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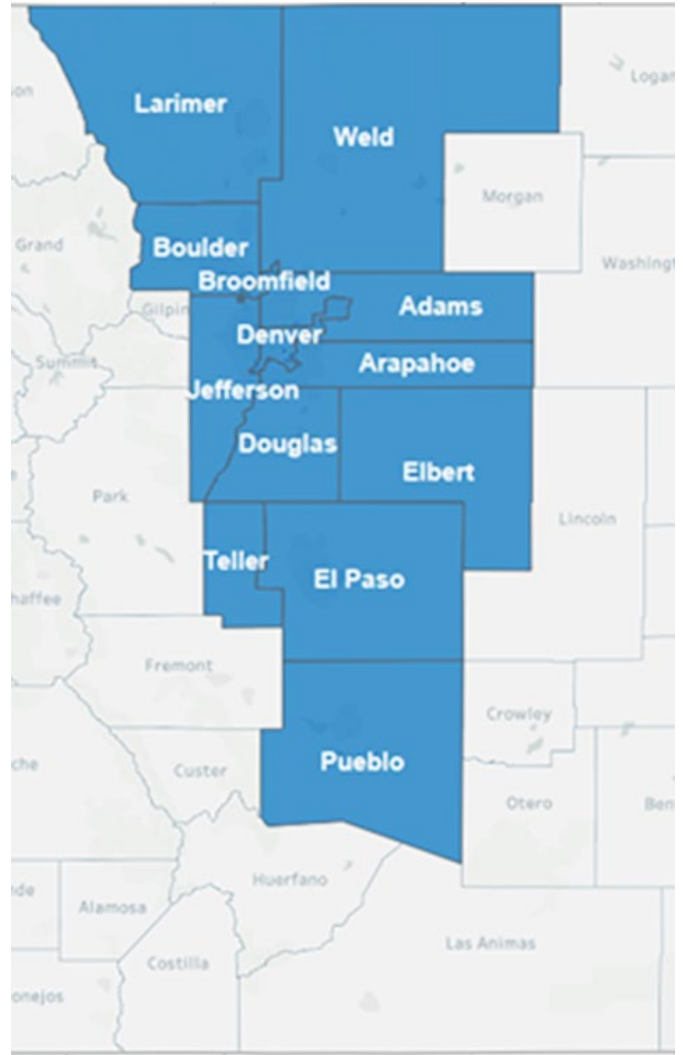
Front Range Waste Diversion
Enterprise Board of Directors

Department of Public Health & Environment

FRONT RANGE WASTE DIVERSION ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Reporting Period July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023

www.coloradofrwd.org



Submitted by July 1, 2023, to the House Health Energy and Environment Committee and Senate Transportation and Energy Committee (the committees of reference with jurisdiction over the environment) pursuant to Section 25-16.5-111, C.R.S.

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Executive Summary

The state’s vision is for every Front Range community to provide access to universal curbside recycling and compost collection for all residents in pursuit of a circular economy where waste is reduced and materials are reused, recycled, composted or otherwise put to beneficial and efficient use. Realizing this vision requires each community to take multiple steps to work toward zero waste. The Front Range Waste Diversion Enterprise (FRWD or board) provides grants and technical assistance to local governments, businesses, non-profits and schools located within or serving Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, Elbert, El Paso, Jefferson, Larimer, Pueblo, Teller, and Weld counties to help them achieve this vision.

Colorado’s waste diversion goal for the Front Range is 39% by 2026 and 51% by 2036. Reaching this ambitious goal is critical to Colorado’s economy, environment and health and will take active participation from every Front Range community, resident, and business. Reducing and diverting waste has many benefits, including:

- Extending the useful life of current local landfills
- Creating local jobs, supporting regional businesses, and diversifying current and new end markets
- Increasing value for households by reducing wasted food, encouraging material reuse, and promoting recycling and composting
- Addressing non-attainment and improving air quality by reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- Promoting wise use of natural resources

The Front Range Waste Diversion (FRWD) Enterprise Fund and board is not alone in this effort. In 2022, the Colorado General Assembly passed [HB22-1159](#), which establishes Colorado’s first Circular Economy Development Center; this legislation aims to empower Colorado businesses to manufacture new products using materials that Coloradans recycle. Also in 2022, the legislature passed [HB 22-1355](#), which sets up a Producer Responsibility program to provide recycling services free of charge to all residents in the state. Along with these efforts, FRWD partners with CDPHE’s Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division’s Solid Waste and Materials Management Program and the Sustainability Program within CDPHE’s Division of Environmental Health and Sustainability to align efforts and maximize resources.

