

Visioneering Wichita Environmental Sustainability Alliance
Designing a Sustainable Future
Community Discussion on Solid Waste
February 24, 2011

Priorities

Considering today's presentations and your knowledge, if you could do only one thing to increase your ability to "**reduce, reuse, and recycle**" what would it be?

- Train my husband & neighbors & church
- Curbside pickup
- Community composting
- Public education
- Community involvement
- Give our political leaders spirit/ethics implants
- Have the book "The World Without Us" be required reading in the school system
- Sort thru/find information about electronic recyclers (other than Bet Buy)
- Neighborhood collection of e-trash & hazardous waste
- Neighborhood trash collection days
- Recycling by leaving items at curb
- Keep encouraging my neighbors to recycle
- Neighborhood garage sale
- Find out dates for Sedgwick County recycling events
- Move convenient access
- Adoption of the City of Wichita cooperative for solid waste collection
- Make recycling as convenient as possible. Trash cans next to recycling bins in all public locations
- I can do most everything I need to do personally. For our community, however, I would like to see our recycling rate go from its dismal low to 85/90% of households
- Make possible the composting of grass clippings/leaves/yard waste
- Have a pilot project for soiled organics
- Would like to see more on lumber
- Compost
- Have a place to recycle soiled organics - pilot project
- Mandatory mulch mowing
- Compost to minimize grass clippings going to landfill
- Need to make recycling more convenient and economical by economy of scale. Single stream
- Possibly buying "recycled" products. The last time I checked into buying recycled products they were quite expensive.
- Recycle all household waste or close to it
- Composting at home
- City wide yard waste recycling
- Ride my bike more

Are there barriers to achieving your priorities? If so, what are they?

- Resistance
- Current hauler not able to be involved in recycling even though he wants to
- Price
- Yes, special “interest/developers”
- Zero takers of e-trash and hazardous waste
- Some of them won’t do it or don’t care
- Changing habits
- Lack of info about Sedgwick County recycling events
- Have to deliver recyclables to several different locations in order to avoid cost
- Unwilling public
- Yes, it costs “extra” for curbside, single-stream recycling, so most households don’t recycle
- Transportation
- City codes – cannot use reused lumber
- Composting in an apartment without outdoor space
- Regulations
- Education
- Investors
- People not composting, not mulch mowing
- Price
- Willing participants!
- Financial incentives
- Lack of political will

Resources

What **are you currently doing** at home or at work to promote waste sustainability?

At Home?

- Taking material to Dillon’s & Miller’s
- Recycle as much as we can
- Recycle practically everything
- We pay Prairie Dog Recycling to take all our recyclables (except electronics) and sort them before pick-up (monthly)
- Increased recycle & compost
- Decrease trash
- Leave items to reuse at curb
- Recycling & compost
- Reusing – buying at Goodwill
- Don’t buy things just because they are new to replace something I already have
- Recycle & drive to recycling place
- Compost
- Recycling – paper – aluminum
- Waste Connection single source recycling
- Recycle
- Take HHW to Sedgwick County building

- Donate items vs. throwing away
- Recycling many categories of items
- Trying not to use materials that are not recyclable
- Never dumping hazardous waste
- Buying less packaging
- Recycling
- Composting
- Recycling
- Composting
- Recycle
- Composting
- I buy recycled paper
- I recycle more than I throw away
- I promote to others – my church
- Reuse – I shop consignment shops
- Cleaning
- Recycle my recyclables
- Recycle but not all
- Recycle
- Compost

At Work?

- Using recycle bins
- Support reduction/recycling in community
- Recycling
- Recycle
- Recycle – paper, plastic, aluminum
- Paper, plastic, aluminum recycling
- Paper reduction (mandated)
- Recycling
- Promote education
- Recycling
- Trying not to use materials that are not recyclable
- Recycling – encourage – educate
- Recycle
- Print less
- Education
- Recycling paper
- Minimizing printing
- Put in dishwasher for dishes/plates/glasses, etc.
- Educating others about recycling
- Recycle

Opportunities/Collaboration

What changes would you make to the way your trash and/or recycling is currently handled to make it easier or more desirable to manage your waste?

