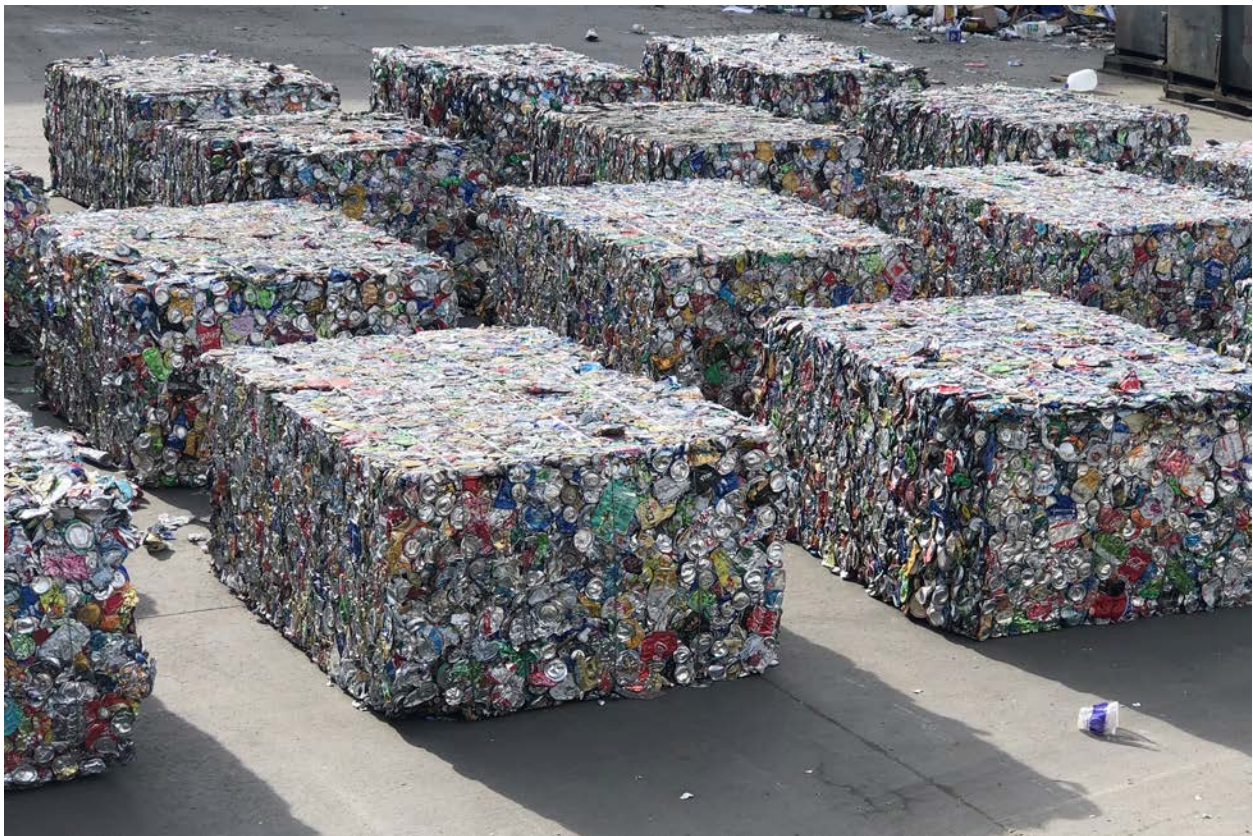


FRONT RANGE WASTE DIVERSION ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020



Bales of Aluminum Recyclables at the Boulder County Recycling Center

Submitted to the Colorado Joint Budget Committee; the Health, Insurance, and Environment Committee of the House of Representatives; and the Environmental Health and Sustainability Division, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

July 1, 2020



COLORADO

Front Range Waste Diversion
Enterprise Board of Directors

Department of Public Health & Environment



COLORADO

Department of Public
Health & Environment

Document Information

Title

Front Range Waste Diversion Annual Report FY 2020

Subject

Front Range Waste Diversion enterprise and grant program report for Fiscal Year 2020

Statute

Section 25-16.5-111, C.R.S. (Senate Bill 19-192)

Date

July 1, 2020

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FRWD Report 2019-2020

Part I. Introduction

Formation of the Enterprise

The Front Range Waste Diversion (FRWD, or “forward”) Enterprise was established through Senate Bill 19-192 and signed into law by the governor in May 2019. The Enterprise collects funds from an increase in user fees at Front Range (Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Boulder, Denver, Douglas, Elbert, El Paso, Jefferson, Larimer, Pueblo, Teller, and Weld) county landfills and provides grants and technical assistance to these communities to increase recycling, composting, and waste reduction. The Enterprise endeavors to increase the State's waste diversion rate from 17% to 32% by 2021, 39% by 2026, and 51% by 2036. The FRWD Enterprise consists of a 13-member Board of Directors (board) as well as staff from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE, or department).

