



“LANDFILLED” DISCUSSION SERIES

PUBLIC FEEDBACK

Date: April 2, 2008

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Location: Central Area Betterment Association offices (Kansas City, Kan.)

Facilitator: Tristan Cook

Recorder: Bettse Folsom

Other observers: Liana Riesinger

Number of participants: 9

As we watch landfill space disappear and consider the possibility of trash costs rising, what actions do you think we should be taking now?

- Buy more landfills
- Start recycling
- Find new space (3 affirmations)
- Recycle as much as possible
- Purchase items that can be reused
- More households participating
- Buy less goods that won't decompose

Do you know how much you're charged for trash disposal?

- Yes, and one closed
- Approximate bill, \$6.75 to \$10

Are you concerned about landfill space?

- Yes, ratio of less people in house vs. more trash
- With Deffenbaugh we have been lucky

Are you concerned about the rising costs of trash disposal?

- Yes, definitely

How would you feel about having a landfill located near your home?

- Feel like with the neighbors, we already have one
- Before pickup, it was like that
- I would fight against it

What is the most equitable way for us to pay for our use of landfill space?

- Right now, you pay as much as people, houses and apartments do. It's the same amount and sometimes apartments have much more
- Apartments need to contract their own pickup
- It should be consistent every week
- Check on violators, enforcement issue
- Differentiate between yard and household trash

Would your participation in recycling programs increase if it would prevent a landfill from being located near your home?

- That is a given
- We'd still have to have a landfill

Imagine there is no operating landfill left in the Kansas City area. What issues would arise?

- Higher taxes for busing
- Health problems
- Higher moving costs

How would these issues be addressed?

- City officials involved and higher officials
 - Probable raise in taxes

What is your main motivation for recycling?

- Money, school collection, Boy Scouts (papers)
- Eliminate initial environmental issues

Who is responsible for reducing waste?

- Everybody, individual citizens
- Local government
 - They will/should start new agency

What interest do individuals and communities have in reducing trash?

- Environmental, financial, the right thing to do
- Years ago, neighborhood dumps once a month, burn and fire department hosed down remainder of fire
- Burning might be a solution
 - Water source availability
 - Most is yard waste, NOT garbage
- Composting
- Reusing grocery bags/use and buy canvas bags
- Bury trash to decompose without plastic bags
- "Best Practices" in Europe and other countries

In what other ways are you changing your habits to be more environmentally friendly?

- They haven't changed at all. I was raised this way.
- Light bulbs (CFLs)
- Cost
- Don't want future generations to suffer
- Buying products with recyclable materials
 - Good example: pop bottles (plastic)
 - Bad example: glass bottles
- Rate charging – pick up twice a month
 - Problems with animals, etc
 - Barrels with snap-on lids

Think about all of the items you drop in the trash and the things you buy on an average day. What is the most inconvenient thing about recycling?

- You have to work at it
- Taking it to be recycled
- Sorting
 - It can be easy
 - Daily basis makes easier

- Rinsing cans, etc
 - Not getting bugs, flies, etc.
- Educating people about it, such as my family
- School education***
 - Example: Litter bugs when kids throw things from the cars, etc.

What is the difference between curbside and drop-off centers in terms of whether you participate?

- Convenience of curbside
- Specialize and take it
 - School newspaper drop-off
 - Other paper products

Do you think recycling will become more or less important?

- Yes, and more in future

What is your responsibility to your children/grandchildren?

- Other than economic, the right thing to do

What prevents you from taking action today?

- "I am a fat lazy American."
- Too much effort

Do you feel rewarded for your efforts to recycle?

- Rewarded by better environment

Are your children learning lessons in school about recycling?

- St. Peter's teaches well
- Some schools do and some don't
- Donnelly College doesn't have recycling bins

Is there a gap between what they're learning and what they're practicing at home?

- Yes, there is
 - Grandkids not learning
 - Younger generation takes it for granted

How could your efforts to recycle be rewarded?

- By not having landfill close
- Future generations having a clean environment
- Some financial incentive
- Nonprofit groups are rewarded (green and yellow bins)

Should landlords be providing recycling services to renters?

- Yes, lived and rented recently

Should you be able to choose your own trash hauler?

- How do you know the difference?
- As long as good job and recycled, no problem
- Trash company doesn't pick up everything
- Tire issue – trash doesn't pick up except for a certain amount without rims

Design your ideal recycling system. What would the system look like for your home or office?

- Pay for yourself, nothing is free
- Organized and determined
- Once a week

What kind of storage and pickup would it involve?

- Containers, sealed
- Bins and wheels

How would the materials be handled?

- Sorted, clean, appropriate place in truck
 - No glass
 - Plastic, cans, etc.
- Ideally recycle glass
- Separated bins
 - Personal bins with separated areas
- Manufacturers should be responsible for putting products in recyclable packaging
- Recycle numbers more visible on containers

What would a reasonable cost be for this system?

- If sort out yourself, less
- No cost to homeowner because people can pick it up and get money
- Buy stuff that can be recycled
- Someone will make money, profit by reducing or not charging
- COMMENT: No one going to make them recycle

Who should be taking a leadership role on this issue?

- Neighborhood groups
- Elected officials
- Schools
- General public
- Churches – environment is a more issue
 - Example: Bulletin recycling

Who is taking a leadership role on this issue?

- UG
- NBRs
- Forced in with circumstances

Others comments:

- Focus on manufacturers, right to recycle
- Incentive with bottles back to stores for deposits

Are you more concerned about these issues after participating in this conversation?

- Yes

Are you more or less motivated to participate in these programs after this conversation?

- About the same