

From the Director's Desk

December 2011

This has been an exciting year for the Solid Waste District and we are looking forward to next year and all of the good things we expect to deliver to our constituents.

We expect to have two manned drop off locations next year for recyclable materials, including paper, plastics and metals. The drop off centers will be located near the sheriff's office and the new airport and will be manned by 309's from the sheriff's office.

These centers will be known as processing centers and will be designated as the Airport Processing Center (APC) and the Sheriff Processing Center (SPC). Processing of the recyclable materials will take place at both locations. We will have the ability to crush and bale aluminum and steel cans, shred and box plastic, crush and containerize glass to resale to commodity buyers.

In addition we will collect light bulbs for processing to remove the mercury vapors that fluorescent tubes contain and then ship the material off for proper disposal.

We are also working on a household hazardous waste program that will allow us to collect old paints, herbicides, cleaners, and fuels for proper disposal as well.

The District's new environmental officer has been very active in cleaning up nuisance sights and illegal dump sites while working closely with ADEQ and the District. A database program has been established and a new tracking procedure is now in place to document complaint and resolution activities.

The District has helped a new company expand into our region. ESCO is an electronic waste company whose headquarters are located in Northwest Arkansas where they have a 200,000 square foot facility processing E-Waste. They have leased space in Benton to collect E-waste for central Arkansas and in addition to dis-assembly they will perform refurbishing of computers systems for resale to the public at a steep discount.

On the yard debris issue, the District expects to have a program established next year that will allow everyone to bring their yard debris to the APC for processing. We hope to provide this at no cost to the District or its residence.

Next year we will also be working on a curbside recycling program for the urban communities to collect paper and cardboard materials that we expect to initiate in 2013.

Our community clean-up efforts will continue to expand to cover as many neighborhoods that wish to participate.

By the end of this year we should have a new name, logo and mascot identified through a competition of our local schools.

We have located a container company in Arkansas that is capable of providing us with recycle containers at a fraction of the cost we were purchasing them for from out-of-state companies. We are excited about doing business with Arkansas companies that provide jobs for Arkansans. The new containers will have our logo and name silk-screened on them and made available to government, private and public companies as well as to our constituents.

We plan on spending a great deal of effort and money next year on educating our populace about the many ways to recycle and reduce your waste streams in both your homes and places of business. Our goal is to capture as much of the recyclable material stream as possible.

We will also establish a program of refurbishing white goods to make available to our citizens in need. The program would take your household appliances that are deemed reusable or repairable and utilize a workforce to make them ready for reuse within our community. The same would go for toys, such as bicycles.

Next year will be an exciting time and I trust that everyone within the District will get excited about recycling as we are. May each and everyone have a safe and blessed holiday and I look forward to telling you more next year!