

City of Lawrence
Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB)
December 10, 2008 (5:30 PM) Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Chris Cobb, Paul Dietz, Dickie Heckler, Sarah Hill-Nelson, Matt Lehrman, Daniel Poull, Laura Routh, Simran Sethi, Cindy Strecker
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Brian Sifton
STAFF PRESENT:	Tammy Bennett, Kathy Richardson
GUESTS PRESENT:	
PUBLIC PRESENT:	Matthew Gassen (Topeka SAB)

Call Meeting to Order (Daniel Poull, Chairperson)
Take Roll Call to Determine Quorum of Members

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion and second to approve the November 8, 2008 minutes (Heckler/Hill-Nelson). Vote: Motion was passed unanimously.

Review Goals set out at the Planning Session Meeting on September 10th

Any pressing issue? Laura Routh announced that there is an online survey for the Lawrence Transit System requesting feedback/suggestions for the bus system. **ACTION:** Laura will forward the link to SAB.

Introductions: guest Matt Gassen, a member of the newly formed Sustainability Advisory Board in Topeka.

Kathy Richardson passed around a draft poster of the goals SAB agreed upon at the Planning Session Meeting on September 10th. **ACTION:** Kathy will enlarge the poster and bring it to future board meetings.

Report on state of 50 by 15

Although this agenda item requests a report from staff on the state of 50 by 15, Tammy Bennett clarified that the direction assigned to staff was to report back to the City Commission regarding updating recycling information as outlined below.

REPORT TO THE CITY COMMISSION: Solid Waste Management Report, 2009

1. Review of new or expanded programs since 2004
2. Update report "Evaluation of Waste Diversion Strategies for Lawrence" from 2004 and update cost estimates for city-operated curbside collection of recyclables with a city-owned MRF

3. Other options for curbside collection of recyclables
 - City-operated collection with recyclables transported to a nearby MRF
 - Contracted curbside collection of recyclables to a private provider
4. Variable rate pricing for trash (PAYT)
 - Summary of services currently offered on PAYT basis
 - Review of services provided not PAYT
5. Issues and Concerns
 - Recycling markets
 - Customer satisfaction with various scenarios
6. Reliability of analysis - Do we need a third party analysis, i.e. professional solid waste consultant to focus on feasibility of curbside and PAYT?
 - Cost
 - Benefits
 - Implementation
7. Planned or additional steps
 - Source reduction
 - Recycling

PROCESS:

- Staff report to city manager, draft, by late January
- Review and discuss with various bodies (SAB & CC) per city manager direction
- Budget issues need to be determined by mid April (e.g., 3rd party analysis). CC makes budget decisions in July.

Recycling Markets and Impacts to the City's Recycling Program

Kathy Richardson alerted SAB of the current Municipal Paper Recycling Markets and possible impacts on the Waste Reduction and Recycling (WRR) Division's collection and processing of corrugated cardboard, mixed paper, newspaper and office paper. The paper markets have taken a sharp downturn, corresponding to other commodities and the current global economic downturn. SAB received a copy of the staff memo to City Manager (see attached) and Kathy informed SAB that this information would be in next week's City Manager's Report to the City Commission.

Staff has indicated that some of the possible impacts to the city's recycling program are:

- stalling new recycling projects,
- paying to recycle some waste streams (i.e. mixed paper),
- stopping collection of some waste streams (i.e. mixed paper).

SAB would like to be kept apprised of any recycling happenings so they can be prepared to answer citizens' questions if the community bins are removed or any changes take place.

If any changes to the City's recycling program do occur, WRR staff will work with Lisa Patterson, Communication Manager, to develop a plan to communicate these changes to the community using a variety of tools: Press Release, Emails, Newsletter, etc.

Update on Climate Protection Task Force

Simran Sethi reported that the next meeting is on Monday, December 15th at 4:00 pm. Top recommendations from each workgroup are due by the end of the year. The Policy, Outreach and Education workgroup will put all the pieces of the report together and present the draft at the CPTF meeting in January.

Laura Routh asked if the CPTF Waste Management workgroup recommendations address the methane at the landfill. Tammy Bennett informed SAB that the workgroup recommendations do not address the methane at the landfill for a variety of reasons - one being that the landfill gets waste from many communities not just Lawrence. Lawrence strongly encourages Hamm's landfill to install a methane collection system but what Lawrence has the most control over is how much waste we take to the landfill thus the Waste Management workgroup is focusing on reducing the amount of waste sent to the landfill.

Update on Peak Oil Task Force

Paul Dietz reported that the Peak Oil Task Force has not met yet. Paul was asked to serve on the Peak Oil Task Force to represent SAB. First meeting is targeted for January 2009.

Lawrence Energy Conservation Fair and Earth Day Celebration

There was discussion on changing the date/location of the Lawrence Energy Conservation Fair next year, securing a big name speaker, broadening the Energy Fair to a Sustainability Fair and/or combining the Energy Fair with the Earth Day Celebration in April. Ideas on new locations for Energy Fair: downtown (outside), Community Building, Lawrence Arts Center and City Garage, Lawrence High School, and big name speaker at KU Lied Center.

