



# Working for a Sustainable Kansas....

## State of Waste Management in Kansas

by

**Bill Bider**

Director

Bureau of Waste Management



*KDHE Mission: As the state's environmental protection and public health agency, KDHE promotes responsible choices to protect the health and environment for all Kansans.*



# What is the definition of “Sustainability”?

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**National  
Environmental  
Policy Act  
(1969)**



*“Create and maintain conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony and fulfill the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations.”*

**World  
Commission on  
Environment  
and  
Development  
(1987)**



*“A sustainable society meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.”*



# “Working for a Sustainable Kansas”

## What does that mean to you?

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**Water**

**Businesses**

**Air Quality**

*Jobs*

**Energy**

**Economy**

**Natural Resources**

**Morality**

**Population**

**Education**

**Farming**

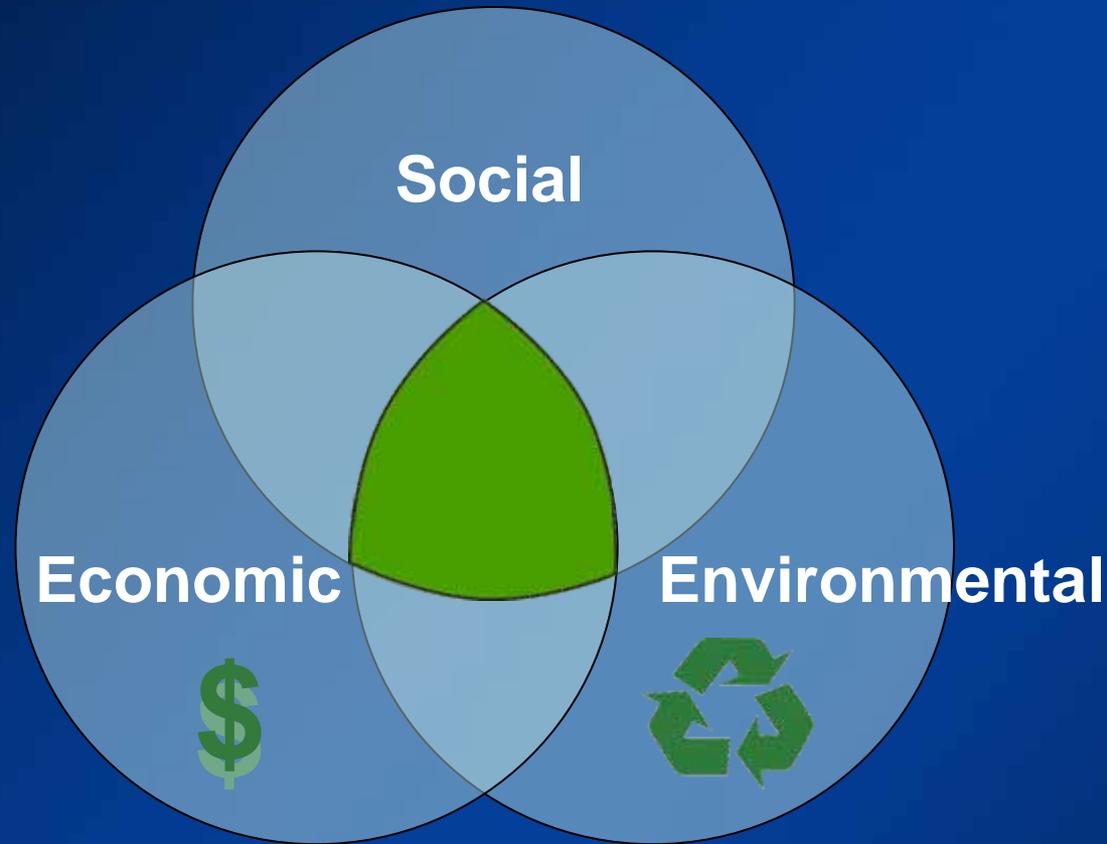
**Wildlife**

**Waste Management**



# An Integrated Look at Sustainability

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**Environmental sustainability must not ignore  
Economic and Social Considerations**



# Role of Waste Management in Maintaining a Sustainable Kansas

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## Proper Practices

Well-Run Landfills  
Recycling  
Composting  
LF Gas Recovery  
HHW Recovery

## Sustainable Result

- Environment protected
- Natural resources conserved
- Energy recovered
- Groundwater protected
- LF space conserved

## Undesirable Practices

Poorly-Run Landfills  
Little Recycling  
LF Gas Venting/Flaring

## Not Sustainable Result

- Environment impacted
- Natural Resources wasted
- Energy wasted
- Groundwater degraded
- LF space used up



# Local Considerations

## Is my waste management company /program sustainable?

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- What are my revenue sources?
- What are my expenses?
- Do users pay for service?
- Do we depend on volunteer or paid labor?
- Do we compete for funds with other high priority programs?
- Does the public strongly support my program?
- How do fuel prices and availability impact my program?



