



2023-2027 Policy Strategic Plan

Recycle Colorado's Vision, Mission and Goals

Vision: To transform Colorado into a national leader in reduction, recovery, and diversion.

Mission: To advance infrastructure, end markets, and state and local policies in waste reduction, recovery and diversion.

Goals: More than 50% of Colorado's waste stream is recycled, composted or diverted into reuse/remanufacturing, with rural and urban community diversion achievements based on proximity to markets. The entire state has access to waste diversion infrastructure and programming.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to:

1. Create a vision for where Recycle Colorado wants the state to be in five years and beyond;
2. Set overall policy goals and priorities for the next five years and specific policy priorities for each of the three waste streams—materials, organics and construction and deconstruction;
3. Provide a year-by-year roadmap/workplan for the Policy Committee to achieve the vision and priorities;
4. Provide a policy guide when:
 - a. Making policy recommendations to elected officials, state agencies, local governments and other interested parties;
 - b. Advocating for or against policy concepts (before they become legislation or executive orders) underway by other entities including state agencies, elected officials, state legislators, local governments and other interested parties;
 - c. Determining policy agendas for the organization at both state and local levels.

This document, approved by the Recycle Colorado Board, enables the Executive Director to participate in activities related to 4(a) and 4(b) listed above. It is to be assumed that Recycle Colorado is in support of these positions and the Executive Director may use his or her discretion to sign on, support and speak in favor of and oppose policy ideas, concepts or proposals (before they become legislation or executive orders) in concurrence with the position

statements outlined in the priorities below. For example, he or she may sign on to a letter recommending a city adopt volume-based pricing for trash or the state increase funding for rural recycling collection programs.

This Policy Strategic Plan is to serve as a guide for the Recycle Colorado Policy Committee to use when determining its yearly policy recommendations, which require a two-thirds majority vote by the Recycle Colorado board; Recycle Colorado may or may not choose to pursue active campaigns on all of these policies.

While this Policy Strategic Plan is intended to guide discussions of state and local legislation and executive actions, any involvement by Recycle Colorado in developing, supporting or opposing state and local legislation (i.e. city ordinances and state laws), policies made by governing bodies (i.e. Solid Waste Commission decisions) and executive actions (governor's executive orders) must be reviewed by the Board of Directors and a 2/3 majority vote is required for action.

The strategies and goals illustrated in this document are guidelines and aspirational goals to provide Recycle Colorado and the Policy Committee with a compass and direction within the policy and legislative realm.

The plan was developed through a number of meetings, member outreach and feedback.

Any actions of this plan will need to be vetted through our established stakeholder process. The board will determine if these proposed actions align with Recycle Colorado's mission, vision, and goals before execution and implementation.

VISION

Materials Stream Vision:

- By 2027 Colorado will have the policies, services, infrastructure and end markets to provide recycling access to all Coloradans.
- Colorado will achieve a significant improvement in waste diversion and material recovery by 2030.
- Colorado will have standards to track recovery rates by material type and recover a majority of beverage packaging by 2030.
- Colorado will have measurable actions in place for waste aversion/reduction.

Construction and Deconstruction Stream Vision:

- Contractors and other C&D waste generators statewide will have more incentives to divert their materials from the landfill through local policies or state-level legislation.
- Through its C&D Council and other advocacy, Recycle Colorado will have supported the development of local policies that drive the demand for processing infrastructure and new end market solutions. Emphasis is placed on promoting deconstruction over traditional deconstruction as a means of preserving value and better-quality materials at end-of-life.
- A centralized recycling authority (Recycle Colorado/CDPHE/Circular Economy Center) will have developed greater knowledge and data reporting of C&D waste generation, material flows, recovery rates, and infrastructure needs in Colorado to support appropriate C&D policy interventions.

- The State government will have led by example with C&D recovery goals, data collection, and other strategies to reduce waste on state construction projects.
- Regional efforts will be made to increase C&D recovery infrastructure in a way that enables significant diversion of materials.

