

Solid Waste and Recycling Plan Review

Public Works & Utilities
Environmental Health Division

November 24, 2015



City Ordinance 3.51

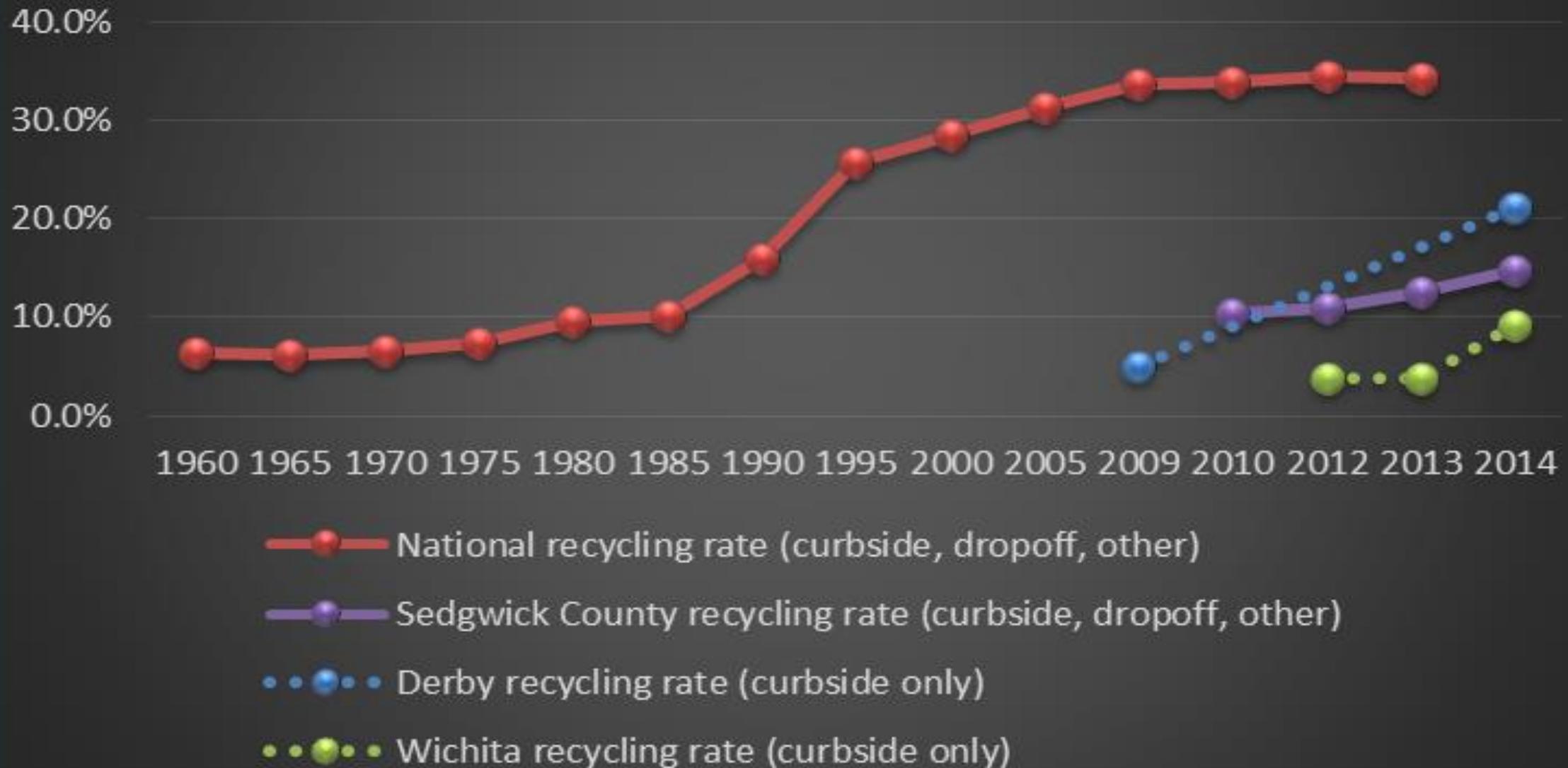
Solid Waste Collection and Disposal

- Fully implemented Nov. 2012
- Haulers must offer:
 - *Single-stream, curbside recycling*
 - *Low-volume waste disposal for reduced cost*
- Pricing is at haulers' discretion
- Rate comparison tool on City website

Solid Waste Plan Objectives

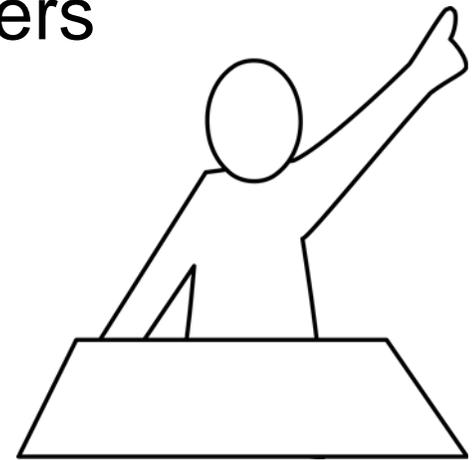
- To provide a freedom of choice to citizens based upon an open market system of solid waste collectors.
- To protect public health, safety and well-being; to limit the sources of air pollution, noise and traffic; and to provide for safe and sanitary collection and disposal of solid waste.
- To reduce waste and increase recycling.

