



September 1, 2008

## Team tackles tricky task of recycling glass

*John Stokes*

In the scheme of things, recycling is a fairly new industry.

As this industry has matured, we've learned that glass food and beverage containers are the most difficult to recycle.

Communities around the country have faced this challenge for 15 years, and some refuse glass in recycling streams.

The cities of Fort Collins and Loveland and Larimer County recognized this challenge and put a team together to tackle the issue.

Recently, this team commissioned an in-depth study to assess the most efficient glass-recycling opportunities.

Today a lot of glass isn't recycled. But don't despair. Some of the glass you've been placing at curbside and drop-off centers does get recycled. Some is lost to contamination, and some is used as landfill cover.

With the arrival of single-stream recycling to our region came the convenience of placing glass, metal cans, plastic, paper and cardboard into a single container at curbside. But this mix makes it difficult to render a marketable stream of clean, intact glass that can be used by bottle manufacturers.

Armed with data from the glass study, the team has initiated a pilot project that offers residents options to drop off glass in designated "glass-only" bins at one of three locations:

**> Rivendell Recycling Center at 1702 Riverside Ave.**

**> Larimer County recycling drop-off site at the landfill at 5887 S. Taft Hill Road**

**> Loveland's Recycling Center at 400 N. Wilson Ave.**

Glass has always been, and will continue to be, a difficult material to recycle. But by offering this drop-off option, we can significantly increase the percentage of collected glass that is recycled, as almost 100 percent of all glass collected at drop-off centers will be manufactured into new glass bottles at the Rocky Mountain Bottling Company in Wheat Ridge.

For details on the types of glass that can be recycled, a list of questions and answers, and to read the study on best management practices for glass in Northern Colorado and share your opinions, visit <http://fcgov.com/recycling>.