



“LANDFILLED” DISCUSSION SERIES

PUBLIC FEEDBACK

Date: June 16, 2008

Time: 2 p.m.

Location: Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council, Kansas City, Mo.

Facilitator: Airick West

Recorder: Becky Brown

Other observers: Stephanie Williams, Daniel Cash

Number of participants: 10

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

- Recycle more (increase participation)
- Burn more trash (others agreed)
- Stop throwing away so much. Stop wasting items like food
- Increase education to get children to recycle more
 - Increase available information
- Start talking to our neighbors
- Reuse trash for art purposes
- Persistence with help offerings to neighbors
- Recycling mentorships
- Government and businesses should become leaders in recycling efforts
- Bin placement throughout neighborhood, at corners for example, for people walking by who want to throw away a recyclable item
- Promote knowledge about how to pay for certain recyclables
- Bring back the “burn law” (others agreed)
- Use of public incinerator

Where do you think our trash goes?

- Somewhere in Johnson County (others agreed)

How much do we pay per month for recycling services?

- Uncertain (others agreed)

How do you feel about a landfill near your neighborhood?

- No! (others agreed)
- Put an incinerator near landfill
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Concerns about having a landfill near you (in your neighborhood):

- Smell (others agreed)
- Disease (others agreed)
- Rodents (others agreed)
- Don't want children/homeless nearby landfill (others agreed)
- Crime/Safety issues—landfill being used for crime scene.

If people knew recycling would reduce trash cost, would more people do it?

- Yes (others agreed)
- Not renters (others agreed)
- Coupon (direct incentives) for free trash bags for leaves, etc.

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

- Illegal dumping
- Illness/health problems. Increased hospitalizations from trash related disease (others agreed)
- Increased crime
- Increased cat and dog population (from feasting off trash)
- People might leave (move out to country)
- Small businesses closing from depopulation
- Difficulty maintaining transportation
 - Scrap metal in street damaging vehicles
- Create new landfills underground
- People would get creative about how to reuse “trash” items (others agreed)
- Compost piles increase — used to nurture gardens (others agreed)

In addition to recycling, what areas do you increase “green activities”? (What habits would you change?)

- Increase cloth vs. paper use (napkins, paper towels, diapers) (others agreed)
- Donate items vs. throwing them away (others agreed)
- Issue of time consumption with cleaning cloth napkins and kitchen towels, as well as diapers
- Habits are hard to change — ingrained habits
 - Ex: Cigarette smoking
- Need to instill new habits in youth

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?

- Lifting and carrying the bin out to the curb (laborious). (others agree)
 - Need wheels like on trash cans
 - One person attaches rope to container and pulls that way
- Amount of time to separate recycling from trash
 - Need more recycling bins
- City does not collect all recyclable items (ex. glass) (others agree)
- Development of system to make it routine
- If not curbside, gas cost is an issue to bring items to recycling center (others agree)
- Some people do not have cars to bring recyclables to recycling center

If city does not collect recyclables, what do you do?

- Community recycling center — now closed
 - Initiate another community recycling center
- Other places that take recyclable items

When you recycle, how does it make you feel?

- It makes me feel like I’m doing something to help out and make a difference
- Helps create jobs (fewer homeless individuals) (others agree)
- Recycling helps provide cleaner planet
- Provides opportunity to be creative

What obligation do you have to your children to recycle?

- Teach them stewardship of recycling
- More aggressive education

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

- Huge warehouse — like an airplane hangar
 - All waste would be sorted by individuals
 - One individual acknowledged difficulty with this method concerning glass
 - A use would be created for everything
 - Food and grease included
- Recycling container specifically for glass
 - Once a month truck comes to neighborhood to pick up glass
- Collection site that is not in the neighborhood
 - Way far away

How should we pay for recycling services?

- Figure out how to create this using money already available
- Recycling organization can sell recycled items to pay for itself (others agreed)