2018 MARC SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
Annual Meeting & Awards Luncheon

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 5, 2018
Kauffman Foundation Conference Center

11 a.m. ............ Registration/Networking

11:30 a.m. ........ Buffet Lunch

11:45 a.m. ........ Annual Meeting and Special Recognition Awards Presentation

12:15 p.m. ........ Lynn Hoffman, co-president, Eureka Recycling
OUTSTANDING PROGRAM
McGonigle’s Market

McGonigle’s market, a family owned and operated business since 1951, expanded their cardboard-only recycling program to a full-scale waste diversion program in 2016. In addition to cardboard, they also recycle commingled materials, glass and compost food waste. In the beginning, there were concerns about changing the waste system — space for bins, appearance of the waste collection area, collection times interfering with delivery operations, health and safety requirements, training of employees, and cost. Nonetheless, management took a big step in changing a system that had been in place for so long and was ingrained in the market’s daily operations.

Material is collected in an 8-yard recycling dumpster and five, 96-gallon poly carts for compost. Staff reviewed the disposable products used in the food truck area and switched them with compostable or recyclable items. To date, they have diverted an estimated 100 tons of organics and 200 tons of recyclable materials. In addition to their solid waste diversion efforts, McGonigle’s installed a 100-panel solar array on their roof, producing more than 80,000 KWh of power so far.

Through these efforts, Mike McGonigle, who has been managing the market since 1983, has demonstrated leadership to his employees and customers. Thank you, Mike!

GREEN EVENT
Kansas City Convention Center

In preparation for an event scheduled for June of 2018, the Kansas City Convention Center (KCCC) saw a need to enhance its sustainability program. KCCC already had commingled recycling and had decided to restart a back-of-house organics program for this event but was looking for additional ways to increase diversion. As a result, KCCC added glass recycling and expanded organics collection to the front-of-house vendors, including paper towels from all restrooms for composting.

Nearly 5,000 participants attended the convention center for a four-day event. KCCC was able to divert 92 percent of the waste generated. This included 2,500 pounds of plastic, glass, cardboard, metal, and plastic film, and 3,330 pounds of food waste. More than 100 pounds of material were donated to ScrapsKC, Goodwill, Harvesters and Habitat for Humanity. KCCC has strengthened its existing commingled recycling with signage and staff education and has made the organics and glass recycling permanent programs. If a specific convention asks for front-of-the-house recycling, KCCC is ready and able to provide those services. Thank you to KCCC for being an example of sustainability to our visitors!

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE
Tasneam Nawaz, City Clerk, Cleveland, Missouri

Called the “Recycling Ninja” by her co-workers, Tasneam has been the guiding force behind Cleveland’s recycling efforts since she began working for the city in 1997. Tasneam implemented the city’s internal recycling program and encourages all city departments to recycle, making it known that “she is watching!” Every year, she heavily promotes the HHW program through the city’s resident newsletter, display at city hall, and by mailing the program brochure to every resident. And thanks to Tasneam, Cleveland was one of the first cities to join the district’s Recycle More at Work partnership — distributing the monthly Recycling Tips and making sure every household received a copy of the Recycle Better flier. Tasneam is always more than happy to talk in person to residents who have recycling questions or who are at first reluctant to recycle. She even offers to call and get a recycling bin for those who are convinced but keep putting it off. In the end, Tasneam says it best, “Since we all strive to do at least one good deed a day, to me recycling is easiest of the good deeds we can do.”
EVERY LITTLE BIT COUNTS

Boomerang Bags KC

In 2017 Cheryl Birkey decided to work toward solving social issues she cared deeply about. At the top of her list was to reduce the overuse of single-use plastic, namely plastic shopping bags.

Cheryl looked into Boomerang Bags, a program started in Australia that provides cloth bags to shoppers who have forgotten their shopping bags. It’s a free cloth bag that you borrow, and return when you shop again for someone else to borrow. Cheryl thought this would be a great fit for Kansas City and has successfully proven that to be the case!

What makes this project especially appealing is that it not only helps reduce plastic bag use, but also repurposes unwanted items. The bags are made of fabric that might otherwise collect dust or be sent to the landfill such as secondhand tablecloths, clothing, sheets and other fabrics.