While the adoption of FRWD and these new programs provides the tools needed to transform our state into a zero waste leader, Colorado still has a long way to go with a statewide diversion rate of 16% as of 2022. For our part, FY23 marks the third year of FRWD. We have made great strides in establishing a robust grants program that is delivering needed resources to Front Range counties, businesses, community-based organizations, and schools successfully implemented the board’s FY22 priorities to begin providing direct support to Front Range communities. We are also promoting the availability of FRWD funds to support counties, and cities and towns interested in pursuing large, targeted tonnage reduction projects.

FRWD Progress toward Goals in FY23

FRWD has facilitated the expansion of waste diversion capacity with existing partners. FRWD seeks to replicate, expand and augment collections, processing and end market capacity to address gaps in Front Range waste diversion and diversion. In FY23, FRWD increased proactive support to Front Range counties and municipalities by implementing two priority initiatives.

Priority 1: FRWD Ambassador

The FRWD Ambassador provides outreach and guidance to expand the number and diversify the breadth of applicants applying for the board's grant portfolio. Local governments, businesses, non-profits and schools can learn about FRWD grants through FRWD's revamped website managed by the Ambassador program and receive assistance when completing a grant application.

Tay Dunklee and Juri Freeman of Resource Recycling Systems are the current FRWD Ambassadors. To learn more, email FRWDambassador@recycle.com

Priority 2: Technical Assistance Service Provider (TASP)

FRWD's new TASP program works directly with city and county governments by providing consulting and near-term planning services to help communities move up the zero waste ladder -e.g., by adopting municipal ordinances, setting up curbside recycling collections, or evaluating Pay as You Throw (PAYT) and volume-based pricing.

Need technical assistance? Contact our TASP team, run by Eco-Cycle and Resource Recycling Systems, at <https://www.coloradofrwd.org/tasp>

FRWD Grantee Work

Denver Compost Expansion through Denver Department of Transportation and Infrastructure - Local Government Compost Collection Project

\$2.3M to expand organics collection services in Denver. Funding will allow Denver Solid Waste Management to purchase compost carts for approximately 68,000 new compost customers over a three-year implementation period with the goal of enrolling primarily low-income residents with a subsidized service. Once implemented, this project is expected to divert 36,000 tons of organic waste annually from Front Range landfills.



FRWD Grants by Activities

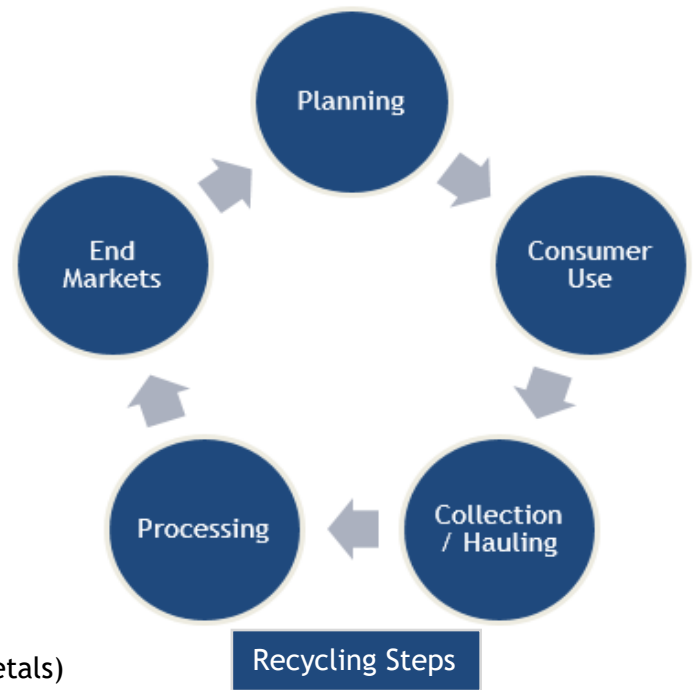
- 4 Study and Planning
- 5 Source Reduction
- 15 Processing
- 4 Composting
- 4 Reuse
- 18 Collection and Hauling

