



“LANDFILLED” DISCUSSION SERIES

PUBLIC FEEDBACK

Date: May 22, 2008

Time: Noon

Location: Q-Brew, Kansas City, Kan.

Facilitator: Stephanie Williams

Recorder: Stephanie Williams

Other observers: none

Number of participants: 7

What has your experience been with recycling?

- They have factories that take waste and turn it into energy. Why can't we do more of that?
- There are a lot of local people who are doing work on this topic.
- They don't get the word out enough.
- If you're not connected with City Hall, you don't know anything.
- They forget about us.
- I'd rather them hit me physically than hit my intelligence. They would rather pay off black people to cover up what they're not doing.

How do you find out about what's going on in your community?

- Commission, meetings, Liveable Neighborhoods, word-of-mouth, radio
- Liveable Neighborhoods is not a good source of information unless you go to meetings.

Do you recycle?

- I think it's a good thing; I've been doing it for years.
- There used to be a gentleman that walked the neighborhood and picked up cans. Now it's another woman.
- I pick up cans everywhere.
- I give mine to my neighbor.
- I reuse trash in crafts.
- I hate people who throw trash in my yard and in other public areas.
- Youngsters being industrious help me recycle.
- For bottles, you get two cents.
- [We need to have a mindset] that looks toward the future.
- I used to grab bags and collect cans when I walked. Everybody else walks past them.
- The biggest motivator is the return, not necessarily because we're being environmentally minded.
- Activities often take away from time and ability to get information.
- Most people work. The best information is what we get while we're driving and at home on TV.
- Litter is an issue. Whatever happened to campaigns like Keep America Beautiful?
- We need a convenient place to dispose of things.
- People don't know or don't care about how much trash they produce.
- There's going to have to be a lot of education to get people to participate in curbside.
- There are people who put out four, five and six bags per person on my block.
- One way to generate interest [in recycling] might be to offer an incentive.
- Put a value on the trash that's being put out there.

- Most people throw the green slip [that comes along with trash bill] away.
- This will be big bucks in the future.

On a scale of one to 10, how important would you say recycling is?

- 10
- 5
- I'm very careful about how I use things.
- Yes, recycling will become more important because we're ruining the Earth.
- People have been using biodiesel to fuel school buses.
- Need to aim for underrepresented audiences. UG is clannish; they don't want to let anybody in.
- Need a community conversation.
- Everything in this town has labels, and they're sometimes divisive.

Are the children in your community learning anything about recycling in school?

- Some of the kids are learning stuff in school; some in middle school and some in high school.
- School is after the fact; it should start at home.
- You can recycle just about anything.
- Recycling is a money-saver. I have a thrift drawer, or I try to give it to someone who can use it.
- You can use waste as fertilizer.
- We need to get more teenagers and younger kids at the table. They have ideas about how to not just throw stuff away.
- We can all go two houses away to let neighbors know about recycling opportunities.
- Many of us don't even know who's next door.
- UG isn't paying it back. This is just one more thing they're forcing us to do.
- It only takes a small group of people to talk to those who aren't interested. Use block meetings and neighborhood meetings to spread the word.
- Word of mouth is more effective in this kind of process.
- Get people to take pride in their neighborhoods.
- Show the consequences of not taking action.
- Make the process as simple as possible: KISS (Keep It Simple, Stupid). If you do that, desire to take the action increases.
- Recycling saves the Earth from plastic and aluminum, but it wastes water and money.
- You need to eliminate the need to rinse/clean items.
- We used a simple method to increase attendance at church. We had each member talk to one person every three days. If that number happens to be 100 people, 10 people will actually listen, and one person might actually come—but it still works.
- We make it too complicated and too much work.
- It's easier to throw it out the car window.
- People are lackadaisical.
- I recycle in my church's paper bin.
- Some people are already concerned about how much they're paying.
- What about all the hold homes? Those are in bad shape.
- You need to start young and instill pride in neighborhoods.
- Some people go after available resources, and they get a reply. Many people have tried to address issues and not gotten a reply.
- Every neighborhood should be evaluated.
- If the resources come, and I'm not educated, it still won't work.
- People don't address issues in their neighborhood on their own. It's easier to report on each other rather than help each other.
- People learn by example.
- Communicate that people are being charged no matter what.
- Credit should be given to churches for getting the word out. The pastor needs to say something; get it in the church bulletin.
- There's not much faith in the UG in the Northeast.