SAB members agreed that something needs to change in order to revitalize the Energy Fair and increase participation. Most SAB members agreed that the City's WRR Division should combine their two events Earth Day and Energy Fair. **ACTION:** SAB asked that Kathy Richardson discuss these ideas for the Energy Fair with staff.

Daniel asked if SAB is committed to having a SAB informational table at these outreach events. All SAB members agreed. Laura Routh suggested having a SAB brochure for the table. Simran Sethi wonders if there should also be SAB representation at every CC meeting as well.

Sarah Hill-Nelson informed SAB that the Douglas County Community Foundation is planning to have a spring Townhall event on health issues. There may be a chance to link this event with a sustainability event. **ACTION:** Sarah will contact Marilyn Hull from the DG CO Community Foundation and see if she could come speak at the next SAB meeting in January.

There was discussion on forming standing subcommittees for the two events: Earth Day and Energy Fair. SAB did not agree on whether to form a subcommittee or not. Kathy Richardson explained that at times it is more productive for staff to communicate with SAB members via email versus having subcommittee meetings outside of work hours.

Does SAB want to encourage staff to have two separate events or one event?

SAB decided to table this discussion and continue the discussion at the next board meeting.

Nomination of SAB officers for 2009

Motion and second to nominate Daniel Poull for SAB chair (Heckler/Hill-Nelson).
Vote: Motion was passed unanimously.

Motion and second to nominate Sarah Hill-Nelson for SAB vice-chair (Routh/Sethi). Vote: Motion was passed unanimously.

Motion and second to nominate Laura Routh for SAB secretary (Sethi/Strecker).
Vote: Motion was passed unanimously.

SAB officers (chair, vice-chair and secretary) will be voted on at the January meeting.

Burroughs Creek Trail

Dickie Heckler reported that there is a committee wanting to move on the Burroughs Creek Trail project now that the sales tax is approved. Tammy Bennett mentioned the design work will be done in-house. The lead city engineer is David Cronin. **ACTION:** Dickie will get more information on the progress of this project and bring it back to the next meeting.

There was discussion on how the tax money approved is being spent. Tammy informed SAB that Chuck Soules, Public Works Director, could come to a SAB meeting and discuss the projects and how the tax money is being spent. Right now the only project moving forward is Burroughs Creek Trail because it is tied to a federal grant.

Dickie also discussed sidewalks and maintenance responsibilities. He handed out a 2006 LJWorld survey. Sidewalk maintenance has been a City Commission issue for the last 5 years. Who should be responsible for sidewalk maintenance and at what level?

Waste Reduction & Recycling Report

Kathy Richardson emailed SAB a copy of the WRR Report (see attached) and a copy of the Lawrence Energy Conservation Fair Exhibitor Survey Results (see attached).

Guest Comments and Miscellaneous

Laura Routh announced that the Bureau of Waste Management is looking at revising the Construction & Demolition landfill regulations to address hydrogen sulfide issues.

Meeting adjourned 7:40 p.m.

Next meeting: January 14, 2008 at 5:30 pm

Attachments:

- Staff memo to Dave Corliss regarding the Municipal Paper Recycling Markets and possible impacts on the WRR programs
- Waste Reduction and Recycling Division Report
- Lawrence Energy Conservation Fair Exhibitor Survey Results

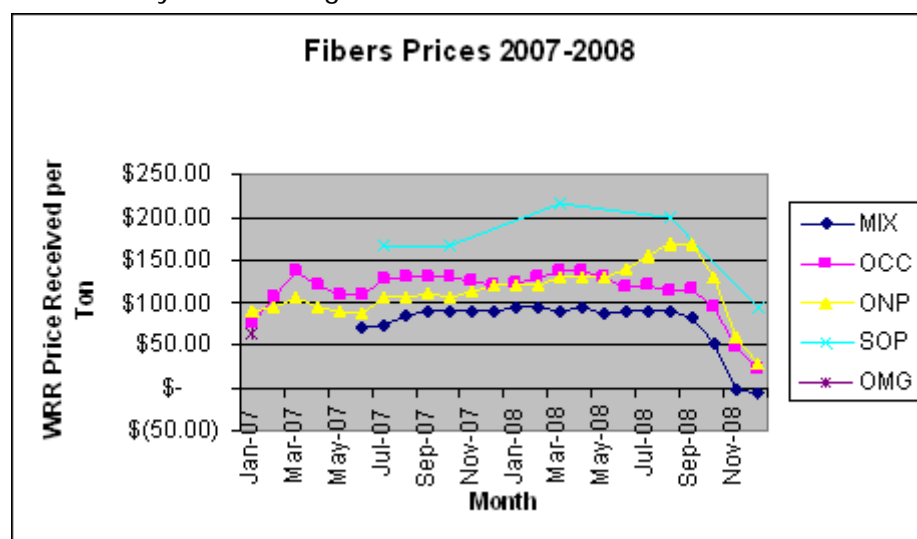
Kathy Richardson

From: Kathy Richardson
Sent: Monday, December 08, 2008 4:12 PM
To: David L. Corliss
Cc: Cynthia Boecker; Charles Soules; Tammy Bennett; Bob Yoos; Michelle Gundy
Subject: Recycling Market Information

The purpose of this email is to alert you of the current Municipal Paper Recycling Markets and possible impacts on the Waste Reduction and Recycling (WRR) Division's collection and processing of corrugated cardboard, mixed waste paper, newspaper and sorted office paper.

