



Mainstreet News

City of Ellinwood Recognized by KDHE

The City of Ellinwood received a first-time ever recognition from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) for its recycling and composting efforts.

"The City of Ellinwood demonstrated their community-wide commitment to environmental stewardship when City Administrator Bob Peter, the Rotary Club, and Chamber of Commerce chose a 'Going Green' theme for their annual After Harvest festival and activities," said Bill Bider, KDHE's director of Bureau of Waste Management.

The unique theme of the After Harvest Festival showcased the City's 20-year-old recycling program and 10-year-old composting site. The program boasts an annual collection rate of 70 tons in recyclable materials, and over 400 tons in compostable yard waste.

"It is our intention to look for other cities, counties, non-profits organizations, and private businesses that are truly making a difference in their communities by voluntarily adopting practices that will provide long-term benefits to their citizens," said Bider.

Cities Receive Recognition

BusinessWeek magazine named the City of Salina as being the best place to raise kids in Kansas for 2010. Salina boasts a major manufacturing center for economic vitality, a low cost of living and crime rate, and good school test scores. Salina Area Chamber of Commerce representative Dennis Lauver said, "We have great

schools...we are the Kansas Arts Community of the Year. This news verifies what many people across Kansas already know: Salina is a great place to live, work, and play."

The Cities of Lawrence and Olathe were also named runners up for the state.

Lawrence Launches New Web Page

The City of Lawrence has launched a new web page to share its sustainability success stories with residents. From the e-recycling events hosted by Waste Reduction and Recycling to the algae biofuel pilot project at the Waste Water Treatment Plant, the new page highlights how the City is already addressing sustainability in our facilities and operations.

The page also provides useful resources for citizens, including information about recycling, the weatherization grants program,

and bicycle routes and trails. "Sustainability means making decisions that balance the needs of the environment, economy, and society—for both present and future generations," said Eileen Horn, the county-city sustainability coordinator. "In the City of Lawrence, that means finding more efficient, smarter ways of serving our community. We share our citizens' commitment to sustainability, and are working in our facilities and operations to save energy and reduce waste."

KCK Receives TIGER Grant

Local officials in Kansas City, KS signed agreements to kick off \$50 million in infrastructure projects funded by a federal TIGER Grant. The Mid-America Regional Council coordinated a regional application for competitive TIGER grant funds available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The grant will fund improvements to the State Avenue corridor in Kansas City as plans to launch a Bus Rapid Transit line continue. The Johnson County Metcalf/Shawnee Mission Parkway regional transit also received funding from the TIGER grant.

TIGER funds will support transit infrastructure improvements, including additional transit centers, better pedestrian access to

transit facilities, bus stop improvements, and traffic signal priority for buses. The aim of the Kansas City Regional TIGER application is to promote region-wide economic prosperity by improving and enhancing the core transportation systems necessary to drive local and regional success.

The Unified Government Transit Department was also presented with a Certificate of Achievement from the Kansas Public Transit Association. The award was presented to UG Transit in recognition of its achievement as a recipient of the regional federal TIGER grant. "These upgrades will help improve future public transportation in our community," said Transit Director Emerick Cross.

City of Tonganoxie Allocates KDOT Grant

The City of Tonganoxie has received a grant to complete the second phase of the Chieftain Trail, which will extend a pedestrian/bike path. The City will match 20% of a \$200,000 grant provided by the Kansas Department of Transportation's, Transportation Enhancement Program. The funds will go toward the design and procurement of property/easement for the trail.

The grant itself will then be applied towards the actual construction of the trail. Tonganoxie City Clerk Kathy Bard conveyed the importance of the trail extension for safety's sake by saying that "it would get the kids under the highway."