

J. SCOTT CHRISTIANSON

Sunday meeting launches city's waste-reduction plan



The city will introduce its volunteer waste reduction program at a meeting from 2 to 3 p.m. Sunday in the Little Theater at Hickman High School. You can learn how you can help with Columbia's waste reduction program and, more important, share your ideas for reducing Columbia's waste stream.

The meeting will open with a brief video about waste reduction. Then participants will be able to join one of five focus groups on composting, residential recycling, commercial recycling, hazardous waste or schools. These groups will identify waste-reduction projects that can be conducted by volunteers.

Tina Hubbs, volunteer coordinator of the program, expects the focus groups will generate many different ideas for reducing waste. "We may get people who want us to start a

compost bin distribution program, or a master composters group where people can learn" about composting "and then pass on the information to others," Hubbs said. "There may be some people who are interested in getting composting going at the schools."

"I see this as a brainstorming session," Hubbs said. "We want to get as many ideas from people as possible. Then we'll go through them and see which ones are realistic or would work with the resources that we have."

The city and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources are paying for the program.

Volunteers already are helping out at the city's household hazardous waste collection site. After participating in orientation sessions, volunteers do several jobs at the facility,

including greeting people who bring in their waste and helping them complete forms about the types of waste they are discarding. Volunteers also answer questions about the city's waste collection program.

The volunteer program for waste reduction is an innovative way to involve and educate the community, and thus build a constituency that has hands-on knowledge about waste-reduction efforts.

Don't miss the opportunity to become involved in this important program and share your ideas. Who knows, perhaps one of your ideas will become a citywide project.

If you are unable to make the Sunday meeting and want information on the volunteer program, write Tina Hubbs in care of the Public Works Volunteer Program Coordinator, PO Box N, Columbia, Mo., 65205; or call 874-6271.

If you have a suggestion for a column, a gripe, a success story or whatever, write it down and send it to me, care of the Columbia Daily Tribune, PO Box 798, Columbia, Mo., 65205.