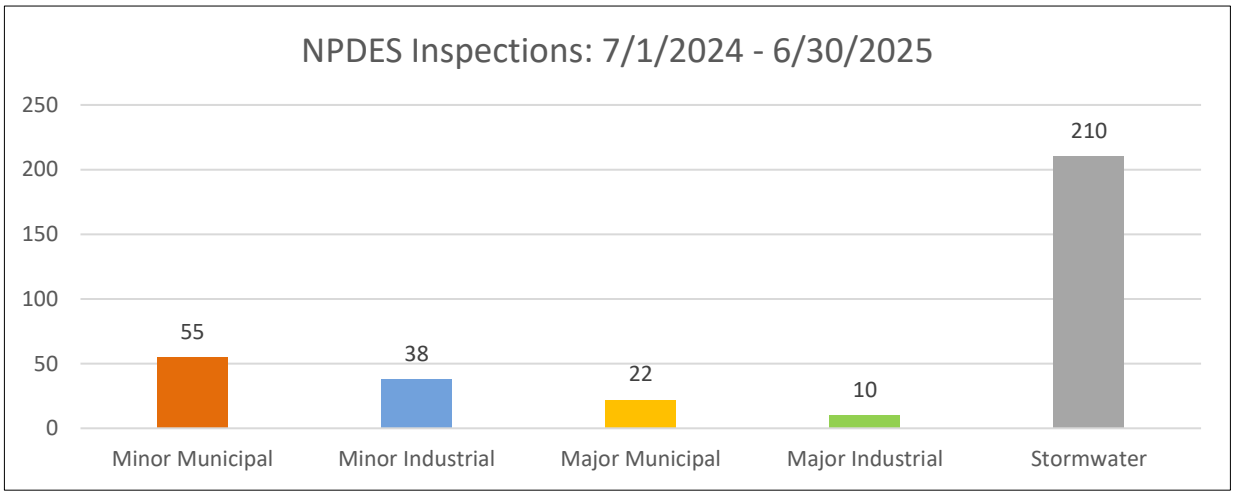
During on-site inspections, section personnel walk through the facility and review operational procedures and records. Major industrial, major municipal, and pretreatment facilities receive annual on-site inspections. The priority of minor facilities inspections is based on discharge compliance histories, incident reports and complaints. Minor facilities are inspected once every five years at a minimum. Inspectors performed 458 NPDES inspections in Fiscal Year 2025. A breakdown of those inspections is provided in the chart on the following page.



The major & minor industrial inspections include 123 pretreatment inspections. During selected effluent monitoring inspections, effluent samples are collected and analyzed by the Department to compare with self-monitoring results. Facilities selected for effluent monitoring inspections are chosen based upon pollution potential, past compliance or incident report histories, complaints, and/or Basin Management Approach priorities. Data generated by facility monitoring and NDEE on-site and effluent monitoring inspections are reviewed and entered into the federal Integrated Compliance Information System (ICIS) computer database. This database is used to generate facility reports and review facility compliance history.

In addition to inspections, NDEE provides permit assistance visits to help permittees better understand the requirements in their permits and help identify problems before they become significant noncompliance. These visits can be requested by the permittee or offered by NDEE. NDEE conducted 35 assistance visits in the 2025 Fiscal Year.

Combined Sewer Overflow Program

The City of Omaha has combined sewers that are subject to storm-induced bypasses of untreated wastewater. Many of Omaha's systems were built prior to the existence of secondary sanitary wastewater disposal standards. When storm or snow melt runoff is occurring, these systems may become hydraulically overloaded and excess water flows bypass the treatment

system. These type of bypass events are detrimental to receiving streams due to the present of pollutants such as E. Coli. By reducing the combined sewer overflows, Omaha is able to further minimize pollutants discharging to Nebraska streams.

The City and the Department work within the framework of the Clean Water Act, a consent Order initiated in 2007, and the City's Long-Term Control Plan (LTCP). The projects included in the LTCP span through 2037 and are estimated to cost approximately $2.125 billion. The goal of the projects is to reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows and comply with State and Federal regulations. The City has identified 21 projects in the LTCP for delivery in the next 13 years.

Thirteen of these projects are scheduled for completion by 2026. The order was amended in October 2019 that upon NDEE approval of the LTCP and schedule, the City is to implement the LTCP according to the schedule on or before October 1, 2037. The City submitted the update to the LTCP in March 2021; NDEE approved the LTCP in August 2021. The City plans on submitting an updated LTCP in 2026 along with a Water Resource Recovery Facility Master Plan update, which will also likely require a permit modification. The CSO NPDES permit was last modified on April 1, 2025.

Omaha modeled estimates of wet-weather volume capture for the Missouri River Watershed (MRW) and the Papillion Creek Watershed (PCW). With 2002 as the baseline and 2037 the compliance, the model shows the following:

Percent Volume Capture			
	Year		
Watershed	**2002**	**2019**	**2037**
Missouri River Watershed	32	57	85
Papillion Creek Watershed	78	84	97

The City of Omaha and NDEE continue to work cooperatively on evaluating and implementing long-term solutions to protect water quality, comply with the CSO requirements of the Clean Water Act, and minimize the financial impacts to the most vulnerable citizens in the community. The key elements of this process are evaluating the success of completed efforts, maximize the effectiveness and value of future efforts, and balance these achievements with other infrastructure needs. The City provides updates and encourages public involvement with its CSO program. This can be viewed on the City's website at http://omahacso.com/.

Wastewater Treatment Sludge and Biosolids Disposal

Disposal requirements for municipal and industrial wastewater treatment sludges or biosolids can be incorporated into NPDES permits. These sludge disposal requirements assure that sludges or biosolids are treated and disposed in a manner that is environmentally sound and protective of human health. Beneficial use through the land application of biosolids is an effective management tool.

On Feb. 19, 1993, the EPA published the federal sludge regulations under 40 CFR 503. Under these regulations, an estimated 330 municipal facilities in the state have sludge monitoring requirements. These requirements include metal and nutrient content analyses, improved records for tracking the amount of sludge and metals applied to each disposal site, and cumulative disposal limits. The Department has not sought delegation of this program from the EPA. The program is managed out of the EPA Region 7 office in Lenexa, Kansas. NDEE provides guidance for municipalities, approves land application sites, and provides permit language to assist with biosolids program compliance.

Storm Water Programs

In compliance with federal regulations, the NPDES Storm Water Programs regulate the discharge of pollutants in storm water from certain construction sites, industrial facilities, and municipal storm sewers. Federal Storm Water regulations determine the threshold for coverage of construction sites at one acre or more or sites that are less than one acre if they are part of a common plan of development or sale. Industrial facilities include a number of different types of facilities in addition to typical process industries (e.g., landfills, wastewater treatment sites, recycling centers, scrap yards, mining operations, transportation facilities, and hazardous waste facilities). These regulations also determine the number of municipalities and urban areas that are subject to the NPDES program for storm water discharges.

Two general permits have been issued to provide coverage for industrial facilities and construction sites. Both of these general permits require the permittee to develop Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans to control and reduce the discharge of pollutants. Since FY2017, an online application process is utilized for the Construction Storm Water General Permit that streamlines the issuance of coverage to applicants. This online process coordinates with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and facilitates endangered and threatened species reviews, reducing the time and paperwork needed. The City of Lincoln now shares a construction storm water permitting and records system with the NDEE. This increases communication and efficiency with the state, city, and permitted community.

The Industrial Storm Water General Permit online application was made available to public in FY2022. Like the CSW online application process, the process coordinates with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and efficiently walks the user through portal registration and the document upload process needed to obtain approval.

Urbanized areas are subject to the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Program. Currently, permitted urbanized areas in Nebraska include the cities of Lincoln and Omaha; Douglas, Sarpy, and Dakota Counties; and the communities of Beatrice, Columbus, Fremont, Grand Island, Hastings, Kearney, Lexington, Norfolk, North Platte, South Sioux City, Gretna, Gering, Terrytown, and Scottsbluff. The program also requires coverage for the University of Nebraska's campuses in Lincoln and Omaha; the Nebraska Department of Transportation; and Offutt Air Force Base. The NDEE works with individual permittees and organizations, like Nebraska H2O, Papillion Creek Watershed Partnership, and the Nebraska Floodplain & Stormwater Managers Association, to conduct outreach. The NDEE also evaluates the individual storm water management plans provided by permittees and communicates if these plans meet requirements. This can also include site visits throughout the year to evaluate implementation of the plans.

Nebraska Pretreatment Program

The Nebraska Pretreatment Program functions to protect municipal wastewater collection and treatment systems from damage or overloading by industrial dischargers. The pretreatment

regulations are found in NAC Title 119. The rules and regulations set forth prohibited discharge standards that apply to all industrial users of publicly owned wastewater treatment facilities and require permits for significant industrial users. The significant industrial users are determined by one of several means: 1) the existence of an industrial category for which pretreatment discharge standards are established in NAC Title 119; 2) the volume or strength of the wastewater discharged from the facility; or 3) the potential of the industrial user to adversely affect the wastewater collection or treatment facilities. There are 130 significant industrial users with a pretreatment permit.

The authority for establishing the Pretreatment Program is derived from the NPDES program requirements set forth in Section 402 of the federal Clean Water Act. The issuance procedures and general format of Pretreatment Program and NPDES permits are very similar. Permittees are required to carry out self-monitoring activities, maintain records, and submit periodic reports. Compliance activities include report reviews, on-site inspections, and compliance monitoring inspections. Compliance data are entered into the national database, ICIS, to facilitate compliance review activities.

Although the Pretreatment Program is really a subprogram of the NPDES program, administration of this program requires more coordination and cooperation with local municipal officials. To accomplish this, the Department has entered into Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs) with 11 communities describing respective city and state responsibilities. The agreements vary in nature depending on the size and capabilities of the community. Omaha and Lincoln are the most active municipal partners, accepting responsibility for a large variety of activities including facility sampling, inspections, complaint investigations, permit reviews, and industrial user technical assistance. Other communities rely more heavily upon the State for compliance inspections and technical reviews. However, all cities with agreements conduct initial complaint or incident investigations, report significant incidents to the NWEE, and assist in permit development by reviewing draft permits. The NDEE is working with communities throughout the state to get them more involved in the pretreatment program and to improve cooperative efforts in this program.

NDEE established Pretreatment team in 2024. This team has been successful working with the City of Omaha and other municipalities to identify facilities that qualify for the Nebraska Pretreatment Program. In the last year the team has identified two dozen unpermitted facilities that were required to submit an application for review and potential permitting. The team has aided new permittees fill out applications, answer facility questions, and conduct compliance assistance visits.

State Revolving Fund and Associated Grant Programs

The Planning and Aid Division's State Revolving Fund Section administers distribution of state and federal assistance for the Clean and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs), which provide below market financial assistance to communities. This section also oversees the Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities, the Lead Service Line Cash Fund, the Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal, the Revitalize Rural Nebraska Grant Program, the Small, Underserved, and Disadvantaged Communities and the Voluntary School and Child Care Lead Testing and Reduction Grant programs. Federal and State funding for these programs comes from annual congressional appropriations, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), and appropriations from the Unicameral, respectively. Funding awards for traditional water and wastewater infrastructure projects, along with those to address emerging contaminants, remain on track. The Department's increased focus on the development of funding awards to address the replacement of Lead Service Lines has been successful to date, albeit with much still left to accomplish. The remediation of lead containing drinking water appurtenances in schools and licensed childcare facilities will be primary focus of the section for the upcoming year.

Separate from the IIJA, and signed into law by Governor Pete Ricketts in 2022, the Section also administers several projects with allocations from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), as any essential water and sewer infrastructure projects funded under ARPA are aligned with that eligible is under the SRFs. For this funding the infrastructure projects tasked to the NDEE to implement include:

- Wastewater and drainage system improvements at the State Fair Grounds
- Drinking water system improvements in the City of Wisner and for the Cedar Knox Rural Water Project
- Reverse Osmosis system installations for Private Well Owners

Funding for the projects met the initial ARPA December 31, 2024 deadline, with only construction to complete before the end of 2026.

Clean Water State Revolving Fund

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program provides below-market loan financing with forgiveness assistance to municipalities for construction of wastewater treatment facilities and sanitary sewer collection systems to alleviate public health and environmental problems. The loan principal repayments revolve back into new loans, and interest earnings on the fund are primarily used to pay off the state match bonds. An administrative fee is assessed to each loan made, which pay for program operating costs including day-to-day program management activities and for other costs associated with debt issuance, financial management, consulting, and support services necessary to provide for a complete program.

The CWSRF program receives capitalization grants annually from EPA. There is a 20% state match requirement to obtain those grants, which is typically a debt issuance provided through a Nebraska Investment Finance Authority (NIFA) bond. In fall of 2024, the EPA awarded Nebraska's annual and IIJA CWSRF capitalization grants in the amounts of $4,176,000 and $11,632,000, respectively. The required match amount of $3,161,600 was provided through bonds and cash from the Construction Administration Fund. In SFY 2025, the CWSRF funded projects totaling $46,080,800, with $10,793,961 loan forgiveness and grant assistance.

Additional Subsidy Awards

Many small municipalities find that the development and construction of needed projects are too costly without additional grant subsidy provided with CWSRF loans. To assist those communities, the CWSRF provides additional subsidy awards to financially distressed municipalities with a population of 10,000 or less. One available grant is the Project Planning Activities and Report Grant (PPAR). This grant is funded through the Administrative Cash Fund and awarded to small communities to identify wastewater project needs. For this past fiscal year no grants were awarded. After a project is identified, the CWSRF may also provide a Small Town Grant (STG).

In addition to the above, loan forgiveness has become the primary method of providing additional subsidy, through reserving up to 30% of the annual capitalization grant and the required 49% IIJA grant. Like the PPAR and STG, borrowers must meet affordability criteria to be eligible for forgiveness assistance, then eligibility is based on:

Letter of Non-Compliance, Administration of Consent Order Projects

- Population of 10,000 or less – Up to 40%

- Population of 3,300 or less – Up to 50%
- Population of 500 or less – Up to 60%

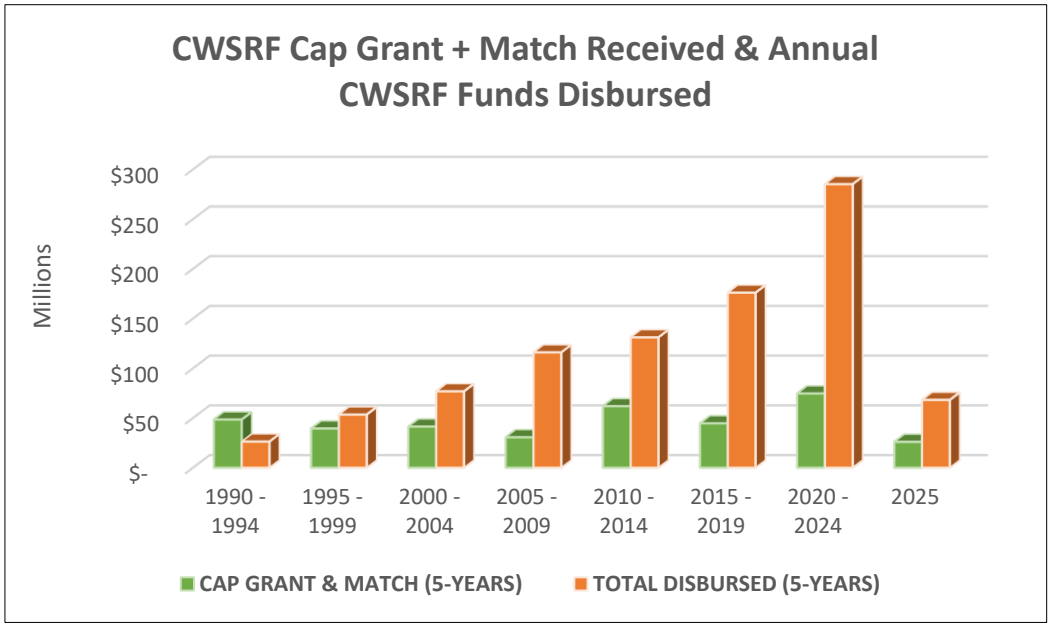
For all remaining projects and if it is assessed by the Department that the non-compliance or order was caused by negligence of the municipality, the forgiveness caps below shall apply.

- Population of 10,000 or less – Up to 30%
- Population of 3,300 or less – Up to 40%
- Population of 500 of less – Up to 50%

Total CWSRF Assistance Provided

After 37 years of activity, the Fund's Net Assets have reached $411.5 million as of June 30, 2025. Since its inception, the CWSRF has provided loans for 368 projects with a cumulative loan award amount of $935.1 million.

The following graph provides the total assistance provided by the Clean Water program per year and the cumulative amounts of capitalization grants and match received and total amounts disbursed.



Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program provides below-market rate loans, with forgiveness and grant assistance, to owners of public water systems (PWSs). The DWSRF is unique in that loans may also be awarded to privately-owned non-for-profit PWSs. Loan principal repayments revolve back into new loans, and interest earnings on the Fund are used to pay off NIFA bonds issued for the required EPA capitalization grant match. There is also an administration fee assessed to each DWSRF loan for program management activities.

The DWSRF program receives capitalization grants annually from EPA. There is a 20% state match requirement to obtain those grants, which is typically a debt issuance provided through a NIFA bond. In the fall of 2024, the EPA awarded Nebraska's annual and BIL CWSRF traditional

project capitalization grants in the amounts of $4,661,000 and $22,985,000, respectively. The required match amount of $5,529,200 was provided through bonds and cash from the Drinking Water Administration Fund. Through the DWSRF, Nebraska was also awarded a grant for Lead Service Line Replacement projects (LSLRs) in the amount of $28,650,000, and an award for $8,728,000 for Emerging Contaminant projects, those that primarily address manganese in drinking water systems. Those two grants do not require any state match contributions. In SFY 2025, the DWSRF funded projects totaling $85,675,000 in loans with $20,905,000 in loan forgiveness, with $12,054,000 being for LSLRs.

Forgiveness assistance is offered based on the long-standing established Median Household Income disadvantaged community definition criteria following a tiered system:

Public Health/Administrative Order Projects

- Population of 10,000 or less – Up to 40%
- Population of 3,300 or less – Up to 50%
- Population of 500 of less – Up to 60%

Low Priority Projects ranked with a Sustainability Factor and new GPR projects, or greater

- Population of 10,000 or less – Up to 30%
- Population of 3,300 or less – Up to 40%
- Population of 500 of less – Up to 50%

Projects that in part address an Emerging Contaminant (e.g., PFAS, Manganese)

- Population of 10,000 or less – Up to 55%
- Population of 3,300 or less – Up to 65%
- Population of 500 of less – Up to 75%

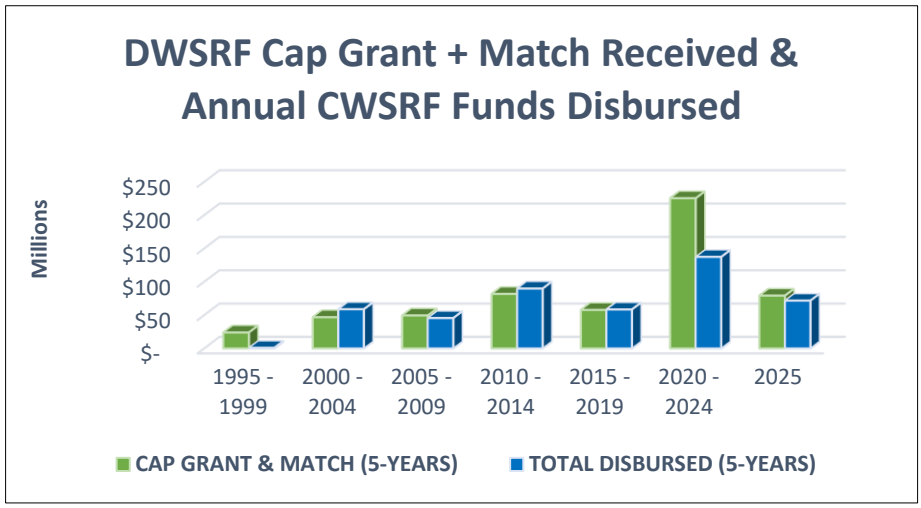
For Lead Service Line Replacement funding up to 60% forgiveness assistance is available, with a possible 10% increase in grant assistance for mechanical LSL inventory efforts (e.g., potholing, hydro-vacuum excavation, etc.).