- Franchise with one container recycle. I don't have much trash so I like pay as you throw.
- Single stream
- Be more active at work to encourage office recycling
- Do away with plastic bags
- Talk to other communities – Denver, Little Rock – see what they are doing, what works for them and possibly implement some of the same strategies or tweak the program to make it fit/work for here in Wichita
- Single stream
- Deal with small company to pick up most waste
- Single stream recycling
- Single stream
- Renters barriers – work with landlords
- Pay as you throw
- We have HOA contract so in our neighborhood price is satisfactory – one hauler
- One source – single stream
- To have recyclables collected at all times in recycling NGOs
- Pay as you go with different size carts for trash with single stream recycling
- Neighborhood bins
- Replicate the PRO KS (Miller) Recycling Center in all quadrants of the city
- Assistance in getting material to recycle center
- Lower bill
- Curbside recycling
- Bi-weekly waste pick-up

What could we all be doing – by working together in new ways – to **get “Beyond Waste”** and effectively manage our resources?

- Think beyond yourself and think about the future of our planet and its occupants
- See the overall public good
- More education and ease of recycling
- Encourage reduced packaging
- Have move communications with businesses that package and ask for their cooperation in recycling
- Possibly several large meetings a year, inviting a large group of people, as well as one on one meetings
- ELC/Visioneering
- Don't throw order
- Education on sustainability
- Partner with schools
- Don't throw it to me phone #
- Reduce waste – unwanted newspapers & junk mail
- Promote use of recycled materials
- Education – businesses

- Reduce & reuse – recycle should be last resort after those
- Generate support for coop plan
- Get over the “free market religion” and franchise trash services like the rest of the world
- Stop using plastic & recycle the rest
- Be more mindful of what we use & buy
- Discontinue plastic bags or pay for each retail bags
- More federal incentives to reduce packaging size and usage problems
- Mandate recyclable and/or biodegradable
- Reduce waste generated upon purchase

Do you have any long-term solutions to address landfill preservation and the region’s disposal and recycling needs?

- Franchising and incentivized recycling (saving money by recycling.)
- Encourage city officials to make the tough decisions and require recycling and other environmentally sustainable practices.
- Talk to others throughout the world and listen to what they are doing, and then implement those strategies. And in a timely fashion...not continue to keep meeting to talk about... the time to act is NOW!
- Over packaging needs to be addressed
- Outlaw plastic bags
- Encourage more recycling
- Extend landfill life
- Improve recycling – bulky or high volume materials
- One source-single stream
- Education & encouragement at schools
- Pyrolysis & other technological advances
- Disassembly centers for cars, estuff, etc.
- We should be looking at Pyrolysis to remove hazards and monitoring costs and generate revenue from the products output: oil stock, heating gas, carbon block
- Technology – specifically pyrolysis
- Ban fast food

Do you currently have issues related to management of manufacturing/industrial-related waste? Are there ways to simplify this waste stream from the time of production through disposal?

- No
- Better & open communication. Maybe there might be a better way. Let’s do better at educating the community as well as businesses.
- Product packagers
- Minimize packaging
- Networking between industries to use materials recycled from someone else
- Generation of waste used to manufacture materials

Evaluation:

How would you measure success when it comes to solid waste issues in our region?

- Extending the life of the Harper Co. landfill by certain # of years. (I don't know what # might be reasonable.
- Increase in % of recycling and decrease in landfilling %
- Small changes in behavior
- Implementing easier and more cost effective methods to recycle
- "We" can all be on the same page in agreeing that there is worth and value in recycling, and then working together to make recycling more advantageous, and widely accepted, and expected in our community.
- Fewer pounds of waste/person
- Total tons
- Total transfer station tonnage
- # of homes that recycle
- # of businesses that recycle
- Seeing a decrease in waste & increase in recycling
- Tons of waste
- More reuse
- Higher % of recycling
- We are using less of the resources by reusing & recycling what we do use
- Poundage & volume
- Track the waste in parks, parking lots, medical strips & publicize on the net
- So far, not so good
- Only one trash truck on my street/week