Reaching Colorado’s ambitious waste diversion goals will take the active participation of each of these Front Range communities and their residents and businesses. A key aspect of this vision, as laid out in the [2016 Colorado Integrated Solid Waste & Materials Management Plan](#), is for every Front Range community to ultimately provide access to universal curbside recycling and compost collections for all residents, using best practices of bundling with trash services and incentivizing through volume-based pricing, also known as Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT). The FRWD Enterprise was established to help achieve these objectives. Steps to reach universal curbside collection may include conducting waste stream assessment and planning; pursuing public process and policy adoption; implementing new community recycling programs; and public outreach and education campaigns for recycling and composting, either separately or combined.

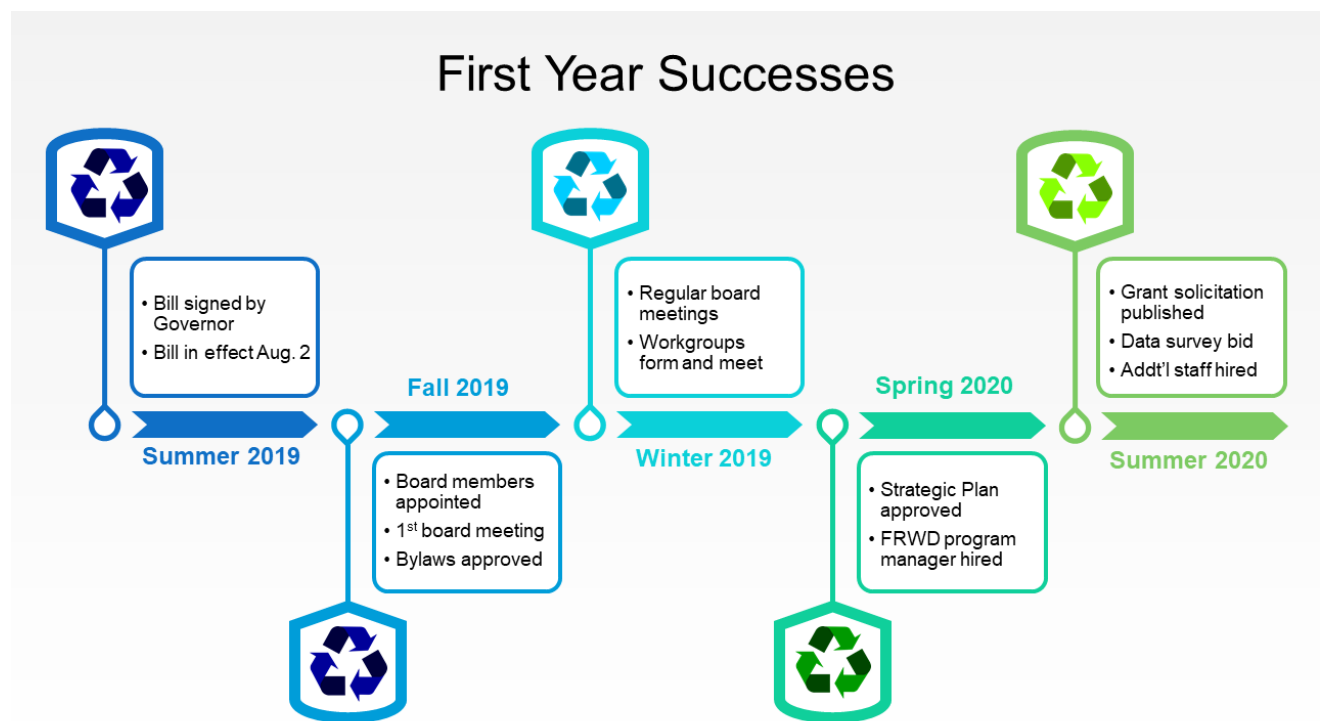
Pursuant to Colorado Revised Statute Section 25-16.5-111(7), the board is required to report annually on the status of enterprise efforts. The report is required to provide updates on:

- Efforts to increase waste diversion along the Front Range;
- The balance of the enterprise fund;
- The number of grants requested and awarded;
- Which entities have applied for grant funding;
- The successes of grantees including diversion rates and funds awarded; and,
- The Board’s progress towards reaching stated diversion goals and the primary factors facilitating or inhibiting that progress, including any suggested legislation or policy changes.