Organics Stream Vision:

- Colorado's organic diversion will be expanded, contamination will be significantly reduced, and sufficient infrastructure alternatives will be in place to manage volumes diverted and statewide diversion goals.
- Colorado's end markets will be expanded to include opportunities and incentives to use compost as a natural climate solution as well as to build local drought resiliency through soil building, water conservation, and wildfire mitigation.

STRATEGIC POLICY GOALS

For the next five years we would like to build on current progress to accomplish:

- The development of additional legislative champions in the Colorado House and Senate;
- The provision of opportunities for Recycle Colorado members to engage and interact with legislators through events and activities including an annual lobby day;
- The ongoing cultivation of partnerships with aligned organizations, including: CML, CCAT, CCI, CC4CA, CoPIRG, Conservation Colorado, Good Business Colorado and others to advance policies;
- The continued cultivation of a strong relationship with the Governor's office;
- The advocacy for recycling, composting and waste reduction as climate solutions;
- Support for implementation of legislation we have gotten passed including RREO, FRWD, Circular Economy Center and Producer Responsibility;
- The integration of Environmental Justice into policies;
- The cultivation of relationships with partner organizations and leaders who work more directly with underserved communities so that we may be better versed on the real solutions needed and how we can appropriately contribute to them, engage them, and include them.

OVERALL STATEWIDE POLICY PRIORITIES

- 1. Improve the state's diversion rate above its current below-average rate. The goal is to make Colorado a leader in the nation when it comes to reducing or diverting waste and recovering material resources through reuse, waste aversion, recycling and composting.**

1-a. Promote ways to provide funding to expand recovery efforts to achieve material-specific diversion rates and reduction goals throughout the state. A focus should be placed on revising and renewing the Recycling Resources Economic Opportunity (RREO), Front Range Waste Diversion Enterprise Fund (FRWD), and Solid Waste User Fee, as well as additional focus on supporting implementation of Producer Responsibility for Packaging and Paper (HB22-1355) and other EPR efforts as deemed appropriate.

1-b. Promote and/or provide technical assistance and/or funding to create actionable waste reduction and diversion plans on a local, regional and multi-state levels.

1-c. Promote and/or provide technical assistance to local communities and other stakeholders on diversion strategies/best practices.

1-d. Identify gaps and needs in recycling opportunities; provide funding to fill those gaps and needs.

1-e. Promote product stewardship for municipal solid waste, hard-to-recycle materials (such as packaging, paint, carpet, mattresses, fluorescents, pesticides, etc.), and construction and deconstruction materials to increase the recovery of these materials and reduce the collection and management costs of local governments. This includes defending and implementing the Producer Responsibility Act of 2022 and developing policies to capture a higher percentage of beverage containers and increase reuse and refill programs.

1-f. Promote and/or provide technical/financial assistance for food and non-food organic waste diversion and recovery and to reduce contamination.

1-g. Support recycling and composting as a strategy to meet the state's climate action plan and Greenhouse Gas Pollution Reduction Road Map.

1-h. Incentivize or promote the reduction of waste generation and encourage reuse and refill.

2. Assist rural communities with their specific diversion challenges.

2-a. Designate state funding and other funding sources to assist rural communities with implementing their own waste diversion plans, and to provide technical assistance and leadership training.

2-b. Support rural recycling cooperatives, and solid waste authorities and other rural groups or entities working on waste diversion in rural communities.

3. Improve the state's collection of waste data to help measure improvement and compare diversion efforts within the state and with other states.

3-a. Incentivize and/or require data reporting that enables a more accurate estimate of Colorado's recycling rate for both Municipal Solid Waste and non-Municipal Solid Waste.

3-b. Promote and/or provide technical assistance and/or funding for waste data collection and reporting at the municipal and county level.

3-c. Collect and provide data on specific materials including the amount of plastics and types of plastics recycled in the state.

4. Establish realistic and ambitious goals to guide decision making, drive funding and incentives, and measure progress.

4-a. Adopt material-specific recycling rate goals for Colorado based on two-tiers—short and long term, Front Range and rest of state (based on distance to markets and infrastructure).

4-b. Promote and/or provide technical assistance and/or funding for local communities for development and implementation of local diversion goals.