DWSRF Set-Aside Funds

A notable difference between the SRFs, the DWSRF include set-asides for funding within the Department's Drinking Water Division to provide technical assistance, source water protection, capacity development and operator certification.

The Small System Technical Assistance set-aside (up to 2% of the capitalization grant) provides technical, managerial, and financial assistance to PWSs serving a population of 10,000 or less. This is accomplished through contracts with organizations that have expertise in dealing with small systems. Up to 4% of the grant is permitted to be used for administration of the DWSRF program. The state may use up to a total of 10% of the capitalization grant from the State Program Management set-aside, which the DWSRF typically allocates to help fund NDEE's Drinking Water Division.

In SFY 2025, under the Local Assistance and Other State Programs set-aside (15%), the community of Fullerton was selected to receive a Source Water Grant totaling $54,000.



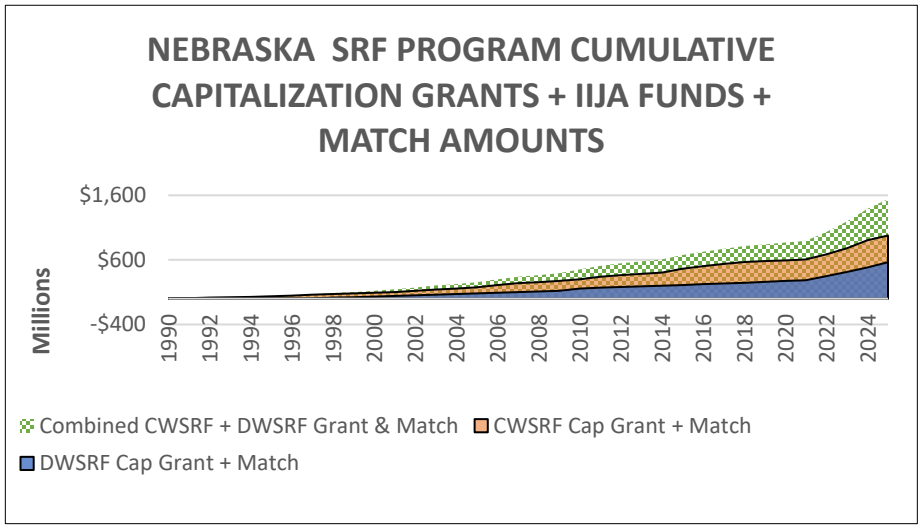
From the FFY 2024 capitalization grant of $4,082,540 the following was allocated to 2% ($115,000), 4% ($186,40), and 15% ($3,315,000) set-asides, with $2,865,000 of that latter amount being for mechanical inventory efforts for LSLRs.

After 27 years of activity, the Fund's Net Assets have reached $295.7 million as of June 30, 2025. Since its inception, the DWSRF has provided loans for 315 projects with a cumulative loan award amount of $627.6 million.

The following graph provides the total assistance provided by the Drinking Water program per year since inception and the cumulative amounts of capitalization grants and match received and total amounts disbursed.

SRF Summary

Each year the CWSRF and DWSRF publish an Intended Use Plan (IUP), which explains how the SRF programs will use capitalization grants received annually from EPA, annual state matching funds, and current program funds to meet Nebraska's communities' drinking water and wastewater infrastructure needs and funding requirements for the upcoming fiscal year. The IUP requires a comment period that is then formally presented to the Environmental Quality Council (EQC) for review and approval. Lastly, a more detailed annual report is prepared to meet EPA program requirements, including the Auditor of Public Account's report done for SRF programs. These can be found at the State Revolving Fund Section at dwee.ne.gov.



State Revolving Fund Assistance by Legislative District as of June 30, 2025

*The data collected is from loan obligations and grants awarded to communities for SRF related projects. Grants include Loan Forgiveness,

	CWSRF Funding to Districts (approximate)			DWSRF Funding to Districts (approximate)			TOTAL SRF ASSISTANCE TO DISTRICTS (approximate)		
District #	CWSRF Loan Agreement	CWSRF Subsidy TOTAL	CWSRF Total Assistance	DWSRF Loan Agreement	DWSRF Subsidy TOTAL	DWSRF Total Assistance	TOTAL SRF LOAN AGREEMENTS	TOTAL SRF SUBSIDY	TOTAL SRF ASSISTANCE
1	$9,993,593	$697,126	$10,690,719	$34,272,729	$5,862,987	$40,135,716	$44,266,322	$6,560,113	$50,826,435
2	$45,533,703	$394,039	$45,927,742	$28,051,449	$364,535	$28,415,984	$73,585,152	$758,574	$74,343,726
3	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
4	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
5	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
6	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
7**	$205,100,011	$1,908,000	$207,008,011	$17,752,655	$30,072,182	$47,824,837	$222,852,666	$31,980,182	$254,832,848
8	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
9	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
10	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
11	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
12	$9,726,000	$0	$9,726,000	$0	$0	$0	$9,726,000	$0	$9,726,000
13	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
14	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
15	$8,896,699	$620,577	$9,517,276	$14,267,009	$5,173,792	$19,440,801	$23,163,708	$5,794,369	$28,958,077
16	$15,875,054	$1,330,215	$17,205,269	$86,731,263	$20,531,031	$107,262,294	$102,606,317	$21,861,246	$124,467,563
17	$63,312,279	$3,771,564	$67,083,843	$19,649,407	$10,181,747	$29,831,154	$82,961,686	$13,953,311	$96,914,997
18	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
19	$11,798,578	$189,394	$11,987,972	$2,733,027	$239,967	$2,972,994	$14,531,605	$429,361	$14,960,966
20	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
21	$1,992,000	$270,000	$2,262,000	$2,056,127	$20,000	$2,076,127	$4,048,127	$290,000	$4,338,127
22	$3,685,714	$514,979	$4,200,693	$5,291,469	$1,947,227	$7,238,696	$8,977,183	$2,462,206	$11,439,389
23	$44,172,409	$9,113,513	$53,285,922	$17,263,094	$10,649,894	$27,912,988	$61,435,503	$19,763,407	$81,198,910
24	$27,774,084	$1,055,564	$28,829,648	$23,682,614	$8,963,176	$32,645,790	$51,456,698	$10,018,740	$61,475,438
25	$271,286	$0	$271,286	$829,007	$112,303	$941,310	$1,100,293	$112,303	$1,212,596
26	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
27**	$34,576,358	$1,250,000	$35,826,358	$24,105,829	$23,472,000	$47,577,829	$58,682,187	$24,722,000	$83,404,187
28	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
29	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
30	$4,856,586	$305,000	$5,161,586	$17,422,426	$1,830,051	$19,252,477	$22,279,012	$2,135,051	$24,414,063
31	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
32	$17,404,852	$5,165,473	$22,570,325	$14,221,431	$6,893,971	$21,115,402	$31,626,283	$12,059,444	$43,685,727
33	$5,272,521	$275,991	$5,548,512	$1,496,858	$1,653,693	$3,150,551	$6,769,379	$1,929,684	$8,699,063
34	$16,495,680	$1,345,388	$17,841,068	$6,286,357	$1,663,068	$7,949,425	$22,782,037	$3,008,456	$25,790,493
35	$33,831,257	$0	$33,831,257	$1,260,000	$3,240,000	$4,500,000	$35,091,257	$3,240,000	$38,331,257
36	$97,599,121	$0	$97,599,121	$4,659,623	$650,000	$5,309,623	$102,258,744	$650,000	$102,908,744
37	$62,663,336	$0	$62,663,336	$24,470,942	$3,311,869	$27,782,811	$87,134,278	$3,311,869	$90,446,147
38	$16,884,877	$1,797,705	$18,682,582	$23,569,377	$4,440,970	$28,010,347	$40,454,254	$6,238,675	$46,692,929
39	$3,255,467	$0	$3,255,467	$297,522	$0	$297,522	$3,552,989	$0	$3,552,989
40	$12,098,416	$3,012,508	$15,110,924	$20,858,853	$12,032,970	$32,891,823	$32,957,269	$15,045,478	$48,002,747
41	$16,526,903	$1,802,126	$18,329,029	$8,998,974	$2,273,352	$11,272,326	$25,525,877	$4,075,478	$29,601,355
42	$18,523,121	$537,829	$19,060,950	$10,846,128	$737,046	$11,583,174	$29,369,249	$1,274,875	$30,644,124
43	$25,490,116	$8,412,983	$33,903,099	$12,861,663	$1,534,493	$14,396,156	$38,351,779	$9,947,476	$48,299,255
44	$50,371,025	$2,017,573	$52,388,598	$10,011,187	$1,802,564	$11,813,751	$60,382,212	$3,820,137	$64,202,349
45	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
46	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
47	$16,873,150	$3,182,344	$20,055,494	$28,165,604	$5,289,306	$33,454,910	$45,038,754	$8,471,650	$53,510,404
48	$14,752,244	$991,959	$15,744,203	$8,157,221	$2,456,546	$10,613,767	$22,909,465	$3,448,505	$26,357,970
49	$0	$0	$0	$988,800	$0	$988,800	$988,800	$0	$988,800

Small Town Grant (CW only), and Planning Grants.
***For the cities of Omaha and Lincoln, which have multiple districts in the area, District 7 was selected for Omaha projects and District 27 was used for Lincoln area projects*

Other Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water Act Grants

Small, Underserved, and Disadvantaged Communities Grant Program

An annual grant program authorized under the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN), the Small, Underserved, and Disadvantaged Communities Grant Program was established to assist such PWSs. The grant program is designed to help systems meet and comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act. Aid is provided to underserved communities that are served by a PWS that violates or exceeds any Maximum Containment Level, treatment technique, or action level.

The recipient of this grant is the Village of Steele City to help that community return into compliance with the Nitrate drinking water standard. This past fiscal year, their award was increased to $1,211,605 to replace a failed transmission water main installation.

Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grants Program

America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 amended section 221 of the Clean Water Act, which reauthorized the Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grants Program (OSG). These amendments expanded project eligibilities to include stormwater management projects and authorized appropriations for the program. Grants are awarded to states, which will then provide sub-awards to eligible entities for projects that address infrastructure needs for combined sewer overflows (CSO), sanitary sewer overflows (SSO), and stormwater management. In August of 2024, an allotment of $3,406,000 was awarded to Nebraska, bringing the total program funding to $5,486,000.

The recipients for the 2024 OSG allotment will be the City of Omaha ($2,895,100), the Village of Colon ($400,000), and the Village of Oshkosh ($110,900). As the City of Omaha's project is the primary, categorically eligible, need for this grant program, it is planned that for each funding allotment, another political subdivision will be selected as a best paired fit to meet the OSG's program minimum allocation to rural and financially distressed communities, this year being the Villages of Colon and City of Oshkosh.

The EPA has issued guidance for the Federal Fiscal Year 2024 OSG award stating that should other Region 7 states decline their OSG funding those funds may be reallocated to another recipient. The Department requested the reallocation of the regional funds to provide funding for the Cities of Omaha, Oshkosh, and St. Edward, the latter two seeking funds to remedy infiltration and inflow concerns for their collection system.

Voluntary School and Child Care Lead Testing and Reduction Grant

The NDEE is committed to reducing childhood exposure to lead from drinking water. NDEE applied for grant funding as part of EPAs 2021 WIINs Lead Testing in School and Child Care Programs and have been implementing the 3Ts (training, testing, and taking action) for reducing lead exposure in drinking water.

With the passage of the IIJA, the authority for this grant program has been expanded to now include projects that remediate lead contamination in drinking water. Eligible entities include schools and early childhood education programs, but only those under the jurisdiction of local educational agencies, a requirement of the federal law. As such, sampling at public pre- schools, elementary schools, and associated childcare facilities will be a renewed focus of this WIIN Grant award. The funding will be focused on facilities serving underserved and low-income communities, elementary

schools and those school facilities older than 1988, as they are at highest risk for internal plumbing and drinking water appurtenances containing lead, all within tiered program remediation trigger levels ranging between 10 to greater than 100 parts per billion (ppb). Funding assistance was offered out to all schools with levels above 10 ppb, with the following made in SFY 2025:

Date of Agreement	Facility	Award Amount
10/16/2024	North American Martyrs Extended Care	$ 7,609
04/03/2025	Lincoln Lancaster County Health Dept.	$ 160,000
04/28/2025	Educational Service Unit 9	$ 6,589
03/18/2025	St. Paul's Child Care	$ 9,160
05/27/2025	Learning Adventures Child Care Center	$ 1,342
06/03/2025	Behaven Kids	$ 13,102

Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities Grant

EPA issued implementation guidance for this approximate $48 million grant during the latter part of the fiscal year. A master program workplan was approved by EPA that will focus on the regionalization of small communities that have elevated levels of Manganese, in order to avoid the installation or the replacement of a more costly water treatment plant alternative. Specific workplans for projects in the Riverton and Talmage areas of the state have been approved, while those for the Craig and Giltner areas are drafted for EPAs review.

Revitalize Rural Nebraska Grant Program (RRNGP)

The RRNGP was established in 2023 by the Nebraska Legislature to fund the demolition of dilapidated commercial properties owned by a village or a city of the first or second class. To be eligible for funding, properties likely have to be owned by the applying municipality, abandoned or vacant for at least six months, and not on or eligible to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Recipient communities must also provide a local match. NDEE assessed applications for eligibility and competitive ranking with priority given to applications from villages and second-class cities.

The NDEE made nine awards in the prior state fiscal year and two additional in SFY 2025.

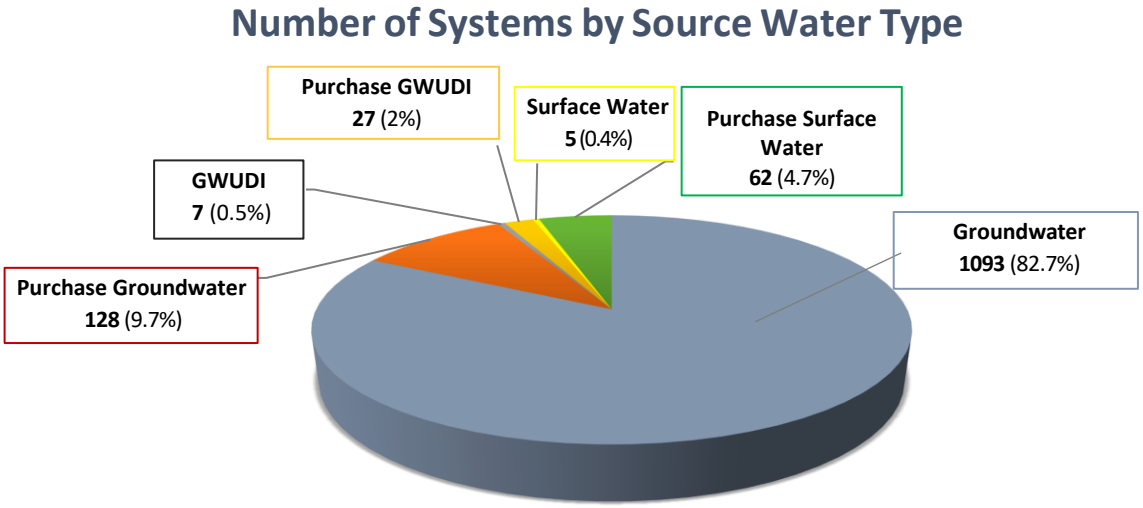
The two grant awards by municipality:

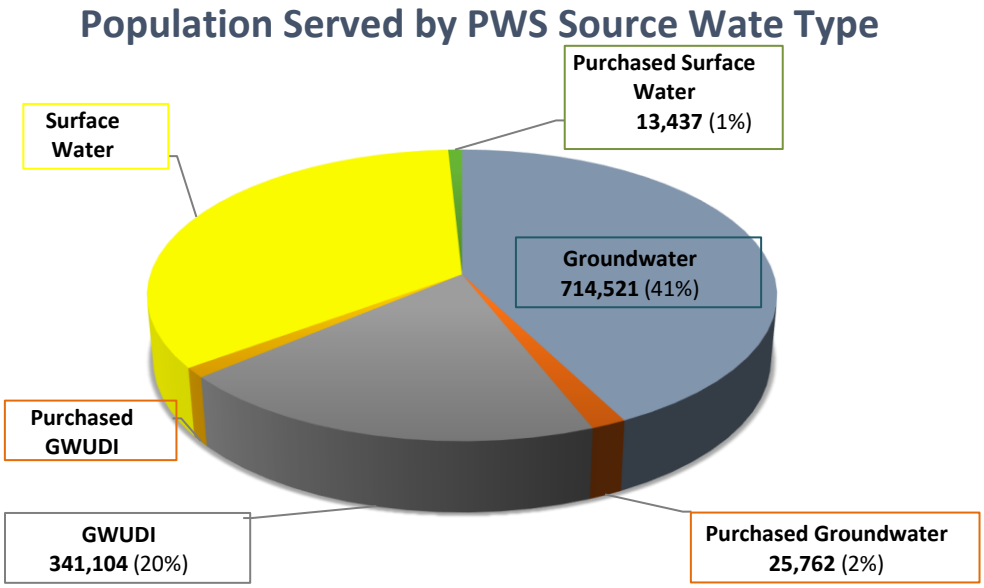
- Harvard – $120,000 for the property on 306 N Clay Avenue
- Lodgepole – $57,900 for the property on 266 Sheldon Street

Drinking Water Programs

The Drinking Water Program at the NDEE administers the State's regulations governing Public Water Systems (PWSs), NAC Title 179, Chapters 2 through 26, promulgated under the Nebraska's Safe Drinking Water Act pursuant to the federal SDWA. State regulations must be at least as stringent as the federal regulations.

Approximately 80% of Nebraska's population is on public water. Private domestic wells, which are not regulated under the SDWA, provide water for other 20% of Nebraskans. Most of the water Nebraskans drink is ground water and only five public water systems in the state obtain their drinking water from surface water. Another 62 systems purchase water from those five systems. In addition, 7 systems utilize ground water under the influence of surface water (GWUDI), and 27 additional systems purchase water from those seven systems. The remaining 1,093 systems use ground water, and an additional 128 systems purchase their water from another ground water system.





As you can see above, although surface water sources account for the smallest number of public water systems in Nebraska, these sources provide public water to a significant population in the state. This is because Omaha and all of the consecutive water systems that purchase water from Omaha utilize surface water from the Missouri River.

