

Solid Waste Fact Sheet

Background

In 1990, Missourians recognized that action was needed to address growing solid waste management issues, and the state legislature responded. After lengthy deliberations, the Missouri state legislature passed Senate Bill 530 which helped develop a comprehensive recycling industry. This bi-partisan bill had a number of key provisions that worked to jump start the rapid growth of Missouri's recycling industry, with a goal of diverting 40% of all waste generated.

Senate Bill 530, among other things, contained three important components:

- Landfill ban for yard waste, white goods and whole tires to conserve landfill space while also stimulating the development of alternative means of managing these materials.
- Creation of the 20 Solid Waste Management Districts – independent corporations established to expand waste reduction and recycling at the local level.
- Creation of the solid waste management fund to finance the growth of waste reduction & recycling programs. The funds are generated by a \$2 per ton tipping fee on waste disposed of in a landfill.

Over the past 15 years, approximately \$70 million dollars has been invested to create a recycling infrastructure in Missouri - this total equates to approximately \$1 per person per year across the state. However, this modest outlay has generated a tremendous return on investment for Missouri.

Recycling has become an important component of the state's economy. By diverting materials from disposal, what was once waste becomes resources for making new products. This creates jobs and revenues for Missouri. A 2005 Truman School study estimated that Missouri's recycling industry employs over 28,000 workers, produces sales of over \$5 billion dollars, and produces a payroll of over \$700 million. A University of Missouri-St. Louis analysis of recycling also projected state and local tax revenues of over \$80 million.

See *Show-Me Recycling Report* (http://www.mora.org/docs/smrc/SMR_CompleteReport_4-28-08.pdf)

Missouri's recycling industry expands our local economies, strengthens our communities, and protects our environment to help secure Missouri's future.

- Recycling stimulates economic development by reducing costs and generating resources to create good jobs and generate new tax revenues.
- Recycling saves energy, reduces pollution, saves natural resources, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions to help secure Missouri's future.
- Recycling stimulates civic pride, promotes volunteerism, and fosters collaboration to improve the quality of life in Missouri communities.

Solid Waste Bills to Support:

HB 661 – Scrap and Waste Tire Fee Extension (Rep. Ruzicka) – SUPPORT

The scrap tire fee is due to sunset January 1, 2010 and it is therefore critical that this bill is passed this session. HB 661 extends fee at its current rate to January 1, 2020. The bill also recommends certain changes in allocations percentages of Scrap Tire Sub-account Funds and provides assistance to local governments to provide funding for disposal of illegally dumped scrap tires.

SR 210 – Recycle TVs (Sen. Schaefer) – SUPPORT

Senate Resolution urging Missourians to recycle their unwanted analog television sets instead of landfilling them.

SB 340 – Plastic Bag Reduction Act (Sen. Bray) – SUPPORT

Beginning January 28, 2010, supermarkets shall only provide recyclable paper bags, compostable plastic bags, or reusable cloth bags to their customers.



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