National and Local Recycling Rates



Complaints and Citizen Feedback

- 19 complaints received between Jan. 2014 – Nov. 2015
- Mostly hauler customer service issues
- Eight individuals want stricter regulation of haulers



Complaints and Citizen Feedback

- *Prohibit “cart removal fees” and regulate other fees*
- *Require centralized cart pickup for cul-de-sacs or limit truck size*
- *Require haulers to service neighborhoods on same day of the week*
- *Restrict number of haulers in a neighborhood or on streets*
- *Provide bigger incentive for reducing waste*
- *Include recycling cost with trash rate*
- *Prohibit companies from buying each other out*

Analysis of Solid Waste Plan

- Number of haulers consistent since 2012
(freedom of choice objective is being met)
- Solid Waste Plan analyzed to assess waste reduction and recycling objective
- 6 local companies were surveyed about cart size and fee options

Analysis of Solid Waste Plan

- 4 current or potential components of the Solid Waste Plan are considered for their potential to reduce waste and increase recycling:
 - Volume Options
 - Price Differential
 - Recycling Fees
 - Reporting and Compliance



Analysis: Volume Options

- City ordinance doesn't define high/low volume
- Extra bags: most haulers allow extra bags only with the largest cart
 - Protects hauler but discourages use choosing smaller cart
- Possible option: standardize service levels, and/or apply extra bag fee to all cart sizes



Analysis: Price Differential

- Difference in cost between low- and high-volume options
- City ordinance requires lower price for low-volume, but doesn't quantify
- Haulers surveyed offer \$3.00-\$10.50 per quarter discount
 - Average \$7.22; 12% differential (Price difference \div Low-volume cost)
- Research shows that differential of <50% may be ineffective at reducing waste
- Possible option: Continue to allow haulers to set their own pricing, but add ordinance requirement for minimum price differential

Analysis: Recycling Fees

- Recycling rates increase when recycling fees are bundled with trash rates
- Cost of recycling is spread among all customers, whether they choose to recycle or not
- Two of six Wichita haulers surveyed already do this
- Other four haulers charge \$9-\$17 per quarter (\$13 average) for recycling
- Possible option: Require all haulers to bundle their recycling fees with trash fees

Analysis: Reporting and Compliance

Option: Adding the following ordinance requirements would increase staff efficiency for reporting and enforcement:

- Tracking/reporting requirement for haulers
- Authorize City to complete compliance audits
 - Routinely or upon receiving a complaint
- Customer rate & option notice requirement for haulers



Hauler Response to Analysis

- Hauler meeting was held October 8, 2015
- Haulers oppose changes in the form of ordinance requirements
- Some haulers indicated willingness to voluntarily experiment with marketing and pricing structures to encourage recycling and low-volume carts

Recent Program Improvements

- ✓ Improved collaboration with haulers
 - *One-on-one meetings*
 - *Voluntary tracking and reporting*
 - *Resolved pricing concern*
- ✓ Designed education & outreach plan with strong school age component
 - *Collaboration with PRo Kansas Recycling Center, Kansas Association for Conservation & Environmental Education (KACEE), and USD 259*

Relevance to STAR Communities

Potential to increase Waste Minimization score by:

- Adding formal waste reduction targets to the Solid Waste Plan
- Implementing a focused educational outreach effort
- Developing a partnership or collaboration to address waste management targets
- Enforce regulations to work towards waste reduction targets.



Staff Recommendations

- Continue to work with haulers to promote understanding of solid waste ordinance and program objectives
- Continue to collaborate with haulers to improve tracking and reporting of waste hauling and recycling activities
- ★ Implement Education & Outreach Plan
- ★ Action will increase Waste Minimization score in STAR Communities assessment

Recommendation: Implement Education & Outreach Plan

- ★
 - Introduce waste reduction & recycling curriculum in schools by partnering with district(s) and KACEE to conduct teacher workshops
 - 2-day workshop with grad. credit option: 25 teachers @ \$95 = \$2,375
- ★
 - Provide funding to send more students to PRo Kan. Recycling Center
 - \$210 per fieldtrip (contract rate from First Student)
- ★
 - 155,000 water bill inserts promoting low-volume and recycling options
 - \$6,000
- Recommend \$17,180 annual budget for four workshops, eight fieldtrips, 155,000 inserts
 - Recur annually to meet interest and demand

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Serving You, In Many Ways, Every Day

