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Solid Waste Division

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Talking Points

- Past
- Present
- Future

Kansas City, MO in the Past

- 140,000 residential homes had unlimited trash collection
- Produced over 156,000 tons of trash annually
- Only means of residential recycling was at four recycling drop-off centers located through out the City
- Recycling Centers received 300 tons of material annually

Kansas City, MO in the Present

- **KC Recycles! Is Implemented**

- ◆ Conducted in 4 Phases – last phase December 2004
- ◆ Every other week collection of recyclables
- ◆ Extensive media, direct mailings, neighborhood presentations and grass roots efforts were utilized to educate and inform citizens of program
- ◆ First ever sponsor program with Westlake Ace Hardware and Price Chopper

- **About KC Recycles!**

- ◆ Weekly Collection began in November 2005
- ◆ PAYT – 2 80lb bags weekly, additional bags \$1 Trash Tag
- ◆ 18 gallon recycle bin
- ◆ Single Stream
- ◆ Plastics #1& 2, newspaper, mixed paper, corrugated cardboard, aluminum, tin cans, magazines, etc.
- ◆ No Glass - Accepted at Drop Centers

KC Recycles! Fast Facts

- **Diverted Tons**

- ◆ In 2006, 18,900 tons (37.8 million pounds) of recycled materials was collected curbside
- ◆ Paper and cardboard alone save 294,663 trees, 156,823 barrels of oil, and enough electricity to run 7,940 homes for a year
- ◆ In 2007, averaging 1,600 tons per month – equivalent to 160,000 pounds per day

- **Logistics**

- ◆ Fiscal Year 2006/07 - \$3.6 million for collection
- ◆ 65% participation rate overall
- ◆ Some sections of the City as low as 6%

Participation Rates

- Pay As You Throw – According to a 2001 Cornell Study, “...tonnage of waste disposed is 16-17% less in PAYT communities...”
- Convenience
- Education, Education, Education
- Incentives

Challenges

- Changing behavior and mindsets
- From unlimited trash to 2 bags
- Higher waste generators having to purchase Trash Tags – What? I have to pay to get rid of my trash?
- Increasing participation rates in low rate neighborhoods

Kansas City in the Future

- Increase curbside materials
- Apartment/Condo recycling
- Special Event Recycling
- Commercial Recycling
- Food Waste
- Composting
- Waste to Energy
- Goal – Zero Waste

Questions and Answers

A scenic landscape at sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with vibrant orange, yellow, and red clouds, with a bright light source in the center. The foreground shows the dark silhouettes of a forest and mountains against the glowing sky.