



Environmental Services
215 N. Mason
PO Box 580
Fort Collins, CO 80522
970.221-6600
970.224-6177 - fax
fcgov.com

**MEMORANDUM
FROM THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS
NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY BOARD**

DATE: December 17, 2015
TO: Mayor and City Council Members
FROM: John Bartholow on behalf of the Natural Resources Advisory Board
SUBJECT: Community Recycling Ordinance Recommendation

The Natural Resources Advisory Board (NRAB) recommends Council adoption of the proposed Community Recycling Ordinance that extends recycling services to multi-family residents and businesses and sets in place a process for yard waste and food scrap collection/composting within a specific time frame.

We received several briefings from Staff and one of our members actively participated in both the Road to Zero Waste and the Community Recycling Ordinance Advisory Groups. On December 16, Staff provided NRAB with a comprehensive draft of the overall structure of the proposed ordinance, its objectives and significant detail concerning Code changes which would accompany the new ordinance.

The Council's adoption of the Road to Zero waste emphasizes the importance of conserving resources that are already at work in the community, whether human, manufactured or natural. It set a goal of 75% waste reduction by 2020 and 90% or more by 2025. These goals, similar to the Climate Action Plan's goals, require a basic culture change that views "waste" not as discards but instead as resources for others to use in new processes or products. In short, it more closely emulates natural systems. This culture change will take time, a great deal of community education, and sustained leadership.

The proposed Community Recycling Ordinance takes two major steps necessary to reach our 2020 target of 75% waste reduction. First, we must extend waste diversion services beyond single-family residences to insure that multi-family residents and businesses have similar access to alternatives to landfill waste disposal. Second, we must incorporate organics recycling/composting services for all Fort Collins residents and businesses. The proposed Community Recycling Ordinance creatively tackles this challenge and provides a phased-in approach to yard waste collection/processing, followed by food scrap collection and processing over the next 2-3 years.

NRAB recognizes that the Community Recycling Ordinance goes beyond "tweaking" an existing system and tackles head-on the challenge that the Council has set for the City to reach its Road to Zero Waste goals. NRAB applauds the Council commitment to the Road to Zero Waste and believes that the proposed Community Recycling Ordinance takes the proper next steps to realize

that commitment. NRAB additionally recognizes that this goal and the efficient implementation of the Community Recycling ordinance cannot be achieved without significant participation from our residents and community businesses. We encourage the exploration of new and creative opportunities to engage citizen volunteers as part of the community education process under Staff leadership and coordination.

The NRAB applauds Staff and the consultants for pro-actively engaging a diverse group of concerned citizens in this process, specifically including three private operators who currently provide waste and recycling collection in the City.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John M. Bartholow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

John Bartholow
Chair, Natural Resources Advisory Board

cc: Darin Atteberry, City Manager
Susie Gordon, Sr. Environmental Planner