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## Workshop generates recycling ideas

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MUNSTER -- Solar-powered trash compactors, recycling at the gas pump and business recycling were some of the latest topics offered up at a recycling workshop for local government Thursday.

About 60 officials from nearly every municipality in Lake County turned out for the Recycling and Solid Waste Data Management Workshop at Centennial Park, sponsored by the Lake County Solid Waste Management District.

Greg Crowley, of Crowley Engineering Group LLC, distributor of a solar-powered trash compactor being used on Chicago's beaches, explained the Big Belly solar-powered trash compactor.

The animal-proof unit, about the size of a street-located U.S. Postal Service mailbox and with the same type of opening, automatically compacts trash as it's deposited, reducing the times trash is collected and preventing litter from being scattered.

Solid Waste Director Jeff Langbehn said the Solid Waste District will locate one of the nearly \$4,000 units at the Centennial Park Golf Course during golf season this year as a pilot project.

The units reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent, the manufacturer claims.

Diana Bosse, representing Crown Point Mayor David Uran's office, said the city is interested in participating in another pilot project whereby the district is placing recycling bins at gas stations and mini-marts.

"It makes sense," Bosse said. "You get out of your car. You clean out your car while you pump your gas and where do you put the stuff? In the garbage can."

Judy Vaughn, representing the town of Highland, said people are becoming more conscious of recycling and preserving the planet.

"We get a lot of calls from people wondering what to do with their needles or their old lawn-mower gas," Vaughn said. "They're smart enough that they don't want to put it down the drain."

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