In addition to these required elements, since this is the first annual report we have also provided a timeline of events and activities since the passage of the bill.

Timeline

When the legislation creating FRWD went into effect in August 2019, department staff immediately started the process to search for, select, and appoint the FRWD Board of Directors. The enterprise has worked diligently to create board bylaws, workgroups, and schedules; facilitate a strategic planning and vision setting process; create a website and other public communications; hire a program manager and a grants specialist onto CDPHE staff; and solicit the first grant projects.



Successes in the first year of the FRWD Enterprise.

Revenue and Tonnage

The FRWD Enterprise fund is financed by an increase in user fees at Front Range landfills. The FRWD fee¹ went into effect on January 1, 2020, at \$0.15 per cubic yard. The fee has a structured rate adjustment of \$0.15 per cubic yard each year through 2023, and is then adjusted by the consumer price index each year thereafter through 2029.

¹ Loads of waste that contain certain hazardous materials such as asbestos, radioactive material, and medical waste are exempt from the FRWD fee.

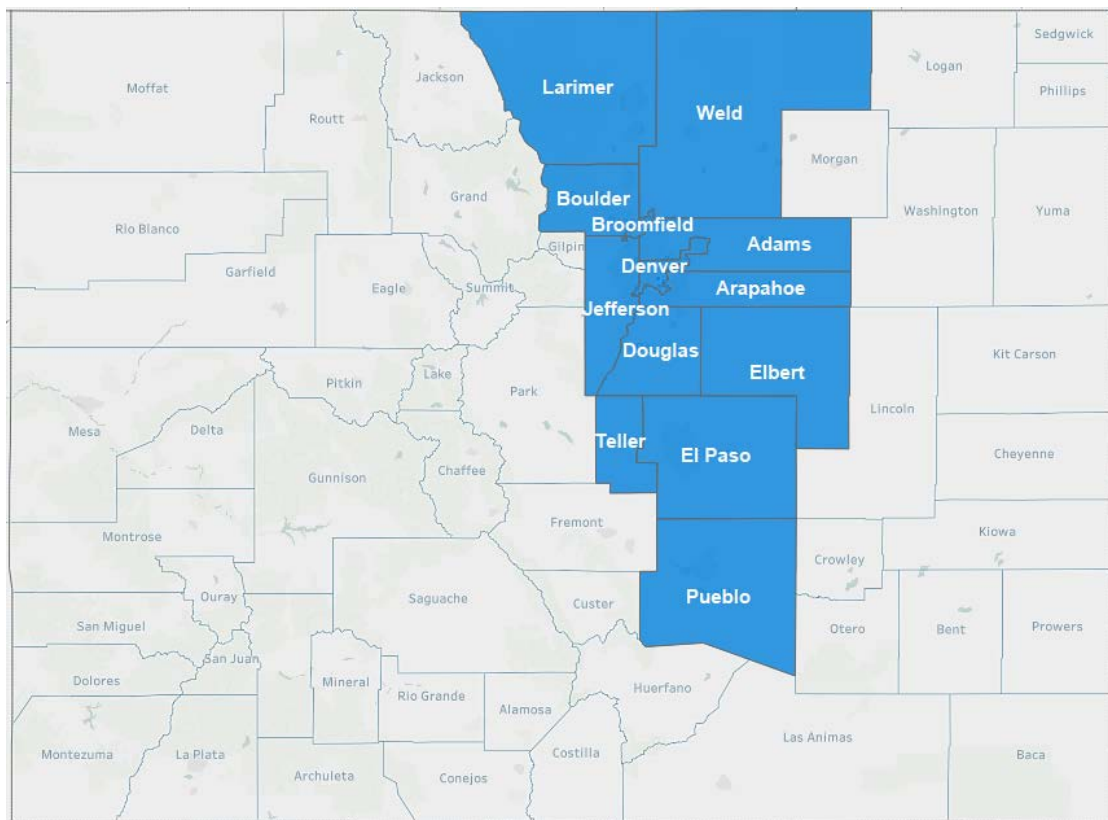
Landfill operators are required to report tonnage to CDPHE’s Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division on a quarterly basis, and are billed for applicable fees based on that reported tonnage.

In the enterprise’s first quarter (January 1 - March 31, 2020), landfills on the Front Range accepted a total of 5,511,808 cubic yards of waste. About 87%, or 4,798,646 cubic yards, was subject to the FRWD fee, bringing in approximately \$700,000 for the enterprise. Fees incurred in the second quarter (April 1 - June 30, 2020) will be reported and collected starting in July 2020.

