



“LANDFILLED” DISCUSSION SERIES

PUBLIC FEEDBACK

Date: Feb. 19, 2008

Time: 3:30 p.m.

Location: MainCor, Kansas City, Mo.

Facilitator: Liana Riesinger

Recorder: Bettse Folsom

Other observers: Stephanie Williams

Number of participants: 8

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

- Should have zero waste policy — recycle everything
 - Glass recycling
 - Facility that will turn glass into product
 - Zero waste, social engineering
- Take strict limits on packaging mandate
 - Plastic/paper not provided at stores
 - Time for local government and state take stronger approach
- Step up efforts to find new sources for recycling products
 - Example: milk cartons, pill bottles
 - If they offer credit for returning it would help
- Invest in technology/invention to sort and recycle (MRF)

What is the most just way to address the problem of shrinking landfill space?

- Training, knowledge
- People won't take back because of inconvenience
- Research best practices
- Education and understanding
- Incentives recycling vs. trash (West Linn, Ore., for example)
- Able to put on curbs to be picked up
- Kids are concerned on items that cannot be broken
 - Education of younger population/elementary
 - Brochures to take home
 - Raise awareness
 - Generational education
- Disposable diapers is a huge problem
- Cut allotment from two bags to one
- If costs more for recycling, less incentive, cost equity/effective
- Restrictions
- West Linn, Ore., recycling police
 - Education period, then fined

How willing would you be to have a landfill located near your home?

- No, before lived near one
- Order control
 - Quivira/Deffenbaugh versus southeast landfill

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

- Illegal dumping and burning
- Transfer system station
- Ship to another state for dumping or ocean

What is your main motivation to recycle?

- Be a good citizen, civic responsibility
 - We are too spread out
- Stricter control on land use
- Sensible thing to do, even for one person

What can do you do to be environmentally friendly right now?

- Community farming (CSA)
- Buy local
- Change bulbs to compact fluorescents
- Buy in recyclable containers
 - Talk to grocers
- Buying fresh produced not packaged or processed
- Advertising issue
- "Pay forward" attitude
- Education¹
- Eliminate plastic bags
 - Charge for plastic bag
- Look at best practices

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?

- Recyclables ability of item buying and disposing
- Convenience
 - Change of habit / education on what can be recycled
- What has least amount of packaging and processed
- Stops: convenience
- Recycles glass
- Same reason that votes, responsibility to community
- Aware shopper, limited on number of items to recycle
- Upstairs in house no recycling – convenience
- Raise the price of 2nd class mail
- Providing more public recycling

Are you children learning lessons in school about recycling?

- No idea if education on recycling in schools
- Olathe schools are
- Daughter sensitized in college
- Fuel efficiency and other buying decisions
 - Increase use of public transit

¹ More than one participant echoed this idea

How much difference is there between curbside pickup and taking your materials to a collection center in terms of whether you participate?

- Participate more in curbside
- Would not change one way or another but neighbors might be affected
- Plan recycling trips
 - Incorporate in errands
- Room in home for recycling
 - Encourage curbside
- Location of recycling program
 - Convenience
 - Hours open
- Bins are better for workers but inconvenient to residents
 - Takes up room in house

What responsibility do landlords have in offering recycling programs for their buildings?

- It should apply to re-enter on choice
 - Landlord — requirement of recycling
 - Landlords have responsibility
 - Prorate fees
- Problem with absentee landlords
- Do nothing possible for correct recycling
 - Best practices

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

- Dirty MRF²
 - High, medium, low product value
 - Unskilled labor (example: prisoners)
 - Combines waste streams and sorted at facility
- One collection from kitchen
- Different color bags — two-bag system
- Sorting at Deffenbaugh
- Advertising money goes into sorting system that recycles
- WPA program approach in operation
- Reclassify use — ties environment to economy

What would it look like at work?

- Visible placement of bins
 - Example of manage and corporate culture
- Olathe, go paperless, but cost technology-wise
- Copiers that won't do only one side
- Raise urgency, PSA for trash
 - Factoids at recycle bins and impact/education

How would it be paid for?

- Regional tax
- Community-wide impacts
 - MARC
- Local/mainstream advertising
 - News stories/coverage

² This item was mentioned more than once

Who should be taking a leadership role on this issue?

- Start at cities
- Mayoral forum
- Recognition for doing something for effort
- Change in religious, educational, and government institutions
- Sports people influence
- Constant reinforcement

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

- Feel better that MARC and other people are concerned
- Makes more nervous because of lack of attendance
- Bad time of day for big crowd
- Government represented

Parking lot (additional questions and ideas)

- What happened to deposit on cans and bottles?