

Issues Paper on Solid Waste

Priorities

Convenience

- Offer single stream, curbside pickup for neighborhoods.
- Easier access to recycling programs and centers.
- Scheduled neighborhood collection of e-waste and hazardous waste.
- Adoption of the City's cooperative for solid waste collection.
- Provide recycle bins next to trash cans in public places.

Public Education

- Inform the public on location of e-waste centers, other than retailers.
- Educate residents on how to recycle – what materials can be recycled, where they can be dropped off/picked up, etc.
- Educate residents on how to compost – have a pilot project for soiled organics.
- Post dates for Sedgwick County recycling events.

Behavior Change

- Encouraging neighbors, co-workers, friends, and family to recycle.
- Community composting of food and yard waste – encourage mulch mowing.
- Buy recycled products or reuse products you already have.

Barriers

Resistance

- Difficult to change behaviors and find willing participants.
- Lack of political will to move City's cooperative forward.
- Regulations that may prohibit certain sustainability practices, such as neighborhood Home Owners' Associations that do not allow composting or City codes that prohibit the use of reused lumber.

Economics

- More expensive for curbside, single stream recycling with some haulers.
- Have to deliver recyclables to several different locations in order to avoid additional costs.
- No financial incentives for individuals or companies to recycle materials.

Public Education

- Some people do not know how to compost food or yard waste, or where they can do it.

- Lack of information available to residents on Sedgwick County recycling events.
- Unsure of how to handle e-waste or hazardous waste.

Opportunities

Easy and Convenient Trash/Recycling Program

- Offer single stream, curbside recycling.
- Offer neighborhood bins to collect recycling.
- Implement a “Pay as You Throw” program for volume-based trash collection.
- Assist elderly, disadvantaged, or other groups in transporting e-waste, hazardous materials, or recyclable materials to proper collection centers.
- Replicate the PRO KS Recycling Center in all quadrants of the City.

Partnerships and Education

- Partner with school districts, businesses, and other groups to promote sustainability.
- Encourage Visioneering Wichita to continue hosting sustainability events and speaking engagements.
- Explore case studies from other cities to evaluate successes and failures.
- Look at technological advances such as “Waste to Energy” or pyrolysis to extend landfill life and generate products from waste outputs.

Reduce and Reuse

- Federal incentives to reduce packaging sizes and amounts; mandate certain products be manufactured from recyclable or biodegradable materials.
- Promote use of recycled materials – be more mindful of what we use and buy.
- Network between industries to use materials recycled from other companies.
- Reduce waste by opting out of unwanted newspapers or junk mail.
- Tax or ban plastic shopping bags, offer discounts for reusable bags.

Evaluation

Volume Metrics

- Extend the life of the Harper County landfill by a specific number of years.
- Measure the decrease in trash tonnage and increase in tonnage of recyclable materials.
- Track the number of homes and businesses that implement recycling programs.