



“LANDFILLED” DISCUSSION SERIES

PUBLIC FEEDBACK

Date: Feb. 25, 2008

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Best Western Inn and Conference Center, Kansas City, Kan.

Facilitator: Steve McCue

Recorder: Lisa Louis

Other observers: Liana Riesinger

Number of participants: 4

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

- Preventing increased trash
- Recycling more, reusing
- Incineration
- Recycling more kinds of things (glass, tires)
- Rewards for waste reduction

Who should pay?

- More you generate, the more you pay
- Pay by usage and taxes
- There should be some charge for heavy commercial use

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

- Rising cost of trash removal because of transportation costs, land prices
- More pollution from vehicles carrying the trash

How could those issues be addressed?

- Trash generated in neighborhood stays in neighborhood — would reduce waste production
- Educate kids about the environment, pollution, littering, how to reduce consumption, where trash comes from
- Buy things that don't have excess packaging, penalize manufacturers who use excess packaging

Who's responsible?

- Individual (buying choices)
- Corporations, government
- Everyone¹

What's your motivation for recycling?

- Currently there is no motivation for reducing the waste stream
- Trash piling up would provide motivation
- Vermin, unhealthy environment
- Concern for the earth

¹ This comment was echoed by more than one participant

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 recycle the things that are easy to recycle, like newspapers. There are lots of locations to drop them off. I don't recycle glass because it's hard to find places to recycle it. Same with hazardous materials; [you] have to call for an appointment
- I want to recycle because I'm concerned about the environment, but sorting and drop-off locations make it inconvenient
- Why are common materials (like some plastics and Styrofoam™) not recycled?

Does curbside recycling versus collection center recycling make a difference to you?

- Makes a *huge* difference
- Collection centers are inconvenient, distance to the center is too great, use gas to get there, start to wonder if you're doing good or harming the environment
- Neighbors and neighborhoods should cooperate, combine recyclables to make one trip rather than a lot of small trips
- Volunteers at recycling centers are not always welcoming

When you recycle do you feel like you are doing something important?

- Feel responsible
- Don't always feel appreciated

Do you feel like it will become more or less important to you in the future?

- More
- Knowledge of issues will increase therefore there will be more appreciation of importance of recycling
- More important as more uses are found for recyclables

What prevents action?

- Laziness
- Easy at home, hardest at work, gaining peers' involvement is hard
- Recycling at work not a priority
- Effort to prepare materials for recycling
- Recycling at work "not cost-effective"

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

- Glass would be included
- Incentives for waste reduction, participation in recycling
- Convenient — 24/7 collection centers
- Staff it with people on community service — create jobs, provide job training
- Someone else sorts
- Incineration with filtering, capture energy from methane

What would be the fees for such a program? Who would pay for it?

- Grants
- Trash credits
- Tax breaks
- Incentive for industry to recycle and/or use recyclables

Who should lead?

- Industry
- MARC
- Chambers of Commerce
- Government

- Education

Did participating in this conversation affect how concerned you are about these issues?

- No. Came concerned²

Parking lot (additional ideas and questions)

- Recycling a TV — paid \$60 to surplus it, sending to a landfill was the only other option. There should be more options
- Tires are a problem. If it's easier to dispose of illegally, people will. We should pay people \$1 to bring in old tires rather than charging them
- More education would lead to more involvement in recycling and waste reduction. If I knew how much paper could be made from a tree, it would make a difference to me
- Need to hear about this on a daily basis, like we used to. Everybody knew about how the plastic ties on six-pack cans could strangle birds and they got rid of them

² This comment was echoed by more than one participant