Nebraska's Public Water Systems

Nebraska public water systems can be broken down into categories based on the size of the population served and/or the type of population served. All public water systems serve at least 25 people daily. PWSs are separated into three categories based on the potential duration of exposure to a source of drinking water.

Community Water Systems (CWS) provide water to the same people year-round; villages, rural water districts, mobile home parks, and sanitary improvement districts are CWSs.

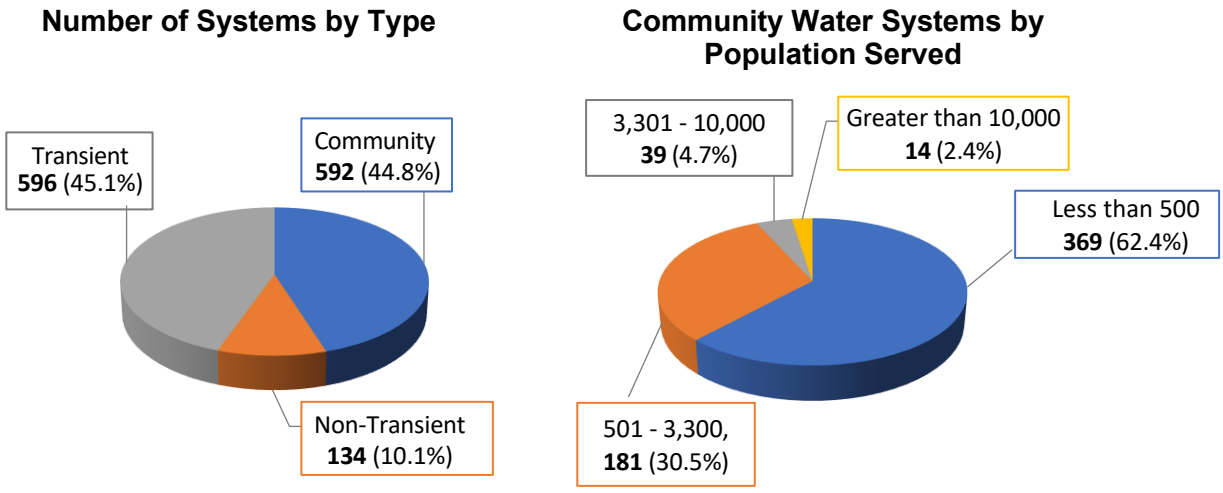
Non-Transient Non-Community (NTNC) facilities usually consist of a single building with its own ground water well, and has the same 25 non-residential individuals there for at least 6 months of the year; a manufacturing company with its own well and a rural school with over 25 students are NTNCs.

Transient Non-Community (TNC) PWSs serve at least 25 people daily and still must be permitted and monitored, but transient PWSs don't serve 25 of the same people daily (i.e., they serve an entirely *transient* population) rural gas stations, golf courses, and campgrounds with their own wells are TNCs.

Daily Population Served	CWS	NTNC	TNC	Count (%) PWS by Population
Less Than 101	107	77	491	**675** (51.1%)
101 - 500	262	40	96	**398** (30.1%)
501 – 1,000	95	10	7	**112** (8.5%)
1,001 – 3,300	86	5	0	**91** (6.9%)
3,301 – 10,000	28	2	2	**32** (2.4%)
10,001 – 50,000	11	0	0	**11** (0.8%)
Greater Than 50,000	3	0	0	**3** (0.2%)
Count (%) PWS by Type	**592** (44.8%)	**134** (10.1%)	**596** (45.1%)	**1322**

**Based on approximate population*

Communities in Nebraska are predominantly small and rural. Approximately 93% of the state's CWSs serve populations under 3,300 people, and more than 60% serve fewer than 500. Despite these challenges, Nebraska's small systems continue to perform commendably in maintaining compliance with Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requirements.



The figure above demonstrates the proportional breakdown of PWS types in Nebraska. CWSs account for about half of all PWSs (44.8%), and TNCs account for about the other half (45.1%). Only about 10-% of PWSs in Nebraska are NTNCs.

This is because most facilities in Nebraska (office buildings, private businesses, etc.) that would otherwise qualify as an NTNC PWS due to their population (serving at least 25 people daily) are purchasing water from a CWS. These locations are not subject to regulation by the SDWA because their water quality monitoring and reporting is covered by the CWS.

This means that the number of NTNC and TNC PWSs in Nebraska can be considered a general reflection of the number of rural facilities (schools, rest stops) that serve, minimally, an average of 25 people daily, and have their own source of drinking water (typically a groundwater well). The relatively low number of NTNCs in Nebraska can be attributed to the relatively low number of larger rural facilities that do not purchase their water from a CWS.

Drinking Water Program Activities

During SFY25, the Drinking Water Program oversaw compliance for 1,322 public water systems (systems), including 596 Transient Non-Community (TNC) systems, 134 Non-Transient Non-Community (NTNC) systems, and 592 Community Water System (CWS).

Drinking Water Field Services, Water Operator Training, and Capacity Development

These areas encompass four separate, but related areas of responsibility:

1) Field Services (inspections, operator assistance, etc.)
2) Water Operator Training
3) Capacity Development, and
4) Water System Security

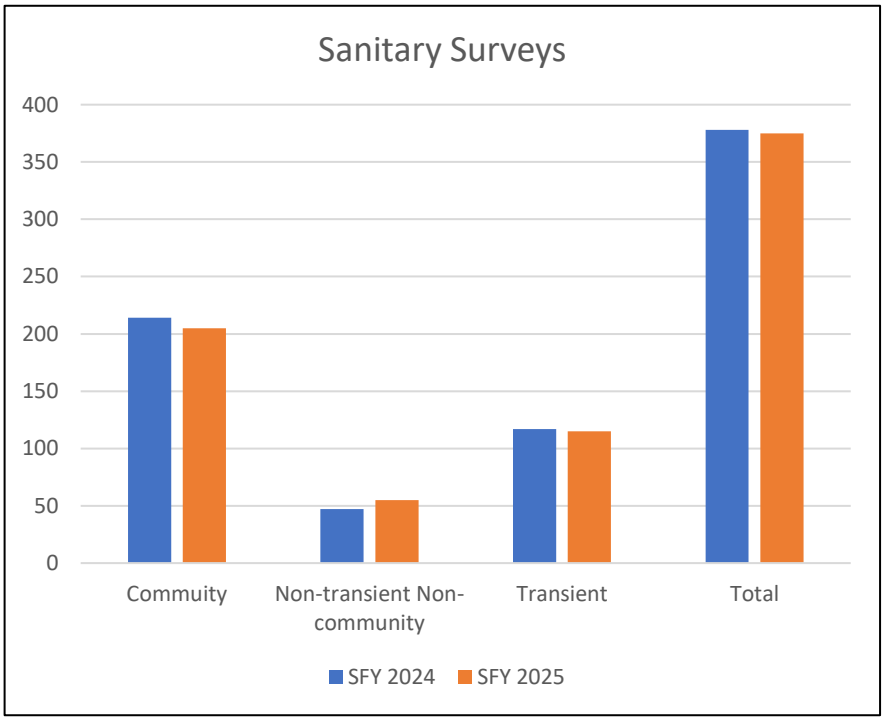
Field Services staff include a supervisor, and eight field representatives. The Water Operator Training and Capacity Development components of the program are overseen by a training coordinator, and capacity development coordinator, respectively. Staff within these areas conduct sanitary surveys, train public water system operators, attend and present information at continuing education programs for water operators, assist public water systems (PWSs) with Level 1 and Level 2 assessments, provide support during emergency situations, and help public water systems to

achieve or maintain adequate technical, financial, and managerial capacity. There are eight field areas located throughout the State to provide close contact and timely assistance to Nebraska's public water systems.

Field Services

Sanitary Surveys

Routine sanitary surveys are conducted once every three years for community water systems (CWS) and non-transient non-community (NTNC) public water systems and once every five years for transient non-community (TNC) PWSs. A sanitary survey helps to ensure that a water system is operating properly by working with their licensed water operator(s) to evaluate records, review their emergency plan and cross-connection control program, and inspect components of the water system.



Field Services personnel conducted 378 sanitary surveys (205 community, 55 non-transient non-community, and 115 transient public water systems). A total of 541 deficiencies were found. This reflects an overall deficiency rate of 1.4 deficiencies per sanitary survey. No deficiencies were found in 194 (52%) of the sanitary surveys completed. The average number of deficiencies found in Nebraska's public water systems has remained stable, highlighting the great work of water operators in our State.

Outside of sanitary surveys, field staff conduct site inspections for the location of new public wells, assist engineering services personnel in conducting construction inspections of public water system projects (such as the drilling of wells, the construction of treatment plants, and the erection of water towers). Field services staff are essential workers that respond to emergencies associated with natural disasters, water service interruption, and/or contamination of a PWS.

Level 1 & Level 2 Assessments

When public water systems have a confirmed presence of coliform bacteria, the Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) requires that an assessment of the system be conducted. An assessment helps to identify the likely reason for the presence of coliform bacteria in the system. Any identified defects are required to be corrected.

A Level 1 assessment is triggered when a system detects total coliform bacteria but not *E. coli.* The public water system is responsible for completing a Level 1 assessment. Then field staff are responsible for reviewing Level 1 assessments to ensure all potential contamination-causing issues were considered.

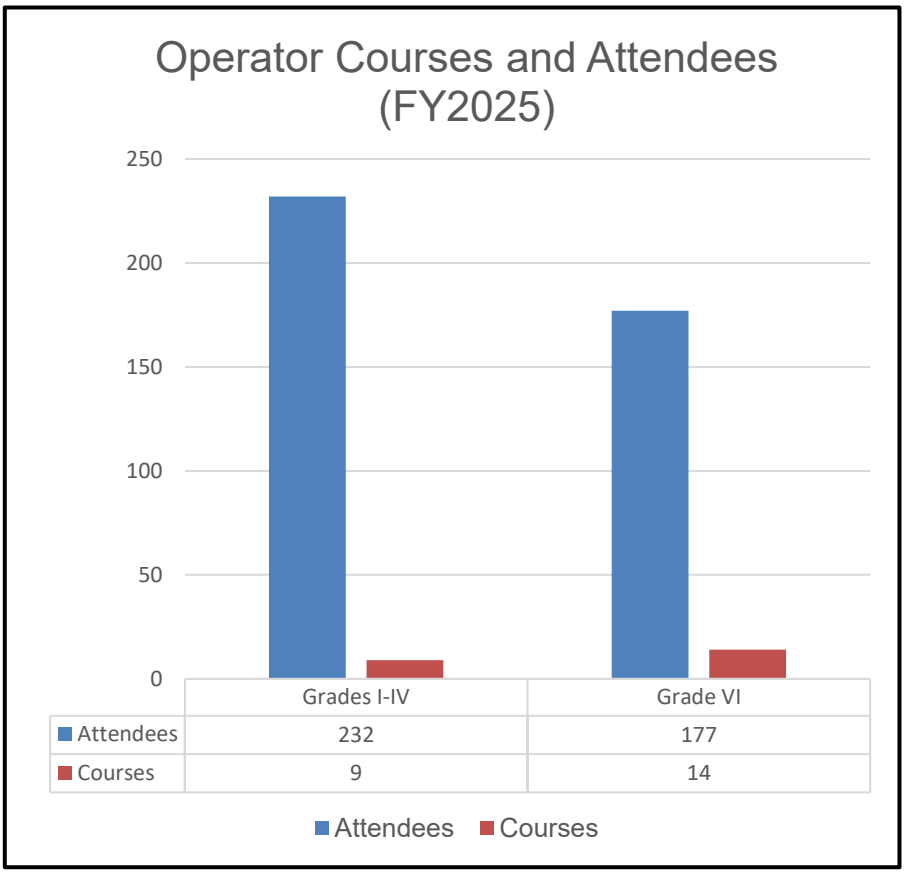
A Level 2 assessment is triggered by either multiple Level 1 assessments within a running twelve-month period, or by the confirmed presence of *E. coli* bacteria in the system. A Level 2 assessment is conducted by field staff and provides a much more detailed evaluation of the PWS.

Hypochlorinators

The Drinking Water Program maintains several hypochlorinators to temporary loan public water systems when bacterial contamination is a source of concern. This equipment helps communities with temporary chlorination of their water supplies to ensure the safety of their drinking water. When a power outage or source failure is involved, program staff also help systems locate equipment and supplies which may be needed.

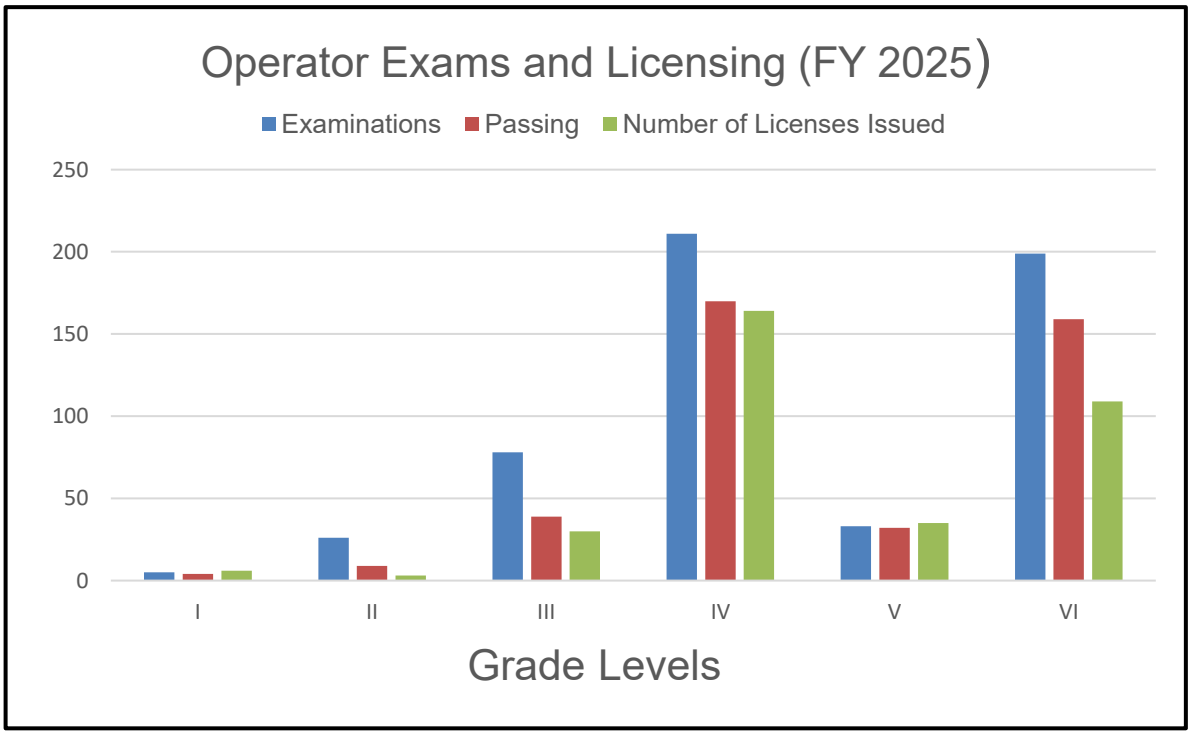
Training

Field Services and Training Program personnel conducted 9 water operator training courses, Grades I through IV, with a total of 232 attendees. The correspondence course that is also offered to prepare for the Grade IV licensure examination was completed by 16 individuals.
For Grade VI licensure (backflow preventer testing and repair), 14 courses were offered with a total of 177 attendees.
For Grade V operators (transient systems only), there are no classroom courses.
Training is obtained through a self- study process. Water operators are licensed only after successfully passing an exam. Examinations are offered following each training course and can also be scheduled individually.



The following table breaks down the number of initial licenses issued, and examinations conducted at each grade level over the course of FY 2025:

Grade	Examinations	Passing	Number of Licenses Issued
I	5	4	6
II	26	19	3
III	78	39	30
IV	211	170	164
V	33	32	35
VI	199	159	109



The Drinking Water Program and other training providers have adapted to evolving training needs, continuing to provide both in person, and virtual training formats for water operators in SFY 2025. Coordinated by the program, a group informally known as the Water Operator Training Coalition coordinates to identify training needs and to assist with scheduling of training opportunities. Members include the Nebraska Rural Water Association, the League of Nebraska Municipalities, the Midwest Assistance Program, Central Community College, and the Nebraska Section of the American Water Works Association. As in past years, the Coalition produced a calendar identifying dates and locations of continuing education opportunities for distribution to licensed water operators

A total of 77 workshops/seminars/conferences were initially offered in Nebraska for the purpose of water operator continuing education. Of these, 22 focused primarily on backflow prevention continuing education for Grade VI operators.

Capacity Development

Capacity development is a proactive approach, through which water systems acquire and maintain adequate technical, managerial, and financial capabilities, enabling them to provide safe drinking water to Nebraskans. NDEE's activities to bolster water systems' capacity are overseen by the program's Capacity Development Coordinator.

Additional support is provided by the 2% Assistance Team, which consist of the same members as the Water Operator Training Coalition. The name comes from the 2% set-aside from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF).

DWSRF 2% Assistance Contracts

Funds from the 2% Set-Aside of the DWSRF are used to provide assistance to public water systems serving 10,000 or less people, to develop and maintain technical, managerial, and financial capacity. NDEE contracts with assistance providers to provide this assistance. There are currently three contracts, one to provide board/council workshops and trainings, a second to assist with the development of lead service-line inventories, and the third to provide broader, technical, managerial, and financial assistance to aid in achieving/maintaining regulatory compliance and system capacity. All three contracts were awarded in SFY 2023 and are still active.

Board/Council Workshops & Trainings: It is critical that local board and council members understand their responsibilities as owners of a public water system, and the importance of ensuring the managerial and financial aspects of running a water system are being addressed. Regional workshops, and trainings for individual systems, provide ownership, and other public water system personnel, with the knowledge, ability, and resources to effectively maintain their system, become sustainable, and ensure compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. Six training in total were provided during this time and these trainings were attended by 27 different communities.

Regional Workshops: These workshops are conducted throughout the state, with the goal to educate owners of public water systems about their responsibilities and provide resources to accompany that education goal. The workshops include practical exercises for technical, managerial, and financial capacity building, including rate setting, capital reserves, and asset management. The regional approach enables representatives from multiple systems the ability to attend and participate in discussions with each other. In SFY 2025 three regional workshops were held, with representatives from public water systems attending.

Individual System Trainings: Trainings for individual systems cover the same elements as the workshops, but also emphasize the particular needs of that system. These trainings are conducted at the request of the public water system, or as a required element of an Administrative Order issued by the Department to address on-going compliance issues. Three individual board trainings in total were held in SFY 2025

Lead Service Line Inventory Assistance: EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Revision requires public water systems to identify lead service lines, make available to the public the location of known lead service lines, and develop a plan for replacement of lead service lines. The intent of this contract is not to complete the inventories for systems, but to educate them, and provide tools and resources to aid in the development of their inventories, as well as replacement plans and public outreach, as

needed. Projects aiding with the development of lead service line inventories were conducted at 109 public water systems. The next phase of this contract will provide technical assistance to water systems in developing lead service line replacement plans.

