



JUNE 2005

Kansas "Sunflower Chapter" Solid Waste Association of North America

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BOARD REP****ED SASS****ROAD-E-O-CO-CHAIR****KENT SEYFRIED****From the President:**

"Change" are you ready for it? How do we deal with it? I have the advantage (or maybe disadvantage) over some of you in that I can remember buying a "dollar's worth" of gasoline, have things really changed there! Change is also occurring in the solid waste arena. In a few short decades we have gone from garbage disposal in a "dump" to MSW in a sanitary sub title D landfill and in most cases through a transfer station. We are making an increasing effort to divert material out this process. However, we continue to be our own worst enemy. We want everything we need, when we need it, 24/7, creating trash from packaging. We have a rapid change in technology causing a throw away and replace/update lifestyle adding problems to getting rid of white goods, appliances, e-waste, etc. It seems that the more items made from man-made materials the more complicated their disposal. These things along with others continue to create opportunities for us to improve our methods of handling solid waste.

On the positive side we are getting closer to having a recycling organization in our state as the steering committee has drafted both the bylaws and articles of incorporation for the Kansas Organization of Recyclers. There has been a lot of work and thought going into this effort and I think we can expect some good things in the future.

Change is here, but that's not new, it's been with us from the beginning. The rate of change seems to be increasing. It's not easy but it's a way of life in our business. We see it in all areas: collecting, transferring, diverting, disposing, regulating, etc. I would like to challenge you to brainstorm with me about some possible future changes.

1. Collection-Underground vacuum/air system that residents puts trash bundle in a tube at home that conveys trash to central locations for processing (like a liquid waste system).
2. Trash container that for a certain coin you can dispose of a given amount of trash (a reverse vending machine)
3. Landfills-farmed, trash is processed (gas removed) then it could be harvested for usable materials. (metals, tire, glass, etc.)
4. Waste to Energy –Trash sorted for its energy value in addition to or in place of recycling.
5. Returnable /reusable beverage bottles or milk jugs.
6. Bio-degradable packaging.

These are only a few items, some are able to be done now and some are pretty far out. I would like to challenge you to think about the processing of trash in your area and ask yourself "Why?" or "Why not"

Bill Ridge

Program Highlight-City of Lawrence Solid Waste Division

The Lawrence Solid Waste Division represents an enterprise fund, or utility, and provides comprehensive solid waste services for residents, businesses, and industry. Services include collection, disposal, recycling, and technical assistance. The following chart provides a brief comparison for all services combined:

Tons Collected	2002	2003	2004
For Disposal	67,784	68,731	71,136
For Recycling/Composting	10,846	12,766	13,547

In 2004, Lawrence achieved a 34% recycling rate which is one of the highest in the state and is higher than the national average for that year. The Solid Waste Division is comprised of three functional divisions; Residential Collection; Commercial Collection (which includes Maintenance Operations); and Waste Reduction and Recycling (WRR).

Residential Collection

Sixteen three-member rear-loader crews pick up the residential waste. These crews also pick up all rear-loader commercial waste along their residential routes as well as the grass and leaves for composting. The 2005 residential rate for sanitation is \$11.71/month which includes once a week trash collection, once a week yard waste collection, bulky item pickup, alley cleanups, and use of the Household Hazardous Waste Facility.

Roll-out trash carts are rented to customer in two sizes, 90 and 65 gallon. The carts allow for automated collection, reducing the potential for injury to the solid waste loaders. Bulky items, including refrigerators and air conditioners, are collected by appointment. Freon is recover per Federal law with trained personnel. Tires are collected by appointment at no cost to residents (limit of 5 per household per year). Residential crews perform alley litter collections of Fridays on a rotating basis among neighborhoods while downtown alleys are patrolled for litter every Friday.

Commercial Collection

Growth in the commercial sector is due to new businesses, strip malls, apartment houses and other entities requiring waste collection services. The Division reviews site plans for accessibility, location of refuse containers, and type of service required and make comments to the Planning Department as necessary.

