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Calendar Items

- June 14, 2006

Recycling Stakeholders Meeting
Hutchinson, Kansas (tentative)
- July 28, 2006

CPI & Waste Tire grant deadline
(grant availability to be announced in
Spring 2006)
- August 18, 2006

HHW grant deadline
- August 22-24, 2006

Kansas Environment Conference
Topeka, Kansas

Solid Waste Update

Kansas Department of Health &
Environment

Prepared & Distributed by
The Bureau of Waste Management

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Paid by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Solid Waste Update

A publication of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Volume 10; Number 1

March 2006

The City of Lawrence Compost Facility
A Leader on Environmental Issues

by Ken Powell, Bureau of Waste Management

The city of Lawrence has a long history of being a leader on environmental issues in Kansas. As part of their waste reduction and recycling program, the city began a voluntary curbside collection program for yard waste in 1993. This action put them at the forefront of the compost industry in Kansas. In 1995, participation in the program became mandatory and all yard waste was picked up separately from the refuse stream. From 1995 to 2001, the city averaged 7,000 tons per year of yard waste at the facility.

Currently, the city of Lawrence’s Solid Waste Division provides separate residential city-wide collection services for grass clippings and leaves every Monday from about March until near Christmas. These materials are trucked to the city’s Wood Recovery and Composting Facility. In 2005, 9,200 tons of grass clippings and leaves were collected and composted resulting in a savings of \$176,180 in avoided disposal costs. Yard trimmings make up 30 percent of Lawrence residential trash by weight.



The City of Lawrence Compost Facility

Through the use of local funds and grants, the program has grown from a small composting facility on East 8th Street to a much larger composting facility on East 11th Street. The 8th Street site was less than three acres of dirt pad. That site was almost always overflowing with yard waste and all of the compost was turned with a loader.

A Vermeer tub grinder was purchased for use at the site in 1999 with the help of a KDHE grant. In 2001, a Wildcat turner that mounts on the front of a loader was purchased with another grant. These two pieces of equipment helped improve the efficiency of site operations and the quality of the finished product. Lawrence’s composting program will be adding a screen later this spring. This will allow the city to provide a higher quality product to their residents.

As part of a study performed by Kansas State University in Spring 2003, the herbicide Clopyralid was found in the Lawrence compost. The city developed a plan that included retesting and no distribution in the Fall 2003 because the level of Clopyralid was still elevated. They also developed educational material and visited with the lawn care industry in the city to determine the source and help prevent additional contamination. Through these efforts, the city

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Get Caught Recycling!

by Rodney Ferguson, Bureau of Waste Management

What do former Gov. Mike Hayden, television broadcaster Bill Kurtis, Sen. Sam Brownback and former college basketball stars Wayne Simien and Kendra Wecker have in common? They’re all promoting an important effort in Kansas: recycling!

You’ll soon see (or may have already seen) these famous individuals on public service announcements, on posters, and in other locations as they each use their own unique style to urge us all to take a greater role in recycling to conserve natural resources and landfill space.

This is all part of the ‘Get Caught Recycling’ promotional campaign developed by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). The promotion began in Fall 2005 and will continue through 2006 with additional Kansans participating in the effort. They include crop artist Stan Herd, state spelling bee champions Kent and Scott Toland of Iola, the president and CEO of Wolf Creek Nuclear Generating Station Rick Muench, and Fiesta Mexicana Queen Melissa Cooper of Topeka.

“Our goal with this campaign is to reinforce the recycling behavior of Kansans who currently recycle and encourage those who don’t to join with these well-known Kansans and ‘Get Caught Recycling,’” says Bill Bider, director of KDHE’s Bureau of Waste Management. Hopefully, most Kansans will connect with these individuals and recognize that it’s ‘cool’ to recycle.”

Kansans currently recycle and compost more than 700,000 tons of materials, enough to completely fill approximately four large football stadiums. Experts believe additional recycling programs and full public participation could double the amount of waste kept out of Kansas’ landfills.

“We’re grateful to every Kansan who recycles in our state and we’re excited to see the potential this campaign has for making recycling a habit for all of us,” said KDHE Secretary Roderick L. Bremby. “If everyone does their part to recycle, the impact we would see in Kansas would be tremendous.”

During 2006, ‘Get Caught Recycling’ will include more local efforts where KDHE will encourage local officials to promote their own recycling heroes. KDHE will work through its statewide network of recycling organizations to promote these recycling heroes in Kansas communities.

For more information on the “Get Caught Recycling” campaign go to www.getcaughtrecycling.org and to learn more about recycling opportunities in your community, go to <http://www.kansasbirp.com>.

