



“LANDFILLED” DISCUSSION SERIES

PUBLIC FEEDBACK

Date: May 12, 2008

Time: 6-7:30 p.m.

Location: Olathe Municipal Services Center

Facilitator: Steve McCue

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?

- More education on what and how can be recycled
 - Remove lids on water bottles
 - Communicating correct facts
 - Where it can be recycled
- Continued education on how we are doing
 - Feedback on how actions are affecting [trash going to landfill]
- Some recycle curbside, but not in Olathe
 - Curbside collects glass
 - Drop-offs need manned for safety
 - CONCERN: What is happening to curbside recyclables? Are they being recycled?
- Inconsistency in local areas: education
 - Needs to be uniform all over [metro area]
- Limiting trash; pay to add more bags (pay-per-throw)
- Pull people together for recycling collaboration
 - Incentives for neighbors
 - Neighborhood associations and groups
 - Challenge one another
- Get yard waste out of landfills

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

- Put in more, pay more
- Business and school dumpsters get weighed
 - Large companies pay pickup

Where does your trash go?

- Not sure
- OBSERVER: Jefferson County landfill
 - Transfer station

Are you willing to subsidize your neighbors' landfill costs (if you recycle and they don't)?

- Willing to subsidize recycling, but not trash
- Not happy that neighbor doesn't recycle, [but] he pays for it – question about recycling process
- In effect, he is paying for neighbor's landfill usage

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

- Not within smelling distance concern

Would your participation in recycling programs increase if it would prevent a landfill from being placed near your home?

- I would participate and encourage others to as well
- Proposal of mandatory recycling
- “They” are not part of solution, but would be part of conversation to discourage [having the landfill placed near their home]

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

- Pictures of Naples, Italy
 - Garbage not collected and piled up

What is your main motivation for recycling?

- Whether recycle or not, landfills will be filled
- Can't really tie together
- Will only delay landfill being filled up

How would your behavior change if there were no landfill?

- Cost more to get rid of trash
- Pay for barge to coastline
- Affect quality of life
- Illegal dumping, health issues
- Out of sight, out of mind
 - Need to be in crisis mode
- More research and development to use waste as fuel
- Educational opportunities to train

Who should be responsible for dealing with landfill and recycling issues?

- City council
- Each individual

Do you think you know enough about what can be recycled?

- I know there is more to learn
- Confusion on grades of plastic that can be recycled
- OBSERVER: Lack of available markets for recycled materials
- Different approach as consumers to choose
- Mandate recyclable material manufactured by companies
- Health motivation – hazards on plastic

What interest do communities have in reducing their trash?

- Educate more on compost
- Food composting recycle
 - An entire different issue
- Time to try things like mandatory recycling
 - Good opportunity
- What resources are available
 - Class on compost pile

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?

- [Lack of awareness] about environmental impact
 - Increase awareness

- Care for environment – practice
- Health environment and increase landfills
- Stop costs
- Reduce oil usage – recycling and reduction
- Lack of locations – different plastics
- Convenience for both
- Limited capacity on bins' capacity
- Everyone recycles at the same time
- Not public bins everywhere

Do you feel any responsibility for changing your habits to address environmental issues?

- Costs prevent action
- Kansas doesn't have tax incentives like other states
 - Not so much state support
- NBRs prohibit practices to help energy consumption and composting

Is there a difference between what your kids are learning in school and what you practice at home?

- Some bins for plastic bottles in schools
- Mom taught at young age recycling
- Can be because some parents don't teach
- Getting the message but maybe not motive
- OBSERVER: Some solid waste professionals see every third-grader

Why is there a gap?

- Convenience, busy, space in home
 - Homes are not built for it
- Paying for it
- Parents didn't learn
- More wasteful items today

When you recycle, do you feel that you're doing something important?

- Not "global peace" important, but good
- Need incentives through dollars

Is there a big difference between curbside pickup and drop-off locations?

- Night and day – big difference
- All recyclables [should be accepted] at curbside
 - Not half and half
- If more recycle, then curbside is good
 - Personally [right now I prefer a] collection area
 - Three trucks polluting
- OBSERVER: Gas/air pollution – more cars worse than three trucks

Should you be rewarded for recycling?

- Management [would be a] nightmare – me vs. neighbors
 - Better at drop off center
- Coupons at drop off
- Incentive without weighing
- Recycling for free, trash disposal costs
- OBSERVER: Pay for throw; restricted to volume and not picking up all trash

Do landlords have a responsibility to provide recycling for their tenants?

- Would make a difference; minimize impact
- Yes, with separate bins
- [Should be a part of] development's lifestyle

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

- Star Trek-like lifestyle
- Opportunity to recycle like trash via the same system
- Drive to do part, do it all – think of mass

What about your office?

- Reduce waste, packaging, change purchasing rules
- Perception of size of trash and recycle bins

Who should be taking a leadership role on these issues?

- Concerned citizens, champions
- Agents of change
 - Responsive to people
- U.S. Green Building Council
 - Schools certified
- People change because of driven or forced
 - Incentives
- MARC, several other local organizations
- Schools taking leadership role
 - Reducing waste stream

Are you more or less concerned about these issues after this conversation?

- Equally – switched recycling focus to landfill issue