



July 2005

Let's Talk Trash

Dear Cass, Clay, Jackson, Johnson, Leavenworth, Platte, Ray and Wyandotte County residents:

The MARC Solid Waste Management District, in partnership with Johnson, Leavenworth and Wyandotte Counties, is conducting a resident survey to assess what you think about your trash and recycling services now, and what you would like to see in the future.

This survey will help us establish priorities for the district to foster a cleaner, healthier community and environment. The responses will also help us better understand the needs of residents within the eight-county metropolitan area. We are working with ETC Institute (a professional survey consultant) in Olathe, Kansas, to conduct this random survey.

Please return the completed survey in the enclosed postage-paid envelope within the next two weeks. All individual responses will be confidential and results will be presented only in summary format.

Thank you for taking the time to participate in the survey. Your participation will benefit all Kansas City metro area residents.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Matt Riggs, District Outreach Coordinator at the Mid-America Regional Council, at (816) 701-8313.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stanley J. Salva".

Stanley J. Salva, Chair
MARC Solid Waste Management District

The MARC Solid Waste Management District serves as the regional solid waste planning agency for local governments in Cass, Clay, Jackson, Platte and Ray Counties working in cooperation with Kansas-side governments in the Kansas City area. The district and its partners encourage the development of local and regional waste reduction, reuse and recycling programs.

Year 2005 MARC Solid Waste Survey

Please take a few minutes to complete this survey. Your input will be used to determine what changes are needed to solid waste management services in the metropolitan Kansas City area. If you have questions about the survey, please call Matt Riggs at (816) 701-8313.

1. Do you or other members of your household currently do any of the following:

(check all that apply)

- (01) Recycle household items like newspaper, bottles, cans or magazines **curbside**
- (02) Recycle household items like newspaper, bottles, cans or magazines at a **drop-off center**
- (03) Compost household items like grass clippings, leaves or food waste
- (04) Take household hazardous waste (HHW) items like paint, lawn chemicals and automotive fluids to an HHW facility or special collection event
- (05) Make household purchases based on waste reduction or environmental benefit
- (06) Recycle electronic items like computers, televisions or cell phones
- (07) Reduce the amount of waste produced in your household by taking such actions as buying items with less packaging, buying in bulk, buying used items instead of new
- (08) Take leaves and brush to a city facility, private business, or set them at the curb for composting and mulching
- (09) Use compost or mulch for landscaping or in your garden
- (10) Reuse items such as grocery sacks or plastic cups instead of throwing them away
- (11) Use durable cups, plates and utensils instead of disposables

2. Overall, how important do you think it is to recycle?

- (1) Very important
- (2) Somewhat important
- (3) Not important
- (9) Don't know

3. Using a 3-point scale where "3" means very familiar and "1" means not familiar, please indicate your familiarity with the following services in the community where you live by circling the corresponding number below.

	<u>Very Familiar</u>	<u>Somewhat Familiar</u>	<u>Not Familiar</u>
(A) Trash collection services	3	2	1
(B) Curbside recycling services.....	3	2	1
(C) Drop-off recycling centers	3	2	1
(D) Yard waste collection and composting services.....	3	2	1
(E) City, county or neighborhood clean-up days	3	2	1
(F) Household hazardous waste collection services	3	2	1
(G) Bulky item pickup services, i.e., furniture	3	2	1
(H) Used tire disposal/recycling services	3	2	1
(I) Appliance disposal/recycling services	3	2	1
(J) School or church recycling sites.....	3	2	1
(K) Computer/electronics recycling services	3	2	1
(L) Recycling Information Hotline.....	3	2	1
(M) Businesses that accept items for reuse.....	3	2	1

8. Are there items which you would put in special bins at your curbside, but do not want to take to a drop-off facility? If so, please list which items:

9. Which of the following barriers prevents you from recycling or recycling more than you currently do? (Check all that apply)

- ___ (0) Nothing – I recycle everything possible
- ___ (1) Do not think it's necessary
- ___ (2) Takes too much time
- ___ (3) Do not know what I can recycle
- ___ (4) Curbside recycling is not available
- ___ (5) Do not know where to take materials
- ___ (6) Takes up too much room
- ___ (7) Don't know where to find recycling information
- ___ (8) Inconvenient locations and times
- ___ (9) Other: _____

