

**BARKER LEMAR HIRED TO CONDUCT RECYCLING STUDY FOR
WARRENSBURG, MISSOURI
THE DAILY STAR-JOURNAL
WARRENSBURG, MISSOURI- FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2004**

Environmental engineers conducting a feasibility study on recycling on Johnson County hope to wrap it up and present the final information to the Warrensburg City Council in February.

Jeff Phillips, project manager with Barker Lemar Engineering Consultants, Des Moines, Iowa said Thursday the group will provide several options to the council to use in deciding if and how it wants to initiate a recycling programs.

The council had awarded a contract to the firms in August for the study, which is being funded through a \$30,000 grant from the Region F Solid Waste District.

The study was undertaken after the council rejected four alternatives for continuing a recycling program that were presented last year by the Warrensburg Citizens for Environmental Excellence.

The WCEE, acting as an advisory board to the council had been conducting monthly recycling events funded by Region F grants for three years.

The volume of material being received at the monthly event and the difficulty in handling the events on a volunteer basis led the group to propose other options to provide recycling service on a more permanent basis.

But City Planner Barbara Carroll, who served at the city's liaison to the WCEE, proposed applying for the grant for a feasibility study to take a comprehensive look at the solid waste alternatives in the city and county.

The study involves the City of Warrensburg, Johnson County, Whiteman Air Force Base and Central Missouri State University.

Phillips said con have met with representatives of all those entities as well as waste haulers and recycling processors, and have contacted a number of local businesses as well as the Environmental Awareness Club at CMSU to determine what is now available and what type of service is desired.

He said the various participants from the community "have been putting in hours getting information and meeting with us," adding, "It's a big commitment on their part. Without them, the information would not be easily collected."

Phillips said consultants also have been meeting with focus groups in the community ant at CMSU, with a meeting scheduled at 7 p.m. Monday, Nov, 15, at the Warrensburg Municipal Building, that will attempt to get input from persons in the community who do not now recycle.

"We're allowing people to speak ... about what kind of recycling service they would like to see, Phillips said. Citizens also can provide input by filling out a survey that ran in an advertisement in

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The Daily Star-Journal on Wednesday and again in today's paper.

A group of volunteers also was sorting garbage with rakes and shovels at a site provided by CMSU today to determine what types of items are going into the landfill and how much of it is recyclable.

He said recyclable material would be sorted out before the garbage is picked up again by the truck.

The suggestions provided by the citizens will be incorporated into models for potential recycling that would be most feasible in this community, Phillips said, adding "Everything will be in proposal form" for the council to consider.

Phillips said a survey taken at the last recycling event at Wal-Mart showed recyclers were "very concerned about the program ending," noting it has been "a very successful and well-used program" for three years.

He said the material recycled "is not taking up space in the landfill," which will prolong the life of the landfill and hold down costs, which would increase if the garbage has to be taken out of county for disposal.

Phillips noted the cost for building anew landfill "is astronomical," due to strict regulations that come "with a very high price tag."

Stating the main goal of the study is to design the most efficient and effective program for providing recycling services to the area.

"There's a buzz in the solid waste world about this project," Phillips added. "People are waiting for the results."

And he commended the local area for "doing it in the right manner," stating, "It's refreshing to see them doing it this way (with a feasibility study)."