

“Hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor”

Pope Francis (#49) Laudato Si

Below are the summaries from 2 presentations at Our Lady of the Fields Care for Creation Ministry meetings. The first one is a summary of the Tour of the Millersville Landfill with practical suggestions on how we individually or as a community can meet and exceed the 50/50 challenge. The second is a suggested Green Guidelines for the parish -remember it is best to REDUCE our consumption and better to REUSE and good to RECYCLE.



C4C Waste Management

On April 21, 2016 seven OLF parishioners met with Kelly at the Millersville Landfill for a tour. Attending were Trish and Dave Demers, Mary and Tony Grillo, Pat Murphy, Dennis Roundy, and Susan Burns.



The tour began with a conversation at the administrative building regarding the basic information about the Millersville Landfill. The Millersville Landfill encompasses 564,838 acres. Presently we are using cell 8 for trash, probably through mid-2017, and developing cell 9. Cell 9 will be the last area at the Millersville Landfill, which will meet our waste disposal needs into 2040. Improvements in our waste management processes will extend the life of the landfill. At the Millersville Landfill, approximately 100,000 tons of trash are buried annually and 20,000 tons of material are recovered for reuse and recycling annually. Much more recycling occurs at the Linthicum facility. Revenue to operate the facility is provided through property taxes at the rate of \$298/year for curbside pickup (trash, recycle, yard

waste and bulk items) and through tonnage rates at the weigh station for non-curbside pickups, i.e. at commercial locations including Our Lady of the Fields. There are 34 permanent employees to maintain the landfill, recycling center, and equipment. Besides the maintenance of trash and recycling, household appliances are accepted and separated to remove the freon and sold and shipped off-site. Rubble, blacktop, concrete, and brick, is segregated and applied as road base material. Brush is separated and ground to be used on landfill trails and given as mulch to customers or marketed for bulk sale. Wood waste greater than 6" is separated and available to customers for firewood.

50/50 Challenge

The 50/50 challenge seeks curbside pick up to be at a minimum of 50% recycle. Waste Management Services sends a report card regularly. Most of our parishioners live in area 7 at 50% or area 11 at 51%. Hopefully, most of you know what can be recycled – paper, plastic, metal (NO SCRAP METAL), and glass. All recycle should be dumped loose into the yellow wheeled container for ease in pickup and sorting. Plastic bags can no longer be re-cycled, so it is better to take your plastic bags back to the provided container at the grocery store. Shredded paper should also be dumped loose into the recycle container. All food should be removed from a recycled plastic or glass container, but they do not need to be spotlessly cleaned particularly if the plastic or glass has its cap in place to contain any contamination. Books can also be placed in the recycle container as long as the weight does not prevent you from wheeling the cart to the curb.

50/50 Challenge for Our Lady of the Fields

The recycle score drops about 10 points when commercial pick ups are included. We thought OLF was charged "extra" to recycle. There is a separate re-cycle charge, but the rate is less than the trash rate. Also, as the recycle volume increases, the trash pickups can be reduced or the dumpster size can be reduced so that the total bill can also be reduced. At OLF, there are now clear plastic bags in the blue and yellow recycle bins. The plastic liners of the recycle bins should be taken to the recycle dumpster by the water house and dumped into the dumpster. The plastic liner can be reused or placed loose in the trash. Alternatively, all plastic bags could be collected and taken to a food store's plastic bag receptacle. The same rules for curbside apply for OLF, paper, plastic, metal (NO SCRAP METAL), and glass. All food including liquids should be removed from a recycled container, but they do not need to be spotlessly cleaned particularly if the container has its cap in place to contain any contamination.

Yard Waste

Most of you already know to put your yardwaste at the curbside in a paper yard waste bag. Plastic bags marked with an X are no longer accepted, but placed in the trash. The Landfill accumulates the yard waste, puts it through a crusher, and makes mulch. A better practice would be to use your grass clippings on your lawn or in your compost. Using grass clippings within an hour of mowing provides needed nitrogen for your lawn and/or compost. Look at all the plastic – treat the Landfill with respect.