4-c. Monitor per capita waste generation to ensure the waste aversion and waste reduction strategies are reducing the waste produced in Colorado.

5. Attract to the state new end market users and develop/support existing businesses using recycled material in order to expand local recycling economies, create jobs and reduce costs of collection efforts.

5-a. Utilize the Circular Economy Center to develop incentives, technical assistance and other programs to attract new end market users to the state and grow existing businesses including but not limited to use of compost in farming and reuse/repurpose of construction and deconstruction (C&D) materials.

5-b. Collaborate with neighboring states to leverage resources, develop regional end markets and build to scale.

5-c. Develop partnerships—e.g., with colleges/universities, businesses, non-profits—to conduct R&D on potential new markets and recycled products.

5-d. Develop/build out material processing infrastructure including but not limited to C&D and organic waste. Revise regulations to expedite the development of local compost sites.

5-e. Ban materials from landfills, including common recyclables such as cardboard, organics and Construction and Deconstruction materials to drive recycling end markets, with support or exemptions for rural areas. Any bans should include a plan for implementation that mitigates or addresses consequences of those bans and includes solutions and resources for impacted parties.

6. Require state government to lead by example in implementing waste diversion practices and procurement policies that help to drive recycling markets.

6-a. Require all state agencies to recycle and compost.

6-b. Strengthen the existing state green purchasing policy that is required for all state agencies.

6-c. Require all state agencies to use compost in construction, highway and road projects and contracts as deemed feasible based on distance from organics processing infrastructure.

6-d. Require all state agencies to collect data on waste from state construction projects and contracts (C&D waste) to determine a baseline and then develop recycling goals for C&D based on the baseline.

STATEWIDE PRIORITIES BY STREAM

Materials Stream Priorities:

1. Defend and implement Producer Responsibility Act of 2022 and Plastic Pollution Reduction Act of 2021.
2. Build out end markets through the Circular Economy Center.
3. Recover a majority of beverage containers and encourage closed loop recycling and the use of reuse and refill containers.
4. Improve and maintain funding sources for waste reduction, recovery and diversion (RREO, FRWD).
5. Significantly reduce overall waste through monitoring per capita waste generation to ensure strategies are reducing waste production.

Construction and Deconstruction Stream Priorities:

1. Encourage and advocate for local governments to adopt C & D ordinances that will encourage new infrastructure and end markets.
2. Encourage and advocate for local governments to incorporate recycled content materials requirements in construction specifications that will encourage new infrastructure and end markets.
3. Expand end markets for C & D materials through the Circular Economy Center. Ban C & D materials from the landfill. Any bans should include a plan for implementation that mitigates or addresses consequences of those bans and includes solutions and resources for impacted parties.
4. Encourage funding and planning for regional development of infrastructure that will enable diversion of C & D materials.

Organics Stream Priorities:

1. Put statewide and regional strategies in place to significantly reduce contamination along every step of the chain, including required generator responsibility and accountability. Isolate contaminated streams that cannot be addressed through education alone and explore regional pre-processing solutions for those chronically contaminated streams.
2. Create regulatory “steps” between “Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator” (hobby level composting) and Class III permitting for food waste composting permits.
3. Develop direct or indirect credits for using compost as a nature-based climate solution. Carbon sequestration, healthy/regenerative soil, water savings, rangeland restoration and local resilience are all possible avenues. Explore voluntary, state and regional credit model options.
4. Support measures that reduce food waste.

