

**MARC Solid Waste Management District  
Management Council (Open Meeting)  
Wednesday, April 21, 2021, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.**

**Meeting Location: Due to COVID-19 response, the meeting was held via ZOOM teleconference**

**Executive Board Members present:**

Doug Wylie, Chair, Parkville  
Chris Bussen, Lee’s Summit  
Mike Larson, Sugar Creek  
Jackie Halloran, Platte County (alternate)

**Executive Board Members not present:**

Forest Decker, Kansas City  
Matt Wright, Blue Springs  
Mike Jackson, Independence  
Brenda Franks, Jackson County  
Gene Owen, Clay County  
Daniel Erickson, Platte County  
Bob King, Ray County  
David Gress, Raymore  
Jimmy Odom, Cass County  
Lauran Kurtz, Lake Lotawana  
David Pavlich, Kearney

**Management Council Members present:**

Frankie Petty, Glenaire  
Shelby Bigby, Belton  
Robbie Shults, Leavenworth County (ex officio alt)  
Charles Marx, Johnson County (ex officio alt)

**Others present:**

Lydia Gibson, Ripple Glass  
Morgan Henderson, Ripple Glass  
Piercyn Charbonneau, Ripple Glass  
Alice Fuerst, citizen  
Chuck Sipple, Leawood Sustainability Committee  
Gayle Hubert, US EPA Region 7  
Jensen Adams, Kansas City Public Library  
Meredith McAllister, Compost Collective  
Nilo Fanska, Mission  
Shari Wilson, Project Central  
Shay Hanysak, Lake Region SWA  
Sherrie Davis, Compost Connection  
Steve Fishman, GRC  
Terrie Baugh, Mission Sustainability Committee  
Tom Jacobs, MARC  
Lisa McDaniel, MARC SWMD  
Nadja Karpilow, MARC SWMD  
Matt Riggs, MARC SMWD

**Introductions**

Lisa McDaniel welcomed the group and introduced Lydia Gibson with Ripple Glass.

**Presentation**

Giving Glass a Second Chance with Ripple Glass, Lydia Gibson, Director of Corporate Development

Lydia gave an overview of Ripple Glass including its history and the programs offered, where glass recycling is heading and the impact of 2020 on glass recycling.

In Kansas City, 2 million people generated over 80,000 tons of glass “waste” every year (including 10 million empty Boulevard bottles). Regionally, the numbers were much higher. Most local communities offered single-stream curbside recycling but excluded glass. Throughout the region, there was virtually no glass recycling because there was no processing facility--there was no processing facility because there was virtually no glass recycling.

Ripple constructed a state-of-the-art processing plant and placed dedicated glass recycling containers throughout the metro area. Currently, there are more than 100 drop-off locations in KC. These drop-off bins are free for residents, are open 24 hours and most individuals have a bin within a 5-mile drive from their home.

Ripple crushes glass that is collected and creates a furnace-ready cullet that is used to create new products. Ripple uses a local facility that converts the recycled glass into fiberglass insulation and a business in Tulsa that turns amber glass back into bottles. According to Ripple, 714 recycled bottles creates enough fiberglass insulation to insulate an entire attic.

Why do we need glass recycling? Briefly:

- 93% of consumers expect to recycle: glass is a core recyclable
- Seven million tons to the landfill in 2017: 5% of total MSW landfilled
- Glass is heavy and expensive to ship: need for innovative solutions
- Glass is infinitely recyclable: without loss of quality
- Recycling creates jobs: ten times more than landfilling

Why should we recycle glass? Lydia provided the following statistics:

- For every six tons of recycled glass used, one ton of carbon dioxide (a greenhouse gas) is reduced.
- More than one ton of natural resources is conserved for every ton of glass recycled.
- Using recycled glass produces 20% less air pollution and 50% less water pollution than creating new glass from raw materials.
- Recycling one glass bottle saves enough electricity to light a 100-watt light bulb for four hours.

Ripple's programs include:

- A Drop-off program:
  - Providing convenient service
  - Promote sustainability and local economy
  - Promotion/marketing benefits
  - Increase the stability of cost of recycling
- A Commercial program:
  - Service businesses, mostly bars and restaurants, but also hotels, event space, apartment complex, country club, packaging plant, and office space
  - Fee for service; rates start as low as \$15/week
  - Have partnered with nearly 200 businesses around the community since last year
  - Focus on multi-family housing
- Curbside partners:
  - Several small businesses offer curbside collection services for glass (they are not affiliated with Ripple)
  - All glass is brought to Ripple Glass
  - These businesses typically charge a fee for the collection service
- Regional program:
  - Communities outside of Kansas City want to recycle glass
  - How to ship glass in a cost-effective way: end-dump semitrucks
  - Over half the glass Ripple recycles comes from communities outside of Kansas City
  - Over 100 communities in nine states

There are benefits to the drop-off model that is used by Ripple. Research has shown that glass only, drop off collection outperforms commingled and dual stream collection. Glass only collection results in a 98% recycling rate, while commingled results in 40% of glass being landfilled and dual stream collection results in 10% of glass being landfilled. The resulting glass is of better quality and has higher market value than glass recovered from a commingled program.

Like many other businesses, Ripple experienced the impacts of COVID during 2020. Ripple Glass operated continuously in 2020 as an essential business. Some of the recycling centers suspended operations, but most are operating now. Ripple found that the amount of glass collected during that time increased about 15% most likely because people were using more glass and had time to go out and recycle their glass while at home.

Looking forward, Ripples expects to sustain its growth and will continue to support demand. Ripple will also continue to support their certified business and looks forward to sharing some of the lessons that they've learned.

**Closing**

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m. The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 19, 2021 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. The next full Management Council meeting will be held on June 16, 2021 from 9:00 to 10:30 am. At this time, it is anticipated that both meetings will be held virtually via Zoom.

MARC Solid Waste Management District

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Doug Wylie, Chair

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Lisa McDaniel, Secretary

Approved: May 19, 2021