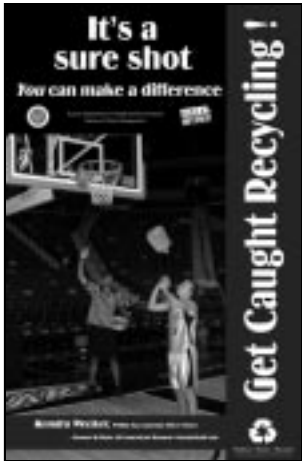
A New Recycling Group in Kansas

by Kent Foerster, Bureau of Waste Management

A new group recently formed to help serve the Kansas recycling and waste reduction community. They are called the Kansas Organization of Recyclers, Inc. (KOR) and are comprised of public/governmental entities, business professionals, non-profit organizations and private citizens that support waste reduction, composting, reuse and recycling efforts in Kansas. KOR provides advocacy, information, technical support, networking, and educational opportunities in partnership with local, state, regional, and national organizations. KOR has an ongoing membership drive with elections in September.

If you come to WORKS!, March 28-30, 2006 at the Highland Hotel and Convention Center in Great Bend, Kansas, you are very likely to meet KOR officers and volunteers because they are a new WORKS! partner. They will be part of the welcoming during the General Session on Wednesday, March 29 and are hosting some social events along with the Recycling Markets and E-Waste breakout session and the Recycling Roundtable discussions on Thursday, March 30.

If you can’t make it to WORKS!, check KOR out at their web site www.kskor.org.



Hydrogen Sulfide Gas Issues at C&D Landfills

by Marty Burke, Bureau of Waste Management

In June 2005, the Johnson County Environmental Department (JCED) began receiving odor complaints from an area around 162nd Street and Metcalf Avenue in the southeast part of the county. JCED staff knew the APAC-Reno construction and demolition (C&D) landfill in the area had a history of temporary odors due to retention ponds “turning over” when temperature changes caused oxygen depleted water from the pond bottoms to rise to the surface. Also, because the complaints described a “rotten egg” type smell characteristic of hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) gas that is sometimes produced in sewer systems, the Johnson County Wastewater Department checked their facilities as well.

Soon, it became apparent the odors were coming from liquid flowing out of the waste at the APAC-Reno C&D landfill. APAC-Reno is the largest C&D landfill in the state and the seventh largest landfill overall. It accepts wood, bricks, roofing material, concrete, floor coverings, plaster, drywall, plumbing fixtures, electrical wiring and construction related packaging from Kansas and Missouri. Johnson County advised the landfill owner to apply ferrous chloride to the flows at the lower portion of the landfill to convert the hydrogen sulfide to another compound and prevent its release to the air. Ponds were also aerated in an attempt to control the odors.

Complaints increased at the end of July after a period of wet weather, prompting JCED and KDHE staff to more closely monitor the landfill and gather information to assess the problem. Water infiltration into the landfill appeared to be a contributing factor which required the owner to perform corrective actions to prevent local runoff and precipitation from entering the waste area. Process water from the air pollution control system of an onsite asphalt plant was also redirected. *(continued on page 6)*

City of Lawrence *(continued from page 1)*

has brought the toxicity level of Clopyralid down to where it is safe to distribute the compost again.

In March 2004, the composting operation moved to its new facility on East 11th Street. This site is an 11 acre field on the east side of the wastewater treatment plant. A six-acre asphalt pad was constructed on the site before operations began. This new site allows for easy

access, plenty of room for composting and wood grinding, and a good place to distribute the compost to the public. The asphalt pad allows for all weather access, which is important in the spring and fall when grass and

leaf delivery is the heaviest. Water is prevented from running onto the site by a large berm and runoff from the pad is controlled by a grass filter strip that is 50 feet wide and extends the full length of the pad.

“Yard waste is relatively easy to collect, and the operating costs for composting this resource are nearly covered by avoided hauling and disposal costs. Then, the city and its residents get to utilize the finished compost and mulch. I believe organics recycling is a great way to efficiently boost your recycling rate and conserve local soils at the same time.”

- Diana Sjogren, city of Lawrence Waste Reduction and Recycling Specialist

trimmings for curbside collection. Plastic bags were no longer allowed for the containerization of yard waste. The new policy for yard waste containers will: (a) increase collection efficiency by reducing collection time; (b)

improve worker safety by eliminating the need to cut open plastic bags with box cutters; and, (c) yield higher quality compost by reducing plastic contamination.

In 2005, the city’s Parks and Recreation Department diverted 1,729 tons of brushy wood waste from the landfill. Two programs administered by the Parks Division contributed to this diversion: (1) a residential drop-off chipping service at the Wood Recovery and Composting Facility (1,223 tons); and, (2) Right of Way removal of tree and brush debris (506 tons). Wood chips produced through these programs were used on city landscape projects and made available to the community through the Parks Division Wood Chip sales. Avoided disposal costs attributed to the brushy waste programs was \$33,110.35. Revenue generated from the sale of wood chips was \$8,128.

Beginning in 2005, by ordinance, only cans, carts and compostable kraft paper bags could be used for yard