

CURRENT RECYCLING OPTIONS IN FNSB, SPRING, 2018 OLLI CLASS

PPT INTRO PAGE

Introductions;

My name is Karl Monetti. I am a retired veterinarian from North Pole and I was chair of the recycling commission from its inception in 2009 until October of 2017, when the commission was reformed with a different mission. I originally gave this presentation in November of 2015 and I am pleased to say

there is a lot of new territory to cover.

Other commissioners

The following guests will be speaking about their individual projects after my somewhat lengthy introduction

Sean H. RCM

FRM Rodney Gaskins

David W. IAGS

fnsb rep

others

PIX OF LOGO

History

PIX OF SOLID WASTE CHART, RC, SOLID WASTE

most folks don't realize this but
Solid Waste has been conducting
long term sustainable recycling
programs at the landfill for many
years ;

Scrap metal and aluminum- 1992
to present

junk autos, appliances, etc.
Baled and shipped to Seattle.

Cardboard- 1992-98. Was baled and sent to Seattle

Waste paper; June 1998-2007; EAFB pellets for fuel. that building burned down, Nothing since

Vehicle Batteries 1992 to present, recycled via contractor

Antifreeze, 1995 to present via contractor

Flammable liquids and fuels

shipped outside for waste to
energy fuels

Used oil energy recovery program,
since 2003, used to heat landfill
buildings

Transfer site reuse platforms at 5
main sites, since 1996;

Since 2009 dumpster diving
protected by borough code; in
2015 an article in the DNM
mentioned Fairbanks as the
dumpster diving capital of the
world.

Over the years, several community task forces and commissions have been convened;

1994-99 Recycling commission formed. Instrumental in providing the reuse centers at the transfer sites and the configuration of the five major sites around town as they exist today. The commission was disbanded in 1999 because they had served their purpose with the options they had available at

the time

In 2005, a study was done for borough by the engineering firm MACTEC regarding possibility of increasing recycling, notably household resources such as waste paper and cardboard, plastics, glass, etc.. It was deemed too expensive at the time mostly due to high costs of shipping low value resources out of state.

In response to increasing public requests, in 2006 a Recycling task

force formed by Mayor Whitaker. Chaired by Mike Musick, over 150 participants met several times over the course of a year and generated the RTF report to the Mayor in late 2008. The first recommendation was to reinstate a Recycling Commission

2009 Mayor Whitaker reformed the Recycling Commission under borough ordinance No. 2009-39

2010 to present the RC has been active and has helped fulfill several of the recommendations of the

RTF

- restart RC

- enlist political support from assembly; liaison, great response from assembly

- educational articles, poster, handouts, psas

- approved several recyclers trying to use resources locally

- sponsored a study to determine if composting could work on commercial scale

- encourage borough to invest in recycling infrastructure;

CRF

We conducted a phone survey tIN 2012 to get an idea of public support for recycling. We found that 85% of those contacted already recycled to some degree or would do so if more options were available. Of those, 85% said they would be willing to pay for recycling, and that over half would be willing to pay up to \$20 per year to do so. This indicates a strong desire of local residents to have more recycling options and their understanding that such options may have a cost to them.

The RC has been concerned mostly with programs that will increase the amount of resources we can divert from the landfill. These resources (we do not like the term “waste”) are paper and cardboard, plastics, glass, compostable materials such as kitchen scraps and yard waste, used clothing, and aluminum. We

do not concern ourselves with the materials recycled by the landfill or any of the other metals recyclers such as K&K, C&R Pipe, or construction waste handled by Central Environmental and others. Scrap metals, both ferrous and non-ferrous have always been marketable commodities and as such are commercially viable resources recycled by private enterprise.

The RC has vetted numerous proposals since its inception and include;

FRM and K&K Recycling both had avoided cost contracts with the borough. The avoided costs paid to K&K and the Mission were less per ton than the borough would have paid the contract hauler to deliver the materials to the landfill from the transfer sites.

Until 2 years ago, K&K collected paper, plastics, cardboard, aluminum and tin cans, and glass bottles from UAF and their 9 Mile Richardson highway drop off facility. They tried for several years, at great financial expense, to develop local markets for these

resources. The problems they encountered were many and varied, but it boiled down to the high expense of machinery to remanufacture articles from those resources, coupled with the relatively small amounts of those resources to be used as feedstock, and the fact that we are a small market; even if we had enough feedstock to run the expensive machinery, we could not sell enough finished product to make it economically viable.

The Rescue Mission began their recycling program in 2008 as a

“Green Collar” effort. Besides recycling paper, cardboard, plastics 1&2 and aluminum, their highest value product has been people, helping them get off the street and back into the mainstream. The volume they were able to handle was constrained only by the size of the building they were using, approximately 2000 sq ft in area. Both avoided cost contracts have now been cancelled, as the CRF is now the main event in town. With 16,000 sq ft of space the Rescue Mission can now handle much

more material.

