

FNSB Recycling Task Force Meeting

Wednesday, May 9, 4:30-6:00pm

Fairbanks Alaska Youth for Environmental Action (FAYEA)

Katlian Stark, Aana Prentzel, and Ana Fochesatto (West Valley High School students)

- Meet every week during the school year to talk about actions and projects they want to work on
 - Meet less frequently during the summer months
- One recent AYEA project was the 3-2-1 Program
 - Turn thermostat down 3 degrees; Change 2 light bulbs; Turn off 1 appliance when not at home
 - Goal was to get 5,000 youth in Alaska to participate in the program
- Main project this year was Plastics
 - PowerPoint presentation given at West Valley High – received good feedback
 - Week without plastics during Earth Week – get people to rethink their plastics usage
- Questions from the group:
 - Suzy Fenner asked them to work as volunteers on a recycling event at the Solstice Fair – YES!
 - Someone asked about plug-ins at WVHS – Not being pursued because it would be too expensive
 - Wal-Mart asked if they would be able to get students to separate out their plastics – YES!

WAL-MART – Timbo Erickson (Manager) and Donnie Benfield (Co-Manager)

- Currently recycle just under 3,000 pounds of waste cardboard per day
 - Amount will probably double when super store opens
- Currently recycle a number of additional materials for employees
- Baling system using 3 compactors – “super sandwich bale”
 - Crush recyclable materials between the cardboard and ship bales to Washington state
- Had a full recycling program available to public when first opened but quickly became too big to manage
- Want to try starting a recycling program for community again but need to start small and manageable
 - Begin using word of mouth only and grow the program gradually
 - Work with the community and the borough to figure out what will work
 - May consider having drop-off times with increased staff to handle higher volume
- **Recycling options NOW AVAILABLE** to the community via drop boxes at the Wal-Mart entrances:
 - All Cardboard and Paper – including white, mixed, and newspaper
 - All Plastics – including all containers, plastic wraps, and plastic bags
 - Aluminum Cans
- **UPDATE:** If you need to drop off large quantities, please call ahead to the store first at 451-9900!
- Additional future recycling plans:
 - Working with Kiwanis on a plan to recycle ALL phone books this year
 - Working toward recycling styrene plastics in the future
 - Working with schools on an incentive program for the next school year

Recycling Survey - Sue McCollough

- Sue passed out a draft version of a survey covering opinions about recycling and asked for feedback
- Purpose of the survey would be to follow the example of Anchorage
 - They did a similar survey when they were preparing to setup their recycling program
- Plan would be to distribute to FNSB residents to obtain as many responses as possible
 - e.g. via mail with tax assessments, online on FNSB website, etc
- Survey should also be considered as tool to educate and communicate about recycling options
- Many people had questions and comments about the survey questions, wording, etc.
- Everyone was instructed to write down their ideas and return their surveys to Sue
 - Sue will review all feedback and incorporate into a final draft
 - Survey will also be sent out electronically to the group for feedback

Recycling Updates – Suzy Fenner

- Toyota is now recycling their waste oil – will be installing a new burner
- Lowe's is only recycling their own cardboard and backhauling it
- Need volunteers for a recycling event at Midnight Sun Fair – email Suzy at polarsolar@gmail.com
- VISTA Volunteer position will be posted at NAEC and open for applications
- Recycling grant is due on 5/19 but she currently doesn't have a non-profit sponsor
- Recycling Map – compile information about recycling options and post around town
- Document businesses that participate in some kind of recycling and advertise the list
 - So that folks can vote with their dollars and support the “green” businesses in town

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General Discussion and Questions

- Haines recycles everything – and it costs \$5 per bag to dump trash – why can't we do this in Fairbanks?
- Solid waste tax included in property taxes for borough residents covers use of transfer sites and landfill
- In Fairbanks city they pay for curbside garbage collection
- Information on recycling options in Fairbanks area is available in several locations:
 - In the phonebook – Page 28 in ACS Directory
 - Online at www.iagreenstar.org – Interior Alaska Green Star
 - Online at www.northern.org – Northern Alaska Environmental Center
- Suggestion of a weekly newspaper feature to reach a broader audience
- People don't understand the costs of not recycling materials
- Can currently recycle steel/tin cans at C&R Pipe by landfill
- Need to work out a collection and source separation process that will work for our community
- Green Star electronics recycling events were very successful
 - Recycled just under 12 tons – proves that people are willing to pay fees in order to recycle!
- Phil Schad – Please sign a petition to add a ballot measure to reinstate current tax cap
 - The only tax cap on the ballot now doesn't allow for new construction and increased population

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, June 4th, 4:30-6:30 at FNSB Assembly Chambers

(Note location change – Noel Wein Library was not available)