

From the Director's Desk

November 2011

Recycle! Reduce! Reuse!

These are the rallying cries for the crusaders of recycling. But what does that mean and how do we achieve these lofty goals?

The environmental groups will tell you that we must to save the planet. Business will tell you that it makes sense to their bottom line, if all the right conditions exist. Government will tell you it must be done, but not necessarily how.

Recycling is a risky business and not for the faint of heart or shallow pocket books. Having visited municipal solid waste and recycling operations around the state there is not one that makes a profit. In fact if they were in the private sector many may have been bankrupt years ago if not for the taxpayers keeping them afloat.

Two years ago Coca Cola invested over fifty million dollars to build a recycling plant to collect PET (Polyethylene terephthalate) plastic bottles to reuse. That plant closed in March due to technical complications and its lack of profitability and after its fifth extensive retooling, will be reopened this fall for another attempt at making it work. For more information you may visit the web site:

<http://www.plasticsnews.com/headlines2.html?id=22892&channel=319> .

In the private sector when things go wrong, they either fix the problem or cut their losses and move on least they go out of business. In the public sector the taxpayers continue to pay for operations that are not profitable because the services that have been established may be politically popular or mandated by law, once established.

The overall goal of this District is to identify the best possible recycling solutions available today without burdening businesses and homeowners with additional cost.

This year is almost over and I would like to reflect on what we have accomplished to date and next month, outline our goals for the coming year.

1. Held two E-waste collection days.
2. Held two community clean-up days.
3. Identified several illegal dump-sites and have begun clean-up operations on a few.
4. Moved into our new office on 114 W. Sevier Street.
5. Provided a site to dispose of yard debris at the landfill.

6. Identified a property to locate a recycling drop off center for the community.
7. Met with several different companies and entities to discuss providing employment in the recycling industry within our community.
8. Developing a hazardous household waste collection program.
9. Developing a yard debris reclamation program.
10. Negotiating for a recycle center sorting and bailing operation to be established within the district.
11. Continued strong support for our green team programs within our schools.
12. Improved our current drop off sites and increased our average of recyclable materials two-fold.
13. Developing a program that lowers business disposal fees with the addition of recycle containers.

We have accomplished a lot this year but we are excited about what we can accomplish next year if we all pitch in to assist the District in reaching the goals set forth by ADEQ.