In the 2018 season, Cheryl constructed and distributed 555 Boomerang Bags to the patrons of the Brookside Farmers’ Market, the Downtown Lee’s Summit Farmers Market and beyond. This brings the grand total to 1,110 Boomerang Bags distributed in Kansas City in just over one year. Thank you, Cheryl, for making a difference!

WASTE INDUSTRY

Gravatt Waste Solutions

Gravatt Waste Solutions is a small, local hauler primarily serving Lee’s Summit and surrounding areas. Gravatt offers curbside recycling to its customers and makes a concerted effort to provide recycling information. The company actively engages customers through social media posts to reduce contamination and increase the quality of recyclable material collected. Questions are often posted to engage the public in a fun and informative way, with the winners of contests receiving a discount off their next bill. Common materials are covered, but sometimes more unusual items such as plastic film and photographs are also featured.

Gravatt Waste Solutions is very community-minded. The company is involved with the nonprofit “Make Your Own Ball Day,” whose mission is to use a ball to help kids create, connect, give, appreciate and play. Gravatt donates purchased soccer balls to youth organizations and kids in need. Gravatt also conducts lunch and learn events with businesses and does recycling events with the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, schools, and churches.

Thank you to Gravatt Waste Solutions for their educational efforts in keeping our recycling stream clean!

TEACHING ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARD

Cindy McManis, Pleasant Hill Middle School
& Crystal Parson, Pleasant Hill Primary School

When students handle live animals, fear is replaced with understanding and appreciation. This has been the core of Cindy and Crystal’s approach to environmental education since they started back in 1995. Known to their students as “The Turtle Ladies,” Cindy and Crystal have used native species of turtles to open the world of wildlife and care for our environment to school children and adults alike. During that time, they have taken their turtles to countless public environmental events, having reached well over 1,300 children and adults in 2018 alone. They have presented and volunteered with the following organizations: Missouri Master Naturalists, Anita B. Gorman Conservation Discovery Center, and Lakeside Nature Center to name only a few. In the classroom, Cindy and Crystal integrate environmental stewardship with communication arts, science, and the fine arts. Both keep live animals in their classrooms to keep students’ connection to them top of mind. Cindy and Crystal continually seek to learn more about the animals and their habitats. Just this year, they have participated in 11 hours of advanced training and over 44 hours of volunteer time. “Being in nature, writing about it, creating artwork and teaching others creates a peacefulness inside of us,” said Cindy and Crystal. “We love being with others who share this feeling. It gives us hope that we can change the world one person at a time.”
The Nominating Committee is pleased to submit the 2019 Executive Board nominee slate to the voting members of the Management Council for approval. The committee’s charge is to recommend two Management Council representatives for cities with less than 10,000 population, two representatives for cities greater than 10,000 population. All positions are two-year terms.

District Chair: Marie Steiner, Kearney
Vice Chair: Doug Wylie, Parkville

Representatives for cities with population <10,000
- Doug Wylie
  Parkville, Platte County
- Mike Larson
  Sugar Creek, Jackson County

Representatives for cities with population >10,000
- Chris Bussen
  Lee’s Summit, Jackson County
- Mike Jackson
  Independence, Jackson County

We would like to thank all of our current and returning executive board members for your service and dedication to the district.

2019 Nominating Committee:
Chris Bussen, Daniel Erickson, Matthew Wright, Michael Shaw, Matt Willier

Thank You for Joining Us!

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Read our blog at recyclespot.marcblogs.org
Printed on recycled paper with minimum 30 percent post-consumer waste.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Lynn Hoffman, co-president, Eureka Recycling

Lynn Hoffman is the co-president of Eureka Recycling, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit social enterprise based in the Twin Cities of Minnesota, whose mission is to demonstrate that waste is preventable, not inevitable. With key recycling contracts servicing the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Eureka has invested over $20 million in their material recovery facility (MRF) and recycling collections over the last 15 years as a key part of their zero-waste demonstration. Lynn brings experience and perspective from operating a collection fleet and 90,000 tons-per-year, single-stream MRF, with a mission-driven, triple-bottom line focus that balances environmental, social and economic benefits. Examples include: living wages and paid time off for employees; city revenue sharing models; data transparency; composition studies; a focus on material quality, low residual rates and regional end-markets; material marketing for highest and best use; education and technology. Their business units aim to demonstrate ways in which recycling can be an effective cornerstone of a truly regenerative economy and support a shift towards source reduction and zero waste.