ROADMAP/WORKPLAN

2023

STREAM	ACTION/STRATEGY	BILL	PRIORITY
Materials	<p><u>1. EPR:</u> -Participate on Advisory Board -Contribute to Needs Assessment; work with PRO to examine systems to increase beverage container recovery and enable reuse and refill -Assist CDPHE with Eco-Modulation Rule Making -Continue campaign to build legislative, municipal, business and grassroots support for HB22-1355 and to encourage engagement in the implementation -Convene stakeholders and provide input to Draft Rule</p> <p><u>2. Plastic Pollution Reduction Act:</u> - Continue partnering with CML to education municipalities on roll-out - Work with Chamber, Restaurant Association and other businesses to help support implementation of bill from business perspective</p> <p><u>3. Circular Economy Center:</u> Provide guidance and support on formation, and input on work plan</p> <p><u>4. Beverage Container Capture and Refill/Reuse:</u> Conduct research and convene stakeholders to set goals and evaluate methods to achieve goals</p> <p><u>5. Product Labeling:</u> Support national policies to standardize product labeling</p>	<p>Run bill or bills to build relationships with new legislators, keep RC issues front and center, provide support to EPR (see Organics Stream)</p>	<p>1. Defend and implement Producer Responsibility Act of 2022 and Plastic Pollution Reduction Act of 2021. 2. Build out end markets through the Circular Economy Center. 3. Increase the capture of beverage containers and the use of reuse and refill containers. 5. Significantly reduce overall waste.</p>

<p>C&D</p>	<p><u>1.C&D Policy Roadmap/Toolkit</u> - Developed by C&D Council - Partner with CML to communicate around the state - Includes Class 4 shingles policy - Includes building codes that require equal space for recycling and composting at new/remodeled MFUs and commercial (supports HB1355 roll-out) - Includes required recycling of materials that have an existing recycling stream in jurisdictions such as OCC, metal, clean wood <u>2.End market/recycling infrastructure guide for contractors</u> - Developed by C&D Council as an educational tool (English + Spanish) - Maintained by Recycle Colorado or other entity</p>		<p>1. Encourage and advocate for local governments to adopt C & D ordinances that will encourage new infrastructure and end markets. 2. Expand end markets for C & D materials through the Circular Economy Center.</p>
<p>Organics</p>	<p><u>1.Put multi-year statewide strategy in place to eliminate contamination</u> - COCC-led partnership to apply for RREO grant to create statewide campaign. Include technical assistance for businesses, commercial & residential, haulers, and municipalities. - Establish best practices for local zero waste ordinance programs to eliminate contaminated streams. <u>2. Infrastructure and regulations revision</u> - Participate in regulation revision stakeholder process to advocate for adding regulatory “steps” based on volume to reduce risk and permit-related costs for startups - Modernize and simplify permitting structure for traditional static pile and windrow composting processes, to include simple, standardized compost pad designs that are pre-approved and scalable, using both composite and compacted clay liner options - Modernize permitting structure for AD - Include more detail in regulations for in-vessel systems, e.g., eliminate stormwater management requirements</p>	<p><u>1. Legislate revisions to CDPHE compost facility regulations</u> – enable infrastructure growth, especially small, community-based compost sites by reducing regulation requirements and permitting costs. <u>2. State procurement requirement of use of STA Certified Compost for specific construction projects.</u> Include CDOT, other specific departments. <u>3. Appropriate federal money for transportation and processing costs of wood chips from expanded wildfire mitigation.</u> Include funding for the development of compost and mulch products. 5. Include additional support in rural areas where longer transportation distances are an issue</p>	<p>1. Put statewide and regional strategies in place to eliminate contamination. Isolate contaminated streams that cannot be addressed through education alone and explore regional pre-processing solutions for those chronically contaminated streams. 2. Create regulatory “steps” between “Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator” (hobby level composting) and Class III permitting for food waste composting permits.</p>

		<p>- Add protections for donating to groups that charge small fee for redistribution (which is often necessary)</p> <p>5. Include additional support in rural areas where longer transportation distances are an issue</p>	
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2024

