

RECYCLE COLORADO
Western Slope Council Meeting
Friday, February 2, 2024

Meeting Start: 8:36am

Summary:

Explore and develop a project to help look at recycling in region. Explore brief presentations of potential project ideas to work on as a council with questions and answers. We will look at Ideas to spark interest.

Facilitator: Jennifer Richardson, Solid Waste Director, Mesa County

Attendees & Introduction:

Cameron Garcia - SW Analyst Pitkin County – presenter
Bob Peterson – Retired SW Consultant Steamboat, Regulator GJ,
Angela French – Waste Reduction Coordinator, City of GJ
Kym Beck - Waste Supervisor, City of GJ
Celene Andreano - Glass to Glass - Presenter
Ravi Kumaran – Aurora – Mile High Glass Recycling
Jeff Purdy – Dir. Of Sustainability, former Chair of RC
David Miller – Alpine Green Team
Dylan Brown – Reg Compliance Manager, Mesa County Landfill
Erica Sparhawk - CEO Compost Facility, Delta County
Michelle Gazarik-Eco Cycle Boulder Hard to Recycle
Jimena Baldina – City of Aspen
Tessa Schreiner – City of Aspen
Sophia Dow – Intern Sustainability Div, Grand Junction
Kris Holstrom - County Commissioner, San Miguel County
Adam Hill – Owner of Dir. Polymers - presenter
Julie Mock - Elements Compost, Salida RC Board
Brandy Moe – Republic Serv. Govt Affairs, Board RC
Alley Byzewski - Ops Coord RC
Elizabeth(Liz) Chapman– Dir of Ops RC

C&D policy Toolkit: Recycle Colorado site:

Jennifer Mesa County and Grand Junction: feasibility study, requires infrastructure capital: looking at costs, return, charges, end markets. Composting, gas reduction, struggles may be different than 15 years ago. Partnership ops with other regional composters target for late summer to plan for 2025.

Julie: Is currently collecting compost from Gunnison: Opened first residential drop site.
City of Grand Junction would be interested in composting success.

Liz: Needs Assessment was released by CDPHE. The best way for feedback is to email direct. Recycle Colorado has a more formal letter(anonymously) to offer for stakeholders. This is to make sure rural voice is heard about preferences, particularly composting piece. Reminder: As program goes forward, only compostable packagers eligible for equipment funding from Producer Packaging funding.

Jennifer: Good project suggestion: C& D waste studies focused on municipal garbage. We have no idea how much C & D is coming in. C&D committee created a policy toolkit to assist with accuracy: start with research C & D waste audit to do the following:

- Identifying generators
Home remodeling
Schools
- Identify existing diversion options – is there a place for C&D to go?
- Building dept and contractors will have a better idea of their solid waste, make them a part of the conversation
- Identify when, where, what: then focus on where material can go:
- RC toolkit assists with how to decide on better policy:

1st presenter:

Adam Hill – 12 months to identify new diversion opportunities around state, rural communities: Expansion effort includes recycling and compounding end markets. The purpose is to increase margins and limit price volatility. Direct Polymers fully intends on making plastic recycling end markets. They are trying to develop local and regional end markets without swings of resin purchasing. Direct Polymers is collection focused. Their cost modeling goal is to identify material streams being generated in bulk quantities in CO that play into end markets currently being developed.

Direct Polymers is attempting to collect mixed pallets, thick wall, conduit, pvc collection, windows, fencing, siding, expanding on current models: mixed pallets, expanding capabilities to 4 mill pound/mo to 60 mil pound capacity to compound – first 12 months 15 mil pounds of pipe.

How does this work?

Walgreens – pill bottles, state grant wash line

Outgrowing building. They need a relocation site with a new wash line. They want to target rural communities for post consumed feedstock combined to create standardized blends for sale to customer base. Another goal is to purchase plastic products and sell to distribute ag piping, water piping across farms.

Direct Polymers also developed software to analyze supply and demand. The State has best intentions, but plastics is tricky and requires specific game plan toward development.

Direct Polymers is focused on problem solving:

Questions:

What will recyclability of end product look like in the future? Pipe/decking is fully 100 percent recyclable. Wants to collect residential collection sites to haul truck loads of various plastics: 4 stacks of trash carts, 10,000 post consumed bottles, Walgreens: identify what has more value:

What is your next step? Develop a better understanding of needs.