- Paper markets have taken a sharp downturn in the past several months, corresponding to other commodities and the current global economic downturn. Old Corrugated Cardboard, for example, which was selling for \$115/ton in September 2008, is now worth \$20/ton today. There is currently no market (price quote \$0 to -\$5/ton) for Mixed Waste Paper which sold for \$85/ton in September 2008.
- The immediate operational impact to WRR is depleted warehouse storage capacity at the SWAN building. (Currently, if either of this week's two scheduled cardboard shipments were to be canceled, we would need to arrange immediately to begin outside storage for processed materials [bales]). Another possible impact would be the suspension of collection of materials which cannot currently be marketed.
- The WRR Division is currently evaluating all options for marketing, collection, and storage of these materials.

The graph below shows the price that the WRR Division received per ton of Mixed Paper (MIX), Corrugated Cardboard (OCC), Newspaper (ONP), Sorted Office Paper (SOP), and Magazines (OMG) from January 2007 through December 2008.



The links below are to recently published articles regarding the current recycling markets and the impacts on recycling programs.

Back at Junk Value, Recyclables Are Piling Up, December 7, 2008, **The New York Times**
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/08/business/08recycle.html?_r=1&hp

Recycling Goes from Boom to Bust as Economy Stalls, December 7, 2008, **Yahoo! Finance**
http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/081207/recycling_bust.html

Kathy Richardson, Waste Reduction & Recycling Operations Supervisor | krichardson@ci.lawrence.ks.us
Public Works Department | [City of Lawrence, KS](#)
PO Box 708, Lawrence, KS 66044
office: (785) 832-3046 | fax: (785) 832-3056
www.LawrenceRecycles.org



Waste Reduction and Recycling Division Report for the Sustainability Advisory Board (12/10/08)

FIBERS REPORT

OLD CORRUGATED CONTAINERS (OCC)

Cardboard	Tons	Revenue
Current YTD	1123.58	\$130,894.54
Prior YTD	984.20	\$117,566.80
Avg. Price/ton thru Nov 2008:	\$116.50	Avg. Price/ton thru Nov 2007: \$119.45

OLD NEWSPAPERS (ONP)

Newspaper	Tons	Revenue
Current YTD	595.60	\$76,312.02
Prior YTD	797.90	\$78,806.62
Avg. Price/ton thru Nov 2008:	\$128.13	Avg. Price/ton thru Nov 2007: \$98.77

OFFICE WASTE PAPER (SOP)

Sorted Office Paper	Tons	Revenue
Current YTD	39.32	\$8,135.30
Prior YTD	33.21	\$5,532.94
Avg. Price/ton thru Nov 2008:	\$206.90	Avg. Price/ton thru Nov 2007: \$166.60

MIXED WASTE PAPER (MIX)

	Tons	Revenue
Current YTD	171.54	\$14,869.62
Prior YTD	43.08	\$3,743.79
Avg. Price/ton thru Nov 2008:	\$86.64	Avg. Price/ton thru Nov 2007: \$86.91

TOTAL	YTD	TONS	REVENUE
		1930.04	\$230,211.48
Prior YTD		1858.39	\$205,650.15

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW) PROGRAM REPORT

Month	HHW Drop-Offs	Battery Bags in Mail	Appt No Show	Home-bound	Saturday Collection	Abandoned Waste	Orphan Waste	SQG Inventory	SQG Drop-off	Product Reuse Appt
January	119	3	12	0	0	1	0	10	6	10
February	82	2	10	0	0	0	0	8	8	11
March	146	1	7	0	0	2	0	8	7	14
April	248	5	25	1	24	7	0	12	14	56
May	225	4	9	0	40	2	0	15	15	57
June	353	6	28	0	30	3	0	9	9	56
July	295	8	18	0	30	5	0	14	9	76
August	269	2	16	0	23	4	0	20	19	49
September	205	0	17	2	15	3	0	8	9	79
October	202	0	23	0	20	1	0	10	11	60
November	183	6	10	0	0	2	0	3	3	41
December										
TOTAL	2327	37	175	3	182	30	0	117	110	509

