



“LANDFILLED” DISCUSSION SERIES

PUBLIC FEEDBACK

Date: Feb. 27, 2008

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: Johnson County Central Resource Library

Facilitator: Lisa Louis

Recorder: Andrea Repinsky

Other observers: Liana Riesinger, Johnson County staff

Number of participants: 18

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

- Charge trash fees by the bag
- Educate public about the benefits of waste reduction
- Create awareness by running ads or PSAs on TV/radio about the need to recycle
- Recycling shouldn't be an option
- Don't send yard waste to the landfill
- Ban non-recyclable plastics
- Separate trash: messy vs. recyclable
- Limit personal consumption
- Educate in schools about recycling
- RDF— refuse-derived fuel use
- Business cardboard recycling
- Curbside recycling and improve access to recycling [drop-off centers]
- New-generation technology — use trash as a resource via plasma gasification
- Push composting. Give away compost bins; ban plastic bags
- Convince merchandisers to stop over-packaging
- Have municipalities take over waste management
- Include cost of disposal in product cost
- If you make a product, take it back
- Pay according to amount of trash put out
- Visibility: make people aware of what they're paying

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

- Increased burning, air pollution
- Health issues (rats) from piles on curbs
- Illegal dumping
- Shipping trash to other countries/states
- Make economic stimulus to encourage recycling, buy compost bins
- Sharpen our focus on what we're buying/the necessities of life
- Reduce usage of non-recyclables
- Cost of transportation of waste
- Redistribution/freecycle
- More recycling centers

- Include on packaging: "This creates ___ amount of waste"
- Paradigm shift — more/bigger isn't better; smaller is better
- Pressure commercial operators to recycle/reuse building materials
- Education — make processes transparent — "Trash doesn't go away"
- Legislative response
- What is next landfill? (Public or private?) Will a public facility have more control? If public, there are more incentives to recycle; ownership

Why do you recycle?

- Right thing to do (repeated by at least two people)
- Don't buy anything non-recyclable
- Good for the Earth
- Question — Does the hauler really recycle when they say they do?
- We're fouling our nest — the oceans are dying
- We're destroying ourselves and where we live — we have to make a change
- Plastic (in the ocean) — it doesn't go away.
- Global warming
- More awareness of what's going on — need to do something
- Common sense
- Recycling reduces energy use (and global warming)
- Resources are not infinite
- Live by doing — show by example
- "I lived by a landfill."
- I am sad because my employer does not recycle
- Nature recycles to conserve energy and matter — a good model.
- A sign of change from current economy
- Not being wasteful

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?

- Cleaning our bottles and cans
- Deffenbaugh doesn't take glass
- Deffenbaugh doesn't take the plastic they should
- Deffenbaugh's rules are difficult to follow
- Deffenbaugh requires paper sorting
- Lack of recycling at work
- No recyclable take-out containers
- Hard to sort plastics by type and recycling location
- Worry about fate of plastics
- No metal/aluminum/steel recycling unless it's cans
- Limited battery recycling
- Pay to recycle Freon
- Limited markets for materials
- No one-stop drop off
- Lack of education about "Where do I take it?"
- Need to use gas/car to recycle. It's inefficient.

What are the issues on using curbside recycling vs. a recycling center?

- Busy mom won't go to center
- I use center instead of paying Deffenbaugh extra for pickup.
- Pickup should save city in landfill costs — but landfill fees are low
- Curbside must be easy for elderly, apartments

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

- Include everybody
- Multiple carts: 1) recyclable, lots of materials; 2) yard waste; 3) non-recyclables
- Open to everybody
- All plastic, tin, foil
- Paid by manufacturers, include in cost of product
- Require deposits on glass, aluminum
- Plasma gasification home system — make electricity
- Design everything to be recyclable: cradle-to-cradle
- Penalties for not recycling
- Put disposal cost up-front
- Cooperation
- Incentivize re-using recycled materials; make recycled materials available
- Pick up everything at curb & sort centrally
- Changed lifestyles reduce need for recycling
- Elect wisely — it's all political
- Collection sites at grocery stores

Who should take leadership on the issue?

- Landfill owners (do they care about filling landfills?)
- City government (multiple votes for this one)
- Citizens — make good decisions
- Legislators (state, city, national)
- Regional action
- Set a goal at the state level
- Youth — schools and parents
- College campuses, using recycling competitions
- Focus on person taking recyclables