



“LANDFILLED” DISCUSSION SERIES

PUBLIC FEEDBACK

Date: April 14, 2008

Time: 7–8:30 p.m.

Location: Lee’s Summit City Hall

Facilitator: Airick Leonard West

Recorder: Mary Henry

Other observers: Stephanie Williams

Number of participants: 5

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

- Recycling should be compulsory.
- Pay to make economically attractive; economic incentive, not sure how it would work exactly
- Increase recycling and siting another landfill; don’t like the idea of shipping to other areas

What are general ideas to address shrinking landfill space?

- So much of what goes into landfill is recyclable; recycling should be compulsory, mandatory

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

- Depends on how close, if my road is the one carrying trucks, concern about kids
- Traffic concern

How close could a landfill be placed near your home?

- 1 mile, ½ mile, depends
- Traffic concern

What is the most equitable way to pay for landfill space?

- Privately- vs. publicly-owned landfills – which is most expensive?
- Traffic is concern; does trash hauler pay for roads/road repair?
- Cost part of sewer bill
- Cost of road use paid by hauler

How much do you now pay for trash disposal?

- \$12/ month – Lee’s Summit
- \$46/three-month period – Deffenbaugh

Do you have concerns about trash costs?

- We recycle; trash down to one bag per week.
- We drop off our recycling
- Neighbors have 5-6 bags of trash
- Our fees could be lower; they’re too high
- People do recycle but businesses (restaurants and bars) throw aluminum cans in trash
- There should be no metal in landfills

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

- Quality of life
- Disease; public health problems
- Aesthetics
- Civil unrest – France is example; people dump illicitly/illegal. First place people dump is public property.
- Cost for trash service skyrocket because of transporting trash
- “For hire” individuals; illegal dumping
- People might open their own land for dumping; soliciting trash; penalty for illegal dumping vs. making money

How would these issues be addressed?

- More aggressive about recycling
- Deposit systems at retailer at time of purchase – include plastics, glass bottles, etc.
- Fast food restaurants – penalty for over packaging and use of Styrofoam
- Outlaw certain materials
- Pre-planning
- Alternative technologies, such as burning to produce fuel

What would be motivation for recycling?

- One person can make a difference – environmental motivation
- Conserve resources – make it a way of life, reuse, mindset

What other areas of your life have changed to reduce trash?

- Take your own bag to grocery store
- Resources to alternative energy sources, such as windmill
- Change to car with better gas mileage
- Ride a bike, but need more safe bike lanes on highways
- Park farther away so as to have green spaces next to buildings

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?

- Storage: storing recyclables, space in garage, basement
- Time issue – turn off computers, wait time to turn on/warm-up
- Preparing bottles for recycling – washing out
- The distance to drop off recycling
- What goes where: Starbucks paper cups, cleaning items out

How much difference does curbside recycling make in terms of whether you participate?

- Kansas City, Mo., recycling takes more items
- There’s a social component to drop-off centers – you can trade items
- Hassle to go to recycling center; inconvenience
- You don’t have to pay a monthly fee to take things to a drop-off center
- Convenience of curbside
- Don’t have to sort curbside items
- When you have curbside, more people participate
- If you generate less, you should pay less
- Should not be legislated
- Plastic packaging not recyclable
- Across-the-board sharing; city-controlled vs. privately-controlled. If [the landfill is] city-controlled, fees should be included in tax bill
- Mandates/international law

What is your motivation for recycling?

- Feels good
- Fear of future: climate change, don't want grandkids to ask why I didn't do anything
- Gratifying – community caring
- Feel guilty if I don't recycle
- Positive reinforcement – personal; looking outside myself, makes for a good day and a good state of mind

What is our obligation to future generations?

- Moral responsibility – make world better for grandchildren
- Stewardship
- Different levels – amount of intelligence and technology – no pollution in 50 years, but requires much effort, we're 10 years behind.
- Should not leave community with bills to pay – acquisition of new land for landfills

How important is it to you to be able to choose who hauls trash?

- Not important to me, but to some very important
- Has become important to me because some haulers throw everything [including recyclables] in the truck, not separating out; irresponsible haulers
- Hauler has to earn respect
- Don't like multiple haulers on same street, but don't know best solution

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

- Homes would have stackable, split buckets/containers
- New containers would be available at recycling center
- Would like to see dumpsters at recycling center
- Bins on route to work; conveniently located. Would like to not have to sort as much or make special trips
- Encourage more recycling
- Recycling at parking lots – more smaller, centrally located bins in neighborhoods, more convenient areas
- Drive-thru recycling with underground huge bins, sorted bins
- Options for food compost, especially for restaurants

How would this system be paid for?

- Trash fees would have direct correlation to amount of trash; less trash, lower fees
- Divert recyclables
- Recyclables pay for themselves
- Cardboard dumpsters readily available
- Make markets available – trading, exchanging of items

Who should/would take leadership on this issue?

- Need buy-in from governments, block leaders, neighbors, MARC
- Innovators – people who could profit such as City Scrap Metal
- Recycle classic by-products; invention = business genius
- Legislatively dictated – don't like this idea
- City administrator in Lee's Summit
- County – Kathryn Shields
- City Counsel – Bob Johnson
- Kay Barnes – rain gardens, rain barrels
- Spend more time on issue
- People, individuals – "What can I do?"
- Wide-spread education: get the word out