Compliance & Capacity Assistance: The purpose of this contract is to aid public water systems in achieving/maintaining compliance with the Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act and regulations promulgated under that Act, as well as voluntary implementation of capacity building programs to ensure the continuous supply of drinking water that meets regulatory standards.
Work under this contract provides:

Routine sanitary survey (RSS) preparation. This component provides assistance to ensure public water systems have the knowledge and preparation needed for a successful routine sanitary survey. Often, many RSS deficiencies are due to a lack of knowledge of what a RSS is, and how to prepare for one. Oftentimes there is also a misunderstanding of how to respond to deficiencies. This component provides both on- and off-site assistance with follow-up to systems that receive deficiencies from the RSS. Twenty-five water systems received this technical assistance.

New operator hands-on training and mentoring. Many newly licensed operators are hired by very small community systems without other operators for orientation and support. Likewise, operators hired for non-community systems may find in-house training unavailable to learn their new job. This component provides on-site, multiple-day training, and mentoring, to ensure new operators understand their responsibilities for maintaining the operation of water system, and regulatory compliance. Assistance was initiated with eight public water system operators.

Technical, Managerial, and Financial (TMF) Assistance. Individualized assistance is often needed to build the capacity of water systems. This element of the contract covers requests by water systems, and NDEE, to assist with activities such as rate setting, water loss, deficiency and compliance issues, asset management, and other items where assistance will improve the understanding and ability of the system to become sustainable. Assistance provided by this component, depending on the situation, is and will be done as a supporting role to ensure the systems obtain needed understanding and skill. Thirteen operators across nine systems received this technical assistance.

Capacity Assessment

Assessment of a public water system's technical capacity is primarily addressed through the Routine Sanitary Survey process. In the past, the sanitary survey also included a very brief, high-level assessment of managerial and financial capacity. A much more thorough assessment was conducted of water systems that received loans through the DWSRF.

An updated capacity survey, which includes detailed information about asset management, has been created to replace the managerial and financial capacity assessment processes used previously in both the sanitary survey, and the DWSRF loan process. Beginning July 2022, the updated capacity surveys are sent out a quarter or three months in advance to the routine sanitary surveys for community and non-transient non-community (NTNC) systems. The surveys are to be completed by board members, or owners, with input from other water system personnel. The survey also requests signature/verification from a board member or owner, and the operator. This process will ensure surveys are updated every three years for all community and NTNC systems. If a survey isn't on file when a system applies for a DWSRF loan, the DWSRF program sends the survey as part of the application.

Completed capacity surveys are scored based on the answers provided to the survey questions. Public water systems with a score of 70%, or higher, are considered to be demonstrating stronger capacity. Upon request from the system, those with a population of 10,000 or less, and a score of 70 to 89 may request assistance and be referred to the appropriate 2% contractor. A system serving a population of 10,000, or less, that scores below 70%, is offered assistance from the appropriate 2% contractor. In SFY 2025 208 completed surveys were received from community water systems with an average score of 84%, and 28 non-transient non-community systems with average score of 77%. Nineteen community, and six NTNC systems scored below 70%.

Education and Outreach

In-person training is a focus for the capacity development program. Outreach and training regarding capacity development was provided by the capacity development coordinator, NDEE Drinking Water team members, as well as Training Coalition partners.

Nebraska Capacity Development Strategy

States must develop and implement a strategy to assist public water systems in acquiring and maintaining technical, managerial, and financial capacity. America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 required States to amend their strategies to include efforts encouraging public water systems to develop asset management plans. Nebraska's revised strategy was approved on August 19, 2022. As the first strategy submitted in Region 7, it was also subject to concurrent review from the U.S. EPA Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water.

Monitoring and Compliance Section

The Monitoring and Compliance (M&C) Section of the Drinking Water Program reviews analytical results for contaminants in drinking water, issues enforcement actions, maintains and tracks each PWS's compliance status, provides compliance assistance internally and externally, and maintains the Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS) database for PWSs.

Safe Drinking Water Information System

The Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS) database was developed by EPA for states to track and report water quality data test results, violations, compliance assistance, enforcement, compliance schedules, water operator licensure, and PWS operating permits. SDWIS receives electronic data from the State of Nebraska Environmental Health Laboratory and four contract laboratories (Midwest Laboratories Inc., Central District Health Department, American Agriculture Laboratory Inc., and Enviro-Service Inc.) that perform water analyses for NDEE.

NDEE is preparing for transition to cloud-based software called the State, Federal, and Tribal Information Exchange System (SFTIES) that will replace the current SDWIS database. This new database is being provided to the states by EPA. This transition will include staff training, implementing routine quality assurance and quality control measures, and implementing standard data entry and reporting methods.

Monitoring and MCL Violations, and Assessments

A public water system is required to monitor for the presence of 83 different contaminants. If a contaminant is present in the water, the system must verify that the contaminant does not exceed its maximum contaminant level (MCL).

Only 8 of 83 contaminants for which community public water systems monitor were found to be present above a SDWA MCL. That means 78 contaminants, for which monitoring was conducted, were not found above their respective MCL in a PWS in Nebraska.

In SFY25, the Monitoring and Compliance team issued a total of 498 drinking water violations to 289 PWSs**.** Violations are generally categorized into Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), Monitoring and Reporting (M/R), Treatment Technique (TT), and Public Notification (PN) violations.

- **MCL Violations (92 total)**: Out of 83 regulated contaminants, 5 exceeded their MCLs.
    - Nitrate-nitrite (MCL = 10 mg/L) was the leading contaminant, with 49 MCL violations across 25 systems.
    - *E. coli* (MCL = 1 CFU) presence resulted in 16 MCL violations; 100% of systems have since been returned to compliance.
    - 12 uranium (MCL = 30 µg/L) (MCL = 10 µg/L) and 12 arsenic MCL violations were also recorded, reflecting Nebraska's geological characteristics.
    - One community exceeded the MCL for total trihalomethanes (MCL = 80 µg/L), chlorine reacts with tap water in distribution systems to produce the disinfection by-product TTHM.
- **Lead and Copper Rule:** Systems are not issued violations when they exceed the lead or copper standard (called an Action Level). Instead, the exceedances trigger additional required compliance activities, including public education and installation of a chemical feed that reduces water corrosivity. In SFY25, 8 systems exceeded the lead action level, and 9 systems exceeded the copper action level**.**
- **Monitoring & Reporting Violations (202 total)**: These were primarily for failure to monitor for coliform bacteria, nitrate/nitrite, and lead & copper.
- **Public Notification Violations (37 total)**: Issued when required notices were not delivered timely or were missing mandatory elements.
- **Lead and Copper Rule Revision (LCRR) Violations (167 total)**: These were issued to systems that did not submit required lead service line inventories (LSLI) by the October 16, 2024 deadline. All systems did submit LSLI prior to EPA issuing formal enforcement.
- **Treatment Technique Violations (0 total):** Some National Primary Drinking Water Rules, instead of establishing an MCL for a contaminant, establish required compliance activities triggered by presence of a contaminant. Examples of treatment technique rules are the Lead and Copper Rule, and the Revised Total Coliform Rule. TT violations are issued when systems fail to complete required compliance activities. Systems in Nebraska work daily to fulfill all regulatory requirements, the lack of TT violations is a demonstration of these efforts.

Administrative Orders (AO)

Administrative Orders are typically issued to PWSs whose drinking water repeatedly violates a health-based standard. These orders establish a legally enforceable timeline (3 years) for the PWS to develop and implement mitigation measures and ensure safe drinking water for consumers. Mitigation measures in Nebraska typically include drilling a new groundwater well, interconnection with a compliant PWS, or installation of a treatment plant. Administrative Orders may also be issued for repeated failure to monitor, or if sample analytical results show contamination may be an "Unreasonable Risk to Health," or double the MCL.

The Drinking Water Program issues an AO when a PWS is significantly out of compliance. (Each contaminant has different parameters that indicate what constitutes "significantly out of compliance.") Once an AO is issued, MCL violations continue to be issued until the PWS returns to compliance. Failure to comply with the terms of an AO can result in administrative action or revoking the system's permit to operate.

	Nitrate-Nitrite	Uranium	Arsenic
AO's Issued	3	0	1
Population Affected	2249	0	58

Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR)

The objective of the Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) is to identify and reduce potential exposure to bacterial contamination in drinking water. Testing for coliform bacteria is a way to indicate whether potentially harmful bacteria may be present. All public water systems are required to routinely monitor for the presence of coliform bacteria and *E.coli,* or the fecal form of coliform bacteria. The RTCR establishes a MCL for *E. coli*. Treatment technique requirements in the form of PWS assessments and corrective actions are required if either total coliform or *E.coli* bacteria are found. A system is required to issue a Public Notice (PN) if they fail to monitor for coliform bacteria, if *E.coli* bacteria are found, or for failure to complete an assessment or corrective action.

A Level 1 assessment is triggered when a system detects total coliform bacteria but not *E.coli*. PWS officials are responsible for conducting Level 1 assessments, in which they report sampling site conditions, typical sample procedures, and other water-related events. NWEE's Field Services team is responsible for reviewing Level 1 assessments to ensure all potential contamination-causing issues were considered.

A Level 2 assessment under the RTCR is a more comprehensive and detailed evaluation conducted when a PWS experiences either a second occurrence of total coliform bacteria or detects *E. coli* bacteria. This type of assessment is conducted by NWEE's Field Services and is designed to identify and address more complex or severe issues, known as significant deficiencies, within the system.

RTCR Assessments

Type of RTCR Assessment	Number of Assessments Triggered	Number of Systems	% of Systems with Assessments
Level 1	113	113	8.55%
Level 2	90	69	5.22%
Level 2, *E. coli* MCL triggered	10	10	0.76%

RTCR Violations

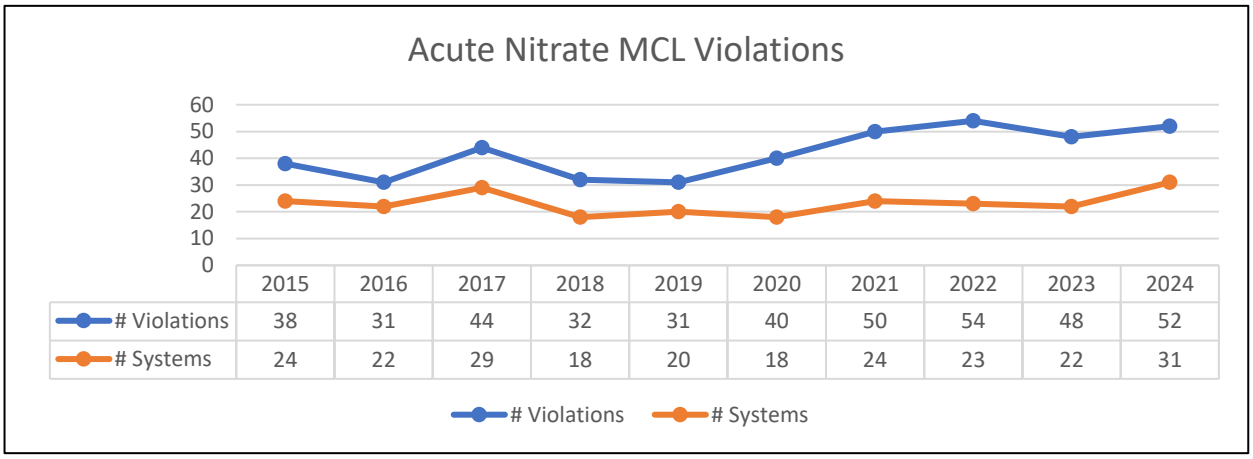
Type of RTCR Violation	Number of Violations Issued	Number of Systems	% of Systems with Violations
Treatment Technique, Level 1	0	0	0%
Treatment Technique, Level 2	0	0	0%
MCL – *E. coli* +	15	15	1.13%
Monitoring	100	61	4.61%
Startup Procedures TT	0	0	0%

Nitrate-Nitrite Rule

All public water systems monitor for nitrate-nitrite. Adverse health effects may be experienced when pregnant women, infants under six months of age, and nursing mothers, consume high levels of nitrate or nitrite in drinking water. A system is out of compliance when it receives one monitoring or MCL violation. A system is issued an administrative order (AO) to correct a nitrate contamination problem if two nitrate-nitrite violations are issued within a consecutive three- quarter period.

Nitrate-Nitrate Violations

Violation	Number of Violations	Number of Systems	% of Systems with Violations
MCL (10 mg/L)	48	25	1.88%
Monitoring	24	18	1.36%



Public Notification Rule

Public notification is required if a PWS receives a MCL, monitoring, or treatment technique violation. There were nine systems in violation of the PN Rule.

Rule	Number of Violations	Number of Systems
Public Notification Rule	38	9

Consumer Confidence Rule

The Consumer Confidence Rule (CCR) requires all community water systems to prepare and distribute an annual water quality report summarizing information regarding source water, detected contaminants, compliance issues, and educational information. No CCR violations were issued in SFY25.

Rule	Number of Violations	Number of Systems
Consumer Confidence Rule	0	0

MCL Violations for Chronic Contaminant Exposure

Ingestion of bacteria and nitrate-nitrite in drinking water are typically associated with acute (i.e., sudden) adverse health effects. Exposure to other drinking water contaminants is considered to be associated with chronic health effects (i.e., the adverse health effect is evident only after repeated exposure or ingestion of the same contaminated water over a long period of time.)

Because of this, transient systems are not required to sample or meet standards for chronic contaminants. Typically, EPA requires CWS and NTNC systems to routinely sample for chronic contaminants every three years. If a contaminant is detected during three-year routine monitoring, sampling requirements increase to quarterly to monitor contaminant levels.
Below is a list of tables that outline the type of contaminants, and the number of violations issued for each.

Volatile Organic Chemical (VOC) Violations

(Per the SDWA, only community and non-transient, non-community systems monitor for VOCs.)

VOC Contaminant	Number of MCL Violations	Number of Monitoring Violations	Number of Systems	% of Systems with Violations
Aldrin	0	1	1	0.08%
Benzene	0	0	0	0.0%
Carbon tetrachloride	0	0	0	0.0%
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene	0	0	0	0.0%
Dicamba	0	0	0	0.0%
1,1-Dichloroethylene	0	0	0	0.0%
Dichloromethane	0	0	0	0.0%
1,2-Dichloropropane	0	0	0	0.0%
Metribuzin	0	1	1	0.08%
Monochlorobenzene	0	0	0	0.0%
o-Dichlorobenzene	0	0	0	0.0%
para-Dichlorobenzene	0	0	0	0.0%
Styrene	0	0	0	0.0%
Tetrachloro-ethylene	0	0	0	0.0%
Toluene	0	0	0	0.0%
trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene	0	0	0	0.0%
1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene	0	0	0	0.0%
Trichloroethylene	0	0	0	0.0%
1,1,1-Trichloroethane	0	0	0	0.0%
1,1,2-Trichloroethane	0	0	0	0.0%
Vinyl chloride	0	0	0	0.0%
Xylenes (total)	0	0	0	0.0%

Inorganic Chemical Contaminant (IOC) Violations

(Per the SDWA, only Community and Non-transient, non-community systems monitor for IOCs.)

Contaminant	Number of MCL Violations	Number of Monitoring Violations	Number of Systems	% Systems with MCL Violations
Antimony	0	0	0	0%
Asbestos	0	0	0	0%
Arsenic	12	0	5	0.38%
Barium	0	0	0	0%
Beryllium	0	0	0	0%
Cadmium	0	0	0	0%
Chromium total	0	0	0	0%
Cyanide (as free cyanide)	0	0	0	0%
Fluoride	0	0	0	0%

Mercury	0	0	0	0%
Nickel	0	0	0	0%
Selenium	0	0	0	0%
Sodium	0	0	0	0%
Thallium	0	0	0	0%

Non-Volatile Synthetic Organic Chemical (SOC) Contaminants

(Per the SDWA, only community and non-transient, non-community systems monitor for SOCs.)

Contaminant	Number of MCL Violations	Number of Monitoring Violations	Number of Systems	% Systems with Violations
Alachlor (Lasso)	0	1	1	0.08%
Atrazine	0	1	1	0.08%
Benzo[a]pyrene	0	1	1	0.08%
Butachlor	0	1	1	0.08%
Carbaryl	0	0	0	0%
Carbofuran	0	0	0	0%
2,4-D	0	0	0	0%
2,3,7,8-TCDD (Dioxin)	0	0	0	0%
2,4,5-TP	0	0	0	0%
Chlordane	0	0	0	0%
Dalapon	0	0	0	0%
Di(2-ethylhexyl) adipate	0	1	1	0.08%
Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate	0	1	1	0.08%
Dibromochloropropane	0	0	0	0%
Dieldrin	0	1	1	0.08%
Dinoseb	0	0	0	0%
Diquat	0	0	0	0%
Endothall	0	0	0	0%
Endrin	0	1	1	0.08%
Ethylene dibromide	0	0	0	0%
Glyphosate	0	0	0	0%
Heptachlor	0	1	1	0.08%
Heptachlor epoxide	0	1	1	0.08%
Hexachlorobenzene	0	1	1	0.08%
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene	0	1	1	0.08%
Lindane	0	1	1	0.08%
Methomyl	0	0	0	0%
Methoxychlor	0	1	1	0.08%
Oxamyl (Vydate)	0	0	0	0%
Pentachlorophenol	0	0	0	0%
Picloram	0	0	0	0%
Polychlorinated biphenyls	0	0	0	0%
Propachlor	0	1	1	0.08%
Simazine	0	1	1	0.08%
Toxaphene	0	0	0	0%

Radionuclide Violations

(Per the SDWA, only Community water systems monitor for Radionuclides.)

Contaminant	Number of MCL Violations	Number of Monitoring Violations	Number of Systems	% Systems with Violations
Combined Radium (Radium)	0	0	0	0%
Gross Alpha Including Radon	0	0	0	0%
Combined Uranium	9	0	2	0.68%

Disinfection Byproduct Violations

(Only water systems that disinfect their water, monitor for Disinfection Byproducts and Disinfectant Residuals.)

Contaminant	Number of MCL Violations	Number of Monitoring Violations	Number of Systems
Total Haloacetic Acids	0	0	0
Total Trihalomethanes	3	0	1

Disinfection Byproducts Stage 1 Monitoring

Violation	# Violations	# Systems
Qualified Operator Failure	0	0

Disinfection Byproducts Monitoring

	# Violations	# Systems
Monitoring	0	0

Disinfectant Residual Violations

MRDL	Treatment Technique # Violations	Treatment Technique # Systems	Monitoring # Violations	Monitoring # Systems
0	2	2	0	0

Lead and Copper Rule Violations

(Per the SWDA, only Community and Non-transient, non-community water system monitor for Lead and Copper.)

Contaminant	Number of Monitoring Violations	Number of Systems	Systems with Violations
Lead and Copper	9	9	0.68%

Surface Water Treatment Rule Violations

Type of Violation	Number of Violations	Number of Systems
Monitoring	0	0
Record Keeping	0	0
Treatment Technique	0	0

Ground Water Rule

Type of Violation	Number of Violations	Number of Systems
Monitoring/Reporting/Recordkeeping	0	0
Sanitary Survey – Failure to Address	0	0
Sanitary Survey – Failure to Consult	0	0
Treatment Technique	0	0

Variances and Exemptions

No variances or exemptions were issued.