Announcement Flier

To announce the program and upcoming funding opportunities, the board and staff created a one-page flier. See the announcement flier in **Appendix A** or download it from the [FRWD program site](#).

Map of FRWD Enterprise Area



Part II. Front Range Waste Diversion Strategic Plan

Over the last several months, the board has engaged in a careful and deliberative planning process to yield a bold strategic plan, and craft the vision and mission for the program. The first strategic plan was adopted by the board on May 6, 2020. The board formed a “Strategic Planning Workgroup”, which will meet quarterly to review the plan and ensure that current board activities align with the identified vision, mission, and goals of the program.

Three-Year Strategic Plan Adopted May 6, 2020

The strategic plan identifies goals in three focus areas: 1) **data** collection and analysis; 2) **municipal solid waste (MSW)**, including organics and recycling; and 3) **non-municipal solid waste**, focusing on construction and demolition (C&D) debris.

Vision

Increase Front Range recycling, composting and waste reduction to meet state waste diversion goals (of at least 32% by 2021, 39% by 2026, and 51% by 2036).

Mission

Develop and administer FRWD grant program and technical assistance to support effective and innovative waste reduction and diversion solutions.

Goals

- I. **Data Goal**: Develop standardized data collection protocols to calculate waste diversion by December 2020, and have a data collection system adopted by all Front Range municipalities and counties by December 2021.
- II. **Municipal Solid Waste Goal**: Increase MSW diversion from 18% to at least 28%.
 - a. **Organics - overall goal**: Reduce organic waste and increase organics diversion by improving organics collections, processing, and end markets and supporting development and adoption of organics diversion policies by Front Range municipalities and counties.
 - i. **Residential Objective**: Ensure convenient access to yard waste diversion, at least seasonally, for all Front Range residents (curbside or drop-off) by the end of 2021 and transition to food and yard waste curbside collections.
 - ii. **Commercial Objective**: Focusing on major organics waste generators in commercial, industrial and institutional sectors, support policies and programs that prioritize food waste reduction, recovery, and diversion.

-
- iii. End Markets Objective: Support CDPHE & Dept. of Agriculture in implementing a Statewide Organics Management Plan that incentivizes end markets uses of compost, including for carbon farming, regenerative agriculture, cannabis, and other emerging applications.
 - b. **Recycling - overall goal**: Increase recycling by improving recycling collections, processing, and end markets and supporting development and adoption of recycling policies by Front Range municipalities and counties.
 - i. Residential objective:
 - Ensure convenient, curbside access to recycling for all Front Range residents by the end of 2022, ideally with universal, bundled, PAYT programs in place for all Front Range cities, including HOAs.
 - Ensure equal access to recycling for residents of multi-family complexes in communities greater than 10,000 population.
 - ii. Commercial objective: Focusing on major OCC (cardboard) and other single-stream recyclable material generators in commercial, industrial and institutional sectors, support policies and programs to promote and improve recycling.
 - iii. Technical Assistance objectives: Support cities in developing waste reduction & diversion plans, with a goal of an additional 25% of Front Range cities adopting plans to address recycling, composting and C&D by the end of 2022.
 - iv. End Markets objective: Support work of RREO and state legislature's End Market Development legislation in establishing and enhancing end markets for recyclable materials.
 - III. **Non-MSW Goal**: Improve C&D data collection and tracking, invest in processing solutions, and support research and development for end markets.
 - a. **C&D**:
 - i. Data goal: Determine tonnage amount of C&D loads, in particular of mixed C&D loads being hauled.
 - ii. End-market goal: Promote C&D end-markets in particular for wood, demo drywall and shingles.
 - iii. Infrastructure goal: Support the mechanized processing of mixed C&D loads.
 - iv. Policy goal: Require Front Range municipalities and counties, developers, etc. to divert C&D waste through policy adoption, including supporting and incentivizing source separation during deconstruction.

Part III. Funding Opportunities

Service Contract for Data Survey

The board released its first funding opportunity through an informal bid process in May 2020, for an initial data survey. The work is intended to survey current Colorado and other U.S. state methodologies for calculating solid waste diversion and the data management best practices of solid waste diversion initiatives. The department is currently finalizing a contract with the selected consultant. This survey will assist the board in setting goals and evaluating progress towards reaching future diversion targets, as well as improving the ability to make data-informed decisions. A final report with recommendations is due in late 2020.