IAGS, our local electronics recycler, has been funded in part by the RC since 2010, and we have fully funded them since 2013 to enable them to provide no-cost electronics recycling to borough residents. Their work will be continued at the CRF.

pix of rc guide under guides

GreenStar was also the driving force behind the recycling guides

published from 2011 to present. We funded the development, printing, and distribution of them, from the original 8 page brochure to the most recent 2-sided guide.

AWG was provided with funds to purchase recycling bins during the games in 2014, which have now been distributed into many schools and borough facilities. In 2016 we approved funding for an AWG/XPFBKS legacy project, to provide another 40 bins for greater saturation of borough buildings and schools.

Project Fairbanks, a group of downtown businesses, was awarded funds to purchase and outfit a recycling trailer that is used at numerous local events to raise awareness of recycling.

For the past two years the RC sponsored a \$2000 kicker prize at the UAF Arctic Innovation Challenge to be awarded to the best ideas related to recycling. Last year's winner was Activate Alaska, a start-up company taking waste birch tree biomass and

manufacturing industrial filtration systems. This year's winner is Brian McKim, a local UAF student who has developed an online business for resale of personal items with more features than either eBay or CraigsList. The name of the site is Youst, and it addresses the first two Rs of recycling, reduce and reuse.

Since 2012 the landfill has been studying possibility of using methane generated from landfill cells to use for on site energy. To date no appreciable amount of

methane has been recovered.

The most recent improvements by Solid Waste have been the transfer sites themselves. Over the past 2 years several of the major transfer sites have been expanded and upgraded to make room for more bins, and allow for the possible future implementation of recycling bins at those sites. We'll have to see how the CRF operates and if collecting resources at the various transfer sites will be practical from an economic and quality control standpoint.

And, earlier this year a pilot program was put in place at the Farmers Loop East transfer site. The hours of operation were somewhat shortened and a borough employee has been stationed there to help people put items in the correct places, make sure the site is kept clean, and to discourage commercial businesses from depositing their trash at these sites. This has been a very successful project and has been expanded to several other sites, including Farmers Loop West and North Pole. These sites are now clean,

neat, and it is a pleasure to use them. Yes, there is a cost for the employee, but that cost is largely offset by the savings of not having to pay the contract hauler, Alaska Waste, to clean the sites.

Currently about 110,000 tons of waste is processed at the landfill each year. That's about one ton per person in the borough. Since the inception of the RC, that figure has decreased a small amount each year, and the amount of resources diverted from the landfill due to

the activities of the above mentioned recyclers has gone up, from almost zero in 2008, to almost 2000 tons yearly, for about a 2 percent recycling rate. We can do much better. The nationwide average is 27%. Recyclables such as paper and plastics comprise 40% or more of landfill intake, so we have a lot of room for improvement.

Since its inception one of the main goals of the RC has been to develop a sustainable, centralized recycling center that can deliver

resources to both local, state and national markets at a cost lower than landfilling. 2013 and 2014 the RC started examining several recycling programs around the state and found several that were quite successful. The RC then commissioned a follow up study to the Mactec study in 2014. The contract went to a local engineering firm, PDC. Their report, which came out in May of 2015, was encouraging about the possibility of the borough having a centralized recycling center run either by the borough or an

independent contractor, most likely a non-profit. According to their research, resources could be shipped to Anchorage and Outside recycling centers for less than it costs to process them in the landfill. ALPAR , a consortium of shippers serving Alaska, would help with backhaul.

In October, 2015 John Davies put forth two ordinances to create a central recycling center, or CRF. Both ordinances passed and RFI

for a business plan was advertised, followed by an RFP to identify an operator for the facility. The Fairbanks Rescue Mission won the bid to operate the CRF, and IAGS has been awarded the contract for continuing to handle electronics.

Over the years, the RC sent resolutions to Mayors Whitaker, Hopkins and Kassel asking for the formation of an office of sustainability in the administration. In the past year an engineer position has been filled regarding energy conservation in the

borough, and in May of this year a recycling manager was hired to oversee borough recycling efforts. Since the RC has shepherded the new CRF into being, and a recycling manager has been hired to oversee the operation, the RC has petitioned the assembly to be renamed the Sustainability Commission. We will still advise the administration on matters regarding recycling, but as part of a larger plan, with a goal of making our community more sustainable in the realms of energy, food security, air quality, and

Now we will have several of our local recyclers tell you about their respective current recycling programs in the borough

Sean H. RCM

FRM Rodney Gaskins

David W. IAGS

fnsb rep

Deb Hickok

others

Questions

Finally, are any of you doing your part? If so, how and where do you recycle?

Any suggestions to improve recycling in Fairbanks? (have paper and pens ready)

Thanks for your participation in this class. If any of you wish to apply for the RC, or to volunteer your time with any of these other fine organizations, please feel free to contact any of us after the class.