MCL Violations other than Total Coliform/RTCR and Nitrate

Population Affected by Various Contaminants

Contaminant	Number of MCL Violations	Number of Systems	Population Affected
Arsenic	12	5	908
Uranium	12	2	437
Nitrate	49	25	7548

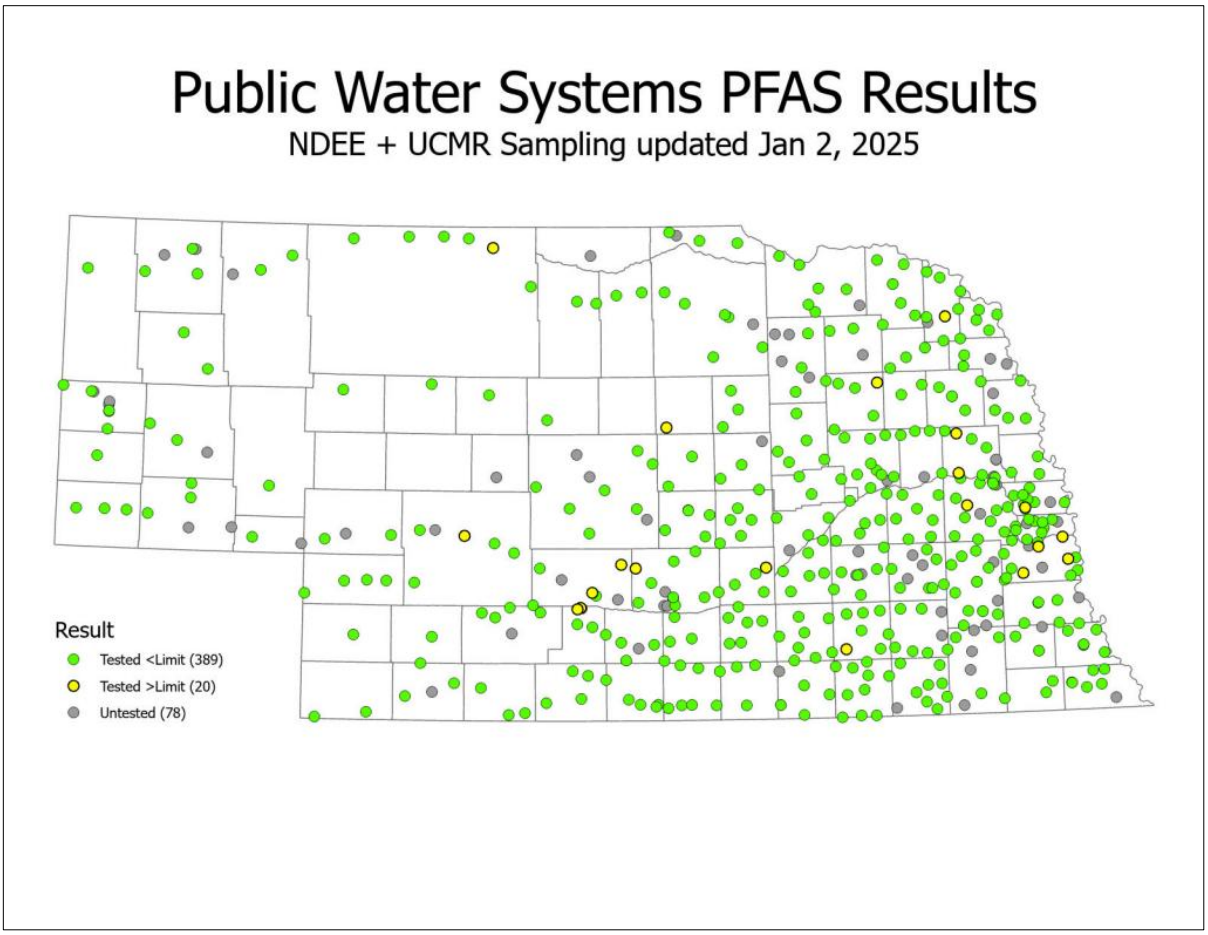
Emerging Issues

On June 25, 2024 the National Primary Drinking Water Rule (NPDWR) for PFAS was finalized. The PFAS Rule established sampling requirements and contaminant limits for 6 different PFAS chemical Systems have three years from the date NPDWR's are finalized to prepare for new requirements. Nebraska CWS and NTNCs have to be in compliance with the PFAS Rule by June 25, 2027.

Regulated PFAS Chemical(s)	Maximum Contaminant Level
Perfluorooctanoic acid (**PFOA**)	4.0 nanograms per liter (ng/L)
Perfluorooctane sulfonate (**PFOS**)	4.0 ng/L
*Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (**PFHxS**)	10.0 ng/L
*Hexafluoropropylene Oxide Dimer Acid (HFPO-DA) or **GenX**	10.0 ng/L
*Perfluorononanoic Acid (**PFNA**)	10.0 ng/L
*Mix of 2 or more of PFHxS, GenX, PFNA, and PFBS	Hazard Index (HI) of 1 (unitless)

In conjunction with this new regulation, since 2023 EPA has been coordinating initial PFAS sampling in all of Nebraska's communities with populations over 3,300. To assist in initial sampling costs for CWS below 3,300, and publicly owned NTNCs (like rural schools), NDEE is utilizing federal grants to provide PFAS sampling kits free of charge.

The map on the following page shows preliminary PFAS results in Nebraska's public water systems. NDEE is working to identify sources of PFAS across the state and establish funding strategies for mitigating PFAS found in PWSs.



On May 15, 2025 EPA announced its intention to reconsider the regulatory determinations for 4 of the 6 regulated PFAS (denoted with an asterisk in the above table) and extend the compliance deadlines for the 2 remaining PFAS. The EPA plans to propose an updated final PFAS Rule in Spring 2026. For more information and updates from EPA regarding PFAS regulations visit: https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas.

The EPA final rule on PFAS in drinking water became effective on June 25, 2024 which applies to both Community and Non-transient Non-Community public water systems. NDEE is reviewing the final rule and will work to update its regulations to ensure compliance with the new federal standards. In addition, the Department is reviewing the new Emerging Contaminant Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds for 2024 to learn more about funding available to public water systems affected by this new standard and how the agency can provide support. The final rule regulates six unique PFAS (see chart on the following page) and requires initial monitoring by 2027 with compliance to the PFAS MCLs beginning in 2029.

The EPA has PFAS sampling data for public water systems that serve populations of 3,300 or more through the Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5). That data is available online: https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/data-summary-fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule

CHAPTER 7:
Energy Programs

The department's primary energy-related responsibilities focus on administering the federally funded state Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and conducting the overall State Energy Program (SEP). The SEP consists of the general pursuit of all energy-related activities and is funded by the Department of Energy (DOE). Specific efforts include the administration and implementation of the Nebraska State Energy Code and administering the long standing and successful Dollar and Energy Saving Loan (DESL) program. The WAP and DESL programs provide financial resources for Nebraska citizens to install upgrades to their homes or businesses to make them more energy efficient and decrease energy costs.

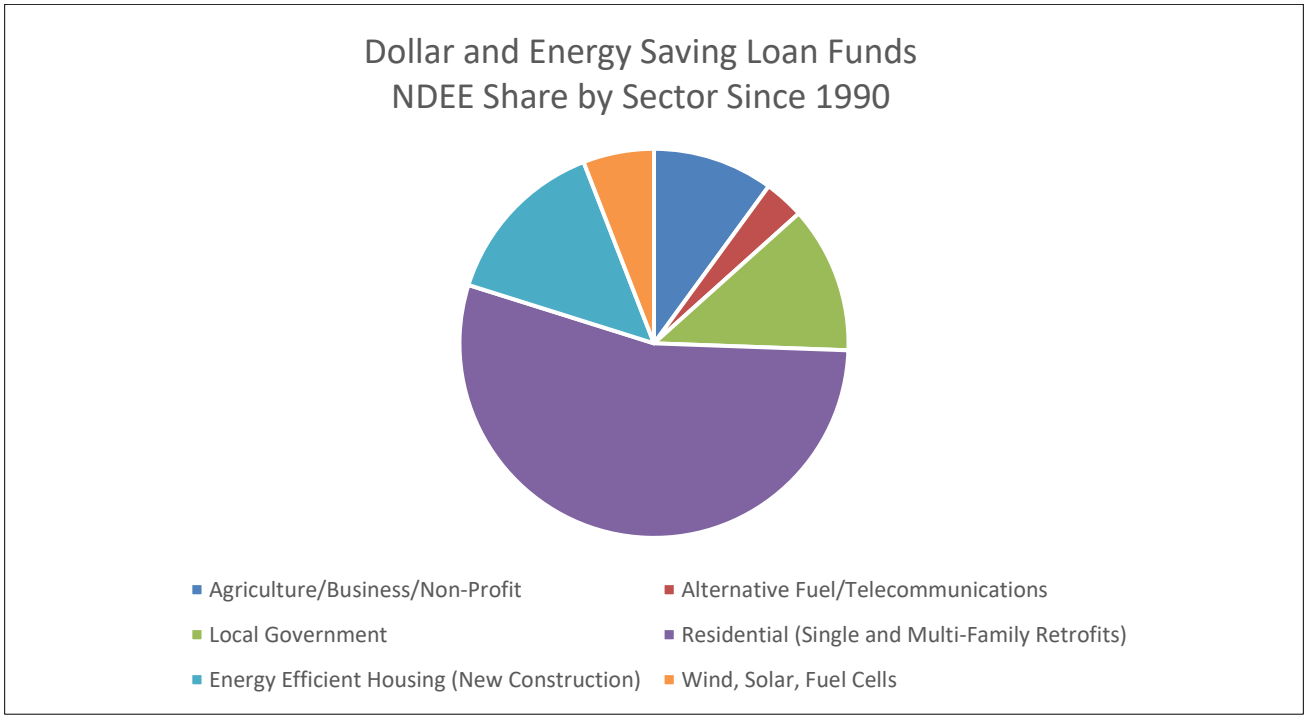
The Energy Programs team continued to develop several new programs which focused on enhancing grid resiliency, improving energy efficiency in schools and increasing energy efficiency in homes. Details of these programs are described below.

A comprehensive annual report on energy activities is required by statute; the 2025 report will be included in a separate report submitted to the Governor and the Clerk of the Legislature by February 15, 2026. The State Energy Annual Report for 2024 may be found at Annual State Energy Report, 2024 | DWEE NE

Dollar and Energy Savings Loan Program

The Dollar and Energy Saving Loans (DESL) program has helped tens of thousands of Nebraska residents, local businesses, school districts, and municipalities make their homes and buildings more energy efficient and helped them reduce energy bills by providing low-cost financing for energy-efficient equipment and projects. NDEE partners with Nebraska-based lending institutions by purchasing a portion of each loan (50-90%) thus incentivizing lower interest rates to the borrowers while leveraging lender funds for energy-saving projects.

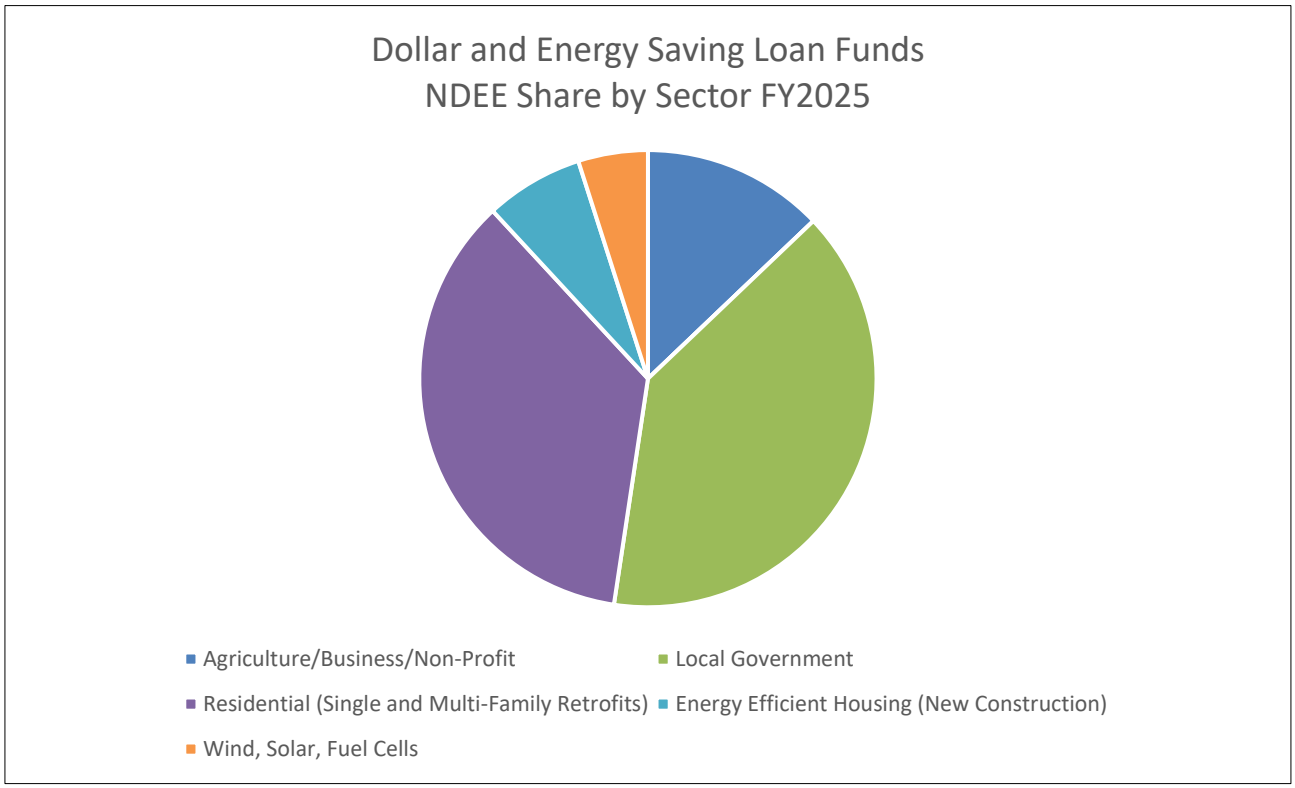
Since the inception of the program in 1990, the DESL program has helped finance 31,530 energy saving projects over 30,765 loans with the total cost of all improvements totaling over $419 million. The DESL revolving loan system will continue to provide energy conservation loans far into the future since the funding pool is continually replenished by loan repayments. These energy loans can be used for a multitude of energy-related projects including replacing inefficient lighting; installing highly rated, energy-efficient heating and cooling systems; adding new solar or wind generation; providing better thermal resistance with added insulation and replacing old windows and doors; installing large and small-scale solar projects; and constructing and long-term financing on new, above-code energy-efficient housing.



Dollar and Energy Saving Loan Funds – NDEE Share by Sector Since 1990

SECTOR	TOTAL PROJECT COST	NDEE SHARE OF PROJECT COST	NUMBER OF PROJECTS
Agriculture/Business/Non-Profit	$44,514,822	$21,577,158	1,738
Alternative Fuel/Telecommunications	$11,473,505	$7,147,364	44
Local Government	$36,988,805	$26,239,288	166
Residential (Single and Multi-Family Retrofits)	$223,692,793	$116,669,310	29,043
Energy Efficient Housing (New Construction)	$82,464,709	$30,641,681	305
Wind, Solar, Fuel Cells	$19,177,189	$12,670,698	234
TOTALS	$ 418,311,823	$ 214,945,499	31,530

In fiscal year 2025, the DESL program helped finance over $16.4 million for 334 new loans that improved energy efficiency for 356 new projects. Over that time the DESL program is estimated to have saved 275,289 kilowatt-hours of electricity, 207,039 therms of natural gas and reduced carbon emissions by almost 28,905 tons.



FY 2025 Dollar and Energy Saving Loan Funds – NDEE Share by Sector

SECTOR	Total Loaned	NDEE Share	Total Projects
Agriculture/Business/Non-Profit	$1,894,757	$1,231,592	2
Alternative Fuel/Telecommunications	$0	$0	0
Local Government	$5,809,910	$5,228,919	5
Residential (Single and Multi-Family Retrofits)	$5,256,245	$3,495,957	336
Energy Efficient Housing (New Construction)	$1,022,900	$518,929	2
Wind, Solar, Fuel Cells	$724,923	$464,266	11
TOTALS	**$14,708,735**	**$10,939,663**	**356**

DESL Project Highlights FY 2025

Pictured Above: Exeter-Milligan Public Schools - $1.2 Million Heating, Cooling, and Automation Project
Top Row: Exeter-Milligan School Gym Entrance (top-left), new ductwork in gym (top-right).
Middle Row: Roof-top cooling units.
Bottom Row: Automation controls (bottom-left), new boiler units (bottom-right).

Pictured Above: Nebraska City Public Schools - $500 Thousand Lighting, Cooling, and Ductwork Project.
Top Row: Front of Hayward Elementary (top-left), gym lighting and sealed ductwork (top-right).
Bottom Row: New lighting in Nebraska City High School gymnasium (top-left), Front of High School (top-right).

Pictured Above: Gretna Sanitation - $350 thousand new fleet vehicle addition; fueled with Compressed Natural Gas.




Pictured Above: Single-Family and Multi-Family Residential Projects.
Top Row: New Air Conditioning Condenser (top-left), Window Replacements (top-center), New Photovoltaic System (top-right).
Bottom Row: Hayward Place Condominiums - $367 thousand window replacement project.

State Energy Program and Special Projects

The US Department of Energy (DOE) provides funds to states for the general operations of State Energy Offices. These funds support the day-to-day energy responsibilities of NDEE. Funds are used to monitor the price and supply of traditional energy sources throughout the year and provide support for the DESL program along with serving as a primary funding source for several other efforts that are the responsibility of the Energy Programs. A description of those efforts follows.

Energy Codes

In 2019, the Nebraska Energy Code was updated from the 2009 standards established by the International Energy Conservation Code to the 2018 standard. Nebraska was among the first states to adopt the 2018 standard. With the adoption of the updated code, homeowners of the typical three-bedroom house are projected to save between $165 and $206 annually on energy costs.

NDEE staff continue to be actively involved in providing training on the 2018 code through training partnerships with the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA) and other organizations. Through the partnership with MEEA, more than three dozen virtual and in- person training sessions have been held on many different aspects of the Nebraska Energy Code. NDEE is continuing virtual and in-person training efforts through this partnership and will be hosting practical trainings with an emphasis on teaching stakeholders in Nebraska how to perform the new testing and verification methods defined in the Nebraska Energy Code. NDEE and MEEA host the Nebraska Energy Codes Collaborative Meeting where stakeholders and code officials from across the state meet quarterly to discuss the hurdles that Nebraska faces in energy conservation in building practices. Strategies and experience overcoming these hurdles are shared to improve compliance with the Nebraska Energy Code. Ideas and strategies for future energy conservation in Nebraska are also discussed.

NDEE performs on-site inspections each year when receiving complaints from owners of newly built houses. If a home is found to not comply with the Nebraska Energy Code within two years after construction, NDEE issues an order to the prime contractor to take the necessary actions to bring the building into compliance.

NDEE also reviews all new buildings constructed in whole or in part with state funds to ensure that these buildings are being designed with the energy efficiency and conservation measures intended by the Nebraska Energy Code. The department reviews anywhere from two to four dozen different state funded building applications per year. This fiscal year the department reviewed 43 applications. If the designs are found to not comply with the Nebraska Energy Code, NDEE issues an order to the prime contractor to take the necessary actions to bring the building design into compliance.