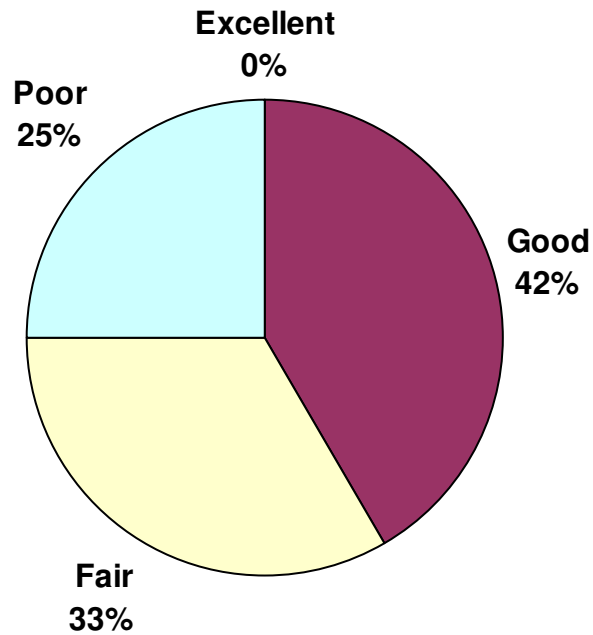
COMPOST PROGRAM

The last day in 2008 for residential yard waste collection will be Monday, December 22nd. Yard waste collection will resume in March 2009. The Christmas Tree-Cycling program will collect live cut trees on Monday, January 5th and Monday, January 12th for reuse as wildlife habitat.

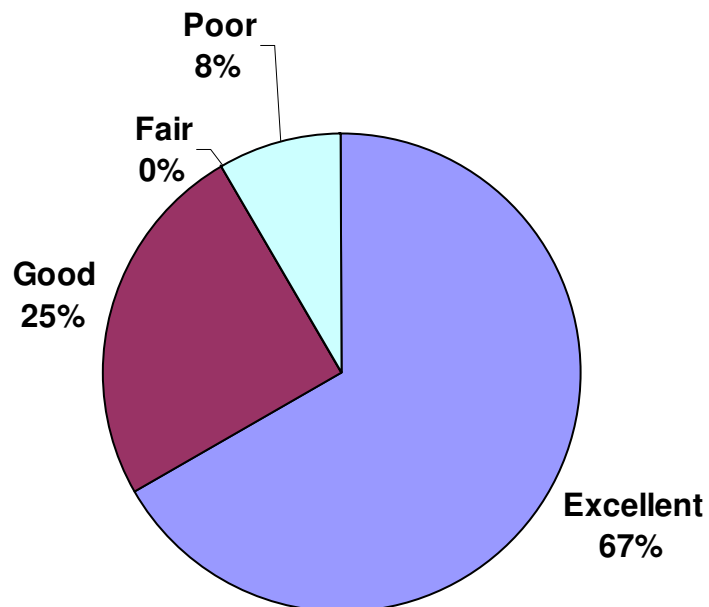
YARD TRIMMINGS COLLECTION: YEAR TO DATE

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	2008 TOTAL
Total Tons collected curbside	NA	NA	1,035.71	1,575.54	1,375.76	1,491.3	695.7	576.49	756.54	912.5	2,362.43	10,781.97
Commercial YW received	0.8	0.7	124.1	122.1	151.7	132.8	64.3	72.3	141.3	150.5	129.7	1,090.3
Other YW received (Christmas Trees)	20.46 (1716 trees)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	20.46
Total tons this month	21.26	0.7	1,159.81	1,697.64	1,527.46	1,624.1	760.0	648.79	897.84	1,063	2,492.13	11,892.73
Average Preferred Container Compliance	NA	NA	97.6%	99%	99.4%	99.4%	99.6%	99.2%	99.5%	99.5%	98.8%	99.1%

