



“LANDFILLED” DISCUSSION SERIES

PUBLIC FEEDBACK

Date: March 26, 2008

Time: 6:30-8 p.m.

Location: Turner Recreation Center

Facilitator: Tristan Cook

Recorder: Joan Steurer

Other observers: Stephanie Williams

Number of participants: 26 (four people did not sign in)

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 (six additional votes)
- Use totes for shopping
- Curbside recycling
- Make it easier to recycle yard waste (one additional vote)
- Consumers should use more green products
- Products should have less packaging
- More green products should be available
- More reusable containers, use refills
- Require businesses to recycle, especially restaurants and bars
- Stop junk mail
- Use trash to refill coal mine locations (open-pit mines). Put it where it is likely to degrade. Make recycling mandatory

What is the best way to pay for landfill use?

- Flat fee
- Businesses should pay more to incentivize reducing the amount they put in the landfill

What would it be like to live near a landfill?

- I do, trucks tear up the road and you can smell it sometimes
- Depends on how it's built

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

- Would have to haul it elsewhere
- Prices would be higher
- More illegal dumping
- Pollution, smell, rats
- Health issue
- *[General]* Must have good communication about how to get rid of trash

Who should be responsible?

- Reduce excess packaging
- Put responsibility on businesses
- It's everyone's responsibility (one additional vote)
- If you recycle plastic, cans, and paper, we would save a lot
- Local governments
- Federal government

What other things do you do to be more environmentally friendly?

- Use less water
- Could we compact trash and use it as building material?
- Reuse containers
- Limit to one bag of trash
- Limit use of natural resources
- Reuse bags
- Use newspapers in garden
- Recycle newspapers
- Use electronic media

Do you feel that you know enough about recycling?

- Could always know more
- Generally yes
- People need to read newsletters, come to meetings
- The bins will have information when they are distributed
- Will people use the bins?
- Put information in utility bills
- Turner newsletter
- School district: newsletter, educate kids
- Grocery stores could have fliers
- Put information in paycheck

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?

- Separating the materials
- Takes a lot of time
- Washing the cans out
- Concerned about the amount of water used to wash cans before recycling
- Recycling center is far away

Is there a difference between curbside and drop-off centers in terms of whether you participate?

- Big difference between the two
- Less energy wasted with curbside
- Less time wasted with curbside
- Price of gas is a concern
- Concerned about how to get bin to the curb, especially for older people; there are no wheels on bins
- There should be an incentive, they should get something for participating
 - Reimbursements, coupons
 - They do get a better Earth for the next generation
 - The incentive should offset the monthly cost to recycle
- For the idea of putting trash in mine pits, the state in which pit is placed should be compensated.

Will recycling become more important in the future?

- Yes, because it's coming. Recycling programs are going to be "shoved down our throat" no matter what we say.
- Feel that companies are making money from the recycled materials that they have collected and separated as well as charging people for picking it up; they're double-dipping. It's our work.

Is it important to choose your own hauler?

- Yes
- Want to keep cost low
- Feel that [the trash haulers] have a monopoly

Discussion about concern about profit made on recycled materials:

- Would be happy to donate effort if charity received proceeds from recycled materials
- Should have more recycling centers with more convenient locations (one additional vote)
- Recycling centers are good volunteer opportunities
- Recycling centers need more flexible hours
- Deffenbaugh getting the profit is a concern
- Some believe that they will be able to put everything in one bin and it will be separated at the facility
- How much recycling can you get in one bin?
- Some people prefer recycling centers to curbside because of the lower cost
- Some prefer curbside to recycling centers
- Can we drop trash in the caves to make more landfill space?
- What happens to materials we can't recycle?

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

- Make curbside (and fees) optional
- Only charge those who don't recycle
- Put wheels on the container, like a wagon; put two wheels on container
- Should take all recyclable materials
- Shouldn't have to worry about the type of plastic (#1, #2, etc.)
- Seniors may have trouble carrying or separating materials (one additional vote)
 - The number on plastic is difficult to see
- Should cost less than \$10, or be free (several additional votes)
- Cost should be based on profit – the company gets the materials, which should be considered
- Fine industries that fail to go green (use excess packaging, etc.)
- Recycling will be easy; we'll have to get use to it, but it will become second nature
- Must have an easy way to tell if it is recyclable
- Must consider people with visual difficulty, perhaps use a big "R" on recyclable material
- Recycling programs can be profitable, but they sometimes lose money
- Bins should be covered to reduce litter
- Bin should have two wheels, a handle and a lid.

Who should lead?

- Mayor
- Local government
- Community groups
- Neighborhood groups
- Churches
- Youth groups, student councils, high schools, science teachers

Neighborhood groups represented in discussion:

Neighbors on Watch, South Turner, Morris, SAFE, Crestview