

Uinta Recycling diverts tons of waste from going to landfill

Posted: Friday, Mar 14th, 2008

BY: AMBER SAWYER

Last week, the board of Uinta Recycling Inc. held their annual membership meeting. Nearing 12,000 visits to the recycle center last year, the number of people who recycle and how much is being recycled have grown significantly since the center's inception in October 2004.

Board appointments were made and Tim Beppler was appointed to another three-year term on the board, and elected for the second, nonconsecutive term as board president.

"I think it is very important for all of us to be concerned about our environment," Beppler said. "By reducing, recycling and reusing resources we can all do our part to minimize environmental problems for future generations."

Uinta Recycling receives support from both the City of Evanston and Uinta County. The City of Evanston provides the building, utilities, and maintenance services with an ongoing contract with Uinta Recycling. Uinta County provides operating funds under a now annual contract, and last year purchased two bins for the center.

"Our whole effort has been a partnership between Uinta Recycling, Uinta County and the City of Evanston," Beppler said.

A task force has been formed to look at the feasibility of curbside pickup for recyclables. Still in preliminary stages, models of other curbside programs will be used to determine which, if any, would be the most appropriate model for Evanston. If implemented, the hope would be to start in Evanston and then expand to the Bridger Valley area.

"Everybody's going to have a part to play if we go that direction," Beppler said.

The board is still seeking at least one representative from the Bridger Valley area. A recycling bin is reserved for the area, but Uinta Recycling is still working on a location.

Beppler said a goal for 2008 is to increase outreach to individuals and businesses. While recycling centers do not typically make enough money to be self-sustaining, more materials generate more income.

While the money made from the materials does cover the transportation to buyers in Salt Lake City, Utah, the transportation costs are significant.

The center, located at 100 China Mary Road, accepts cardboard, all colors of glass, various papers, steel, tin and ferrous metal cans, and aluminum cans.

Hours are Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information about recycling, becoming a member or bin sponsor, call (307) 789-5878.