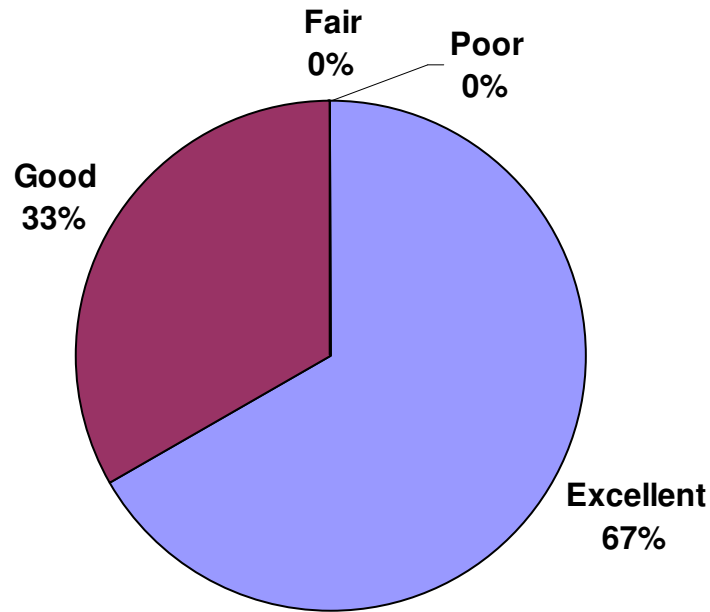
Number of Fair Attendees



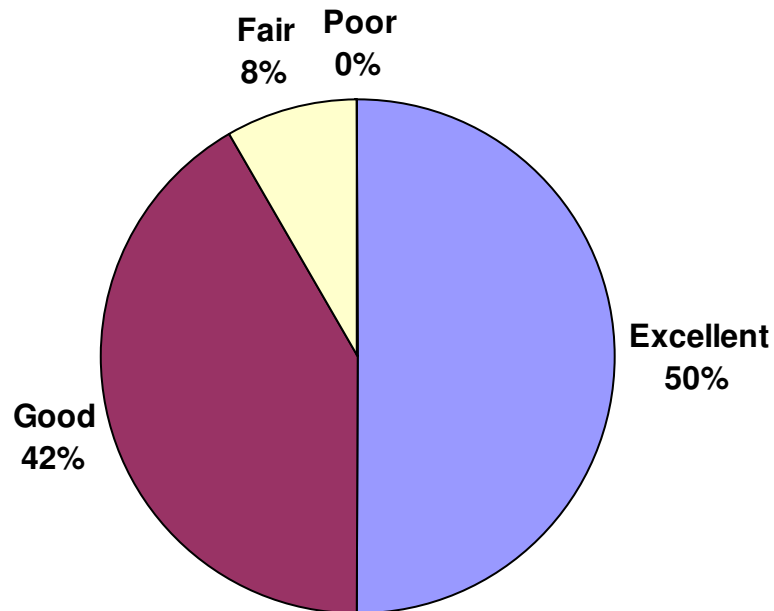
Free State High School as the Fair Venue



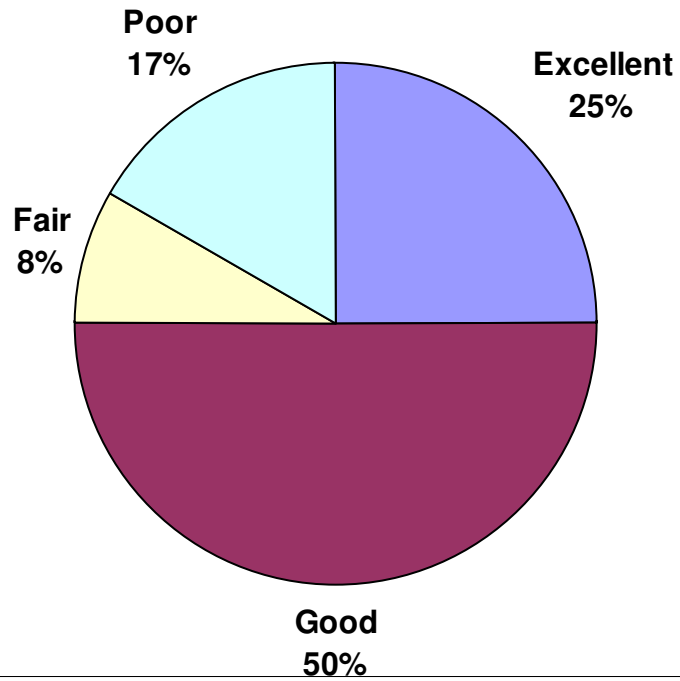
Exhibitor Schedule and Pre-event Instructions



