



Colorado Circular Communities Enterprise Fund (C3e)

Recycle Colorado Position Statement

Position 1: Recycle Colorado supports the key elements of the proposal:

1. **Changing RREO and FRWD to streamline waste diversion grants by combining the programs into an enterprise to remove time limits and other constraints.** We recognize the challenges currently faced by both RREO applicants, the PPAB, and CDPHE to award and administer impactful grants under the current structure.
2. **Merging RREO and FRWD funds and combining boards into the Colorado Circular Communities Enterprise (C3e) to create greater opportunities for Colorado communities, especially rural communities.** We support its continuation, expansion statewide, and further clarification of its role and responsibilities to maximize output and outcomes under the new structure.

Position 2: Recycle Colorado supports expanding eligibility for funding to projects that support and advance waste diversion, recovery, prevention, and education.

Recycle Colorado recognizes the need for bill language that is general enough to allow the C3e Board to dispense funds for programs and projects that reduce material going into landfill and/or increase material available for circular manufacturing. Here are examples of the types of programs and projects that the language should encompass, but not be restricted to:

- Waste Diversion including Recycling (Single Stream, HTR, C&D), Composting/organics diversion
- Waste Reduction and Waste Prevention including reuse, refill, and food rescue
- Technical Assistance to communities, including policy development
- End Market and Circular Economy Development including workforce development, management and financial education/resource program development, start-up incentives, regional economic development, and circularity industry development
- Innovation
- Education
- Infrastructure
- Programs
- Services
- Rebates, including transportation rebates for rural communities (e.g. rail transportation)
- Household Hazardous Waste
- Clean up and prevention of illegal dumping for banned materials (i.e. cost-free collection events, public education)

Position 3: Recycle Colorado supports the expansion statewide of the Technical Assistance Service Provider (TASP) and the Ambassador Program.

Recycle Colorado believes the entire state can benefit from the assistance provided through this program, especially in the rural areas with fewer resources.

Position 4: Recycle Colorado requests the continued funding of the Circular Economy Development Center and Next Cycle.

Recycle Colorado believes the Circular Economy Development Center is essential for the success of the state's circular economy and programs such as Producer Responsibility that rely on the growth of end markets in the state.

Position 5: Recycle Colorado requests that there is equity in funding between Front Range and Rural Communities, and that funding for rural communities increase as a result of the new Colorado Circular Communities Enterprise.

At a minimum, Recycle Colorado requests the new law to require the C3e board to create a mechanism to ensure equitable and strategic funding to address both rural and front range needs.

Position 6: Recycle Colorado supports continuing the current funding structure (\$0.78 per cubic yard for Front Range landfills and \$0.14 per cubic yard for Greater Colorado landfills) Recycle Colorado supports the inclusion of a mechanism that allows CDPHE to implement a statewide CPI increase based on a mechanism tied to the fund balance.

The state has many gaps to fill to get Colorado to become a leader in waste diversion, waste reduction, waste prevention and developing a circular economy. We should also be forward-thinking and recognize that our needs are growing and therefore we should have an embedded mechanism to increase funding for those needs. Under this new Colorado Circular Communities Enterprise with increased funding, additional needs can be addressed such as supporting rural communities with illegal dumping, HHW, and technical assistance.

Position 7: Recycle Colorado supports a board make-up of 13 members with the following positions:

(I) Two members representing the department (CDPHE), one with expertise in sustainability and one with expertise in compliance.

(II) One member of the board shall be a representative of the Colorado office of economic development created in section 24-48.5-101 (1), C.R.S.

(III) Four members of the board from local jurisdictions, two of which are in the Front Range, two in Greater Colorado. Two of the jurisdictional representatives should be from jurisdictions that manage or operate a solid waste, reuse, compost, recycling or household hazardous materials facility.

(IV) The remaining six members of the board shall be balanced equally to the extent practicable from among representatives of nonprofit and for-profit entities engaged in

activities related to reuse, refill, composting, recycling, hard to recycle materials, household hazardous materials or construction and demolition/deconstruction materials. These entities shall also be balanced equally by their involvement in the collection, transportation, processing, marketing, remanufacturing, or others whose mission is directed to advance and promote waste reduction, recycling and composting through educational programs, technical assistance, research, or community outreach. These six members of the board shall include at least two (2) members from entities predominantly operating in Greater Colorado and at least two (2) members from entities predominantly operating in the Front Range and to the extent possible, at least one seat may be filled by an individual who lives and/or works in a rural and underserved part of the state.*

* Definition of Rural in Colorado Revised Statutes: 24-32-3603.

1. “Rural” means:

- a. A county with a population of fewer than fifty thousand; or
- b. A municipality with a population of fewer than twenty thousand if the municipality is not contiguous to a municipality with a population of twenty thousand or more.

Position 8: Recycle Colorado supports the requirement that the board develop a weighting mechanism for the evaluation of proposed grants that considers Environmental Justice.

This is to encourage grants that support underserved populations and that potential projects do not additionally burden historically disproportionately negatively impacted communities.

Position 9: Recycle Colorado supports the requirement that the board is reimbursed for necessary travel and other related expenses.

In order to ensure that the new C3e board members can participate and there is broad and inclusive representation, members should be adequately reimbursed for travel and other related expenses.

Position 10: Recycle Colorado supports keeping the sunset date of 2029, per existing statute for the Front Range Waste Diversion Program:

It gives the EPR program 3 years to run and the PRO will be in the stages of building the next 5 year Plan in which we know more about what the state will need from a fee perspective. It will harmonize the programs on the same schedule.

Position 11: Recycle Colorado supports language to be included that would require the Board to spend or commit at least 60% of the accrued annual funds by the end of the fiscal year.