

Meeting Notes
Waste/Recycling Work Group #2
November 29, 2007
City-County Building Rm. 656

Attendees:

- Madeleine Weil, City Policy
- John Homa, City Solid Waste
- Darrell Shepard, PBA
- Rikki Hall, FGS
- Sarah Surak, UT Facilities
- Beth Reed, City Policy
- Mike Reynolds, Knoxville Recycling Coalition
- Katie Swick, Knoxville Recycling Coalition

City-County Building Waste Audit Results

- John Homa presented data. Discussion: need to calculate net costs of recycling recyclables versus disposing of recyclables. Net costs of recycling are less than net costs of waste disposal because recycled material is income stream.

Best Practice Proposal for CCB Recycling Program

- All employees have desk-side recycling cans for paper plus desk side garbage can.
- Centrally-located collection bins for mixed paper, aluminum cans, plastic bottles on each floor
- Premiere Custodial picks up garbage from offices Mon/Wed/Fri, paper Tues/Thurs. Garbage disposed of as-usual. Paper delivered to centrally-located collection bins.
- Employees responsible for bringing plastic bottles and aluminum cans to central bins.
- Sertoma takes collection bins to downstairs loading dock, delivers into dumpsters, returns collection bins upstairs.
- New contract needed for removing recyclables from downstairs loading dock. Contract expected to be zero cost, potentially could earn money.
- Proposal may increase efficiency of Premiere Custodial and Sertoma work = less work for both.
- Need to take stock of existing desk-side recycling cans, purchase more if necessary for everybody to have one. Need to identify centralized locations to place collection bins and obtain bins.

Reduce CCB Food Waste

- Switch coffee shop from Styrofoam to paper.
- Offer refillable mug discount at coffee shop.
- Consider working with downtown restaurants to reduce to-go packaging.

Proposal – Recycling in Apartment Buildings

- Lots of demand from residents for recycling in apartment buildings, but not easily accomplished.
- KRC will develop guide to apartment building managers and residents set up a recycling program.

Other measures for further discussion

- Encourage gas stations to sell refillable cups and offer refillable cup price.
- Systematize special events recycling procedures.
- Emphasize recycling at downtown restaurants.
- KRC currently assessing opportunities to increase recycling in Knox County schools.
- Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy for City of Knoxville.

Energy & Sustainability Task Force Meeting

- Scheduled for 12/12, 2-4 Small Assembly Room, City-County Building
- City will present energy consumption and emissions inventory.
- Working groups will summarize activity so far. Members are asked to be prepared to provide > one minute summaries of proposals under discussion.