2nd presenter:

Cameron Garcia – Pitkin County, C& D Mecantile – MotherloadMecantile.com

Solid Waste Analyst 20 years in SW Div Pitkin primarily on C & D program:

New Ordinance: Divert C & D out of landfill from construction project: demos or build. Permit, automatically into green halo program. Must recycle min. 35% of debris away from landfill: Cameron tracks diversion rates. Monitoring Leverages compliance. Also started Motherload Mercantile, like

Habitat for Humanity as part of waste diversion not only for C & D, but for flooring, cabinetry. This is a free drop off service. Last year there were 6000 transactions for reuse.

Contractors in Aspen are working with architects to engineer material from one home to another home. Contractors are also taking trusses five years old to go into a new home down road. So many people joining in this effort. Primary goal: Diversion and resale

Jimena Bladino – Community loves the Mercantile!

Jennifer: This is just one piece of diversion. Boulders are used as landscaping The majority of items are processed and sold back out to community including compost and topsoils:

Questions:

How about the low income and housing crisis? How is this impacting affordable housing? Is there any way that the mercantile material can be reused by lower income? Are there non-profits in community to assist with getting basic furniture

Cameron will talk with Natalie to reach out with nonprofits to support their needs He will look into this.

3rd Presenter:

Celene Andreano, Glass to Glass Denver – Recorder Western Slope Council
Glass to Glass is the only processor in Colorado. They send their cullet to the local bottling facilities also in Colorado. Celene visited Grand Junction's Mrf, landfill, and the local bars and restaurants on Main. Additionally, she went to the local wineries and surprisingly, there is no glass collection other than at the MRF. Glass to Glass is interested in starting a container program of sorts to collect all of the glass in Colorado, as only 30 percent is collected. The recycling rate for glass in Colorado is only at 15-18 percent. We can certainly capture more to increase our recycling rates. As glass moves, it is broken down. Glass to Glass wants to divert glass out of the landfills and capture most of it.

Liz: Three ideas: useful to hear from the group – Liz sent out a Poll

Plastics collection

C & D working group

Glass Recycling

Poll Results:

1. Glass
2. C&D
3. Plastics

Information Gathering:

Pallisade - **What would it take to get the wineries to separate their glass?**

Not much, just a container. They are willing to share containers.

Dual stream does not accept glass? No

Thoughts:

- Maybe link with hauler that currently hauls glass as far as glass pods, how to get containers into 53' truck.
- City of Grand Junction collects pods, he also hauls from Gunnison: If we have a way that trucking company can collect or look into the rail.
- Assessing glass needs: Get an idea on how much each community can collect each month:
- Each Community would have drop sites, someone would take to central location:

- Hauler takes to GJ on rail and ship out.

Aspen: Glass recycling glass container working with restaurants: 2023 yielded ten tons of glass. It goes to South Canyon transfer station then Glass to Glass: Aspen to Glenwood

Council Assignments:

- Jimena / Celene to meet:
- David Miller: Glass history, different vendors, recycling approaches: collection
- Ravi: **How do you see Mile High working into this model?** May serve hauling needs. Interested in working with Western Slope on hauling needs.
- Cabondale: **where does hauler take glass?** Single hauler system for residential through single stream: Aspen has similar curbside convenience factor. People understand that glass collected separately is a better method:
- Erika: Carbondale has a drop off center:
- Kris Holstrom: Bruin Waste to Montrose. Mountains of crushed glass sitting in Montrose forever.
- Julie: Salida Interest in glass: County got an EPA grant for transfer station to Colorado Springs:
- All single stream: Definitely interest to connect municipalities:
- Liz: Need to establish drop off centers, have eye to collect both glass and plastic. Next steps: Jennifer? Survey? List of questions to submit to restaurants and bars to give back inventory to Chamber, share information with both Glass to Glass and Mile High:
- Liz: Needs Assessment looked at Western Slope as only one area. Who would like to volunteer to gather information in the form of a questionnaire
- Spreadsheet: take questionnaire to communities
- Celene work with Robby and Kim to assess costs. Collection/Container costs: Are businesses willing to pay and how much?
- Revenue vs costs: Council will look into ways to fill gaps: GPI, RREO, FW
- Part of costs could be completed simultaneously
- Jennifer: Form a list of contacts in municipalities of who would like to participate in glass collection
- Celene to assist with glass collection questionnaire for RC Western Slope Council:
- Keep an eye out for emails from RC:

Meeting End 10:34am