# Current Priorities Can Affect Sustainability of Voluntary Waste Reduction Programs

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## Example

- ✓ Poor markets reduce revenue collected by county recycling center;
- ✓ Center has been largely grant-funded;
- ✓ Revenue no longer covers operating costs

## Options:

- 1) Cease operations
- 2) Provide taxpayer support
- 3) Charge for service

**County faced with prioritization decision**



# Factors that Influence County Decision

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- What waste reduction service does public want?
- Is public willing to pay for service?
- Is funding need temporary or permanent?
- What other higher priority programs are competing for funds?
- Will elimination of program cause long-term impacts or increase liability?
- Are there long-term benefits of maintaining programs?



# Relative Importance of Environmental Issues to the Public - 2009

(according to Gallup, Pew, Buma, CNN, and other surveys)

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<u>Issue</u>	<u>Rank</u>
. . . The economy	1
. . . Unemployment/Jobs	2
. . . Iraq/Afghanistan	3
. . . Terrorism	4
. . . Health Care	5
. . . Government Corruption	6
. . . Health Care Costs	7
. . . Morality/Ethics	8
. . . Education	9
. . . Energy	10
. . . Retirement/Soc.Sec/Etc	11
. . . Others- Taxes, Deficit, Military, Crime, Immigration	

**. . . Environment**

**A lower priority**

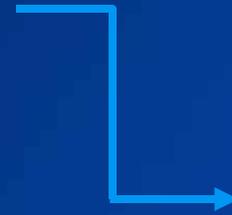


# Current Public Opinion

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**Protecting  
Environment  
is  
Important**

but



**A lower  
priority than  
other  
concerns**

**Public wants and expects a clean environment  
but . . .**

**▶▶▶ Will public support green waste management initiatives when dollars are scarce? ◀◀◀**



# Is Our Struggling Economy Affecting Waste Management in Kansas?

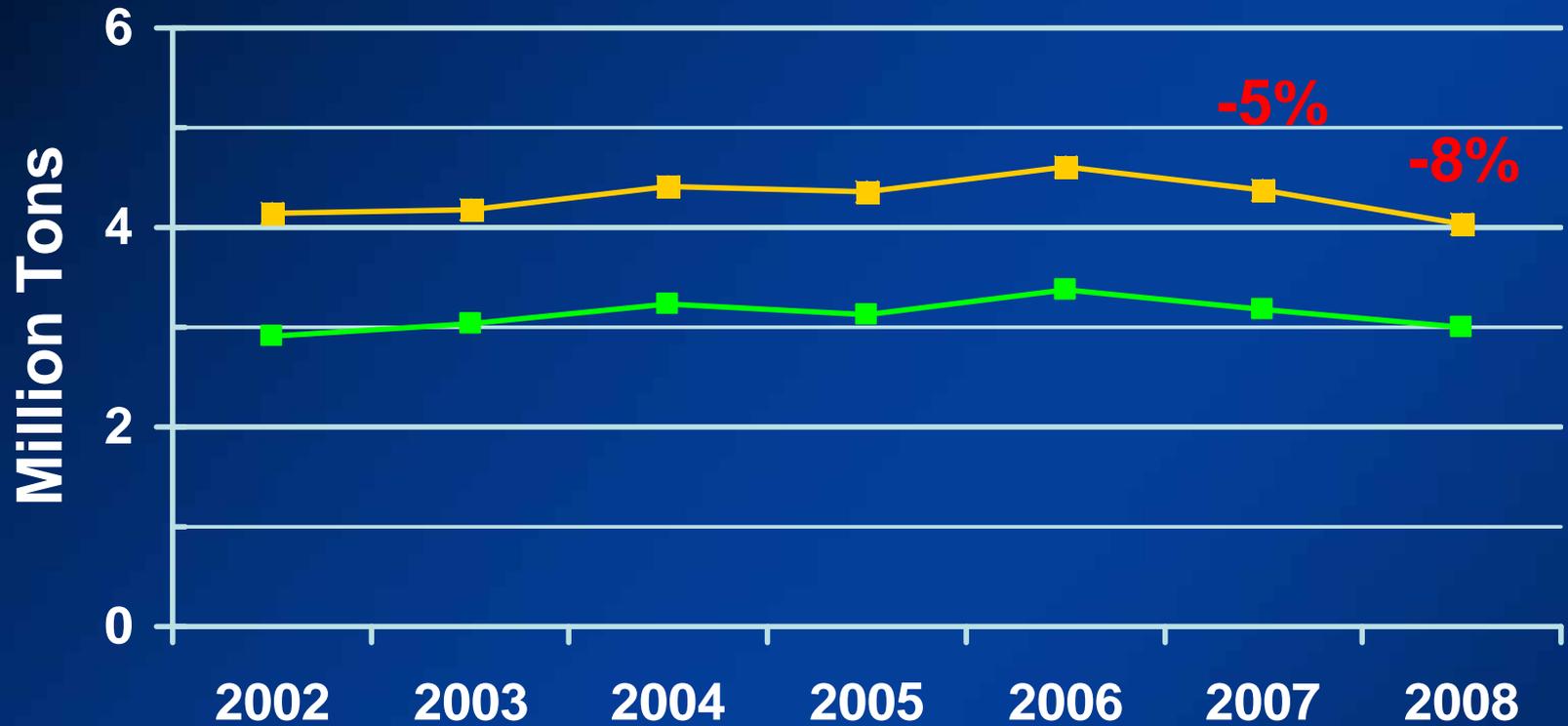
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- Disposal
- Recycling
- Compliance/Illegal Dumping
- Facility Universe