STREAM	ACTION/STRATEGY	BILL	PRIORITY
Materials	<p><u>1. EPR:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participate on Advisory Board - Be a resource for the PRO and subcontractors as they work on the Needs Assessment and plan development - Provide public comment on Needs Assessment - Provide public comment on Program Plan Development, include specific targets for each material type and recycled content goals - Continue campaign to build legislative, municipal, business and grassroots support - Lobby Joint Budget Committee on PRO Plan - Draft alternative bill to implement PRO is JBC rejects needs assessment - Convene stakeholders on draft rule, provide input on draft rule - Participate in rulemaking hearing before Solid and Hazardous Waste Commission <p><u>2. Beverage Container Capture and Refill/Reuse:</u> Continue stakeholder work, influence PRO to include measures to capture high rates of beverage containers and/or begin drafting legislation (if needed)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitor and support federal bottle deposit policies <p><u>3. Circular Economy Center:</u> Continue to provide guidance and support</p> <p><u>4. RREO/Solid Waste User Fee:</u> Convene stakeholders to discuss changes and renewal</p>	<p><u>Other materials EPR:</u> Consider running EPR bill (if JBC rejects PRO needs assessment) or bills on other materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Determine legislative approaches to increasing recovery of beverage containers and maximizing the efficiency of infrastructure developments to reduce redundancy in capture systems. - Develop a workplan to add EPR policies for HTR materials over the next few years and identify priority materials, partners, etc. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Defend and implement Producer Responsibility Act of 2022 and Plastic Pollution Reduction Act of 2021. 2. Build out end markets through the Circular Economy Center. 3. Increase the capture of beverage containers and the use of reuse and refill containers. 4. Improve and maintain funding sources for recycling (RREO, FRWD). 5. Significantly reduce overall waste.
C&D	<p><u>1. C&D Road Show</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visit local governments to advocate for local ordinances using resources developed in 2023 <p><u>2. Advocate for Circular Economy Center to have a C&D focus,</u> conduct needs/gap assessment for C&D infrastructure and end markets</p> <p><u>3. Begin stakeholder process for future state C&D policy</u> - landfills, contractor associations (AGC), local gov, CDPHE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to shape viable policy options for CO 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encourage and advocate for local governments to adopt C & D ordinances that will encourage new infrastructure and end markets. 2. Expand end markets for C & D materials through the Circular Economy Center.
Organics	<p><u>End-market development, increased organics diversion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Incorporate compost utilization as a healthy soils practice in the Colorado Department of Agriculture’s STAR program and Soil Health Initiative 	<p><u>1. Legislation similar to Washington State requiring standardized labeling for certified compostable products,</u></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Put statewide and regional strategies in place to eliminate contamination. Isolate contaminated streams that cannot be addressed

		<p>to include field-testing for disintegration and disallowing similar labeling for products that are not certified compostable.</p> <p><u>2.Inventory of local government solid waste funding</u> adequate to meet the states diversion goals (WA bill designates a 3rd party to evaluate each county's funding).</p>	<p>through education alone and explore regional pre-processing solutions for those chronically contaminated streams.</p> <p>2. Develop direct or indirect credits for using compost as a nature-based climate solution. Carbon sequestration, water savings, rangeland restoration and local resilience are all possible avenues. Explore voluntary, state and regional credit model options.</p>
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2025

STREAM	ACTION/STRATEGY	BILL	PRIORITY
Materials	<p><u>1.EPR:</u> Convene stakeholders and provide public comment on Program Plan</p> <p><u>3. Circular Economy Center:</u> Continue to provide guidance and support</p>	<p><u>1.Beverage Container Capture and Refill/Reuse:</u> run bill if it is determined needed after PRO plan is finalized.</p> <p><u>2.Other materials EPR:</u> Consider running EPR bill or bills on other materials</p> <p><u>3.RREO/Solid Waste User Fee:</u> Run bill to potentially change RREO program and renew RREO and Solid Waste User Fee</p>	<p>1.Defend and implement Producer Responsibility Act of 2022 and Plastic Pollution Reduction Act of 2021.</p> <p>2. Build out end markets through the Circular Economy Center.</p> <p>3. Increase the capture of beverage containers and the use of reuse and refill containers.</p> <p>4.Improve and maintain funding sources for recycling (RREO, FRWD).</p>
C&D	<p><u>1.C&D Road Show</u></p> <p>- Visit local governments to advocate for local ordinances using resources developed in 2023</p> <p><u>2. Advocate for Circular Economy Center to have a C&D focus,</u> conduct needs/gap assessment for C&D infrastructure and end markets</p> <p><u>3.Continue stakeholder engagement</u></p>		<p>1. Encourage and advocate for local governments to adopt C & D ordinances that will encourage new infrastructure and end markets.</p> <p>2. Expand end markets for C & D materials through the Circular Economy Center.</p>
Organics	<p><u>1.End-market development, increased organics diversion</u></p> <p>- Model ordinance - Explore options to create requirements for repurchase of compost by municipal generators based on a percentage of the material diverted or number of households/generators</p>	<p><u>1. Statewide contamination accountability requirement:</u> Accountability requirement in municipal ordinances of commercial entities that choose or are required to compost to include a designated person of responsibility to ensure clean material before it leaves the generator.</p> <p><u>2.Create a state-funded incentive program for carbon sequestration in soil using compost and other means</u></p>	<p>1. Put statewide and regional strategies in place to eliminate contamination. Isolate contaminated streams that cannot be addressed through education alone and explore regional pre-processing solutions for those chronically contaminated streams.</p> <p>2. Develop direct or indirect credits for using compost as a nature-based climate solution. Carbon sequestration, water savings, rangeland restoration and local resilience are all possible avenues. Explore voluntary, state and regional credit model options.</p>