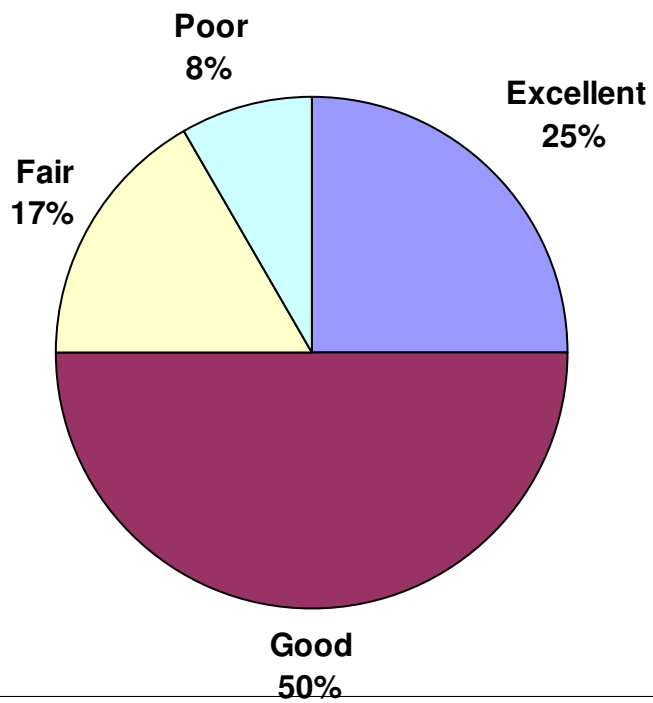
Fair Sponsorship Opportunities



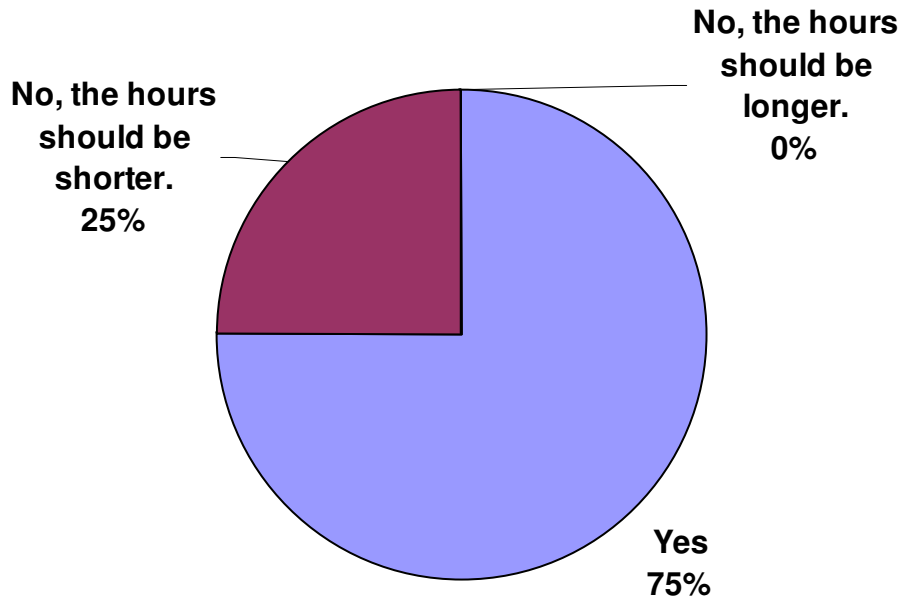
Fair Publicity



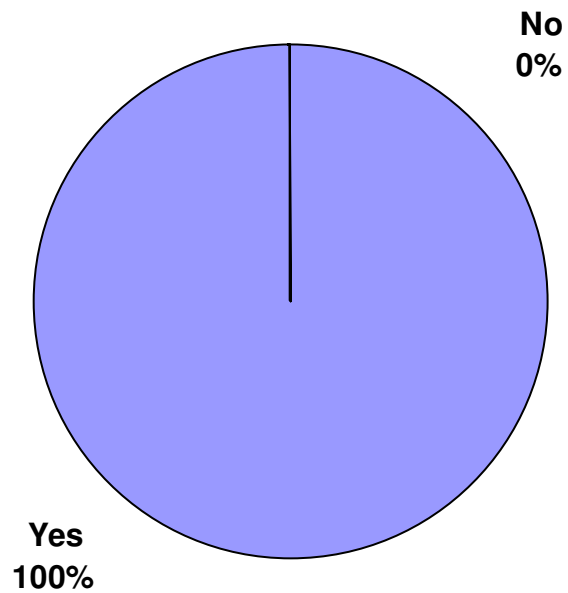
Overall Exhibiting Experience



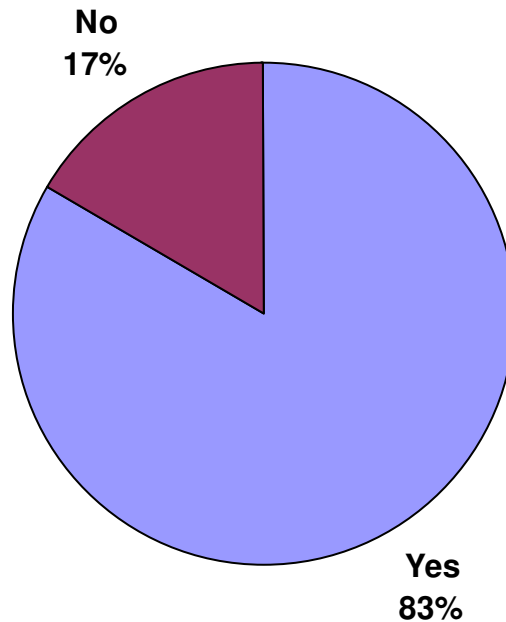
Were the exhibiting hours of 10 am - 5 pm sufficient?



Were your booth needs and other special requirements met?



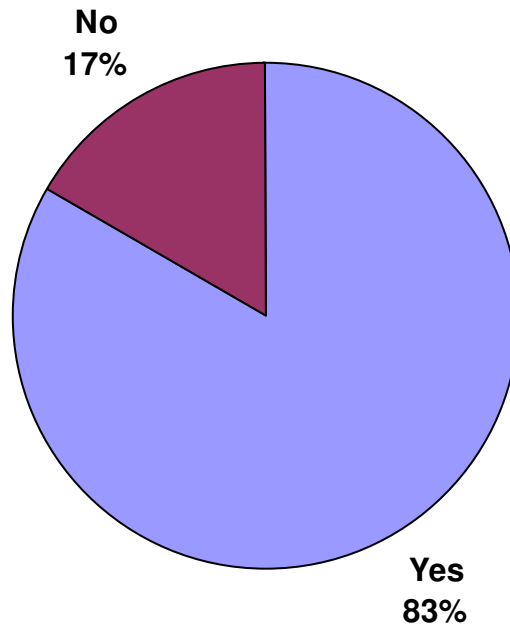
Did you meet your exhibiting objectives for this year?



What were your primary reasons for exhibiting at the Fair this year?