# MSW and C&D Waste Disposal in Kansas





# Tonnage Fee Revenue

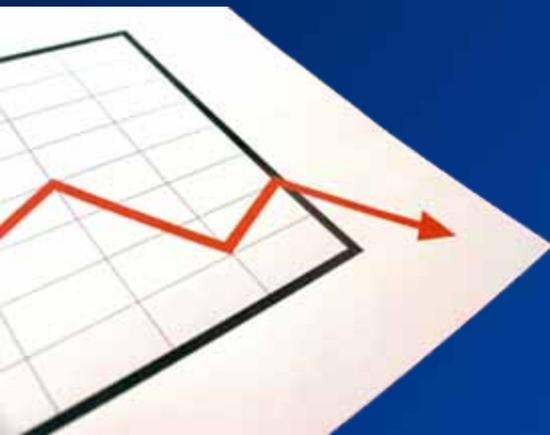
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July 08 to Feb 09 -

down \$500,000 from  
5 yr average

Extrapolate to 12 months -

down \$750,000



**Decrease will impact grants,  
contracts, etc.**



# Recycling & Composting in Kansas

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Kansas - steady growth 1993 to 2007  
average 1% increase per year

2007 MSW Recycling Rate > 22%

2008 Survey – data not yet in or compiled

Preliminary Trend – 2008 up some from 2007

**Hard financial decisions not yet made!**

# Per Capita Disposal Rate Trend





# Facility Compliance

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The most important BWM responsibility . . . .

## Protect environmental quality

- ✓ Minor increases in compliance concerns; small facilities most impacted
- ✓ Minor increase in complaints/dumping



# Permitted and Non-Permitted Facility Universe

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- ✓ Closures? **Few**
- ✓ New Facilities? **Very few**
- ✓ Waste Transfers? **No change**
- ✓ Regional Cooperation? **More**

**No data but minor trend is toward fewer facilities**

**▶▶▶ Recyclers may be hardest hit in 2009-10 ◀◀◀**



# Challenges for Waste Management Facility Owners

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- Develop sustainable system of operations
  - ✓ Stable revenue
  - ✓ Do not depend on state grants
  - ✓ Develop new cooperative relationships/partners
- Operate/comply with less resources
  - ✓ Use KDHE as a technical resource
  - ✓ Identify and implement new efficient practices
- Develop short-term “survival” plans and long-term enhancement plans
- Convince public and elected officials waste reduction efforts are vital to long-term community prosperity



# Economic Stimulus Package

## *“American Recovery and Reinvestment Act”*

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Support for waste reduction projects?

“Green Funding” (all competitive)

### Energy Category

- ✓ Grants to cities, counties, states to increase efficiency or conservation
- ✓ Businesses eligible for energy conservation funds

### Environment Category – No direct funds

#### Kansas Priorities

- ✓ Wastewater projects (revolving loan fund)
- ✓ Brownfields projects
- ✓ Defense site clean-up

2009  
**WORKS!**

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 Donna.Ulter@Abtillbawater.com  
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# Questions?