10. Using a 5-point scale where "5" means very willing and "1" means not willing, please indicate how willing you would be to recycle the following types of materials

	<u>Very</u> <u>Willing</u>						<u>Not</u> <u>Willing</u>	<u>Don't</u> <u>Know</u>
(A) Metal, such as aluminum and scrap metal	5	.....	4	.....	3	.....	2	.....
(B) Paper, such as newspaper, cardboard, phone books, office paper, magazines, and catalogs	5	.....	4	.....	3	.....	2	.....
(C) Glass, such as bottles and jars	5	.....	4	.....	3	.....	2	.....
(D) Plastic, such as milk jugs, pop and water bottles	5	.....	4	.....	3	.....	2	.....
(E) Major appliances, such as washers, dryers, refrigerators, and dishwashers	5	.....	4	.....	3	.....	2	.....
(F) Bulky items, such as furniture, mattresses, etc.....	5	.....	4	.....	3	.....	2	.....
(G) Household hazardous wastes, such as paint, lawn and garden chemicals, automotive fluids, etc.....	5	.....	4	.....	3	.....	2	.....
(H) Yard waste, such as grass clippings, leaves & brush ..	5	.....	4	.....	3	.....	2	.....
(I) Food waste, such as kitchen scraps	5	.....	4	.....	3	.....	2	.....
(J) Textiles and clothing	5	.....	4	.....	3	.....	2	.....
(K) Items that require special management such as Freon-containing appliances and propane tanks	5	.....	4	.....	3	.....	2	.....
(L) Automotive items, such as batteries and used tires	5	.....	4	.....	3	.....	2	.....
(M) Electronics, such as computer, televisions, stereos and cell phones	5	.....	4	.....	3	.....	2	.....
(N) Electronic components, such as household batteries and toner/inkjet printer cartridges	5	.....	4	.....	3	.....	2	.....
(O) Styrofoam packaging materials, such as blocks and peanuts.....	5	.....	4	.....	3	.....	2	.....
(P) Styrofoam food containers	5	.....	4	.....	3	.....	2	.....

11. Have you seen or heard any advertisements, public service announcements, brochures, billboards, radio or other promotional media about recycling or the disposal of solid waste in the Kansas City area during the past year?

___(1) Yes ___(2) No – skip to #12

11a. [IF YES to question #11]: Where have you seen or read information about recycling and solid waste disposal? [check all that apply]

- ___(01) Direct mail or notices from my trash or recycling provider
- ___(02) Information provided by the city or county where I live
- ___(03) Articles in newspapers, magazines or other print media
- ___(04) Television
- ___(05) Radio
- ___(06) Neighborhood association
- ___(07) Public or community meetings
- ___(08) Billboards
- ___(09) Signage on buses
- ___(10) Internet
- ___(11) Other _____

12. How would you like to get your information about solid waste services in your community?

- ___(01) Internet source that's easy to find
- ___(02) Be able to call a specific telephone number to get information
- ___(03) City newsletter
- ___(04) Utility bill
- ___(05) Your local newspaper
- ___(06) *Kansas City Star*
- ___(07) Television
- ___(08) Radio
- ___(09) Neighborhood newsletter
- ___(10) Other _____

13. Please rate how informed you are about the following where “3” means “very informed” and “1” means “not informed.”

	Very <u>Informed</u>	Somewhat <u>Informed</u>	Not <u>Informed</u>
(A) Where or how to purchase items made w/recycled materials ..3	2.....	1	
(B) Economic benefits of waste reduction and recycling	3	2.....	1
(C) Environmental benefits of waste reduction and recycling	3	2.....	1
(D) Ways to reduce household waste	3	2.....	1
(E) Ways to reuse items instead of throwing them away.....	3	2.....	1

14. Please rate your agreement with each of the following on a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means “STRONGLY AGREE” and 1 means “STRONGLY DISAGREE”.