FRWD Grants by Sector

- 15 For Profit
- 8 Non-profit
- 12 Government
- 4 Composting

FRWD Grants by Commodities Diverted

- 4 Recyclables (glass, plastic, paper, cardboard, or metals)
- 4 Mixed
- 3 Hard-to-recycle materials (non-curb-side items such as textiles, electronics, furniture, or mattresses)
- 5 Construction and demolition
- 19 Organics (yard waste, food residuals, vegetative waste, or woody materials)



FRWD Grantee Work

We Don't Waste - Food Rescue Project by a Non-profit Organization (2-time grantee)

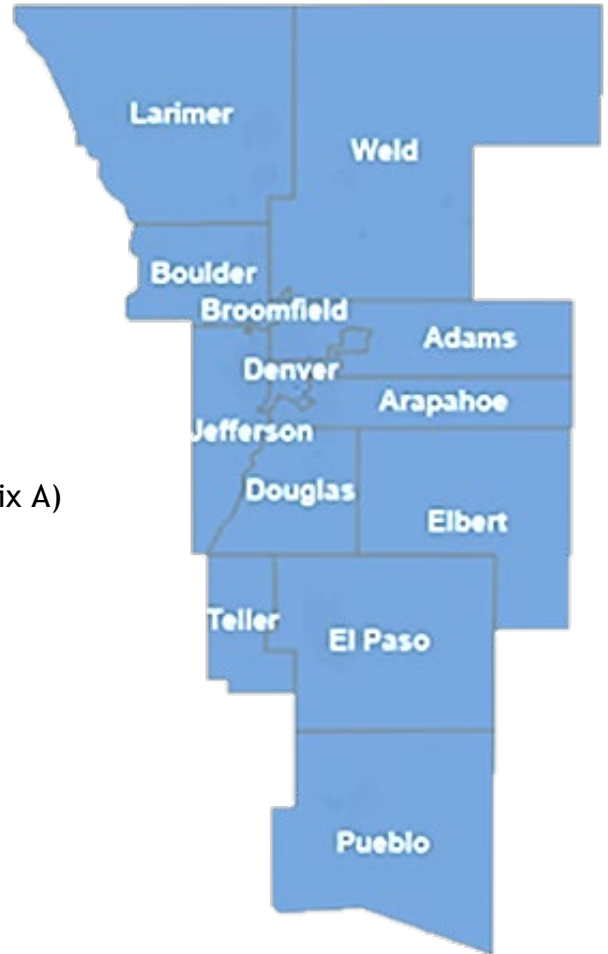
\$199,689 to expand food rescue and distribution along the Front Range. We Don't Waste used grant funds to increase food rescue and organics diversion efficiency by purchasing a walk-in freezer and food-transportation van; a refrigeration unit to replace an aging version on an existing truck was also funded. Diverted food resources were used to support food-insecure individuals through distribution to a network of non-profit agencies, along with We Don't Waste's own Mobile Food Markets.

\$149,897 to expand food rescue and food storage capacity along the Front Range with the purchase of expanded freezer equipment and expanded cooler equipment in We Don't Waste's new larger facility.



Projects by County

Adams County: 4 (includes joint Adams/Jefferson Project)
Arapahoe County: 1
Boulder County: 5 (includes joint Boulder/Weld project)
Broomfield City and County: 4
Denver City and County: 14 (7 new in 2023)
Douglas County: 1
Elbert County: 1 (new in 2023)
El Paso County: 1
Jefferson County: 4 (1 new in 2023)
Larimer County: 3 (1 new in 2023)
Weld County: 4 (2 new in 2023)



New for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (review Appendix A)

3 Grant Opportunities Released
53 Applicants requested \$33.5M
12 Grants and \$4.3M Funds Awarded as of May 1
9 Grantees are new to the FRWD Program

Funding Snapshot (data pulled May 1, 2023)