2026

STREAM	ACTION/STRATEGY	BILL	PRIORITY
Materials	<p>1.EPR: Monitor implementation 2.Circular Economy Center: Continue to provide guidance and support</p>	<p>1.Other materials EPR: Consider running EPR bill or bills on other materials 2.Business sector: Explore policies to increase diversion from business to augment residential efforts – may also be done through supporting PRO in their requirement to add covered entities (pickup locations) other than residential by 2028</p>	<p>1.Defend and implement Producer Responsibility Act of 2022 and Plastic Pollution Reduction Act of 2021. 2. Build out end markets through the Circular Economy Center.</p>
C&D	<p>1.Goal to have expanded C&D policy network in CO, more municipalities with C&D policies in place - undefined number - Local level policies are seen as foundational to creating new infrastructure and end market capacity 2.Continued stakeholder engagement</p>		<p>1. Encourage and advocate for local governments to adopt C & D ordinances that will encourage new infrastructure and end markets. 2. Expand end markets for C & D materials through the Circular Economy Center.</p>
Organics	<p><u>End-market development, increased organics diversion:</u> Put more tangible goals in CO Integrated Solid Waste & Materials Management Plan for food waste reduction and diversion</p>	<p>1. <u>Require take-out food services to use only recyclable or compostable packaging and food service ware.</u> Consider including a requirement for reusables for in-house dining. 2. <u>Require each county to designate land for infrastructure development related to organics diversion</u></p>	<p>1. Put statewide and regional strategies in place to eliminate contamination. Isolate contaminated streams that cannot be addressed through education alone and explore regional pre-processing solutions for those chronically contaminated streams. 3. Develop direct or indirect credits for using compost as a nature-based climate solution. Carbon sequestration, water savings, rangeland restoration and local resilience are all possible avenues. Explore voluntary, state and regional credit model options.</p>

2027

STREAM	ACTION/STRATEGY	BILL	PRIORITY
Materials	<p><u>1.EPR</u>: Monitor implementation; provide comments on PRO Annual Report. Advocate for strong eco-modulation incentives to reduce unnecessary packaging and address other issues as needed. Make sure EPR is achieving waste reduction goals.</p> <p><u>2.Circular Economy Center</u>: Continue to provide guidance and support</p> <p><u>3.FRWD</u>: Convene stakeholders to discuss changes and renewal</p>	<p><u>Other materials EPR</u>: Consider running EPR bill or bills on other materials</p>	<p>1.Defend and implement Producer Responsibility Act of 2022 and Plastic Pollution Reduction Act of 2021.</p> <p>2. Build out end markets through the Circular Economy Center.</p> <p>4.Improve and maintain funding sources for recycling (RREO, FRWD).</p>
C&D		<p><u>1.C&D Materials Landfill Ban</u> -Restrict commonly recyclable materials from landfill disposal -Materials with established processing infrastructure and end uses</p> <p><u>2.C&D Landfill Surcharge</u> (possible new idea): Surcharge on C&D tipping fees to be collected and distributed to Circular Economy Center or other entity to advance infrastructure, end markets, research, policy development</p>	<p>2. Expand end markets for C & D materials through the Circular Economy Center.</p> <p>3.Ban C & D materials from the landfill.</p>
Organics	<p><u>“Sustainable Food Management” as part of end-market development center</u> to track and coordinate food waste reduction</p>	<p><u>1.Phased yard waste landfill ban</u> - after infrastructure is more in place and can transition over time to accepting food waste.</p>	<p>1. Develop direct or indirect credits for using compost as a nature-based climate solution. Carbon sequestration, water savings, rangeland restoration and local resilience are all possible avenues. Explore voluntary, state and regional credit model options.</p>