In 2025, the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) provided a new Energy Impact Study Report, prepared by an independent firm, to show how updating Nebraska's Energy Code can affect energy savings for households. Reports are available for both the 2021 and 2024 International Energy Conservation Codes (IECC) and can be accessed online or by request. On average, upgrading to the 2021 IECC could save Nebraska households about $183 per year on energy costs compared to the 2018 code. Even greater savings—around $354 per year—are projected for households that move directly to the 2024 IECC. The 2024 report also highlights faster payback periods, meaning homeowners can recover their upgrade costs more quickly while experiencing lower energy bills.

Emergency Support Function 12 – Energy

Emergency response at the state level is organized into 15 Emergency Support Functions (ESFs), each addressing a specific area such as public health and medical services, communications, public works, and transportation. Emergency Support Function 12 (ESF-12) focuses on energy. NDEE's ESF-12 coordinators participate in more than two dozen meetings, webinars, and trainings each year, collaborating closely with federal, state, local, and industry partners. These include the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response; the National Association of State Energy Officials; the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory; the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Region VII; the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; the North American Electric Reliability Corporation; and the Southwest Power Pool. At the state and industry level, partners include the Nebraska Propane Gas Association, National Propane Gas Association, Nebraska Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Store Association, Nebraska Rural Electric Association, Nebraska Farmers Union, Nebraska Power Association, Nebraska Pipeline Association, Nebraska's electric utilities, the Nebraska Ethanol Board, Black Hills Energy, Metropolitan Utilities District, Nebraska Public Service Commission, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, and Nebraska Information Analysis Center. NDEE ESF-12 also coordinates with Nebraska's fuel terminals, the Oil Price Information Service, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, and energy officials from other states, U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia.

At these sessions, ESF 12 coordinators were briefed on energy risks, reliability and resilience, transmission planning, electrical resource adequacy, energy markets, energy needs at planting and at harvest, fuel inventory levels, energy market dynamics, fuel transportation, hours-of-service waivers, cybersecurity, infrastructure protection, disaster recovery, and overall energy security planning.

ESF 12 coordinators participated in quarterly exercises to practice response to a radiological disaster at Cooper Nuclear Station. Each of the quarterly exercises consisted of two sessions: a dress rehearsal and an evaluation.

ESF 12 coordinators participated in quarterly internal training sessions covering a variety of topics and scenarios, such as hours-of-service waivers and who to contact in specific disasters.

Energy Security Plan

An energy security plan is a comprehensive operating manual for state government leaders charged with the responsibility of ensuring the health and safety of its citizens during periods of energy emergencies. Basic information, such as Nebraska's energy profile, is updated annually. Other information, such as contact information, is updated more frequently.

Section 40108 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) requires states to either submit their State Energy Security Plan or have their governors provide an annual letter to the U.S. Secretary of Energy by September 30 each year. The letter must confirm that the state's energy security plan addresses six Congressionally defined elements. Compliance with this requirement is necessary to receive federal financial assistance for energy programs. This provision is set to expire on October 31, 2025.

State Heating Oil and Propane Program (SHOPP)

The Energy Information Administration (EIA), the independent statistical and analytical agency within DOE, conducts the State Heating Oil and Propane Program (SHOPP) from October to March —the heating season— each year. NDEE staff collect heating oil and propane prices for the program each week from selected Nebraska vendors and submits the prices to EIA. EIA combines the data from multiple states and publishes state, regional and national average prices.

The data is used by NDEE to monitor the prices during the winter season in an effort to maintain awareness of developing price or supply irregularities. The data is also used by policymakers, industry analysts, and consumers.

Price data may be found at:

- Propane Prices: https://dee.nebraska.gov/state-energy-information/energy-statistics/fuels/propane/nebraska-residential-propane-prices
- Heating Oil Prices: https://dee.nebraska.gov/state-energy-information/energy-statistics/fuels/heating-oil/average-residential-heating-oil-prices-nebraska Annual Report: https://dee.nebraska.gov/state-energy-information/state-nebraska-heating-oil-and-propane-program-shopp

Midwestern Petroleum Shortage Response Collaborative

NDEE is working with a group of states to share resources and strengths to assist each other in the event of regional energy emergencies. This collaborative is named the Midwestern Petroleum Shortage Response Collaborative. The Collaborative includes energy and emergency management agencies from Nebraska, Wisconsin, North Dakota, Illinois, Missouri, Indiana, Iowa, Tennessee, Kentucky, Michigan, Kansas, Ohio, and Minnesota.

The Collaborative is a state-led initiative intended to enhance regional fuel planning and response among State Energy Offices and State Emergency Agencies, through the development of catastrophic fuel response frameworks and consistent regional engagement. The National Association of State Energy Officials and the National Emergency Management Association, with support from the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response, have supported the development of a Regional Petroleum Response Collaborative in the Midwest. The Collaborative is the first official working group in its region comprised of critical public sector players (e.g. State Energy Offices, State Emergency Management agencies, and federal partners) in the energy-emergency management nexus with the unique task of regional catastrophic fuel planning.

The Collaborative meets on a quarterly basis during steady state to provide member states an opportunity for peer-sharing and information exchange. During these calls, planning developments, lessons learned, preparedness activities, training, state exercises, and points of coordination are discussed, along with other topics of interest to the group. Member states benefit from deliberate examination, dissection, and cross-referencing of existing state and regional response plans, concepts, and annexes, and leverage peer expertise to improve respective state emergency fuel plans while working toward regional coordination. During a fuel supply disruption, this regional collaborative can leverage its established network of trusted state collaborators and industry partners for situational awareness and response.

New Energy Programs

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) of 2021, and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022 provide $97 billion in funding to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for investments in climate and energy over several years.

Over time NDEE's State Energy Program expects to receive approximately $37 million in IIJA formula funds and approximately $93 million from IRA formula funds from the DOE for grid resilience, energy efficiency and conservation, renewable energy technologies, and workforce development. Formula funding is predetermined and noncompetitive, but NDEE must apply for it.

Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid

In 2025, the NDEE awarded $15.6 million in Grid Resiliency Program grants to support local communities in strengthening Nebraska's electric grid. Funded through the U.S. Department of Energy's Grid Deployment Office under the Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Electric Grid/Hazard Hardening Program, these grants are part of a nationwide effort to modernize and secure critical energy infrastructure.

The program supports projects that improve grid reliability, resilience to extreme weather, and recovery after disruptive events. Funded upgrades include:

- Replacing aging power poles, transformers, and substations
- Installing stronger, more efficient transmission lines
- Deploying advanced monitoring and management technologies
- Undergrounding power lines to reduce outage risks

Each recipient community contributed matching funds to cover remaining project costs, demonstrating strong local commitment to energy security and infrastructure improvement.

These investments mark a significant step toward safer, more resilient energy systems that will benefit Nebraska communities for years to come.

Recipient	Project Description	Grant Amount
Ansley	Update distribution system from 2.4kV delta to 12.5kV grounded wye. Replace poles, transformers, overhead conductors, and regulators. Add a primary feed from CPPD Substation to provide a dedicated circuit into the community.	$1,097,047
Central City	Replace 34.5kV transmission line with 69kV transmission line. Perform upgrades to two substations, including transformers. New equipment includes 69kV power lines, new poles, new 69kV to 12.5kV transformers.	$1,800,000
Chimney Rock Public Power District	Install new electronic reclosers with control panels, install distribution automation radios with ethernet ports, and add new software and programing for all equipment in existing substations.	$457,353

Recipient	Project Description	Grant Amount
Cozad	Replacement of power poles and construction of distribution tie lines to add redundancy. The project objective is to harden the system against severe weather incidents that could cause at-risk power poles to fail and customers to lose power.	$838,919
Fairbury	Retire existing 34.5kV line and install 1.5 miles of new, weather-resistant 34.5 kV line. The new line is anticipated to address existing system susceptibilities, improve reliability, guarantee system redundancies, and reduce system losses by increasing the line's thermal and transfer capacity.	$855,049
Falls City	Upgrade existing 5kV infrastructure with a 13.8kV system to ensure the continuity of essential services, such as power supply to critical facilities. The project will install underground cabling, replace the 50-plus-year-old wooden structure with modern, resilient components, and implement of advanced monitoring equipment.	$ 548,524
Fremont	Relocate one of the 69kV transmission circuits, which will include storm mitigation-based design standards using upgraded poles and conductors. The transmission relocate will be a total of three miles. Eliminates a double-circuited power supply.	$1,914,455
The Midwest Electric Cooperative Corporation	Rebuild 14.5 miles of a radial line on the 69kV transmission system connecting the Grant and Venango substations. The rebuild line will have shorter spans and more robust poles to be able to better withstand wind and ice loading and reduce the chance of wind causing lines to slap together.	$1,914,455
Nebraska City Utilities	Replace switchgears and relays and incorporate substation into existing SCADA. Construction of climate-controlled enclosure for equipment. The objective is to enhance the resilience and reliability to reduce future outage durations.	$1,419,708
Nelson	Inspect, repair, or replace aging utility poles and cutouts in the city's distribution system. Replace cracked and potentially hazardous cutouts to ensure the safety of maintenance workers and the public	$362,994
Northeast Nebraska Public Power District	Replace distribution system infrastructure. The project will manage utility poles, harden power lines, and replace old overhead conductors or underground cables.	$1,914,455
Oxford	Convert the remainder of the system to 12.5kV, replace switchgear breakers, install underground circuits, and construct a 12.5kV distribution line around the community.	$646,190

Recipient	Project Description	Grant Amount
Red Cloud	New underground and overhead power lines will provide an upgraded circuit to 13.8Y/7.96kV. It will include a combination of conductors, new poles, and underground equipment, providing redundancy.	$626,203
Tecumseh	Add and replace substation equipment, including switchgears and transformers; install new meters; and add building to house equipment for protection from inclement weather.	$851,358
Wymore	Replace and rebuild critical infrastructure replacing and rebuilding aging H structure poles along the feed lines from the substation, upgrading existing transformers and adding additional transformers to meet load requirements.	$381,143
Total		**$15,627,853**

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program

In 2024, the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) awarded more than $1.1 million in Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) funding to 14 communities across Nebraska. Funded through the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), these grants are designed to help local governments implement high-impact, self-sustaining clean energy projects that benefit entire communities.

Program Goals:

The EECBG program supports initiatives that improve energy efficiency, expand the use of renewable energy, and promote conservation. Eligible projects include:

- Upgrading to energy-efficient lighting and windows
- Installing renewable energy systems on public buildings
- Developing alternative transportation infrastructure, such as pedestrian walkways and bicycle paths
- Supporting public education to promote energy efficiency and conservation

2024 Grant Awards:

A total of 14 communities received funding for projects ranging from lighting upgrades to renewable energy systems:

- Beatrice – $58,041 for efficient lighting at the auditorium and police station
- Bloomfield – $71,682 for lighting and window upgrades at the library
- Curtis – $87,871 for energy-efficient streetlights
- Hickman – $100,000 for efficient streetlights and signage
- Mitchell – $24,324 for lighting upgrades at multiple city facilities
- Nebraska City Utilities – $100,000 for efficient streetlights across eight communities
- North Platte – $100,000 for lighting upgrades at city facilities and recreational spaces
- Peru – $81,731 for efficient downtown streetlights
- Shickley – $83,148 for efficient streetlights
- South Sioux City – $100,000 for lighting upgrades at the ball field
- Wahoo – $100,000 for efficient streetlights
- Walthill – $51,696 for solar streetlights

- Emerson – $100,000 for a 500kW photovoltaic solar tracking facility at the wastewater treatment plant
- Glenvil – $55,434 for sidewalk and pathway updates

These investments will have a statewide impact to:

- Reduce energy costs for local governments and taxpayers
- Enhance community infrastructure and livability
- Support Nebraska's clean energy goals and environmental stewardship

By leveraging federal funding, NDEE continues to empower local communities to take meaningful steps toward energy efficiency, sustainability, and resilience.

State Energy Program – IIJA/BIL Funding

The purpose of this formula grant is to provide funding to States for planning activities and programs that help reduce carbon emissions in all sectors of the economy. NDEE received $4,603,380.00 from DOE to support K-12 public schools with grants for energy audits to identify retrofit projects that could improve energy efficiency and/or air quality in school buildings and other planning activities and programs to reduce carbon emissions. This program is under development.

Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund Capitalization Grant Program

This formula grant provides capitalization grants to States to establish a revolving loan fund, through which the State will provide loans and grants for energy efficiency audits, upgrades, and retrofits to increase energy efficiency and improve the comfort of buildings. NDEE plans to support energy efficient measures in residential, public, and commercial buildings, with an emphasis on K-12 schools, by providing low-interest loans to finance projects. NDEE will partner with Nebraska lenders by purchasing a percentage of the loans at zero interest, which lowers the interest rate and leverages lender funds for each loan. NDEE will use a portion of the funding to provide free energy audits to qualifying schools. NDEE's application is pending with DOE.

Home Efficiency Rebates (IRA §50121) (HER)

The purpose of this program is to award grants to state energy offices to develop a whole-house energy saving retrofits program that will provide rebates to homeowners for whole-house energy saving retrofits. Depending on whether a project meets several different rules, eligible projects can include attic insulation, whole home air sealing, duct sealing and insulation. NDEE received $1,145,342 from DOE to begin developing this program.

Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates (IRA §50122) (HEAR)

This program provides federally funded rebates to eligible property owners who replace energy inefficient appliances with efficient ones or have other work performed to improve the energy efficiency of the property. NDEE received $1,138,678 from DOE to begin developing this program. Example electrification projects include:

- electric heat pump water heater;
- electric heat pump for space heating and cooling;
- electric stove, cooktop, range, or oven;
- electric heat pump clothes dryer;
- electric load service center (e.g. circuit breaker panel);

- insulation;
- air sealing and materials to improve ventilation; or electric wiring.

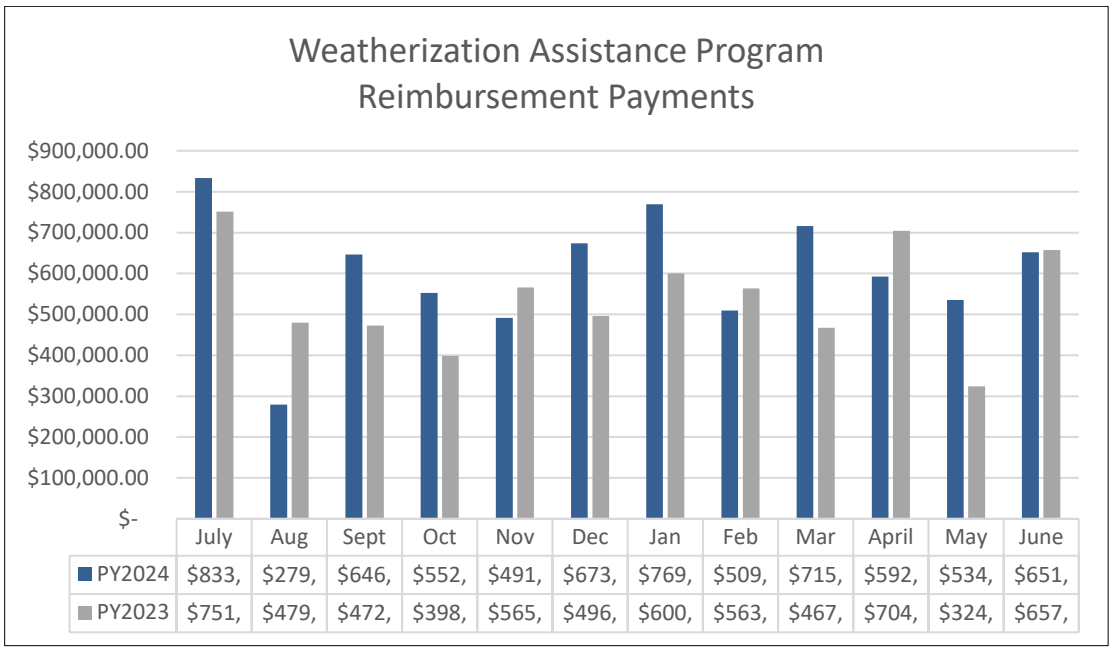
Weatherization Assistance Program

This federally funded program enables low-income families in Nebraska to reduce their energy bills by making their homes more energy efficient. Program staff evaluate the homes of clients that meet income requirements and are approved for weatherization assistance services to identify the most effective energy- and dollar-saving improvements. Seven community action agencies and one non-profit agency are responsible for implementing the home weatherization improvements in Nebraska.

The types of improvements vary based on an energy audit analysis of the home; improvement investment averages between $6,000 and $8,000 per home, excluding the cost of health and safety improvements such as furnace repairs. The most common improvements are adding insulation, air sealing the home, repairing and replacing furnaces, installing energy- efficient lighting, and installing weather-stripping. Beyond the energy savings achieved, clients generally notice an increase in comfort due to reduced drafts and a more even temperature throughout their home. Between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025, 532 units were weatherized across the state, helping to reduce the energy burden for low-income Nebraskans.
Weatherization Program staff inspect a minimum of 10-15% of all completed homes to ensure the quality of work performed.

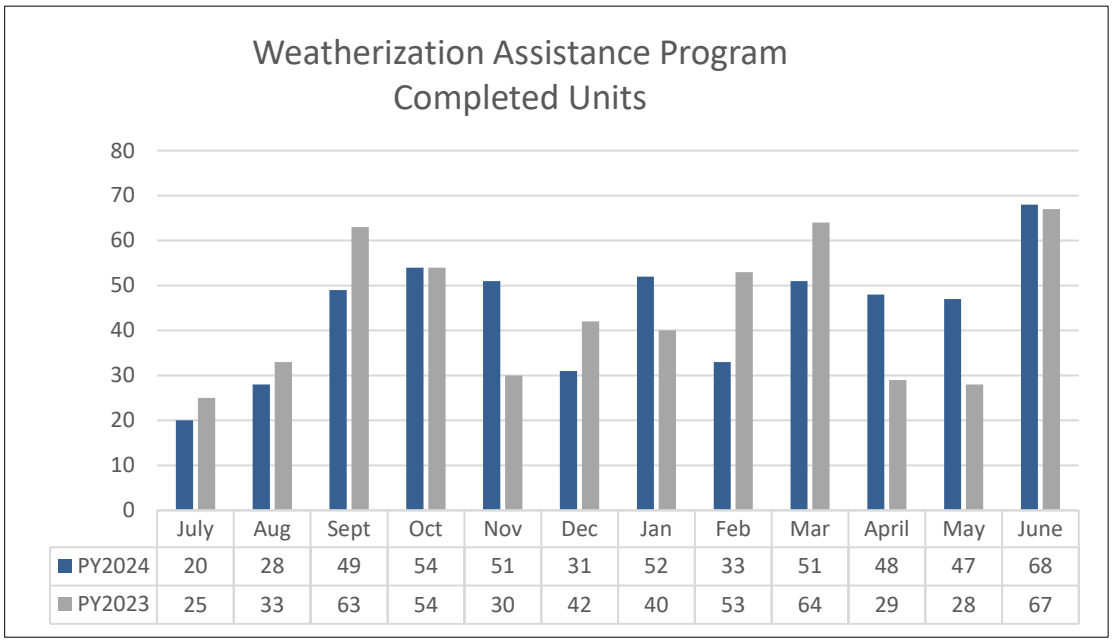
In program year PY2024 the program received funding from four sources: DOE's Weatherization Assistance Program, DOE Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) financed through the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, and State Petroleum Violation Escrow (PVE) Funds. Since the WAP began in 1977, $247 million has been provided to make energy efficiency improvements towards 72,108 units. The Department is allowed to use $750,000 from the LIHEAP budget for Heating and Cooling Repair and Replacement Assistance (HCRRA), with a limit of $6,000 per client. This program offers furnace and AC repair or replacement assistance to extremely low-income clients. Between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025, 115 clients received Heating and Cooling Repair and Replacement Assistance.

