

FNSB Recycling Task Force Meeting

Wednesday, April 23rd, 5:00-6:30pm

Announcements – Upcoming Events

- Green Star Electronics Recycling Events
 - **Saturday, April 26th**, 10am-4pm - Carlson Center Parking Lot
 - **Tuesday, April 29th**, 5pm-7pm - Carlson Center Parking Lot

Update from Last RTF Meeting

- Presentations were given by the following speakers:
 - FNSB Mayor Jim Whitaker
 - Bernie Karl – Chena Hot Springs Resort
 - Bill Sackinger – UAF Professor – Geophysics and Engineering

Suzy Fenner

- Currently applying to be a VISTA volunteer (similar to Peace Corps) to work on Recycling in Fairbanks
 - Required to submit Best Practices document and Powerpoint along with application
 - Documents may be ready by June; volunteer program would begin no sooner than July
 - Dr. Kathryn Dodge of FNSB Economic Development is assisting her with application process
- Also working on application for Federal Grant Opportunity: Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant
 - 2-page application proposal is due May 19th – requires sponsorship by non-profit organization
 - Grants are awarded October 2008 – could be incorporated into VISTA Volunteer projects
 - Grant amount is \$10,000-\$40,000 – only enough for a small program startup
- GOALS
 - Recycling Event at Solstice Fair – something small (e.g. aluminum cans) – as RTF Volunteer
 - Recycling Event at Tanana Valley Fair – as VISTA Volunteer
 - Potential projects for Recycling Grant
 - Food Waste Recycling
 - Construction and Remodeling Debris
- Green Festival in Seattle – April 2008
 - Major Theme: Shift in thinking from domination to collaboration and partnerships

Free Mini-Baler for UAF

- Still in progress – Ed Foster is difficult to get a hold of – Mike Musick will follow-up with him

Don Leistikow

- Gave slide presentation with photos of Recycling operations in Anchorage
- Smurfit Stone bought recycling operation from Anchorage Refuse approximately 7-8 years ago
 - Recycling program now run as a private enterprise by Smurfit Stone
- ALPAR assists Smurfit by securing free transportation via backhaul to Seattle via Tote, Carlile, etc.
 - ALPAR may be able to help us with free transportation arrangements as well
- “Refrigerator Bales” (refers to size of bales) type of bales preferred by most recycling vendors
- Enclosed operator shack is insulated for warmth and protection from noise
 - Plastic flaps on doors to keep heat inside building
- Floor conveyor belt goes from outside to baler ramp
- Outside – dry storage areas with chemical fire suppression measures – for storage of paper materials
 - Paper should be kept dry but not strictly adhered to in Anchorage facilities
 - Shipping is free, so Smurfit doesn't have to pay for excess weight caused by wet materials
- Copper is recycling money maker - metals are separated by staff at the recycling center
 - Metal recycling businesses are one of the reasons we have no recycling program in Fairbanks
 - More profitable to businesses to keep high-grading the recyclable metals for themselves
- Rolloff containers for holding various materials – move products with minimum cost and maximum load
 - Container box with wheels that fit into special trucks
- Forklift for moving bales and a good loader are essential components of a recycling outfit
- Also need to have a scale nearby to weigh amounts – measure full vans before shipping them out
- Recycling collection area is similar to transfer sites, with separate rolloff containers for each material
- 75-100 tons of materials are baled at Anchorage daily

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Don Leistikow (continued)

- Building in Anchorage is 60x100 – but 80x80 would be better for logistics and operations
- Best practice would also provide multiple access points to conveyor belt (Anchorage only has 1 access)
- Anchorage plans to move to curbside co-mingled collection instead of source separation
 - Still working on finalizing details and contracts
 - Anchorage borough will have to pay for this new program!
 - Free can for recyclables and pay less for regular trash can if you recycle
- 1/3 of East Coast recyclables are shipped across country and then to Asia

General Discussion and Questions

- Building in FNSB Landfill is 150x120 and is currently mostly empty
- Borough tipping fee is \$70/ton (this is how much would be saved if materials are recycled)
- How to get rid of toxins in FNSB? Hazardous waste program at Landfill and transfer sites
- Eielson and Wainwright are actively engaged in recycling efforts
 - Eielson \$8K grant for waste-to-energy project
 - Eielson pelletizing program (now discontinued) cost FNSB \$50/ton and essentially paid for Eielson's tipping fees – they were able to dump their non-recyclable waste for free
- There wasn't enough interest or motivation for past recycling efforts
 - Previous report predicted 1/3 participation rate
 - We hope to do much better for the recycling programs we come up with
 - Key will be EDUCATION and targeting large populations (UAF, schools, etc)
- ALPAR doesn't do food waste recycling but there is a composting program near airports
 - Issues with it attracting birds and bears
- Tom (Anchorage) – one of the founders of Green Star and original grassroots recycling in Anchorage
 - Pam Seiser will contact him and invite him to speak at a future RTF meeting
- Can recycling be profitable here even though we won't have metals in the recycling stream (because they will keep going to the existing businesses)?
 - Should still work if we can get free transportation arranged through ALPAR
 - Shouldn't expect to make money on recycling
 - Instead you are avoiding costs of landfills because additional lined cells are expensive