

Recycling In Northern Colorado

David Snapp

Environmental Protection Specialist

Colorado Department of Public Health and
Environment



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

Barriers to waste diversion

Insufficient quantities of recyclables

Distance to recycling end markets

Getting people to pay for recycling

Weak compost markets



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment





HUB AND SPOKE RECYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

State of Colorado
Solid Waste and Materials Management Program

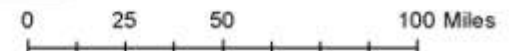
Legend

▲ Spoke

● Hub



Hub Groups by Facility Name Color



Hub & Spoke Development



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

Overcoming Barriers

Grand Junction Curbside Recycling Indefinitely (GJ CRI):

- Cost ranges from \$21-25 per year and service is one or two pick-ups per month;
- CRI markets recyclables in the US; and
- Very low contamination rates due to education and four streams.



Grand Junction CRI

Sorting Bins



Cardboard baling



Grand Junction CRI

Received \$306,187 from the Resource Recycling Economic Opportunity Fund to build building and baler for cardboard

- Increased the capacity of the facility from 3.5 million pounds to 9 million pounds of material and created one new position



Type of Operation	Jobs per 10,000 TPY
Product Reuse	
Computer Reuse	296
Textile Reclamation	85
Misc. Durables Reuse	62
Wooden Pallet Repair	28
Recycling-based Manufacturers	25
Paper Mills	18
Glass Product Manufacturers	26
Plastic Product Manufacturers	93
Conventional Materials Recovery Facilities	10
Composting	4
Landfill and Incineration	1

TPY = tons per year Note: Figures are based on interviews with select facilities around the country. **Source:** Institute for Local Self-Reliance, Washington, DC, 1997.

Northern Colorado Landfills

Landfills in Larimer, Weld, Logan, Morgan, Sedgwick, Phillips and Yuma Counties collected approximately **1,377,064** Tons for disposal in 2012



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

Assumptions

1. 15% of waste entering landfills could be composted or recycled into organic product
 - EPA says 30% of waste sent to landfills every year is food and yard waste

2. 23% of waste entering landfills could be recycled
 - EPA says 46% of waste sent to landfills could be recycled



We disposed of:

Approximately:

206, 559 Tons of Yard and Food Waste and

316,724 Tons of Recyclables in Landfills



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

Jobs...

Let's halve the assumptions again and we get:

10 composting jobs; and

15 recycling jobs

So, 25 job opportunities lost in Northern Colorado in 2012



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

Contact Information

David Snapp

david.snapp@state.co. us

303-692-3425

Wolf Kray

wolfgang.kray@state.co.us

303-692-3337



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment