



The St. Louis - Jefferson Solid Waste Management District is a regional agency that was created in 1993 to assist the public, private and nonprofit sectors in establishing and expanding programs for recycling and waste reduction. The service area includes the City of St. Louis, St. Louis County, Jefferson County and St. Charles County. Funding for this program is provided by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. For more information visit www.swmd.net or call 314-645-6753.

FIND IT ON THE WEB - RECYCLING INFORMATION

ASSOCIATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS AND RESOURCES

- America Recycles Day - www.americarecyclesday.org
 - Earth 911 - www.earth911.org
 - e-cycle Missouri - www.e-cyclemo.org
 - EnviroLink - www.envirolink.org
 - Global Recycling Network - www.grn.com
 - Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program - www.HHWSTL.com
 - Keep America Beautiful - www.kab.org
 - Missouri Recycling Association - www.mora.org
 - National Recycling Coalition - www.nrcrecycles.org
 - The Healthy Planet magazine: www.thehealthyplanet.com
- ##### LOCAL RECYCLING INFORMATION - GOVERNMENT
- City of St. Louis - www.stlouis-mo.gov
(Search Recycling, click Refuse Division's Recycling Program)
 - Jefferson County Residents - www.jeffco.com
(Then go to Services and click Recycling)
 - St. Louis County Recycling Information - www.stlouisco.com
 - St. Louis-Jefferson Solid Waste Management District - www.swmd.net
 - St. Charles County Recycling Information - www.scchealth.org/docs/es/docs/recycle

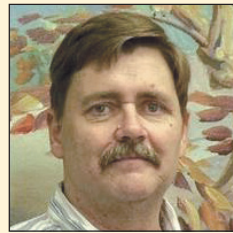
Global Recycling Challenges Affect Missouri

by David Berger;
Executive Director St. Louis-Jefferson
Solid Waste Management District

If you are like me, you can remember when curbside recycling was in its infancy in the St. Louis region. Only a few materials could be recovered, stored in those tiny stackable bins, and emptied into "eager Beaver" compartmentalized trailers that had haulers chasing milk jugs blowing down the street. Seems like eons ago but it has barely been 20 years. Recycling has grown into a global industry in the blink of an eye, but that has created some growing pains as well. Recent policy changes enacted by China have caused global shock waves throughout the recycling industry, and those will impact all of us in the very near future.

As most of you know, single-stream collection led to a huge increase in residential recycling. It had the advantages of being very convenient for residents, and greatly reduced costs for collection. The trade-off for those benefits was a reduced value for the materials that now require extensive processing before they can be used in new products. Contamination from mixing materials together has always been an issue, and one that has been getting steadily worse. A lot of it can be attributed to "wishful" recycling when people think something might be recyclable, and issues such as increasing food waste contamination. Contamination levels have grown to where some programs were at 20% contamination.

While contamination inched up, China still



David Berger

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provided an eager market for single-stream materials. As their economy has matured, that began to change as China implemented tougher environmental policies to deal with growing pollution problems. For recyclables, this first resulted in the "Green Fence" program a few years ago. Stepped up inspections led to more rejection of sub-standard loads from entering their country. This was replaced by an even more drastic policy this year, the "National Sword". This set contamination standards of less than one percent, and these standards took effect very shortly after they were announced. A long-standing market for a large percentage of single-stream recycling disappeared essentially overnight.

Naturally, this has caused a serious disruption in the single stream recycling system. The loss of

the China market has caused one of this region's major recycling processors, Resource Management, to announce it would cease operations after October 31. As a result, other processors are working to add capacity, and additional processing capacity is also being arranged at recycling facilities in nearby regions. Area service providers continue to work on alternative processing solutions and are optimistic that services will continue with minimal disruptions in service in the short term. Costs are increasing rapidly for the near future, and this will impact cities throughout our region. This is a massive change that is going to take a few years to settle. It is important to remember that things are not as gloomy as they may appear. Recycling has risen to big challenges before.

All of us have a key role to play in sustaining recycling. Contamination caused single-stream problems, and there is a large task at hand to re-educate our citizens to "Recycle-Right". Drastically reducing contamination and following service provider instructions on how to participate are essential ingredients to successful programs that hold down costs and remain sustainable. Recycling has become a vibrant industry in our region that expands our economy, protects our environment, and improves our communities. I encourage everyone to continue to participate in your local program and be ready to adapt to additional changes that may be required. When the dust finally settles, recycling will continue to provide a way to reduce our environmental impact and support our local economy.

St. Louis Bicycle Works Rolls On For 25 Years

St. Louis Bicycle Works (DBA BWorks) collects between 4,000 - 5,000 donated bikes each year. This volume accounts for an average of 65 tons being diverted annually through refurbishing, reusing, or recycling. In 2017, however, 90 tons of materials were processed; representing a 72 percent increase in diversion from landfills. Satellite drop-off locations are available and can be found on the website.

The charter "Earn-A-Bike" program gives kids ages 7 thru 17 a chance to earn a bike by learning about bicycle safety and maintenance from volunteers. They also learn to work independently and as a group to solve problems. Each year, about 400 kids graduate the program and receive a refurbished, size- and -age appropriate bike, a new helmet, light, and lock.

More than 10,000 kids have earned bikes over the past 24 years. Generally, the kids come from numerous ethnic backgrounds and socioeconomic conditions. The widespread reach encompasses



More than 10,000 kids have earned bikes from BWorks roughly 171 schools and 56 zip codes.

St. Louis BWorks also manages a fully-stocked bike shop of refurbished adult-size bikes for purchase. The public can browse the large variety of bikes, usable bike parts, and accessories for resale. New and vintage parts are also available to fit a wide variety of bicycles. Kids' bikes and bike parts are used solely for the Earn-A-Bike program and are not for sale. All proceeds from the bike shop benefit St. Louis BWorks programs.

The non-profit organization operates out of a total "green" facility designed especially for

Bicycle Works (thanks to a benefactor). The completely renovated building uses geothermal sources for heating and cooling and a large rooftop 25 Mw solar array that powers the building and returns the electricity back into the AmerenMO electrical grid. There are also 9 off-site locations throughout the region to offer programs to a diverse and substantial number of children.

St. Louis Bicycle Works, founded in 1988, has grown into BWorks, which now offers three programs, Earn-A-Bike, Earn-A-Computer, and Book Works. All programs are built on the premise that everyone deserves the change to be more and to gain the skills they need to pursue their dreams. These programs provide children with the experiences and rewards that are fundamental to future goals and successes.

For more information about the programs, the bike shop, or becoming a volunteer, visit www.bworks.org or call 314-703-1302. The main location/store is located in Soulard at 2414 Menard, St. Louis, MO 63104.

Do you have medical equipment that is not being used? Do you need medical equipment?

Now there is HELP...

St. Louis HELP (Health Equipment Lending Program) accepts donations of manual wheelchairs, electric hospital beds, shower chairs, canes/crutches/walkers, grab bars, elevated toilet seats, portable commodes, lift chairs, seating cushions, back supports, diapers/bedpans, folding ramps - every type of item except oxygen tanks and medications. St. Louis HELP loans the donated home medical items to individuals at no cost or fee.

St. Louis HELP's provides anyone in need with access to free home medical equipment through our recycle and reuse program enabling them to live as independently as possible and remain contributing members of the community.

Additionally, our program diverts unnecessary waste from area landfills by providing a local resource for the reuse or recycling of unwanted medical equipment - over 150 tons each year. St. Louis HELP is an IRS 501(c)(3) charity - all monetary and equipment donations are tax-deductible.

The program's services are at absolutely no cost or fee. St. Louis HELP annually serves over 6,000 uninsured, underinsured, disabled, elderly, children, parents, Veterans, caregivers, equipment donors and partner charities - literally anyone



with no geographic boundary. Our recycle and reuse program enables individuals to live as safely as possible promoting equity and opportunity for all. Mobility and independence are basic human rights and St. Louis HELP works to provide that for all people. Our program gives people a greater choice in living arrangements, transportation options and overall daily living issues as

well as diverting tons of items from the solid waste stream. Clean the attic, garage or basement and pass your items on to someone in need.

Volunteers, volunteers and more volunteers are needed to help clean, repair and stock donated items. Each year St. Louis HELP receives over 2,000 hours of volunteer service. If you would like to join our team please call 314-422-0030. It is a great way to meet new people and help the community.

St. Louis HELP is currently looking for a ground floor, ADA compliant satellite location in St. Louis City. If you know of an available space, please call 314-422-0030.

If you need equipment or would like to donate equipment please call 636-933-9393 or visit the website www.stlhelp.org.