

## City of Lawrence receives outstanding solid waste management program award

The City of Lawrence Solid Waste Division received the outstanding solid waste management program award at the 2014 Kansas Solid Waste Management Conference in Manhattan, Kansas on November 19. The conference was hosted by the Kansas Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). This is the first year the solid waste awards program was established to recognize outstanding solid waste management programs in Kansas.



The City of Lawrence Solid Waste Division offers comprehensive solid waste management services for residential, commercial, and industrial customers in a community of approximately 90,000 people. While the City has been the exclusive hauler of residential trash since the mid-1940's, the program has undergone major changes in the last four years. The evolution of services resulted from an intentional and purposeful public input process, resulting in changes in service delivery methods and types of services offered. This summary highlights some of the unique characteristics of the process which brought the city to the current state of operations, including:

- Solid Waste Task Force;
- Containerization of trash service with variable rate pricing;
- First in State of Kansas to navigate new statute on establishing an organized collection service;
- Competitive process for selecting curbside recycling collection provider and material recovery facility; and
- Comprehensive education and outreach to launch new services.

The City of Lawrence demonstrated strong commitment to an open and participatory process that values education and communication for residents, employees, and policy makers through period of unprecedented change for the community. Program changes greatly improved worker safety, created equity in residential rates, and expanded services to include single-stream (with glass) residential curbside recycling.



Left to right: Nathan Hamm, Kansas SWANA director, Kathy Richardson, City of Lawrence Solid Waste Manager, and John Hawk, Kansas SWANA president.