

## Council discusses landfill future

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Recycling, reselling and composting are among many possible plans detailed for the future of Casper's regional landfill.

In the landfill's 20-year plan, officials outlined programs and possibilities in time increments to give staff members, and the state, an indication of what the landfill will look like.

The Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality requires the plan, Solid Waste Division Manager Cynthia Langston told the Casper City Council in a recent work session.

Some of the proposed programs the public may not notice are happening, but others, such as an increased litter prevention program, could require citizen participation.

The litter program is one of the city's five-year goals. It could include, with council approval, possibly banning the use of plastic bags in retail stores to help reduce the amount of wind-blown litter.

Another possibility would be to promote and support a statewide bill to buy back plastic bottles. It would be similar to older programs in other areas of the country that re-purchased glass bottles. The program would not only help in litter prevention but also landfill diversion, Langston said.

An option to both reduce the amount of trash in the landfill and help the community could be to keep lumber that is still useable and sell or give the pieces to those who are interested.

Langston said people will often ask the landfill if they can have discarded two-by-four or two-by-two pieces, for example. Landfill policy right now does not allow people to take away material already in the cells.

The landfill plan also calls for a possible rate incentive for commercial recycling, which would not make it more expensive for someone to pay for garbage and recycling than garbage alone.

Council members debated the plausibility of a pay-as-you-throw system, where citizens are charged depending on how much garbage they accumulate.

Council member Maury Daubin argued that a per-pound system would increase the rate of recycling because people would be more inclined to divert their glass, paper and yard waste rather than pay more for it to be thrown away.

On the other hand, council member Paul Bertoglio said it could mean that people use the large containers in alleys to dispose of their garbage.

The final plan is due to the state's DEQ office by July 1.

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