



**“LANDFILLED” DISCUSSION SERIES
PUBLIC FEEDBACK**

Date: June 1, 2008

Time: 6 p.m.

Location: Smithville United Methodist

Facilitator: Airick West

Recorder: Katie Grotegut

Other observers: Julie Wittman

Number of participants: 10

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

- We would have to find a new one
- Haul off waste in trains, dump waste into oceans
- A lot of burning and illegal dumping
- Force recycling, disease, vermin, open sewage
- We would design for less packaging, manufacture products to last

What should we be doing?

- Recycling – it's easy in Kansas City, Mo., with curbside service, and it has a lot of participation
- Make recycling convenient
- Educate young people in schools

What are the costs?

- Restricting the amount of waste will cause illegal dumping and increase use of commercial dumpsters by private individuals
- The two 55-gallon container restriction in Kansas City, Mo., is more than enough for a family per week
- Used batteries and oil – educate folks to know where to take this stuff and why.
- Current hauling is done by Deffenbaugh for \$8.65 per household per month
- We need to care about trash haulers' management, especially with cost of gas increases
- What is most equitable way to pay for landfills?
- Why have to pay extra for yard waste if it's going to the same landfill as solid waste?
- There is a compost facility in Kansas City, Mo., but who picks it up (unanswered – you deliver)

What about a landfill location?

- Landfills are nasty, and we don't want one here
- Landfills are badly managed. Look at Deffenbaugh's trucks and drivers
- We still recycle even though it's pointless
- We need to reduce consumption
- We must learn to change
- Hauler's have bad management practices: open trucks, blowing trash
- Many companies are going zero-landfill
- Waste to energy strategies – cite LaFarge
- Best done at transfer stations – sorting occurs so only burnables are incinerated

- Sedalia rock quarry emptied and now serving as landfill. Good money-maker and very clean, well managed

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?

- Not enough recycling stations
- Not enough sites (street corners, etc)
- Hard to get into the habit
- Change habits at work as well as at home
- Store clerks insist on plastic bags
- Companies must insist on recycling
- Signage at recycling sites really helps get employees to use correct containers
- Need more markets, example – Boy Scout program for ink cartridge collection stopped because the market for them collapsed
- Delivery of recyclables instead of pick-up is more gas intensive, makes for less jobs, and takes up valuable time
- Government needs to support compactor technology

Who pays for pick-up vs. drop-off?

- Kansas City, Mo., earnings tax
- There may be enough growth in Smithville to start curbside. Gower has curbside!
- Ask New Jersey how it's done – they ship it by train to salt mines in Utah
- We should be paid to turn in cans and bottles

How does it make you feel to recycle?

- Clean
- Fulfilled, like a steward
- Inconvenient, but it's a duty/responsibility
- Europe has recycling containers on every corner and even on empty rural roads, and they are used

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

- Design a truck that does compacting and sorting on-site
- Every yard must have composting
- Japan uses tires and wire to build roads and brick-like building materials
- Nuke it
- Plasma gasification, microbial consumption, would be better
- Used to be bins for cans and paper at work but new owners did not continue program
- Stamps on cans in Iowa indicate a refund
- Who pays for it? Where does the money come from?
- Companies get paid for recyclables (mostly cardboard)
- Need to find a way which pays for itself
- Should be a budget item for businesses and communities
- Grants should be available for equipment (example: Drywall is not accepted because there is no equipment to process it)
- Recyclable materials should not be treated so that they can't be used – drywall/gypsum board)
- End users need to be better educated and manufacturers must retool
- Lots of ROHAS compliance companies must become green (lead-free)

Who is leading?

- Young people, community officials
- Smithville leaders are avoiding issues like this because it means more work.
- Faith communities need to get involved
- Use computers to network and educate

- Use tools like EBay and Craigslist
- Get civic clubs and business groups like chambers of commerce involved
- Offer incentive programs

What about individual leadership?

- Where are the mayor and council today?
- We need to bug our friends
- Support companies like Habitat ReStore
- Smithville transfer station coordinator
- Ask what lifestyle changes are you ready to make to do business with green companies?
- Stop using bottled water

Any other issues?

- Talk to your mayor
- This meeting did not have good advertising
- If your heart's not in it, you won't do it
- Big disconnect with City leaders
- How can notification be improved
- What about digital signs like at Kay Furniture or Major Mall?
- How about a community sign board?
- Pay people to recycle – economic stimulus
- City needs to supply a survey with the water bill to get community response and generate awareness