

February 2010 Eco-Newsletter

Carbon Dating: the New Eco Way to Date

This is not scientific, it is romantic! Carbon dating is a new fad where couples are choosing low emission activities for entertainment and using alternative transportation. Amaze your date with organic fair trade chocolates or locally grown/organic flowers and show how much you care about them and the environment, too.



For alternative transportation, consider a carbon date that includes walking or biking to a destination if the weather permits or taking the bus. By choosing locations close to home couples are reducing their impact from driving. Thinking local is a key part of carbon dating. Consider carbon dating this Valentine's Day and really impress your mate with how much you care about reducing your impact on the environment.

Other carbon dating activity suggestions:

- Dine at restaurants that serve local or organic food. The [Kansas City Food Circle](#) has compiled a listing of local restaurants that buy local.
- Cook at home with ingredients from local farmers or from your own garden. [Farmers markets](#) are located all around our community and some are open year round.
- Candle light will set a romantic atmosphere and protects our atmosphere by using less electricity.
- Sip on organic wine or wine from a local winery.
- Volunteer at your community recycling drop-off center or a conservation group.
- Take a stroll and pick up litter along the way. Read about a local woman who writes about her daily cleanup walks in the [LITTERary Journal](#).

County Recommends Volume Based Waste Services for all Residents



Johnson County has a state-statute mandate to plan for management and disposal of all county solid waste which includes waste reduction. Regional landfills are reaching capacity and the County's Solid Waste Management Plan recommends measures to increase recycling and reduce waste including the transition to a volume based waste service.

What is volume-based waste service? It is a Pay-As-You-Throw system and means that customers pay for the amount of waste which they dispose of in a landfill.

For decades, we have had the luxury of tossing out practically unlimited amounts each week and having it collected at a low price. The volume based system rewards those who strive for waste minimization through recycling, composting, and reduction. It also helps our community prepare for the future of waste disposal as landfills close and our waste has to be shipped farther and farther away.

The volume based service will include unlimited recycling and a maximum volume or size of the waste containers or bags for each regular collection. Any waste generated beyond the base rate will increase the customers costs. This provides a clear incentive for recycling and composting.

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Households which do not currently participate in curbside recycling will soon discover how easy it is to recycle and how much their trash quantity goes down as you move your recyclables from the trash into the recycle bin. The city of Mission recently implemented a volume based rate structure and has successfully seen their recycling volumes rise and trash volumes decrease. Even larger families have been suprised at how they can fit a week's worth of waste into one 65 gallon container by recycling.

The Johnson County Environmental Department has presented these suggested changes in an update of the Solid Waste Code. A public hearing will be scheduled in early 2010 for the Board of County Commissioners to receive public comments before a final adoption of the Code. For more information on the Johnson County Solid Waste Management Plan please visit our website at www.jocorecycles.org/theplan.html.