Unicameral passes water “sustainability” bill

Nebraska lawmakers have passed LB 1098, a bill designed to help local governments and the state pay for water projects, with an $11 million annual appropriation. Budget bills that were approved this year are expected to generate $32 million for the new water sustainability fund by mid-2015.

The bill by Sen. Tom Carlson would also expand the Natural Resources Commission, from 16 members to 27, to ensure that more major water users are represented. The new commission would include groundwater and surface water irrigators, cities, public power districts and wildlife conservation groups.

JISC video Nebraska Nexus to premiere on NET2 in May

What do construction waste, global population migration, food processing and distribution, the Ogallala Aquifer, On the One Hand, climate change, and economic development have in common? The answer by a Joslyn Institute for Sustainable Communities shows how interconnected and interdependent all of these factors are, and how addressing the nexus of global and local changes and pressures on our critical resources will ensure a strong and healthy future for our citizens.

Nebraska Nexus: Resources, Conservation, Development and Change expresses five critical resources—food, water, energy, land and materials, and how we must consider both conservation and development of those resources to respond effectively to global pressures and to ensure they remain sustainable for future generations and the high standard of living we now enjoy.

The culmination of four years of highly intensive workshops and conferences with civic leaders, ranchers, farmers, elected and appointed officials, students and concerned citizens across Nebraska, the video was produced with the support of University of Nebraska and the Nebraska Environmental Trust, with the administrative support of Nebraska Academy of Sciences.

Nebraska Educational Television will premiere the video on Thursday, May 29 at 7 p.m. CDT on NET2 World and will repeat Sunday, June 1 at 1 p.m. The video will be available in 2014 in June, June, and dates to be announced.

After June 1, the 1 1/4-hour video will be distributed throughout the state and will be available online on demand for appropriate college and high school-classrooms with accompanying teacher’s guides, online at Educational Service Units, public and school libraries, services agencies, civic organizations, government offices, and community centers.

EcoStories featured on television news

KOLN/KGIN TV recently featured EcoStories Nebraska on their news programs. In a piece titled “Cut Home Improvement and Decor Costs by Half”, the news feature recommended that consumers consider recycled materials to save money and reduce landfill waste. They noted that EcoStories handles all kinds of recycled lumber and building supplies as well as bath and kitchen fittings. Furniture, cabinets, hardware, and fabric, among its thousands of inventory items.

A link to the video and story is here: http://www.101now.com/home/headlines/Cut-Home-Improvement-Costs-By-Half-Buying-Smart-248454331.html

EcoStories Nebraska is an initiative of the Joslyn Institute for Sustainable Communities. Learn more about this vibrant local business on their website: http://www.ecostoresnec.com

New opportunities for women in farming and ranching

Farm Business Financing May 10, 10:40-3:30 pm, Leinen & Clark Center, 109 Vialmont Drive, Nebraska City, NE

Selling at Farmers Markets June 7, 2014 11:30-2:30 pm, Breadeaux Pizza, 1425 Silver Street, Ashland, NE

Selling through a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) June 21, 2014 11:30-3:30 pm, Weikelbar Public Library, 617 2nd Street, Milford, NE 68405

The Joslyn Institute for Sustainable Communities

The Joslyn Institute for Sustainable Communities is a community of women in sustainable agriculture, is leading a 3-year project to support aspiring women ranchers across the state in Iowa and Nebraska. Through the project, aspiring and beginning women farm owners will receive business and management planning assistance, networking opportunities with other beginners, and mentorships with established women farmers in the region. Experienced men and women will receive training in risk management and practices in effective educational methods. More info here: http://www.cfra.org/women_farmers