

Solid Waste Task Force

Draft Recommendations to City Commission

February 28, 2012



City of Lawrence

Why SWTF?

- The Lawrence community values its solid waste services.
- Since April 2011, the group has worked to develop long-term solid waste and recycling options for the citizens of Lawrence.



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Our Process

- The group developed its draft recommendations by:
 - Reviewing other communities' programs
 - Solicitation of public input from residents
 - Discussions with staff and professionals in the solid waste industry



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What We Learned

- The Lawrence community has a high level of satisfaction with residential trash service.
- There is significant interest in increased recycling services with additional materials collected and evaluation of curbside recycling feasibility.



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What We Learned

- Automation with standardized carts will result in fewer injuries for employees and increase operational efficiency.
- Pricing of solid waste services should take into account how much trash each household throws away.



What We Learned

- A comprehensive solid waste program should include continuation of composting yard waste, household hazardous waste disposal and bulky item pick-up.
 - Providing additional opportunities for composting organic material (fruits, vegetables, etc.) is beneficial to community solid waste programs.



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Draft Recommendations

- Continue to collect residential trash and yard waste weekly.
- Increase automation of services by using city-provided carts for residential solid waste disposal.
- Implement pricing options that charge residents for the collection of trash based on the amount they throw away.



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Draft Recommendations

- Implement curbside recycling program for all residential customers.
 - Develop a request for proposal (RFP) that determines costs and defines how the program is operated - whether through collection by a vendor or by the city.



Draft Recommendations

- Implement or continue the following:
 - Glass recycling program (*completed March 2012*)
 - Organic material composting (yard waste, food waste)
 - Household hazardous waste disposal
 - Large item pick-up



Draft Recommendations

- Develop a comprehensive outreach and education program for the Lawrence community that explains changes in the programming and educates residents about municipal services.



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Commercial Solid Waste

- The SWTF did not have adequate time to analyze significant changes for commercial or multi-family solid waste services. Future programs should look for opportunities to enhance commercial services to parallel residential solid waste goals.



The city should continue to collect weekly residential trash and yard waste.

The city should implement pricing options that encourage waste reduction and increased recycling of materials, including glass, household hazardous waste and organic materials.

The city should send out an RFP to evaluate the implementation of a curbside recycling program, whether through collection by a vendor or by the city.

A comprehensive outreach and education program should be developed that explains changes in service and educates citizens about municipal services.
