Context for the Community Recycling Ordinance Project Related to Overall Waste Generated and Adopted Goals

Percentage of Waste Stream Impacted by Community Recycling Ordinance (CRO)



Tons Landfilled by Sector in 2015

The Community Recycling Ordinance (CRO) has an important role in addressing the community's waste diversion goals. It fits into programs that were recommended in 2013's Road to Zero Waste (RTZW) Plan. The chart above shows that up to 60% of the waste generated by Fort Collins could be impacted by the CRO.

The 2020 RTZW goal calls for 75% diversion rate and limiting waste generation to 3.5 pounds/day/capita. For Fort Collins to meet this goal, 60,000 additional tons will need to be diverted from landfill disposal. As the following chart shows, the CRO will divert an estimated 16,050 additional tons by:

- Expanding commercial and multi-family recycling (15,000 tons)
- Expanding seasonal single-family yard trimming collection (400 tons)
- Requiring composting for grocery stores (650 tons).

CRO Role in Progress to 2020 Road to Zero Waste Goal of 75% Diversion



Beyond the new 16,050 tons of waste diversion that will result from the CRO, Fort Collins will need to apply strategies for diverting an additional 43,950 tons to reach its 2020 goal. As identified in the Road to Zero Waste Plan, other initiatives that could be investigated include:

- Year-round collection of single-family yard trimmings and food scraps (19,000 tons)
- Required food scrap collection from restaurants (25,000 tons)
- Develop construction and demolition debris separation/recycling facility (18,000 tons)
- Develop a reuse warehouse (5,000 tons)
- Create a sweeping "culture change" in the community that incorporates awareness, education, training, reinforcement/compliance with adopted City ordinances, etc. (45,000 tons).

How CRO Fits in to Current & Planned Road to Zero Waste Projects

Projects to Achieve Road to Zero Waste Goals

Policy		Education	Infrastructure
Regional Wasteshed Planning	Community Recycling Ordinance	Ongoing education to residents, businesses	Timberline Recycling Center
Long-term plan	Potential residential and commercial organics policy	Potential volunteer program for enhanced outreach capability	Compost facility / transfer station?

The RTZW Plan lays out a schedule for new programs and initiatives through 2020. The CRO, which the Plan described as a "universal recycling ordinance," is on-schedule. Regional wasteshed planning that is underway now will help address a number of other recommendations from the Plan. Construction of the new Timberline Recycling Center is another project described in the Plan that is occurring on-schedule. A number of other recommendations from the RTZW Plan, such as establishing a grants/revolving loans program, and applying additional disposal bans (such as yard trimmings) have not yet been undertaken.

Fort Collins monitors which materials are landfilled by category. The CRO addresses important categories such as yard debris, conventional "curbside" recyclables, and food scraps. Other types of materials that will need to be addressed through future initiatives include plastic film, textiles, construction and demolition debris, metal, and additional organic materials.

In 2016, the City has commissioned a two-season waste characterization of the materials from Fort Collins being disposed of in the Larimer County Landfill. One half of the study has been completed, in May 2016. The second half will be completed in October 2016. Results from the spring analysis are shown on the following page, and reflect a snapshot of the material being landfilled by the community.

Analysis of Materials Landfilled by Fort Collins Community, Spring 2016

