



## **“LANDFILLED” DISCUSSION SERIES**

### **PUBLIC FEEDBACK**

Date: April 30, 2008

Time: 6:30–7:30 a.m.

Location: Excelsior Springs Medical Center

Facilitator: Dan Blom

Recorder: Stephanie Williams

Other observers: None

Number of participants: 13 (*sponsored by Excelsior Springs Optimist Club*)

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

- We should be recycling more; that means there's less trash going in.
- We should be investigating other alternatives, such as burning (might cause problems with pollution) or other new technologies
- Burning goes back to old times!

### **How much money do you spend on trash?**

- \$14, \$23, \$54/three months
- Business trash services went from \$85 to \$179
- City contracts and it's added into the water bill
- How expensive would recycling be?

### **How many of your recycle?**

- (several people raised their hands)
- I save it and haul it to the drop-off center.

### **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?**

- It's just easier to throw it away.
- The drop-off center doesn't take glass.
- Trash service won't take tires, yard waste or furniture. They only come twice a year for that stuff.
- Maybe we should look into doing a container deposit, like California. Could this be a fundraiser for groups (like us)?
- It's inconvenient. There's no place to take it.
- Curbside would be more convenient.
- City recycling center is at least open every weekday now.

### **What can be kept out of the trash?**

- Aluminum, paper, cardboard, plastic, metal
- I expect that for a lot of people, everything else, including HHW, goes in the trash
- Most people don't know what *can't* be thrown away
- Elderly people might need help learning how to recycle
- I recycle anything with a symbol on it, regardless of the "number"
- People will dump whatever else they have into business or church

- We should use reusable bags at stores like Wal-Mart to cut down on waste
- Can you change human nature? When I go for my walk every morning, I always see cardboard in the trash. Some people don't even recycle that.
- If I'm paying for others' trash, to me that's just part of living in a community. I may not always need an ambulance or the fire department, but I pay for them. I think it averages out.
- If we charged people per bag, it might encourage them to reduce their trash.
- People would be upset if they had to pay per bag. I think they would find somewhere else to put it — either a neighbor's trash pile or dump it elsewhere

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

- Have chutes marked with different materials. Or containers. That would be more realistic.
- Be able to put it all in one bin.
- During the war, we had a pile for cans. We flattened them so they would take up less space.
- I think two containers the maximum you could ask people to keep in their home.

**Where would you look for information on recycling?**

- Arizona has a magnet you can put on your fridge about what can be accepted in the recycling bins.

**If it would prevent a landfill from being placed near your home, would your participation in recycling programs increase?**

- For some people yes, for others no.
- You need to make it a habit; get people hooked.
- People need to see others doing it.
- I don't think anybody would be excited to have a landfill near their home.
- No one can visually see the difference between trash and recycling. Both are picked up in the same way. [Everything just goes away.]

**Who or what organization should be responsible for taking the lead on this issue?**

- City
- Citizens — they need to tell the city they want it
- Churches, schools need to implement recycling programs