

By Jan Schultz

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The Southwest Nebraska Solid Waste Agency was one of the beneficiaries of \$1,765,766 in recycling grants awarded by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

The grant was used for purchasing a compact excavator with a grappling attachment used to transfer cardboard from a trailer to a baler at the Imperial-based operation.

The unit has arrived, and city workers are testing its operation.

The Southwest Nebraska Solid Waste Agency received a \$20,000 grant toward the unit's \$35,000 price tag. The rest was budgeted in the city's utility department.

The local grant was one of 55 awarded by the DEQ in the 2013 funding.

Funds for this program are generated from a fee charged to certain manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers of products that commonly contribute to litter.