



“LANDFILLED” DISCUSSION SERIES

PUBLIC FEEDBACK

Date: May 16, 2008

Time: 12-1 p.m.

Location: Richmond, Mo.

Facilitator: Dan Blom

Recorder: Stephanie Williams

Other observers: none

Number of participants: 14

Do you know where your trash goes and how much you're charged?

- \$7 per month
- *Participant question:* Why does it take 10 years to go through the permitting process (for a new landfill)?
- Our trash goes to the Warrensburg landfill. It would be nice to have a closer landfill.
- \$180 per month for construction materials—and there's no option to recycle.

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

- Cost for transportation would go up, but that's not enough to make it worthwhile to have it local.
- On the West Coast, recycling is mandatory.

How do you feel about recycling?

- The community just hasn't gotten behind the idea [of recycling].
- If we're going to recycle, it needs to have economic value. And who leads the process of developing the system?
- There's a recycling coordinator at the Warrensburg location, but they only pay that person \$7 per hour. Who's going to want a job like that for that amount of pay?
- There's only one place to go to recycle things, but they don't take everything.
- People would recycle if they could do it curbside.
- Recycling is an educational process. It shouldn't be law and cost money—people feel like they're getting punished.
- Why is there a cost? During WWII, we recycled everything. Why is there no market? We're so wasteful.
- At my family's Christmas celebration, everyone pays \$5-6 to cover additional trash costs.
- I think my neighbors would recycle at the curbside; many of them are elderly.
- It would be a big step to make curbside work. You'd have to educate people on the advantages.
- Outside of town, it's kind of vague what might work to get people to participate. In town, rebates would probably work.
- I feel terrible that all that [trash is] going to a landfill. I know it's not decomposing. ("But what can he really do?")
- Forbes said that "green" is one of the top five trends in business. It's a societal thing.
- Only three or four contractors will come to Richmond.
- They could charge \$10 for trash service, and give a rebate for recycling.
- There's an administrative hurdle.
- We don't have the choice [to recycle].

- City contracts for residential pickup, and right now we have an unlimited number of bags that we can dispose of—but I'm sure that'll be phased out.
- Commercial businesses contract on their own.

Do you feel you know enough about what can be kept out of the trash?

- Batteries, oil and yard waste doesn't go into the trash (but my neighbors might be putting them in).
- People sometimes put their trash in business dumpsters.
- Could smaller businesses with a limited amount of waste get on the city's contract?

What does the ideal recycling system look like?

- Receptacle would be provided (or different color plastic bags).
- Counties should do it (I wouldn't vote for someone who was going to impose it).
- You could have pickup every other week to save on cost.
- Curbside would be preferable.
- Would it/could it be separate from the city contract?