

VISIONEERING WICHITA



Technical Training



Downtown Arena



Healthy Lifestyles



Solid Waste



Emergency Response



Urban & Regional
Development



Elderly & Aging

June 15, 2005

Infrastructure Foundation — Water, Sewer & Other Utilities

3. Develop and implement a comprehensive solid waste plan, including a recycling plan for all reusable resources.

Sedgwick County's Action Step — Sedgwick County will continue its leadership role in this area by monitoring recycling, waste minimization and waste disposal.

Current Situation:

Sedgwick County's Solid Waste Management Committee consists of 16 members, including 10 members that are required by state statute, one appointment by each of the five County Commissioners, and 1 member to be the non-voting chair of the committee. The Committee meets as business items dictate.

- **Disposal** — Waste Connections Transfer Station, located at 4300 W. 37th St. North, reported that 338,357 tons of solid waste were received at their facility during 2004. Waste Disposal Transfer Station, located at 55th St. South and Hoover Road, reported that 117,596 tons of solid waste were received at their facility during 2004. Totally, 455,953 tons of solid waste were received at these two transfer stations during 2004. This results in an average of 1,256 tons of solid waste disposed of per day.
- **Public Education** — During 2004, new Sedgwick County Recycling Guides were printed and distributed to any citizen requesting them. They were also placed in strategic locations around the community and distributed at events such as the Wichita Garden Show and the Home Show. During the past few years, the Sedgwick County Department of Environmental Resources has become the “clearinghouse” for information about recycling, disposal issues, and other environmental concerns. The County web site (www.sedgwickcounty.org) also keeps current all information about recycling options located throughout the County.
- **Waste Minimization** — “Recycling” is a small part of waste minimization. Waste minimization includes:

Composting — 15,474 tons diverted at the Wood Recycling Center. (Unknown quantities for home composting and mulch mowing would increase this number.)

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- **Waste Minimization —**
 - **Drop-Off Recycling** — Sedgwick County continued to provide financial responsibility for 19 drop-off recycling locations around Sedgwick County through February 2005. More than 87% of single-family households are within 2 ½ miles of a drop-off location and more than 95% of single-family households are within 3 ½ miles of a drop-off location. In 2004, approximately 4,388 tons of materials were collected from these drop-off boxes. (Unknown quantities from other recycling programs including Kamen, Pro-KS Miller Recycling, Bel Aire recycling would increase this number.)
 - **Curbside Recycling** — Currently, in Sedgwick County, residential curbside recycling is provided for an additional fee by trash haulers and independent recycling companies. Everyone who has trash service can participate in curbside recycling, for as low as \$1/month. Trash haulers collect newspapers, magazines, #1 and #2 plastic bottles, aluminum, tin cans and other items. In 2004, approximately 707 tons were collected through curbside recycling.
 - **Household Hazardous Waste** — The Sedgwick County Household Hazardous Waste Facility reported receiving 780,958 pounds of material in 2004 (processed 288,871 pounds of hazardous waste, 184,400 pounds of waste oil, 43,006 pounds of antifreeze, 6,595 pounds of other non-hazardous waste, and received 258,086 pounds of solid waste in the form of containers). This facility also has a Swap and Shop area where residents can take home good items that have been brought to the HHW facility. In 2004, 2,781 people took home 140,303 pounds of materials.
 - **Other Programs:**
 - **Small Quantity Generators** — During 2004, the Household Hazardous Waste facility served 175 businesses as small quantity generators of hazardous waste with 76,902 lbs. of waste.
 - **Storm Debris** — Brooks Construction and Demolition Landfill accepted tree limbs at no charge to citizens from after a Jan. ice storm. Brooks Landfill, which has scales, reported receiving approximately 45,000 tons of storm debris during this time period. (Unknown quantities from 4 Sedgwick County sites would increase this number.)
 - **Construction & Demolition (C&D) Waste** — 311,853 tons were received and recycled at C&D facilities and another 140,718 tons received and buried. This includes concrete, metal, iron, tree/wood, asphalt, sheetrock, etc.)

Next Steps:

- The BOCC directed the County Manager to proceed with siting a landfill, that it be County owned, and to prepare an RFP so a landfill would be privately operated, and explore new waste minimization technology once a landfill site is operational.
- Continue to promote waste minimization and assure that anyone who wants to take advantage of recycling has the opportunity to do so.