Community Waste Diversion Grant Solicitation

The FRWD Board of Directors is currently awaiting grant applications from the first grant solicitation. Staff published the solicitation on June 15, 2020, and grant applications are due by August 10, 2020. The board expects to announce awards by October 15, 2020, with grant projects beginning January 1, 2021. The Board hopes to award \$2,500,000 in this first funding round, with individual grants not to exceed \$500,000.

The Board has chosen to focus the initial grant solicitation on advancing community waste diversion. We are seeking grant applications to support Front Range communities in moving towards zero waste regardless of where they are starting from. Eligible applications will range from communities or local institutions taking the first steps of waste audits and initial planning to comprehensive proposals for full program design and policy adoption, and cities with more mature programs applying to increase participation and reduce contamination.

In addition to increasing recycling, addressing organic waste is an essential element to reach our waste diversion goals and is one of the board's major goals. Organic waste - including yard debris, grass clippings, and food scraps - makes up over one-third of Colorado's waste stream but can be easily diverted to create compost and other beneficial products. Therefore, the first grant solicitation also encourages applications for projects that address program planning, adoption, implementation, or expansion focused on organic waste reduction, including but not limited to:

- yard waste drop-off and/or collection;
- curbside collections (universal, bundled, and with volume-based pricing); and
- organic waste reduction and diversion from large commercial producers, school districts, and other institutions.

The board set broad parameters for eligibility for the first solicitation in order to award as many grant funds as possible. Eligible applications may include funding for staffing for

program adoption and implementation, as well as physical infrastructure such as collection bins.

Entities that are eligible to apply under the first grant solicitation include:

- Public and government agencies, including but not limited to special districts and intergovernmental partnerships;
- Public or private schools, colleges, and universities; and
- Private sector entities (for-profit and nonprofit organizations).

The board will score grants based on established criteria, the grant narrative, and responses to specific prompts. Applications must provide specific project information, a work plan, and a budget, and applicants are asked to explain in detail how their program will be accessible to all members of the community, especially low-income and limited-English proficient populations, how their project will contribute to state waste diversion goals, and how they will measure success of their project.

Future Grant Solicitations

The FRWD board is currently in initial planning stages for its second grant solicitation, which will focus on diversion of C&D debris. The board hopes to have this solicitation out in January 2021 for funding beginning in July 2021.

Part IV. Conclusion

This report highlights the activities of the Front Range Waste Diversion Enterprise in its first year:

- Establishment of FRWD Board of Directors
- Hiring of FRWD staff
- Creation of a 3-year strategic plan
- Published first grant solicitation
- Data survey project

The second annual FRWD report will be submitted in July 2021, and will include a report on a complete year of revenues and expenditures; grants requested and awarded, including project updates and successes; and progress towards waste diversion goals and any suggested legislation or policy changes.

Attachment A - Program Announcement Flier

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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CDPHE

Haley Gabbard
FRWD Board Admin
CDPHE



COLORADO
**Front Range Waste Diversion
Enterprise Board of Directors**
Department of Public Health & Environment

Front Range Waste Diversion Grant Program

LAUNCHING IN 2020

Colorado is moving sustainability forward with a new grant program for waste diversion along the Front Range.

The Front Range Waste Diversion program (FRWD, or “forward”) and enterprise fund was approved by the Colorado state legislature in 2019, and collects funds from an increase in user fees at Front Range landfills to provide grants and technical assistance to Front Range communities.

Find available grant opportunities and more information online at www.colorado.gov/CDPHE/front-range-waste-diversion-grant-program.

VISION Increase Front Range recycling, composting and waste reduction to meet state waste diversion goals.

MISSION Develop and administer grant program and technical assistance to support effective and innovative waste reduction and diversion solutions.



32%
diversion by
2021

39%
diversion by
2026

51%
diversion by
2036

Who is eligible for funding?

- Government entities
- For-profit businesses
- Non-profit organizations
- Schools and universities

Working on waste diversion...

in the Front Range counties of:
Adams • Arapahoe • Boulder
Broomfield • Denver • Douglas
Elbert • El Paso • Jefferson
Larimer • Pueblo • Teller • Weld

Grant Funding Timeline

Our first Request For Applications will be released in **June 2020** with projects anticipated to begin in late 2020 or early 2021. A second RFA cycle is also planned for **Fall 2020**.



Funding Areas for 2020 and 2021

- Universal, bundled, PAYT curbside collection of compost and recycling
- Yard waste drop-off and collections
- Organics diversion for large commercial or institutional producers
- C&D debris recycling and end market development
- Compost infrastructure development or expansion