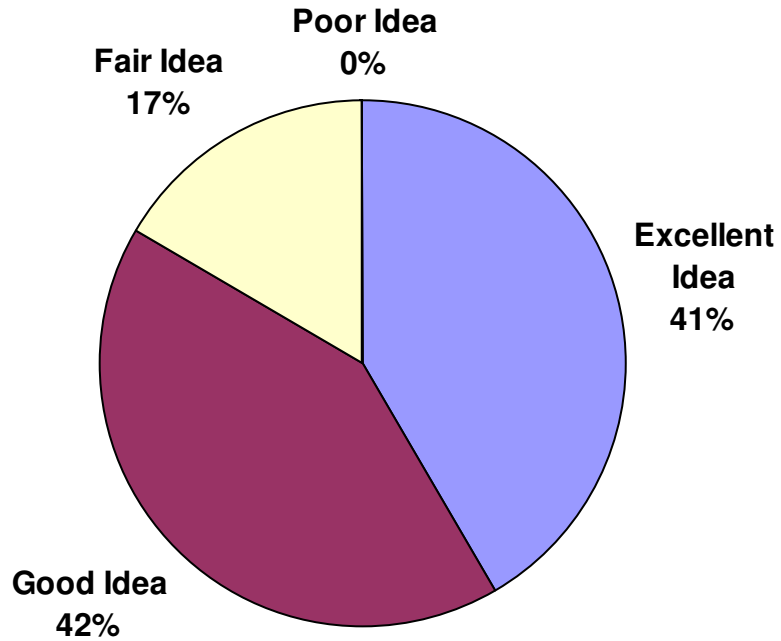
- To share energy efficiency information and make one-on-one connections with customers.
- HRES of KC - We kinda needed to be there!!
- To attract new customers and create excitement for existing customers.
- To promote energy conservation and energy efficiency.
- Public education
- To get our name out to the public for future jobs.
- To alert attendees to work of our organization and how they could get involved
- I like your small fair and it is put together well. It is part of my continuing work toward more sustainability in our communities and does offer a good cross section of the Lawrence community. Also an opportunity to network with others in the arena.
- Increase awareness of my products. Meet other like-minded businesses in the community.
- I want to be a part of the green building movement in Lawrence.