\$9.8M Revenue (\$12.2M projected)
\$4.4M Unobligated Fund Balance

Total Grant Portfolio (review Appendix B)

8 Grant Opportunities since 2019
38 Grants, all are on-track
\$14.1M Total Funds Awarded; \$372,000 Average Project Funding

FRWD Grantee Work

Western Disposal Construction and Demolition (C&D) Sorting and Diversion Infrastructure Project - Business C&D Project

\$338,084 to increase diversion of C&D materials in Boulder, Broomfield, and adjacent counties. Western Disposal used grant funds to set up a C&D sorting and diversion center housed inside their new materials management center. This facility features a covered area with a segregated tipping floor, a presort area, and a sorting conveyor line with sorting stations. Beginning operations in March of 2022, the diversion center provides services to individual generators, contractors, developers, and haulers of C&D materials. Materials recovered include aggregates, metal, old corrugated containers, wood pallets, and lumber.



Next Steps to Achieve Goals

FRWD has made progress creating and launching a Front Range grant program that is reaching and supporting a growing number of communities and zero waste practitioners. FRWD Board and staff are grateful for the many innovative partners in our existing network; we will continue to support and enhance their work, which is essential to the long-term sustainability of waste reduction and diversion. But FRWD also recognizes that we must continue to expand this network of communities, businesses, non-profits and schools engaged in zero waste activities, if we are to meet Colorado's waste diversion goals.

In the coming year, FRWD will use our Ambassador and TASP programs to conduct outreach to new audiences and provide support to interested communities. We will also invest in local infrastructure grants to enhance capacity to collect, process and remanufacture recyclable and compostable materials. FRWD will also look to collaborate with visionary leaders proposing innovative and impactful projects.

Investment in local infrastructure continues to be the priority. FRWD seeks visionary local leaders and businesses to utilize FRWD funds and expertise to increase capacity, improve access, and develop innovative solutions.

Considerations Moving Forward

- The economics associated with waste reduction and management, recycling and composting are complex; volatile commodity prices, difficulty siting facilities, high transportation costs, and supply chain delays are all real challenges.
- Coordinating with the new Circular Economy Development Center and the Producer Responsibility Program will enable FRWD to help address systemic gaps.
- While the state's waste diversion goal targets municipal solid waste (MSW), FRWD's charge is broader than just MSW and also includes reducing and diverting construction and demolition waste, which also aligns with the state's vision.

A Continued Commitment to Integrity

As FRWD plans for the coming year, there are some commitments that are unchanged, particularly FRWD's continued commitment to integrity in our processes. FRWD promotes the use of the Municipal Measurement Program (MMP), which is a free tool to support data-driven decision-making by municipalities and counties. MMP is new for many Colorado communities, and FRWD and CDPHE staff continue to help work through data collection and confidence challenges. In the meantime, FRWD relies on the best data sets currently available, including self-reported data by grantees. The board also is committed to managing potential conflicts of interest in a transparent and rigorous manner. Board members disclose and recuse when their organizations are a topic of board business and the board is diligent in ensuring no single member's organization benefits unfairly. The board is also committed to transparent grant development and review to support a competitive grant process.

Support from the Legislature

The FRWD Board greatly appreciates the Legislature's many policy and financial investments in waste reduction and diversion, and has no proposed legislative or policy changes at this time.

Appendix A: 2023 Grant Applicants

This list does not include RFA #8 as that grant application does not close until June 14, 2023.