<i>How much do you agree with the statement:</i>	<u>Strongly</u> <u>Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly</u> <u>Disagree</u>	<u>Don't</u> <u>Know</u>
(A) I am willing to pay more for products made of recycled materials.....	5	4	3	2	1	9
(B) I would be more willing to recycle if I knew more about the positive impact that recycling has on the economy (e.g., job creation)	5	4	3	2	1	9
(C) I would be more willing to recycle if I knew more about how recycling helps save natural resources	5	4	3	2	1	9
(D) I support environmental education in public schools.....	5	4	3	2	1	9
(E) Illegal dumping is a problem in my neighborhood	5	4	3	2	1	9

15. If your solid waste provider (the organization(s) that removes your trash, yard waste, etc.) could help the environment by better managing solid waste, would you be willing to pay a little more to help cover the costs for alternatives to disposal in a landfill?

- ___(1) Yes
- ___(2) No
- ___(9) Don't know

16. To encourage more recycling and reduce the need for more landfills some communities are charging residents for trash services based on the amount of trash set out for disposal. To help residents reduce the amount of trash, these communities offer recycling, yard waste composting, and other services like bulky item pickup at low or no cost. How supportive would you be of having the community where you live implement this type of service?

- ___(1) Very supportive
- ___(2) Somewhat supportive
- ___(3) Not sure
- ___(4) Not supportive
- ___(5) Don't know

17. How supportive would you be of having your city arrange your residential trash and recycling services?

- ___(1) Very supportive
- ___(2) Somewhat supportive
- ___(3) Not sure
- ___(4) Not supportive
- ___(5) Don't know

18. How supportive would you be of having your county arrange your residential trash and recycling services?

- ___(1) Very supportive
- ___(2) Somewhat supportive
- ___(3) Not sure
- ___(4) Not supportive
- ___(5) Don't know

19. How do you currently pay for your residential trash service?

- (1) Fee paid to city or county
- (2) Fee paid to homes or neighborhood association
- (3) Fee paid to trash hauler
- (4) Fee included as rent, e.g. part of apartment or rental lease
- (5) Fee included as part of utility or tax bill
- (6) Do not have residential trash service
- (9) Don't know

20. Do you pay extra for curbside recycling service?

- (1) Yes
- (2) No
- (3) Don't know

21. How many people in your household (counting yourself), are?

- | | | | | | |
|-------------|-------|------------|-------|------------|-------|
| Under age 5 | _____ | Ages 20-24 | _____ | Ages 55-64 | _____ |
| Ages 5-9 | _____ | Ages 25-34 | _____ | Ages 65-74 | _____ |
| Ages 10-14 | _____ | Ages 35-44 | _____ | Ages 75+ | _____ |
| Ages 15-19 | _____ | Ages 45-54 | _____ | | |

22. Do you own or rent your current residence?

- (1) Own a house, duplex, mobile home
- (2) Rent a house, duplex, mobile home
- (3) Rent an apartment
- (4) Own or rent other residence

23. In which city do you live? _____
Write "none" if you live in an unincorporated area

24. What is your home zip code? _____

25. What county do you live in?

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (1) Cass | <input type="checkbox"/> (5) Leavenworth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (2) Clay | <input type="checkbox"/> (6) Platte |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (3) Jackson | <input type="checkbox"/> (7) Ray |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (4) Johnson | <input type="checkbox"/> (8) Wyandotte |

26. Would you say your total annual household income is:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (1) Under \$20,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> (3) \$50,000 to \$74,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (2) \$20,000 to \$49,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> (4) \$75,000 or more |

27. Gender:

- (1) Male
- (2) Female

PLEASE TURN TO THE LAST PAGE

28. **Would you be interested in participating in a focus group or other discussion about solid waste issues in the Kansas City area sometime in the future? Your name and phone number will not be sold or used for any other purpose.**

___(1) Yes

___(2) No

IF YES, may we have your name and our phone number?

Your name: _____ *Phone Number:* (_____)_____

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP — THIS CONCLUDES THE SURVEY

Please return your survey in the postage-paid envelope provided addressed to:
ETC Institute, 725 W. Frontier Circle, Olathe, Kansas 66061