Environmental Controls

Capping

The double liner for cell 8, the cell currently in use, exceeds the requirements of the State and Federal Governments. The trash is compacted and covered with dirt. When the cell is filled, it is capped and sealed and remains as such. The trash decomposes, but at a very slow rate with no exposure to the elements and catalytic sunshine. There is monitoring of the water table below the landfill and also of the surface water. There are sediment basins, swales, and terraces to monitor. Additionally, there are gas emissions to deal with, but more about that in a minute. All of these precautions were not always in place at the Landfill. About 20 years ago or so there were issues with leakages from cells 1 and 3 creating a potentially environmentally hazardous neighborhood. The cells were opened and the contents removed to cell 8. The liners were replaced with the double liners of cell 8 and the contents were capped and sealed as is done today with all the monitoring apparatus. Today you wouldn't know you are on a landfill. There are rolling grass covered hills of sealed trash mounds with no offensive odors or dangers to the environment and surrounding area.



Picture taken from atop the highest hill in Ann Arundel County with the construction of cell 9 in the background.

Methane Gas

In the mid 1990s when all the open cells were capped, a landfill gas collection and flaring system was constructed, within the governmental regulations. Today, the methane gas is pumped from the covered and sealed disposal areas to the Landfill Gas Electricity Facility (LFGE) which was constructed in June 2012. The LFGE facility generates approximately 3.2 Megawatts of electricity which is sold to the local power grid – enough energy for 2,000 families.



Leachate

Other than methane, the byproducts from capping and sealing is piped to 2 storage tanks near the entrance of the Landfill. The leachate is discharged to the County sanitary sewer.

What cannot be recycled curbside

Many of the following can be taken to the Millersville Landfill for proper disposal

Automotive parts

Batteries

Chip bags and snack wrappers

Clothing

Electronics

Food

Garden Tools

Mirror or window glass

Motor oil containers

Pots and pans

Soiled paper products – napkins, tissues, plates

Styrofoam

Puppets

Styrofoam

Styrofoam does not decompose. Kindly refrain from using Styrofoam plates and cups. Instead use biodegradable paper cups and plates and better still use washable reusable cups and plates. At Our

Lady of the Fields there is a blue bag located in the kitchen area to collect Styrofoam, i.e. from packaging. This Styrofoam is taken to a location in Crofton for recycling.



Weather vane atop the highest hill in Anne Arundel County, Millersville Landfill.

Recycling is Good, but Reusing is Better and Reducing is Best

Reduce recyclable and trash materials by:

BYO coffee mug to work and to all parish events



Use the china dishware and metal eating utensils and use the dishwasher for all parish events

Being careful to purchase proper quantity

Give Breaking Bread with the Hungry notice to use leftovers; dry storage, refrigerated, or frozen

Compost Kitchen Scraps

Collect compostable; coffee grounds, non-processed fruits and vegetables, eggshells, and dispose in the compost bins – 3 are located by the garden area

Handling Recyclable Materials



Church Hall, Classrooms and Office Areas

Use the Yellow recycle containers in the kitchen and hall areas

Use the blue recycle containers in the classrooms and offices



Line with clear plastic bag

Empty into the recycle dumpster next to the pump house

Reuse the plastic bag or discard as trash – see improvement below

Where we can improve

Educate all ministries on the importance of Caring for the Creation God has provided

Educate all ministries using the kitchen facilities on the importance of Reduce/Reuse/Recycle

Instruct caterers on “green” use of our facilities: Reduce/Reuse/Recycle

Provide compost collection containers and instruction on the use and disposal

Prohibit the use of Styrofoam plates, cups and clam shell containers

Instruction on disposal of Styrofoam packaging materials

Recycling

Use only biodegradable paper plates, hot cups, and cold cups

Have at least 2 more Yellow containers in the kitchen/hall area

Classroom/Office recycle containers should be the largest container available

Have signs to describe what is recyclable

Use signage to make the classroom trash containers into recycle containers

Have a collection area in the kitchen for all plastic bags to be taken to a grocery store depository

Educate maintenance staff, daily and weekend, on correct recycling procedures