LOCAL POLICY PRIORITIES

In support of Recycle Colorado's 2023-2027 Policy Strategic Plan, Recycle Colorado supports policies at the local level that:

1. Establish realistic and ambitious waste reduction and diversion goals to guide decision making and measure progress.

This may include policies that:

1-a. Set recovery goals or develop actionable plans for waste reduction and diversion on a local or regional level

1-b. Provide incentives and use available resources and partnerships to help communities reach diversion goals

2. Improve the collection of waste data to help measure improvement, drive funding and incentives, and compare diversion efforts within the state.

This may include policies that:

2-a. Collect data on municipal (residential and commercial) and non-municipal recycling programs to measure program effectiveness and participation, and to set benchmarks for future programs

3. Improve local communities' diversion rates.

The following is a menu list of policies that local governments may consider for increasing diversion. These policies can have many variations and may not look the same between communities. Not all policies will be feasible in every community:

3-a. Help develop, establish and encourage recycling and composting infrastructure to improve the local community's diversion rates

3-b. Establish universal curbside recycling programs such that everyone who has trash service has recycling service automatically included

3-c. Require recycling services at multi-unit housing properties (greater than 7 units)

3-d. Provide ongoing funding for waste diversion and recovery programs

3-e. Provide yard waste collection (monthly or more frequently), drop off program or comprehensive compost program

3-f. Require or incentivize commercial recycling (available for all businesses, voluntary with incentives or obligatory through ordinance)

3-g. Require or incentivize commercial composting (available for all businesses, voluntary with incentives or obligatory through ordinance)

3-h. Require recycling and/or composting at public events

3-i. Charge for trash using variable rate, or unit-based pricing, so residents are rewarded for recycling

3-j. Provide curbside composting for yard debris and/or food scraps from residents

3-k. Create financial incentives or set requirements for the recovery of C&D waste, such as green building codes, financial deposits upon building permits, recycling quotas, or other policy mechanisms

3-l. Provide food waste collection program for food recovery

3-m. Provide education programs on proper recycling and composting with the intention of increasing awareness and improving the quality of diverted materials

3-n. Establish or expand recycling drop off centers

3-o. Require large landscape renovation projects to apply compost to disturbed soils to conserve water

3-p. Provide adequate space for recycling and composting containers in the design and construction of new commercial and multi-family properties

3-q. Ban or charge a fee for additional single-use disposable products such as single use paper and service ware

3-r. Provide Hard-to-Recycle collection either through scheduled events or at permanent drop off centers

4. Encourage local governments to lead by example in implementing waste diversion practices and procurement policies that help to drive recycling markets.

This may include policies that:

4-a. Encourage local governments to recycle and compost

4-b. Encourage local governments to adopt green purchasing practices

4-c. Encourage local governments to use compost in construction, highway and road projects and contracts

4-d. Encourage local governments to collect data on waste from local government construction projects and contracts (C&D waste) to determine a baseline and then develop recycling goals for C&D based on the baseline

4-e. Encourage local governments to adopt waste aversion policies such as bag bans/fees that do not exempt small business, bans or “by request only” ordinances on single use plastic items, bans on government funds being spent on plastic water bottles or other items (exception for disaster relief)

Recycle Colorado does not support policies that:

- a. Define incineration or waste-to-energy projects as recycling or reuse
- b. Undermine source separation programs by using mixed waste recovery facilities
- c. Permit backyard burning of trash or other materials