



**“LANDFILLED” DISCUSSION SERIES
PUBLIC FEEDBACK**

Date: July 29, 2008

Time: 6–8 p.m.

Location: Northland Neighborhoods, Inc.

Facilitator: Airick West

Recorder: Jim Hubbell

Other observers: Daniel Cash

Number of participants: 19

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
- Limit the amount of solid waste sent to landfills
- Reclaim recyclable items from household waste
- Education about composting

What are some of the issues that should be taken into consideration when locating a new landfill?

- Coordinating [the decision] with local solid waste disposal companies
- Using local transfer facilities that ultimately send trash to more distant, permanent landfills
- Educate the public about the situation
- Explore the option of incineration
- Weigh the long-term impacts of location choice

Recycling

- Use economic incentives to encourage/require recycling
- Make recycling easy and convenient, especially if it's made a requirement [reference to previous comment]
- Reduce the amount of packaging material used for manufactured goods
- Recycle a greater variety of materials

What is the most equitable way to pay for our use of landfills?

- Charge by weight (for both trash and recycling)
- Charge by volume (per bag or bin of waste, for example)
- Tax everyone
- Generate revenue from recycled materials

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

- People would consume less, producing less waste
- Public health issues/threats
- The use of waste as a resource for energy
- The need to pay closer attention to the items we purchase and consume
- Economic impacts to waste disposal companies (example – loss of jobs)

Are there other areas of your life (besides recycling) where you are changing your habits to be more environmentally friendly?

- Switch to reusable shopping bags
- Buy products that use less packaging
- Move towards greater sense of environmental stewardship
- Educate younger generations
- Live by example; be persistent with good habits
- Reuse and/or repair instead of replacing certain items

Think about your average day in the home or office. What is the most inconvenient thing about recycling?

- Lack of recycling bins, especially in public places
- Restrictions on what [types of waste items] can be recycled
- Lack of information related to recycling
- Determining which plastic is OK to recycle
- Storage and transport of hazardous items (paint, batteries, etc.)
- Learning curve of developing and using recycling process
- Conditioning behavior
- Cost (time, garage space, etc.)
- There is a need to demonstrate the value of recycling [to the general public]
- No curbside recycling for multi-family residences

How does recycling make you feel?

- Good
- More efficient
- Saving the planet for future generations
- Eases conscience
- Offsets other, less environmentally-friendly behaviors and practices
- Protects resources for future generations
- Like a good steward
- Setting a good example

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

- Use inactive underground mines to sort/store waste
- Sorts trash and recyclables automatically
- Simple sorting of items at home, pickup and haul with hybrid vehicles,
- Incinerate items that cannot be recycled
- Economic incentives for recycling
- More education about recycling
- Place recycling bins everywhere
- System should be simple and EASY
- Transport solid waste via a system of underground tubes/pipes
- Borrow proven methods and technologies from other cities, countries, etc.
- Convert trash to raw materials and/or fuel
- Safe disposal of medical waste and other chemicals
- Protect private information

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

- Increase to current cost of waste disposal
- Tax increase
- Paid by renters and owners
- Sales tax (use tax)
- Impose tax on manufacturing

- Progressive tax structure based on the amount
- Tax rate corresponds to whether or not waste is recyclable
- Look at revenue-generating potential
- Bi-state funding source
- Important for city to publish/advertize its solid waste disposal fees

What lessons are your children learning in school about recycling, trash and the environment?

- Depends on the educational system and local values/household values
- Mixed messages, confusing info
- Need a consistent message between school and home

How much difference is there between curbside pickup and taking your materials to a collection center?

- Curbside is at home, and requires less time
- [Existing] recycling center locations involve higher transportation costs
- Need both curbside recycling and more conveniently located recycling centers
- Additional recycling centers needed throughout KC metro
- More frequent recycling opportunities for hazardous materials needed

How should a solid waste management program address the needs of renters and high-density residential areas?

- M.R.F.
- Incineration
- Dumpsters for recycling
- Adequate disposal capacity

How should a solid waste management program address the needs of commercial and office buildings?

- M.R.F.
- Office recycling programs should start small, growing larger over time
- Need leaders and champions for recycling
- Recycle more types of materials
- Find ways to reduce cost for businesses

Who or what group should be taking a leadership role on the issues we discussed today?

- MARC (regional)
- Individuals
- Bridging the Gap
- Schools, churches, home owners associations
- Elected officials, local government