



“LANDFILLED” DISCUSSION SERIES

PUBLIC FEEDBACK

Date: May 30, 2008

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Location: Grandview (Trailside Center, 99th St. and Holmes)

Facilitator: Jennifer Wilding

Recorder: Airick West

Other observers: none

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?

- More recycling
- Recycling program in condos/apartments/multi-family properties
- Look for regional solutions

Do you see a need for disposal services in your own neighborhood?

- I don't understand why the city doesn't pick up leaves
- There appears to be a lot of trash that just isn't picked up
- We need more education on recycling, and we need to pick up additional bags
- Illegal dumping is an issue
- My condo just has dumpsters rather than the two trash bag limit for houses
- They shut down the community recycling center
- I live in Olathe, and I'm very pleased with our system : recycling, trash bins, same time each week
- When I lived in Lenexa, I just called for bulky item pickup and they came and picked it up
- Recycling is an immense amount of work: When you do recycle, you have to really, really want to. Recycling is counter to the American way (this was a criticism of the "American way," not recycling)
- I haul all of my recycling to a recycling center; it's too much work
- In Olathe you put everything in a tub, no sorting, no fuss

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?

- I don't have a problem. In Kansas City, we can't put glass in our recycling bins
- It's no problem for me; it's very easy
- The problem is the things that aren't being recycled
- Are leaves and grass and branches being recycled? They should be.
- We've just started recycling in our office, and it all piles up, then we take it somewhere to recycle
- We're going to start taking our newspaper to Wayside Waifs; they need newspaper
- I'd like to arrange with *KC Star* to take my paper directly to recycling so I don't even have to pick it up and read it
- There is dissatisfaction from area to area on trash handling; it's very inconvenient. I know it's a city service issue

- People aren't embracing recycling; there's a lot in my trash that could be recycled. I'm just disgruntled with the system
- I favor not attacking recycling; do things like deposits on glass and aluminum; make it more difficult to take plastic bags home by charging more for plastic bags
- It's difficult to do the recycling because it takes time out of my day; make it an economic incentive

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

- Reduce disposable items
- Reduce excess packaging
- I need small containers because I live in a small apartment. I reuse paper bags as my trash bags
- Ireland added a fee for using plastic bags and usage dropped 90 percent in 30 days
- Create a cottage industry around these issues like they've done in other states
- Some of these ideas may increase costs on items, which will impact poor people most
- It's too cheap to do non-sustainable things; raise the prices, charge fees
- There's big money in trash, and we're throwing it away
- The best way to get people to go with the program is to show how it's a cost savings because the recycling center will be able to cash in on what it's recycling
- There isn't consistency in trash haulers — what they'll pickup and what they won't — based on the driver
- They need to take glass and pop cans
- Make it simple

How important to you is it that all municipalities in the metro have the same services and costs for waste management?

- Kansas City provides excellent information about their program and its times
- It doesn't have to be universal; doesn't matter if cities do it the same as long as people understand what's being done; trying for sameness won't address individual needs
- As long as it's as simple as it is in Olathe
- If the landfills are few and far between, costs will go up
- If we don't do something now, this issue will sneak up on us