Inventory of collection containers include:

Rear-Loader containers- 1,964; Front-loader containers-532; Roll-off containers 296

Periodic rate reviews are necessary in the downtown area due to the changing businesses. The 2005 minimum commercial rate is \$17.03 per month. Many businesses use shared containers located on city-owned right-of way or parking lots. Those rates are determined by square-footage of the business and type of business. Roll-off solid waste services are an important part of our commercial service delivery and we are expanding our trash compactor leasing program.

Waste Reduction and Recycling

The Solid Waste Division is increasing the focus on waste reduction in addition to recycling. The division has moved to a larger compost facility which enables us to increase recovery of grass, leaves, and other plant and wood debris. Using a targeted approach to waste diversion (rather than municipally-provided curbside collection program); the Solid Waste Division collects cardboard and mixed office waste paper from commercial sector and provides 11 drop off locations for cardboard and newspaper for residential use and operates a Household Hazardous Waste Facility which is permitted to accept Small Quantity Generator Waste. The Waste Reduction and Recycling Division provide the bulk of the public education and outreach regarding our collection and recycling services and comprehensive website has been developed for ease in use by the public www.LawrenceRecycles.org.

WORKS 2005 Conference

Bethel College in North Newton, Kansas was the location of the 11th Annual **WORKS!** Conference. The location of this year's conference was an excellent venue—all breakout and general sessions were in close proximity to one another, the tours were interesting and well-attended, and there were lots of vendors and program booths to keep everyone busy during the breaks. This year's Conference was exceedingly interesting and held a high level of energy throughout.

The Conference provided platform for discussion (sometimes animated!) about the many growth areas within our respective solid waste management programs. From hammering out the details and mission of a new statewide recycling and composting association to the undisputable growth (and concurrent challenges) of our state's Household Hazardous Waste programs—the 2005 **WORKS!** Conference had something for everyone.

The Sunflower Chapter of SWANA was proud, to once again be a Partner in this very dynamic annual conference. Our Association is vested in working with—and providing benefit to—the many solid waste professionals in our state. Thanks to KDHE and staff who did “double-duty” in creating the venue in which such constructive dialogue and education could occur.

Kansas Organization of Recyclers

The newly organized **Kansas Organization of Recyclers** held a roundtable discussion on the final day of the 2005 **WORKS!** Conference in Newton, March 31st. Casey Rackaway with the Docking Institute, Fort Hays State University, proved participants with information and results of a survey conducted by the Docking Institute in early 2004. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Bureau of Waste Management contracted with the Docking Institute to conduct the survey.

The information Collected during the survey identified: the need for a state recycling organization, the organization's scope, membership composition, mission and potential short and long-term goals and objectives. A planning session was held February 23, 2005 in Lyons to discuss results of the survey and to form a steering committee to address ideas. The steering committee met in Salina within a month and decided upon the name of the new organization, **Kansas Organization of Recycler (KOR)**, developed drafts of a mission statement, dues structure, membership composition and a preliminary budget was developed.

Several members of the organization's steering committee were appointed to a transitional leadership team to govern the organization until an executive committee could be elected. Members from the leadership team assisted in the roundtable discussions and answered questions from the audience. Members explained the purposes of the new organization included providing for networking for recycling professionals, equipment exchange, marketing assistance, information services and providing advocacy to propose/promote ideas and legislation.

MSWLF Operators Training

Due to a delay in Grant Funds to pay to have Neal Bolton as a Keynote trainer, the MSWLF Operators Training originally scheduled for this fall has been rescheduled for February 22-23, 2006 in Great Bend, Kansas.

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www.swanaks.org

Upcoming Events!

This September, Mosey on Down to . . .

**WASTECON
2005**

The conference where solid waste professionals shine bright. ★

 September 27-29, 2005 ★ Austin, Texas

For details, visit www.WASTECON.org or call
1-800-GO-SWANA (467-9262).

Did you know? **SWANA** is 7,000 members strong