

Waste Work Group Meeting
June 16, 2008

Attendees:

Susan Rodgers, Hallmark Cards, Inc.
Kathy Richardson, Waste Reduction and Recycling Division
Charlie Sedlock, Hamm Quarry
Bob Yoos, Manager, Solid Waste Division
Tammy Bennet, Assistant Public Works Director

Kathy Richardson is working on updating Chapter 10 of the Purchasing Policy. She is also working with USD 497 to help Lawrence School District implement recycling programs. Currently Deffenbaugh is dealing with each school's PTA on an individual basis.

Charlie Sedlock believes that a landfill methane collection system will probably be required in the future, probably between 2010 and 2018. Options include building a methane gas station at the landfill site at a cost of 10 – 30 million dollars. It costs approximately \$25,000 to \$30,000 per truck to convert the truck to burn methane. Charlie felt the best option is to find an internal use for methane. If they use the methane to generate electricity it would cost as much as Westar. However, a net metering law would help provided it did not contain a cap.

We briefly discussed if creating a C&D landfill would be beneficial. We quickly agreed that there would not be much of a reduction in GHG and due to the relaxed regulations surrounding C&D landfills the potential for groundwater contamination is much higher than the current landfill.

We briefly discussed food waste and composting. Trash collection vehicles get 2 – 3 mpg and a food waste collection vehicle probably gets 4 – 5 mpg. Therefore, the feeling was due to the requirement for separate collection; we may not get a GHG reduction. We need to understand how much GHG food waste in a landfill contributes as opposed to composting food waste.

We then discussed city operations and waste streams generated. There are 40+ buildings for city operations. City Hall is a big waste paper generator. Security Shred is utilized. Bob estimated that they are recycling ~40% to 50% of the waste paper generated.

Other topics for future discussion included:

- Ban or tax plastic bags
- Bottle Bill
- E-waste options. A possible recommendation would be that the city would continue to provide e-waste collection events, either annually or semi-annually.

Parks and Recreation are currently composting all tree and bush trimmings.

Residential yard waste is picked up on Mondays. This does include Christmas trees. The fee is included in the monthly trash fee. Yard waste was estimated at 30% of the total trash collected. Used to have twice weekly trash pickup. Now have weekly trash pick up with the weekly yard waste pickup. Plastic bags have been banned from the yard waste collection.

The state-wide number for pounds of waste disposed per person is calculated at 5.2 pounds/person/day. In Lawrence for 2007 that number was 3.46 pounds/person/day.

Cardboard recycling containers are provided for business downtown and in strip malls. However, the use of these containers is irregular, some businesses do very well, and others do not.

Our next meeting will be July 14 from 3 – 5 p.m. Tammy will find us a room at City Hall.