The chart on the next page shows the Weatherization Assistance Program reimbursements for FY2023/2024 (PY23) and FY2024/2025 (PY24).



	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June
PY2024	$833,	$279,	$646,	$552,	$491,	$673,	$769,	$509,	$715,	$592,	$534,	$651,
PY2023	$751,	$479,	$472,	$398,	$565,	$496,	$600,	$563,	$467,	$704,	$324,	$657,

The following chart shows the Weatherization Assistance Programs production for FY2023/2024 and FY2024/2025.



	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June
PY2024	20	28	49	54	51	31	52	33	51	48	47	68
PY2023	25	33	63	54	30	42	40	53	64	29	28	67

Like many entities involved in the construction and/or rehabilitation industry, Nebraska's Weatherization network participants continue to face the challenges associated with material and labor shortages and increased costs. NDEE Weatherization Assistance Program staff continue to work with and collaborate with sub-grantees and federal funding partners to ensure Nebraska's low-income families receive safe, quality, cost-effective services and equipment.

CHAPTER 8:
Expenditure and Budget Summary

The following information summarizes Department expenditures for fiscal year 2025 and outlines budget projections for fiscal year 2026. The figures in the expenditure summaries were derived from the state accounting system. The budget projections were prepared by the Department.

Chart A shows actual FY25 expenditures for each federal grant, including the state match.

Chart B lists actual FY25 expenditures of programs funded by state general funds and/or cash funds. This chart lists expenditures by activity. Activity in this case is not considered a program activity but is a category of expenditure. Activities listed in this chart are personal services, operating expenses, travel, capital outlay, contracting and distribution of aid.

Chart C lists actual FY25 expenditures for the agency by funding source divided into aid and operational costs. The Aid category is solely Aid expenditures. All other expenditures were populated in the Operations category.

FY26 budgets for federal grants and programs funded by state funds for Agency 084 are available on the Nebraska Department of Administrative Services website at: https://das.nebraska.gov/accounting/financial_reports.php. and https://das.nebraska.gov/budget/index.html

Agency program activities are described in Chapter 2 and Chapters 4 through 7 of this report.

Chart A -- Actual Expenditure for Each Federal Grant for FY25

Grant / Program Title	Grant $	Match $	Total $
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund	45,240,814	610,271.50	45,851,086
Clean Water State Revolving Fund	15,723,348	2,027,855.40	17,751,203
Performance Partnership	6,460,510	1,924,273.86	8,384,784
ARPA Cedar Knox	5,047,389		5,047,389
LIHEAP - Energy Assistance Program DHHS	4,113,403		4,113,403
ARPA State Fair grounds	4,269,041		4,269,041
Weatherization	3,263,050		3,263,050
319 H Non-Point Source	2,360,450		2,360,450
Dollar & Energy Savings Loan (DESL)	1,488,001		1,488,001
ARPA Reverse Osmosis Private	934,585		934,585
Section 128 (a) State Response	707,374		707,374
State Energy Program (SEP)	651,561	18,883	670,444
Leaking Underground Storage Tanks	523,202	-	523,202
Electric Grid Award	388,499	11,439	399,938
PM 2.5 Ambient Air Monitoring	357,567		357,567
Clean Diesel	338,988		338,988
Solid Waste Infrastructure Recycling	335,548		335,548
Section 106 Monitoring	301,655		301,655
CPRG (One Red)	256,411		256,411
WIIN-Martinsburg	195,004		195,004
Superfund Core	151,298	19,819	171,117
Superfund Pre-remedial	155,883		155,883
Superfund Management Assistance	151,298		151,298
Lead in Schools/Daycares	143,755		143,755
604 B Water Quality Management	109,550		109,550
Department of Defense	101,852		101,852
USDA Remediation	36,039		36,039
Home Energy Efficiency Rebate Grants	30,232		30,232
Exchange Network	27,491		27,491
Coal Combustion Residuals	22,246		22,246
State Heating Oil and Propane	8,995	11,449	20,444
Public Water Supply	-		-
Sewer Overflow Stormwater Award	4,773		4,773
Superfund UNL Mead	3,227		3,227
FDA Retail Flex Fund Model			-
Totals	**$ 93,903,039**	**$ 4,623,990**	**$ 98,527,029**
Non-grant federal expenditures*	$ 4,598,255		
*Indirect Cost Pool, EQC			

Performance Partnership is made up of Water 106/NPDES, Air 105, Groundwater, RCRA 3011, a part of nonpoint source progrm, Underground Injection Control, Drinking Water and Mineral Exploration

A portion of the match for the State Revolving Fund Programs is provided by Revenue Bonds issued by NIFA

An indirect rate of 40.25% was negotiated with EPA for FY25 and charged against direct payroll cost to cover agency administrative expenses

Chart B - Actual Expenditure of State Funds for State Programs for FY25 Including Aid

Program	Subprogram	Fund Type	Personal Services	Operating Expenses	Consulting /Contracting	Travel	Capital Outlay	Distribution of Aid	Total
NDEE Operations/Administration	001	G	1,201,436	62,327	197,672	49,124	62,590	-	1,573,148
Integrated Solid Waste Management	004	C	1,554,445	387,000	134,355	10,824	3,902	-	2,090,527
Ag - Livestock	011/016	G/C	1,443,745	389,027	13,955	8,637	-	-	1,855,364
Air Construction Permits	020	C	28,636	9,785	403	60	-	-	38,883
Superfund State Cost Share	023	G/C	27,111	7,141	397,058	-	-	10,351	441,662
Litter Reduction	024	C	123,853	49,987	3,287	1,293	-	2,688,930	2,867,351
Underground Injection Control	026	C	4,261	1,498	-	-	-	-	5,759
Private Onsite Wastewater Cert & Registration	030	G/C	230,947	52,425	3,075	2,850	-	-	289,297
Emission Inventory - Title V	033	C	1,472,887	421,707	65,548	6,588	-	-	1,966,730
Chemigation	034	C	24,863	8,498	22,717	-	-	2,310	58,389
Remedial Action Plan Monitoring Act	036	C	88,121	24,396	278	93	-	-	112,888
Private Onsite Wastewater Permit & Approval	037	C	34,084	9,412	100	-	-	-	43,596
Operator Certification	040	C	66,455	25,096	4,337	1,778	-	-	97,666
Petroleum Release Remedial Action Act	051	C	1,061,890	384,170	5,780,638	3,724	-	3,210,775	10,441,197
Emergency Response	057	C	27,863	23,657	51	809	12,948	-	65,328
Engineering Reviews	061	G	466,722	119,146	6,020	915	-	-	592,804
Volkswagen	065	C	373	3,560		-	-	288,157	292,090
Waste Reduction & Recycling	091	C	135,692	61,748	27,335	-	-	4,508,411	4,733,185
Revitalize Rural Nebraska	096	G	12,812	2,836	-	-	-	570,928	586,575
Nitrate Water Quality Study	097	G	49,813	12,977	35,013	-	-	-	97,803
Lead Service Lines Cash Fund	103	C	-	-	-	-	-	5,862,763	5,862,763
Environmental Safety	209/210	G/C	756,721	195,534	23,576	4,322	-	-	980,151
Public Water Supply	256	C	119,677	57,692	2,205	7,241	-	-	186,815
Engineering Plan Review	285	G/C	527,363	119,189	-	1,550	-	-	648,102
Well Drillers	287	C	425,238	130,731	833	9,385	-	-	566,187
Energy Loan Program	814	C	-	-	-	-	-	314,130	314,130
Energy Admin/Special Projects	816/841	G/C	75,287	18,102	11,064	-	-	-	104,453
Totals			**9,960,297**	**2,577,640**	**6,729,519**	**109,193**	**79,440**	**17,456,755**	**36,912,844**
Total State Matching Funds (From Chart A)									**4,623,990**
Agency Total									41,536,834

FUND TYPE LEGEND
G - Program Expends General Funds
C - Program Expends Cash Funds
G/C - Program Expends Both General and Cash Funds

An indirect rate of 40.25% was negotiated with EPA for FY25 and charged against direct payroll cost to cover agency administrative expenses

Chart C - Actual Expenditures by Aid and Operations Categories						
Program/ Category		**General Funds**	**Cash Funds**	**Federal Funds**		**Total**
Program 106 - Energy	Aid	-	314,130	8,487,686		8,801,816
	Operations	-	146,224	1,456,054		1,602,278
Program 513 - Administration	Aid	-	-	-		-
	Operations	1,573,148	-	4,625,746		6,198,894
Program 586 - Water	Aid	-	10,511,741	3,481,288		13,993,029
	Operations	4,312,066	10,828,064	8,311,284		23,451,414
Program 587 - Waste	Aid	-	7,778,620	41,952		7,820,571
	Operations	301,031	3,118,896	2,242,291		5,662,218
Program 588 - Air	Aid	-	288,157	786,415		1,074,573
	Operations	355,212	2,009,545	1,332,768		3,697,525
Program 523 - Clean Water Loans	Aid	-	-	19,721,413		19,721,413
	Operations	-	-	-		-
Program 528 - Drinking Water Loans	Aid	-	-	48,014,396		48,014,396
	Operations	-	-	-		-
Totals		**6,541,456**	**34,995,378**	**98,501,294**		**140,038,128**
Agency Total						140,038,128
All Programs	Aid	-	18,892,649	80,533,150		99,425,798
	Operations	6,541,456	16,102,729	17,968,144		40,612,330

CHAPTER 9:

Distribution of Aid

The Department has a number of programs that distribute aid for specific activities. These range from funding for roadside cleanup to providing loans through the State Revolving Fund Loan Programs for construction of wastewater treatment facilities and drinking water systems and energy programs.

Waste Management Aid Programs

Following is a summary of funds provided in FY2025 through Waste Grants programs, managed by the Waste Planning and Aid Section.

A. Litter Reduction and Recycling

The Litter Reduction and Recycling Grant Program provides funds to reduce litter, provide education and promote recycling in Nebraska. Funding for the program is an annual fee on manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers who have significant sales in categories of products that would generally be considered to produce litter.

In Calendar Year (CY) 2025, 54 Litter Reduction and Recycling grants were awarded, totaling $4,296,438. The grants were awarded in three categories: Public Education $1,973,446; Cleanup, $105,007; and Recycling, $2,217,985.These grants were awarded to both public and private entities.

B. Waste Reduction and Recycling

The Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Grants Program provides grants for various solid waste management activities. Revenues to the fund are provided by proceeds from various fees, including a one-dollar fee on each new tire sold in the state, and a retail business fee on tangible personal property sold in the state. In addition, 50% of a fee collected on the disposal of solid waste going to landfills goes to this fund.

In CY2025, 81 projects totaling $5,502,343 were funded from the Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Grants Program.

C. Illegal Dumpsite Cleanup Program

The Illegal Dumpsite Cleanup Program, established in 1997, provides funding for political subdivisions to clean up solid waste disposed of along public roadways or ditches. Potential funding is limited to five percent of the total revenue from the disposal fee collected in the preceding fiscal year. In FY2025, the program provided $63,807 to 20recipients.

D. 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. In FY2025, the program provided $115,422 to three counties and five cities participating in the program.

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

Additional information about these programs can be found in the Waste Grants Programs portion of Chapter 5.

Water Quality Aid Programs

A. Petroleum Remediation

The Petroleum Remediation program provides aid through the Petroleum Release Remedial Action Fund to assist in paying the cost of cleanup of sites where petroleum has leaked from tanks, generally service stations. Funding to this program is primarily provided by a fee on petroleum sold in Nebraska. Over $375 million in revenue has been collected since the program began with nearly $294.5 million of that sum spent on site cleanups. During FY2025, the program reimbursed $3.2 million to Responsible Persons for investigation and cleanup at 130 sites.

Additional information about this program can be found in the Petroleum Remediation portion of Chapter 6.

B. State Revolving Loan Fund Program

I. The **Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund** (CWSRF) provides low interest loans and loan forgiveness to municipalities for construction of wastewater treatment facilities and sanitary sewer collection systems. The sources of funding for this program include federal grants and funds from the Nebraska Investment Financial Authority (NIFA) through bond issuance. In FY2025, the CWSRF funded projects totaling $46,080,800in loans and $10,793,961in principal forgiveness and grant funds.

Additional information about these programs can be found in the State Revolving Loan Fund Programs portion of Chapter 6.

II. The **Drinking Water State Revolving Fund** provides low-interest loans and loan forgiveness to owners of public water systems. In FY2025, the program provided financial assistance to public water system projects totaling $85,675,000; of that sum, $12,054,000 was for lead service line replacements.

Additional information about these programs can be found in the State Revolving Loan Programs portion of Chapter 6.

Energy Aid Programs

A. Dollar and Energy Savings Loan Program

The Dollar and Energy Saving Loans (DESL) program assists Nebraska residents, local businesses, school districts, and municipalities in making their homes and buildings more energy efficient. The program also helps reduce energy bills by providing low-cost financing for energy-efficient equipment and projects. NDEE provides funds to Nebraska-based lending institutions to participate in a portion (50-90%) of each energy conservation loan.

In Fiscal year 2025, the DESL program helped finance over $16.4million for 334 loans that improved energy efficiency for 356 new projects. Since the inception of the program in 1990, the DESL program has helped finance over 31,530 energy saving projects with the total cost of all improvements financed totaling over $419 million.

B. Weatherization Assistance Program

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) enables low-income families in Nebraska to reduce their energy bills by making their homes more energy efficient.

The program receives funding from two sources: DOE's Weatherization Assistance Program and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) financed through the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025, 532 homes were weatherized across the state, helping to reduce the energy burden for low-income Nebraskans. Since the WAP began in 1977, $247 million has been provided to make energy efficiency improvements in 72,108 homes.

Seven community action agencies and one non-profit agency are responsible for implementing the home weatherization improvements in Nebraska.

Additional information about these programs can be found in the Energy Programs portion of Chapter 7.

CHAPTER 10:
Staffing

NDEE deals with a wide array of complex environmental issues, and it is essential to our operations to recruit and hire technically competent people. Trained, experienced, and dedicated staff within NDEE provide the foundation to support the mission of the agency to protect and improve human health, the environment, and energy resources.

Staff retention continues to be an important goal for NDEE. Staff turnover impacts continuity in NDEE's programs and activities, and results in additional costs for recruitment and training of replacement staff members. NDEE strives to foster and maintain an employee-friendly workplace by offering transfer and promotional opportunities for qualified internal applicants. The agency offers training opportunities, tuition assistance and flexible and part-time remote work schedules.

NDEE monitors diversity to encourage the receipt of applications from qualified members of protected groups by seeking to recruit members of protected groups.

In 2021 the State of Nebraska classification system went through a consolidation process and eliminated some classifications and added others. The agency also merged with the Energy Office and acquired employees from Department of Health and Human Services. All these changes have changed the look of NDEE classifications. The report below is a comparison for the last 4 years, and it will continue to be updated to ultimately show trends over a 10-year period. The job classes below, as taken from the Department of Administrative Services pay plan, are summarized in the chart on the following page.

A = Administrative Professional Group - Is composed of professional employees with general business responsibilities, including Administrative Specialists, It Applications Developer, IT Business Systems Analyst, It Business Systems Coordinator, Statistical Analyst, Accountants, Federal Aid Administrators, and Marketing & Communication Specialists

E = Engineering, Science and Resources Group - Is composed of professional scientific occupations, including Environmental Specialists, Engineers, and Building Programs Specialists.

G = Management Non-Contract Group - Is composed of jobs performing senior policy making and higher level managerial/administrative functions essential to the overall mission of the agency, board, or commission. Job classifications in this series are comprised of Budget Officer, Attorney III's, Agency Legal Counsel, Environmental Managers, Deputy Director, and Emergency Response Coordinator.

K = Confidential Non-Contract Group - Is composed of specific positions at any occupational level which handle information or provide advice pertinent to the development, negotiation and/or interpretation/application of labor contracts, or issues related to such agreements, this job services is composed of Training Coordinator, HR Specialist, Legislative Coordinator, Attorney I & II's, and Paralegals.

N = Non-Classified Service Group - Is used by agencies for positions not covered by the State Personnel Salary System.

S = Administrative Support - Is composed of clerical and administrative non-professional classes, including Office Specialist.

V = Supervisory Non-Contract Group - Is composed of employees who are supervisors as defined in Nebraska Revised Statues, section 48-801, which includes IT Supervisor, Administrative Programs Officer, Human Resource Manager, Accounting and Finance Manager, Environmental Supervisors and Professional Engineer III.

X = Examining, Inspection and Licensing Group - Is composed of positions empowered to review certain public and business activities, including driver-licensing personnel, revenue agents, bank and insurance examiners who remain in the State Personnel system under sections 8-105 and 44-119, which include Environmental Health Scientists & Health Food Service Evaluation Officer.

Employees Assuming Agency Positions

These figures include new hires, promotions, transfers, and classification up-grades.
Figures are from July 1st through June 30th of the designated year.

	2022	2023	2024	2025
Administrative Professional Group (A)	10	12	16	13
Engineering, Science and Resource Group (E)	43	51	50	50
Management Non-Contract Group (G)	2	2	1	2
Confidential Group (K)	3	3	0	0
Non-Classified Service Group (N)	0	0	1	0
Administrative Support Group (S)	3	6	5	5
Supervisory Non-Contract Group (V)	8	10	6	0
Examining & Inspection Licensing Group (X)	0	4	0	2

CHAPTER 11:
Financial Assurance Requirements

Section 81-1505(21) provides statutory authority for the Department to develop, and the Environmental Quality Council to adopt as regulations, requirements for all applicants to establish proof of financial responsibility. The requirements pertain to all new or renewal permit applicants regulated under the Nebraska Environmental Protection Act, the Integrated Solid Waste Management Act, and the Livestock Waste Management Act, unless a class of permittees is exempted by the Council. The purpose of financial responsibility is for an applicant to provide funds to be used in the event of abandonment, default or other inability of the permittee to comply with terms or conditions of its permit or license. State statutes also identify types of funding mechanisms that applicants can use to meet the requirements.

Following is a table which provides a comprehensive list of existing financial assurance requirements for each permittee. Financial assurance amounts are listed in two categories: the first is the obligated amount, which lists the total amount of financial assurance which must be provided by the time of closure of the facility. Second is the current amount demonstrated, which lists the amount of financial assurance which is currently accrued towards the obligated amount. The table lists the facility location, permit type, initial date financial assurance provided, method or type of financial assurance provided and the guarantor for each permittee.