Allied Waste Systems of Colorado, LLC	Evergreen's Alliance for Sustainability
AMP Robotics Corp	Glass to Glass, LLC
arc Thrift Stores - Colorado	Goobr LLC
Bin There Dump That	Green Girl Recycling Services
CARL Ltd.	Green Up Our Schools
CEAD Farms LLC	GreenSheen Paint
CELISE, LLC	Industrial Hemp Research Foundation
Cherishing Life Youth Transformation Services	LAMBLAND, INC., DBA A1 ORGANICS
City & County of Denver - Department of Aviation	Maple Ridge Rubber Services
City & County of Denver - Department of Public Health and Environment	Metro Denver Local Development Corp.
City of Aurora	Mile High Glass Recycling Company, LLC.
City of Englewood	Mile High WorkShop, LLC
City of Fort Collins Environmental Services	Oz Frontdoor LLC
City of Lafayette	Pretred
City of Manitou Springs	Rezarekt
City of Pueblo, a Municipal Corporation	Richer Lands Compost LLC
City of Westminster	Scraps LLC
Colorado Forestry and Fire Mitigation Corp.	Spring Back Colorado
Community Cycles	Tires to Green Recycling, LLC
Compost Colorado	Trash Panda Disc Golf
Compost Queen PBC	Vestas Nacelles America, Inc; Vestas Blades America, Inc (2 applications)
Dama Distributing	Waste Connections of Colorado Inc (2 applications)
DeliverZero	We Don't Waste
Denver Public Schools	Western Disposal Services
Ecologic Materials Corporation	Wonderful Waste LLC
Equitable Consulting	

Appendix B: Overall Grant Portfolio¹ by County

Adams County

Grantee & Project Title	Project Start	Awarded Amount	Recycling Step	Commodity Diverted	Diversion Reported ²
Perks Deconstruction- Denver's First Deconstruction Warehouse	Oct 2021	\$124,900	Processing	Construction & Demolition	1,070.10
City of Thornton- Compost Kick-Start Initiative	Aug 2022	\$57,914	Collection & Hauling	Organics	39.52
Adams County Government- Waste Diversion Improvement Project	Oct 2022	\$147,610	Collection & Hauling	Mixed	0.00
City of Arvada- Universal Curbside Recycling (joint with Jefferson County)	Feb 2021	\$500,000	Collection & Hauling	Recyclables	4,906.30

Arapahoe County

Grantee & Project Title	Project Start	Awarded Amount	Recycling Step	Commodity Diverted	Diversion Reported ²
Wompost- Composting	Feb 2021	\$158,185	Collection & Hauling	Organics	597.72

Boulder County

Grantee & Project Title	Project Start	Awarded Amount	Recycling Step	Commodity Diverted	Diversion Reported ²
Resource Central- Doubling Construction & Demolition Waste Diversion through Materials Reuse	Oct 2021	\$443,384	Collection & Hauling	Construction & Demolition	0.00
Western Disposal- Construction & Demolition Sorting & Diversion Infrastructure Project	Aug 2021	\$338,084	Processing	Construction & Demolition	1,050.82
Boulder County Public Works- Nederland Transfer Station ReUse Barn	Mar 2022	\$46,000	Collection & Hauling	Mixed	5.43
Town of Erie- Infrastructure & Policies to Support Long-Term Waste Diversion Strategy (joint with Weld County)	Mar 2021	\$247,078	Collection & Hauling	Mixed	105.69

Broomfield City and County

Grantee & Project Title	Project Start	Awarded Amount	Recycling Step	Commodity Diverted	Diversion Reported ²
City and County of Broomfield- Broomfield Zero Waste Strategic Plan	Jan 2021	\$90,000	Study/Plan	N/A	N/A

Denver City and County

Grantee & Project Title	Project Start	Awarded Amount	Recycling Step	Commodity Diverted	Diversion Reported ²
Habitat for Humanity- Habitat Denver ReStore Yard Reconstruction	Feb 2021	\$164,651	Collection & Hauling	Hard-to-recycle items	182.40
Waste Management- Enhanced Recovery - Diverting Paper & Containers from Landfill	Feb 2021	\$500,000	Processing	Recyclables	7,447.86
We Don't Waste- Frozen and Dry Storage Capacity: Away from Landfills and Into Bellies	Feb 2021	\$199,689	Source Reduction	Organics	0.00
arc Thrift Stores- Warehouse & Recycling Department Fleet Upgrade	Mar 2022	\$247,783	Collection & Hauling	Hard-to-recycle items	0.00
Compost Colorado- Critical Compost Infrastructure	Jun 2022	\$227,675	Hauling & Processing	Organics	130.50
Denver Dept. of Transportation & Infrastructure- Denver Compost Expansion	Sep 2022	\$2,300,000	Collection & Hauling	Organics	580.51
Nude Foods Market- Nude Foods Market Zero Waste Delivery Expansion into Denver	Sep 2022	\$100,000	Source Reduction	Mixed	0.00
Denver Dept. of Public Health and Environment- Food Matters: Solutions for Food Waste Prevention	-	\$198,351	Source Reduction	Organics	-
DeliverZero- Easily Accessible Returnable Reusable Packaging	Jan 2023	\$149,972	Source Reduction	Recyclables	0.00
Scraps- Increased hauling capacity for Scraps compost collection service	Jan 2023	\$272,272	Collection & Hauling	Organics	0.00
We Don't Waste- Community Food Rescue Center	Feb 2023	\$149,897	Source Reduction	Organics	0.00
Denver Public Schools- Empowering Denver Waste Diversion Education Efforts	-	\$306,313	Processing	Organics	-
Compost Colorado- Compost Colorado Fleet Expansion	-	\$53,000	Collection & Hauling	Organics	-
arc Thrift Stores- Fleet Expansion to Support Economic Development	-	\$227,550	Collection & Hauling	Hard-to-recycle items	-

