



**“LANDFILLED” DISCUSSION SERIES  
PUBLIC FEEDBACK**

Date: April 23, 2008

Time: 6-7:30 p.m.

Location: Truman High School, Independence

Facilitator: Steve McCue

Recorder: Bettse Folsom

Other observers: Dan Blom, Stephanie Williams

Number of participants: 16

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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?**

- Increase recycling
- More centers conveniently located
  - More recycling centers
  - More products made out of recycled materials
  - Curbside recycling
- Creating solid waste districts
  - Should have only one company and one district
- Develop incentives based on what people use
  - Individuals
  - Incentives to reuse materials
- Make plastic bags to dissolve quicker
- Increase efforts to convert trash for oil use and tires
- Using trash as asset/matter converted to energy – 90 percent waste elimination in energy plants
  - Use methane for gases
  - Plasma arc technology
- Current landfill – using methane for energy – Woods Chapel
- Package into bid process for recyclable products by companies
  - Part of normal work day
  - Fluorescent lights, dimmers
- Independence, Mo., will recycle glass again
- State/federal level, fines for cities that do not recycle and incentives for those that recycle most
  - Not necessarily local responsibility
- Europe manufacturers to reduce packaging
- Each city to take care of its own
- Encourage entrepreneurial businesses
- Recycle at site – making reusable glass/return to elements and reuse
- Twenty-five years ago talk was of **existence** of recycling; now it's a **reality**

**Do you know where your trash goes and how much you're charged?**

- \$59 per quarter plus other expenses
- Kansas City, Mo., has a big item pickup day
  - Kansas City, Mo., provides some itself
  - Independence private haul service

- [It would be best to have a pay-as-you-throw system] – more out, more pay/ less out, less pay
- Landfill that someone has to get paid to fill
- What it takes to develop and prepare
  - Trash items can be used for energy source
  - Pay-as-you-go
- If you have curbside, everyone pays
- We should pay more for everyone to recycle curbside

**If recycling would reduce your trash payment, would it increase your participation?**

“Where do we sign?”

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

- Plant looks better
  - Plant clean and safe for all backyards
- Comprehensive approach
  - Limit size
  - Look as community to make package that is attractive
    - Develop in a manner for future use (golf course)
  - Educational process of acceptable

**Would you recycle more if it would prevent a landfill from being placed near your home?**

- Recycle to pay energy bills
  - For future generations’ energy source
- Tapping into energy

**What issues would arise if there were no landfills left?**

- Chaos, plague, disease, dark ages, disease
- Older generations resourceful
  - Adaptability comes into play

**What is your motivation for recycling?**

- Hate to see waste
- Don’t want children to hate me
- WWII – example of cans and store collections
  - What came out of homes today vs. before WWII on a weekly basis
  - **Today is packaging**, plastic bags
  - Before WWII – garbage
- Pay citizens for garbage
- Blister pack, international travel package, theft
- Europe strict packaging laws
  - Land more valuable
  - Look at best practices of others
    - In the East, they [used to] drop it in the ocean

**Do think this motivation will change over time?**

- California example: friend selling back energy
  - Incentives, education
  - Programs educate proactively

**Have you changed your behavior to be more eco-friendly?**

- Town burn trash before
  - Releases toxins in air
- No place in Independence for large items (examples: furniture, bicycles, appliances)
  - More readily places to take to recycle (repair and rehab)

- Today's society it is cheaper to buy new
- Jefferson City bill – senate 1034
  - Punish thieves
  - Bill to control precious metals selling/have to take to specific recycling center
  - Screening process
  - Requires landfills to have people that recycle to have items divided before – incentives

### Who is responsible for reducing trash?

- Global/national level
- Trumped-up question
- You have to start somewhere
- Already know we will reach no landfills – wants support for long-term solution
- Recycling – Vista Drive
  - Labeling recycles

### What is the most inconvenient thing about recycling?

- **Convenience** – place and open times
- Time involved
- Sheer mass of items to recycle. How are you supposed to know each one?
- Check out Oregon state and Columbia, Mo., best practices
- Columbia best practices
- Having to take it somewhere is inconvenient
- Not everyone recycles
- I prefer taking recycling to drop-off locations.
- You can't immediately get rid of the items.
- Plastic oil can—can this be recycled?
- Too secretive with information
- Homeowners need more information
- Need more education on items that can be recycled

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

- Ninety percent [of items would be] recyclable
- Secure area with set times
  - Location repair and rehab
- USA – Independent
  - Multifaceted approach and choices on choosing recyclables
    - Convenience of options
    - Education from beginning
    - Community issues and resolutions
    - Best Practices: Columbia, Mo.
- Pop bottles and cans could be returned for deposit
- Bring Columbia reps to educate
- Real problems, larger populations will not do it
- WWII – Recyclable grease
- Beginning Columbia recycling program took 25 years of pressure
  - Key for entity to have control
  - Benefit of community, not profit
  - Required curbside pickup
- Just a few people to start in community – what will work
- Curbside recycling:
  - Mandatory option to use
  - Pay whether use or not
  - More convenient for options for individuals' lifestyles
- There are vocal groups who want *more* haulers to choose from

**Who is responsible for starting a recycling initiative locally?**

- It will be a long process in Independence
- Legislative body to keep in succession
  - Recycle for education of next generation
  - Pressured into it