NDEE FINANCIAL ASSURANCE

Facility Name	Location	Permit Type	Initial Date	Obligated Amount	Current Amount Demonstrated	FA Mechanism	Guarantor
Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Areas (MSWDA), Sanitary Landfills (LF)							
Alliance Landfill	Alliance	MSWDA	03/17/94	$ 5,902,982	$ 2,514,613	Enterprise Fund	City of Alliance
Beatrice Area SW Agency	Beatrice	MSWDA	07/12/00	$ 8,570,614	$ 8,570,614	Financial Test	City of Beatrice
Butler County Landfill	David City	MSWDA	10/03/08	$ 18,406,059	$ 9,300,784	Trust Fund	US Bank
Douglas County Landfill	Bennington	MSWDA	02/16/04	$ 16,219,230	$ 16,219,230	Surety Bond	Evergreen Natl. Indemnity Co.
G & P Dev Landfill	Milford	MSWDA	10/03/08	$ 14,678,031	$ 4,211,720	Trust Fund	US Bank
Gering Landfill	Gering	MSWDA	02/13/96	$ 2,876,531	$ 2,346,635	Enterprise Fund	City of Gering
L.P. Gill Landfill	Jackson	MSWDA	08/18/21	$ 16,247,381	$ 16,247,381	Surety Bond	Travelers Casualty & Surety
Grand Island Landfill	Grand Island	MSWDA	03/31/96	$ 11,446,915	$ 11,446,915	Financial Test	City of Grand Island
Hastings Area Landfill	Hastings	MSWDA	03/18/13	$ 7,418,566	$ 4,538,821	Enterprise Fund	City of Hastings
Hastings Landfill	Hastings	Sanitary LF	10/01/97	$ 114,572	$ 33,073	Faith & Credit	City of Hastings
Holdrege Landfill	Holdrege	MSWDA	07/29/96	$ 3,874,598	$ 2,858,612	Enterprise Fund	City of Holdrege
J-Bar-J Landfill	Ogallala	MSWDA	03/28/00	$ 7,887,531	$ 7,887,531	Performance Bond	Evergreen Natl. Indemnity Co.
Kearney Landfill	Kearney	MSWDA	03/31/94	$ 11,472,148	$ 4,858,804	Trust Fund	Union Bank & Trust
Kimball Landfill	Kimball	MSWDA	05/10/96	$ 2,156,227	$ 1,529,611	Enterprise Fund	City of Kimball
Lexington Landfill	Lexington	Sanitary LF	07/25/96	$ 237,560	$ 291,112	Faith & Credit	City of Lexington
Lexington Area Agency	Lexington	MSWDA	01/19/97	$ 4,275,928	$ 2,235,514	Enterprise Fund	Lexington Area SW Agency
Lincoln Bluff Road Landfill	Lincoln	MSWDA	04/01/96	$ 31,598,623	$ 31,598,623	Financial Test	City of Lincoln
Loup Central Landfill	Elba	MSWDA	04/09/96	$ 3,178,582	$ 1,480,886	Trust Fund	Citizens Bank & Tr St. Paul
McCook Landfill	McCook	Sanitary LF	03/04/96	$ 199,340	$ 99,670	Enterprise Fund	City of McCook
NE Ecology Landfill	Geneva	MSWDA	10/03/08	$ 3,784,230	$ 1,482,293	Trust Fund	US Bank
NNSWC Landfill	Clarkson	MSWDA	04/09/96	$ 23,782,962	$ 12,253,617	Enterprise Fund	NNSWC
Pheasant Point Landfill	Bennington	MSWDA	03/01/12	$ 39,830,324	$ 39,830,324	Surety Bond	Western Surety
Sarpy County Landfill	Papillion	MSWDA	03/31/96	$ 3,709,900	$ 4,300,000	Enterprise Fund	Sarpy County
Sidney Landfill	Sidney	MSWDA	02/11/97	$ 2,980,176	$ 1,290,879	Enterprise Fund	City of Sidney
SWANN Landfill	Chadron	MSWDA	09/25/97	$ 2,693,938	$ 933,574	Enterprise Fund	SWANN
Valentine Landfill	Valentine	MSWDA	04/09/96	$ 2,627 ,812	$ 1,212,035	Enterprise Fund	City of Valentine
York Landfill	York	Sanitary LF	05/14/96	$ 30,068	$ 13,447	Faith & Credit	City of York
York Area SW Landfill	York	MSWDA	05/14/96	$ 5,633,369	$ 3,413,961	Enterprise Fund	City of York

*MSWDAs are landfills that are operating under current solid waste management regulations.

**Sanitary LFs are closed facilities that have post-closure monitoring and maintenance.

Construction/Demolition Landfills							
Abe's Trash Service C & D	Blair	Const./Demol.	03/30/98	$ 631,000	$ 631,000	Escrow Account	Bank of Bennington
Alliance C & D Landfill	Alliance	Const./Demol.	12/02/99	$ 492,298	$ 211,289	Enterprise Fund	City of Alliance
Anderson Excavating C & D	Omaha	Const./Demol.	11/15/12	$ 1,207,818	$ 1,207,818	Escrow Account	Availa Bank
Arnold C & D Landfill	Arnold	Const./Demol.	07/24/00	$ 110,405	$ 28,342	Enterprise Fund	Village of Arnold
Beatrice Area SW Agency	Beatrice	Const./Demol.	10/15/12	$ 1,288,267	$ 1,288,267	Financial Test	City of Beatrice
Benkelman C & D Landfill	Benkelman	Const/Demol.	10/15/06	$ 112,645	$ 37,192	Enterprise Fund	City of Benkelman
Broken Bow C & D Landfill	Broken Bow	Const/Demol.	11/23/07	$ 339,236	$ 58,007	Enterprise Fund	City of Broken Bow
Bud's Sanitary Service C & D	Newman Grove	Const./Demol.	06/01/97	$ 58,516	$ 58,516	Letter of Credit	First Natl. Bank Newman Gr
Eco-Storage C & D Landfill	Omaha	Const./Demol.	06/03/10	$ 43,606	$ 43,606	Surety Bond	Evergreen Natl Indemnity Co.
Franklin C&D Landfill	Franklin	Const./Demol.	11/08/10	$ 75,578	$ 49,816	Enterprise Fund	City of Franklin
Gage County C & D Landfill	Beatrice	Const./Demol.	02/23/98	$ 51,907	$ 51,907	Letter of Credit	Security First Bank
Hawkins Construction C & D	Omaha	Const./Demol.	02/11/21	$ 498,113	$ 498,113	Surety Bond	Western Surety Co.
Holdrege C & D Landfill	Holdrege	Const/Demol.	05/01/09	$ 389,841	$ 119,141	Enterprise Fund	City of Holdrege
Imperial C&D Landfill	Imperial	Const./Demol.	06/01/01	$ 167,988	$ 102,706	Enterprise Fund	City of Imperial
KGP Services C & D	Norfolk	Const/Demol.	11/06/03	$ 120,628	$ 123,249	Escrow Account	Elkhorn Valley Bank & Trust
Kimball C & D Landfill	Kimball	Const./Demol.	04/01/01	$ 220,898	$ 90,626	Enterprise Fund	City of Kimball
Lead Waste Mgmt C&D Landfill (Double S Ventures)	Waterbury	Const./Demol.	05/28/14	$ 94,522	$ 94,522	Letter of Credit	Security Bank
L.P. Gill Landfill C & D	Jackson	Const/Demol.	08/18/21	$ 530,592	$ 530,592	Surety Bond	Travelers Casualty & Surety
Lexington C & D Landfill	Lexington	Const./Demol.	09/30/98	$ 567,093	$ 209,391	Enterprise Fund	Lexington Area SW Agency
Lincoln North 48th St. C & D	Lincoln	Const./Demol.	04/01/96	$ 4,347,161	$ 4,347,161	Financial Test	City of Lincoln
Loup Central C & D Landfill#2	Elba	Const./Demol.	01/28/01	$ 215,799	$ 107,781	Trust Fund	Citizens Bank & Tr. St. Paul
NPPD Gerald Gentleman	Sutherland	Const./Demol.	04/01/95	$ 326,161	$ 326,161	Financial Test	NPPD
O'Neill C & D Landfill	O'Neill	Const./Demol.	06/01/01	$ 278,062	$ 96,421	Enterprise Fund	City of O'Neill
O'Neill Wood Resources C & D	Grand Island	Const./Demol.	10/10/18	$ 576,457	$ 108,957	Trust Fund	Minden State Bank & Trust
PAD LLC C & D Landfill	Hastings	Const./Demol.	03/30/22	$ 659,072	$ 659,072	Letter of Credit	Five Points Bank
Plainview C & D Landfill	Plainview	Const./Demol.	09/26/00	$ 81202	$ 86,663	Enterprise Fund	City of Plainview
1221 Rainwood Road C & D	Omaha	Const/Demol.	08/10/21	$ 363,413	$ 363,413	Surety Bond	North American Specialty Ins.
Red Cloud C&D Landfill	Red Cloud	Const/Demol.	04/04/17	$ 190,183	$ 24,704	Enterprise Fund	City of Red Cloud
Schmader C & D Landfill	West Point	Const/Demol.	07/27/12	$ 239,758	$ 239,758	Letter of Credit	Charter West Ntl Bank
Sidney C & D Landfill	Sidney	Const./Demol.	11/23/99	$ 190,183	$ 77,650	Enterprise Fund	City of Sidney
Three Valleys C & D Landfill	Indianola	Const./Demol.	02/24/10	$ 194,649	$ 194,649	Letter of Credit	McCook Ntl Bank
Valentine C&D	Valentine	Const/Demol.	07/11/22	$ 38,528	$ 6,757	Enterprise Fund	City of Valentine
York C & D Landfill	York	Const/Demol.	12/01/07	$ 919,630	$ 281,304	Enterprise Fund	City of York
Fossil Fuel Combustion Ash (FFCA), Industrial Waste Landfills, Monofills							
Ash Grove Cement Co.	Louisville	Indus. Waste	03/01/03	$ 4,093,927	$ 4,093,927	Insurance Policy	Great American E&S Ins. Co.
Clean Harbors Technology	Kimball	Monofill	07/31/20	$ 3,492,111	$ 3,492,111	Insurance Policy	Great American Ins. Co.
Fremont Utilities	Fremont	FFCA	05/28/96	$ 3,982,088	$ 1,311,396	Enterprise Fund	City of Fremont
Hastings Utilities	Hastings	FFCA	02/01//01	$ 8,083,329	$ 3,527,522	Enterprise Fund	City of Hastings & PPGA
NPPD Gerald Gentleman 4	Sutherland	FFCA	04/01/95	$ 8,914,160	$ 8,914,160	Financial Test	NPPD

NPPD Sheldon Station 4	Sheldon	FFCA	07/01/01	$ 2,504,588	$ 2,504,588	Financial Test	NPPD
OPPD NE City 1	NE City	FFCA	04/04/95	$ 2,409,719	$ 2,409,719	Financial Test	OPPD
OPPD NE City 2	NE City	FFCA	06/30/09	$ 8,144,616	$ 8,144,616	Financial Test	OPPD
OPPD North Omaha	Omaha	FFCA	04/04/95	$ 3,641,207	$ 3,641,207	Financial Test	OPPD
Platte Generation	Grand Island	FFCA	03/18/14	$ 3,227,080	$ 3,227,080	Financial Test	City of Grand Island
Waste Management of NE	Bennington	Indus. Waste	03/01/12	$ 1,775,604	$ 1,775,604	Surety Bond	Lexon Insurance Co.
Transfer Stations, Material Recovery Facilities, Compost Sites							
Bud's Sanitary Service	Newman Gr.	Transf. Station	05/19/17	$ 2,970	$ 2,970	Letter of Credit	First Natl. Bank, NG
Custer Transfer Station	Broken Bow	Transf. Station	11/08/16	$ 12,702	$ 12,702	Letter of Credit	Nebraska State Bank
Doernemann Const. Co.	Clarkson	Compost	12/15/99	$ 132,595	$ 132,595	Letter of Credit	Clarkson Bank
Edgetown Properties LLC	Madison	Transf. Station	06/27/12	$ 12,493	$ 12,493	Escrow Account	Frontier Bank
Fremont CRD, Inc.	Fremont	Transf. Station	07/02/03	$ 13,125	$ 13,125	Surety Bond	Capitol Indemnity Corp
King Transfer Station	Walthill	Transf. Station	04/02/96	$ 1,821	$ 2,023	Escrow Account	Charter West Bank
Medi-Waste Disposal	Lincoln	Processing Fac	01/24/18	$ 30,124	$ 30,124	Surety Bond	Cincinnati Ins. Co.
Prairieland Gold Capital LLC	Firth	Compost	07/13/22	$ 382,569	$ 382,569	Surety Bond	Evergreen National Indemnity
River City Recycling	Omaha	Mat. Recovery	01/01/01	$ 67,352	$ 67,352	Escrow Account	US Bank Ntl Assoc
Sarpy County	Papillion	Transf. Station	04/17/12	$ 95,650	$ 95,650	Surety Bond	Travelers Surety Co. of Amer.
Seneca Sanitation	Dubois	Transf. Station	09/27/17	$ 4,012	$ 4,012	Letter of Credit	First Heritage Bank
Smart Soils, LLC	Grand Island	Compost	06/22/23	$ 322,338	$ 322,338	Letter of Credit	Farm Credit Services of Amer.
Stericycle	Lincoln	Processing Fac	07/01/12	$ 56,873	$ 56,873	Surety Bond	Westchester Fire Ins. Co.
Waste Connections of NE	Central City	Transf. Station	05/30/13	$ 9,223	$ 9,223	Surety Bond	Platte River Ins Co.
Waste Connections of NE	Gering	Transf. Station	08/15/03	$ 25,831	$ 25,831	Surety Bond	Evergreen Natl. Indemnity Co.
Waste Connections of NE	Ord	Transf. Station	07/02/03	$ 9,317	$ 9,317	Surety Bond	Platte River Ins Co.
RCRA Closure and RCRA Post-Closure (PC)							
Loveland Products	Fairbury	RCRA PC & CA	12/10/15	$ 3,442,820	$ 3,442,820	Letter of Credit	Bank of Nova Scotia
Bosch Security Systems	Lincoln	RCRA PC	11/04/21	$ 10,344	$ 10,344	Letter of Credit	Deutsche Bank AG
Clean Harbors Technology	Kimball	RCRA Closure	07/31/20	$ 49,734,522	$ 49,734,522	Insurance Policy	Great American Insurance Co.
Douglas County Landfill	Omaha	RCRA Cor Act	08/20/18	$ 2,377,847	$ 2,377,847	Financial Test	Douglas County
Eaton Corporation	Omaha	RCRA PC	06/08/09	$ 4,463,158	$ 4,463,158	Letter of Credit	BNP Paribas (Held by EPA)
Safety Kleen	Grand Island	RCRA Closure	07/31/20	$ 187,936	$ 187,936	Insurance Policy	Great American Insurance Co.
Safety Kleen	Omaha	RCRA Closure	07/31/20	$ 498,583	$ 498,583	Insurance Policy	Great American Insurance Co.
Tenneco Automotive Inc.	Cozad	RCRA Cor Act	12/20/21	$ 6,233,386	$ 6,233,386	Surety Bond	US Fire Insurance Co.
Van Diest Supply Liquid Plant	McCook	RCRA PC	02/16/06	$ 2,024,858	$ 2,024,858	Letter of Credit	1st State Bank Webster City IA
Underground Injection Control (UIC)							
Crow Butte Resources, Inc.	Crawford	UIC		$ 65, 413,130	$ 65,413,130	Letter of Credit	Royal Bank of Canada
Waste Tire Haulers							
ABC Tire LLC	Kansas C, KS	Waste Tire	06/24/13	$ 10,000	$ 10,000	Surety Bond	Nationwide Mutual Ins.
Abe's Trash Service Inc.	Omaha	Waste Tire	02/08/19	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	Letter of Credit	Bank of Bennington
Butler County Landfill	David City	Waste Tire	05/16/97	$ 50,000	$ 50,000	Surety Bond	Travelers Casualty & Surety

Champlin Tire Recycling Inc	Concordia KS	Waste Tire	10/04/96	$ 10,000	$ 10,000	Letter of Credit	United Bank & Trust
Corey Burch	Oshkosh	Waste Tire	08/08/25	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	Surety Bond	Western Surety Co.
David's Tire Recycling	Nevada, MO	Waste Tire	01/14/25	$ 10,000	$ 10,000	Surety Bond	Merchants Bonding Co.
Encore-360, LLC	Caddo Mills, Tx	Waste Tire	06/21/23	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	Surety Bond	Berkley Insurance Co.
FMS North America	DeSoto, KS	Waste Tire	06/02/23	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	Surety Bond	Western Surety
FoxBox Portable	Deward, NE	Waste Tire	03/31/25	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	Letter of Credit	Jones Bank
Gill Hauling Inc.	Jackson	Waste Tire	02/04/09	$ 10,000	$ 10,000	Letter of Credit	Dakota County State Bank
Intrawest LLC	Fountain CO	Waste Tire	09/15/15	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	Surety Bond	U.S. Specialty Ins. Co.
Kenny Frazier	Edmond OK	Waste Tire	05/26/04	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	Escrow Account	Bank of America, Inc.
Langer Industrial Services	Scottsbluff	Waste Tire	02/11/22	$ 60,000	$ 60,000	Surety Bond	Merchants Bonding Co.
Leo Porter	Oshkosh	Waste Tire	02/21/08	$ 15,000	$ 15,000	Escrow Account	Nebraska State Bank
Liberty Tire Services of Ohio	Savage, MN	Waste Tire	03/09/09	$ 10,000	$ 10,000	Surety Bond	Evergreen Ntl. Indemnity Co.
Morton Supplies, Inc	Morton, IL	Waste Tire	09/20/24	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	Letter of Credit	Morton Community Bank
Michelle Johnson	Pawnee City, NE	Waste Tire	08/01/23	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	Surety Bond	Merchants Bonding Co.
Million Tire Disposal	Sarcoxie, MO	Waste Tire	09/16/16	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	Surety Bond	Great American Ins.Co.
Omaha Casing Co. Inc	Omaha	Waste Tire	12/05/14	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	Letter of Credit	Security Natl. Bank
Paul Engbreg	Otoe	Waste Tire	03/25/24	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	Surety Bond	Merchants Bonding Co.
Resource Management Co	Brownell, KS	Waste Tire	01/17/06	$ 10,000	$ 10,000	Letter of Credit	First State Bank, Ness Cy,KS
Rural Recycling Network, LLC	Hastings	Waste Tire	07/03/25	$ 10,000	$ 10,000	Letter of Credit	Western Surety Co.
RNS Metals, LLC	Elgin	Waste Tire	10/26/21	$ 50,000	$ 50,000	Letter of Credit	Cornerstone Bank
Robert Rhia	Spencer	Waste Tire	03/31/25	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	Letter of Credit	Butte State Bank
Siouxland Shredding, LLC	Sioux City, IA	Waste Tire	07/03/25	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	Surety Bond	Western Surety Co.
Sturgis Flight Center, LLC	Deadwood, SD	Waste Tire	03/31/25	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	Escrow Account	BNC National Bank
Spectracom, Inc. (River City)	Omaha	Waste Tire	04/01/99	$ 43,750	$ 43,750	Surety Bond	Endurance Assurance
Shockley Trucking	Octavia	Waste Tire	02/24/16	$ 10,000	$ 10,000	Surety Bond	Universal Surety Co.
Tire Cutters	Centralia, KS	Waste Tire	05/13/06	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	Letter of Credit	First Heritage Bank
Tire Town, Inc.	Leavenworth, KS	Waste Tire	06/11/15	$ 10,000	$ 10,000	Letter of Credit	Bank of the Prairie
Uribe Scrap Tires, LLC	Lincoln	Waste Tire	01/06/14	$ 10,000	$ 10,000	Surety Bond	Ohio Casualty Ins. Co.
Wookie's Tire Disposal, LLC	Ashland	Waste Tire	05/23/25	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	Surety Bond	Merchants Bonding Co.