Douglas County

Grantee & Project Title	Project Start	Awarded Amount	Recycling Step	Commodity Diverted	Diversion Reported ²
Douglas County School District- DCSD Commercial Composting	May 2022	\$62,802	Collection & Hauling	Organics	3.89

Elbert County

Grantee & Project Title	Project Start	Awarded Amount	Recycling Step	Commodity Diverted	Diversion Reported ²
Richer Lands Compost- Richer Lands Compost	Jan 2023	\$99,900	Processing	Organics	N/A

El Paso County

Grantee & Project Title	Project Start	Awarded Amount	Recycling Step	Commodity Diverted	Diversion Reported ²
City of Colorado Springs- WastelessCOS	Nov 2022	\$350,000	Study/Plan	N/A	N/A

Jefferson County

Grantee & Project Title	Project Start	Awarded Amount	Recycling Step	Commodity Diverted	Diversion Reported ²
Jefferson County- Jefferson County Sustainable Lands and Safer Homes (SLASH) Equipment Purchase	Mar 2022	\$458,740	Collection & Hauling	Organics	1,115.25
Denver Botanic Gardens- Chatfield Farms Composting Project	May 2022	\$108,430	Processing	Organics	51.80
Jefferson County- Design and Construction of a Slash Facility in Jefferson County	Nov 2022	\$1,065,000	Collection & Hauling	Organics	0.00
Allied Waste Systems of Colorado, LLC- Foothills Transfer Station	-	\$1,872,031	Processing	Organics	-

Larimer County

Grantee & Project Title	Project Start	Awarded Amount	Recycling Step	Commodity Diverted	Diversion Reported ²
Colorado State University- Compost Site Pad Expansion (Additional \$66k funded by RREO)	Mar 2021	\$80,810	Hauling & Processing	Organics	1,461.21
National Center for Craftsmanship- C&D Material Diversion, Data Collection, and Applied Research	Feb 2022	\$157,190	Collection & Hauling	Construction & Demolition	0.00
Compost Queen- More MUCCS	-	\$206,579	Hauling & Processing	Organics	-

Weld County

Grantee & Project Title	Project Start	Awarded Amount	Recycling Step	Commodity Diverted	Diversion Reported ²
A1 Organics- GORE Covered ASP Composting System	Jun 2022	\$1,501,280	Processing	Organics	14,776.96
City of Greeley- Greeley Residential Waste Diversion Study	Oct 2022	\$147,895	Study/Plan	N/A	N/A
Green Girl Recycling- GGR Weld County Single-Stream Diversion Program	Dec 2022	\$329,500	Collection & Hauling	Recyclables	0.00
Vestas Blades America- Diversion and Marketing of Recovered Wood	-	\$426,757	Collection & Hauling	Construction & Demolition	-

¹ In five instances, a grant was awarded and then not realized due to the awardee withdrawing or the board rescinding the award during contract negotiations. One contract was mutually terminated after execution. Grant projects for RFA #8 will be available in fall 2023.

² Diversion is self-reported in US tons. This column represents additional tons diverted above baseline since project inception. Projects are not designed for each grantee to have a diversion rate, nor can the data set produce an overall diversion rate. Most projects are in progress; some reporting is grant project based and some reporting is across the grantee's broader operation.