**Do you plan to be an exhibitor or sponsor of the
Energy Fair next year?**

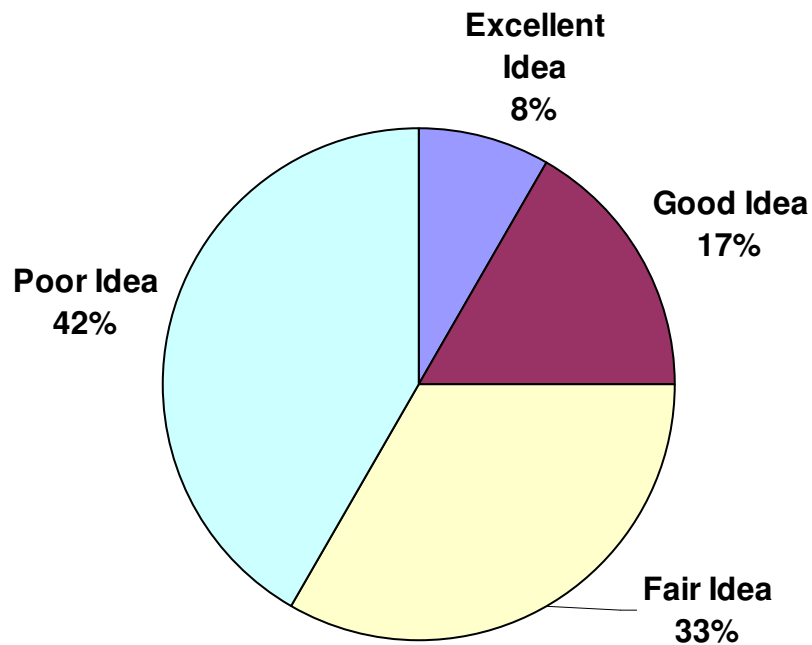


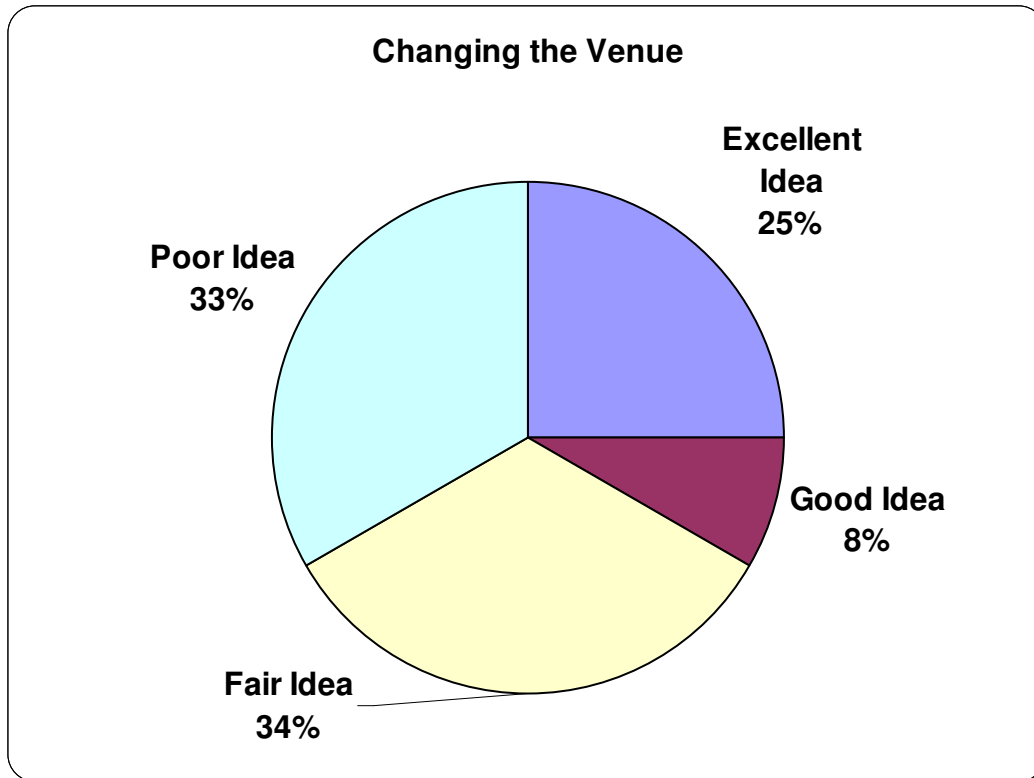
Suggestions

Partnering with another Fair/Event in the Area



Expanding the Fair to 2 days (Saturday & Sunday)





Do you have any additional suggestions for improvements to the Fair?

- I do not have enough experience to offer much help. We are very impressed with your organization and follow-through for this event and other things that you do. You are making us look bad!
- Move it back to the fair grounds or LHS. Increase advertising - specifically more posters around town, more newspaper, radio and television promotion. Include an event promo with in everyone's City of Lawrence monthly bill. Although a few people actually came into our store after the fair, the cost of sponsorship, set up and display far exceeded any positive effect we were able to generate from participation in the event. Chevron does a yearly energy event on campus, maybe partnering with them is an option.
- I like the location and it appears from past experience that either Saturday or Sunday is good.
- I think the venue is fine. I do not know if there might be something else that is a little more centrally located available. I do think there needs to be more advertising to increase awareness and attendance. I do not know specifically what was done regarding advertising this year, but, it seemed that there were relatively few attendees.

Suggestions Continued

- I thought the venue lent itself well to the size and logistics of the fair. Maybe some type of designated transportation through the bus system, rides in alternative fuel and high efficiency vehicles, bicycle rickshaws etc. could help boost attendance. I think the nice weather may have slowed the community participation. I know that a lot of marketing took place because I heard a lot about the Fair before it happened. The time for presentations may have started a little early. Possibly 2 sessions in 2 rooms from say 1 to 5 could allow for the same number of sessions and better attendance. Also possibly tying the presentations (visually) to the main area could help. Adding another element to the fair is also probably a good idea. I think that participation of the local food initiative and the idea of the area around the house (i.e. landscaping for water usage, cistern systems, gray water systems, spot solar in the outside area and out buildings, indigenous plants, etc.) would also enhance the fair and the increase the traffic. Maybe local food could do some mini cafes and bake shops, and the local breweries and wineries could offer their products for sale. How about value-added products from the agricultural sector? (Local salsas, jams and jellies, honey, native plant products, etc.) Involving local bicycle clubs and walking groups may also add to the fair's atmosphere, and possibly recruiting the bike shops, outdoor equipment shops (non carbon based activities only, no 4 wheelers, etc.) and maybe someone who sells sailboats. Promote activities that don't rely on outside energy input to enjoy. Maybe a children's section (ecological based coloring, painting, activities with parks and wildlife to bring native animals, a petting zoo, etc.) that is well advertised so parents will know that there will be activities for their kids when they come to the show. Just some thoughts. I am also running into the problem of filling the workshops and classes that I am offering here at FHTC that pertain to energy efficient building, winterization, solar, etc. I think that marketing is the hardest part of the process. Keep up the good work, the main stream of thinking is slowly evolving toward a more sustainable approach.
- Why not combine this with the homebuilders show? Pros: increased attendance for both the homebuilder show and conservation fair. Energy and environmental applications will add marketability/advertising. Cons: Entry costs for vendors to that show are expensive. Unless attendance increases dramatically, I don't think 2 days are needed. Why do this in the fall when energy bills are at their lowest? People will only make a change when it hurts enough they have to. Low electric/gas bills in Oct don't up their urgency. At the end of July or early Aug...It will. The booklet that listed all vendors/companies was not accurate. My business was not listed (indoor environmental solutions), yet someone else (competition) whose contact info is KC was and they were not even in attendance. I doubt I will lose any business to them, but you never know.