

Northern Colorado Council Meeting

May 8, 2024, 10:00am - 11:30am

Attendees

- Emily Freeman, City of Boulder
- Ally Byzewski, Recycle Colorado
- Chandra Valenza, Boulder County
- Nick Wilson, West Highland Management Group
- Dan Garvin, Colorado Iron & Metal
- Ryan Call, Eco-Cycle
- Jamie Blanchard-Poling, Compost Queen
- Michal, Boulder County
- Liz Chapman, Recycle Colorado
- Neil, Republic
- Sarah dodge, Ellen MacArthur Foundation
- Kathy Doesken, Rocky Mountain Soil Stewardship
- Shelly Fuller, Boulder County

Meeting Video Recording: [NOCO May 8th \(youtube.com\)](#)

Welcome

- Ice Breaker (Chandra Valenza, NOCO Vice-Chair)
- Announcements
 - RecycleColorado
 - Summit coming up June 3-5
 - Circular Economy Development Center
 - Voters passed EPR, and the program is seeking an advisory position to be filled by someone who represents recycled paper packaging but is not a producer
 - Direct Polymers recently expanded capacity and breadth of plastics they can process
 - NOCO
 - [Summit Breakfast](#)
 - NOCO Breakout Room 1
 - Tuesday, June 4th 8:00 - 9:00 am
 - Q3 Meeting
 - Wednesday, August 14th
 - Tour of Western Disposal Services in Boulder, CO

- Member Round Robin
 - [Boulder County recently completed a 4-minute video to highlight their “Recycle Row”](#)
 - Republic recently found a recycler for fiberglass.
 - Colorado Chapter of SWANA granted continuing education credits (professional development hours) for attending the Summit
 - Recycle Colorado poster conference recently wrapped and was successful.
 - Compost Queen recently won the RREO grant, effective this summer.

Presentation

- Regional Procurement Policy Toolkit (Nick Wilson, NOCO Chair)
 - Response to question raised at Q1 meeting: How do we encourage public and private entities to buy local?
 - Would begin with education on how the product is applicable, where it can be needed
 - Looking to the C&D Policy Toolkit for practical guidance to manage the development
- Success Story: C&D Policy Toolkit (Emily Freeman, C&D Council Chair)
 - Recycle Colorado funded a C&D waste study to understand the amount and type of material generated from the built environment. (Those funds are not available to us, but we could seek grant funding.)
 - Outlined gaps and needs within CO
 - Confirmed that several initiatives were in place but there was not a framework on how to make policy/ordinance recommendation
 - Ordinances vs policies: ordinances contain elements of enforcement
 - C&D committee developed a subcommittee of about 10 co-others who were dedicated to writing regional sections, adding graphics, and ensuring general continuity of the toolkit

- Used an existing policy toolkit as a framework and tailored for difference perspectives
- Took about 1 year to bring the idea to reality
- Breakout Session: Exploring the value of a Regional Procurement Policy Toolkit
 - *What value would the toolkit provide you/your organization? Are there specific individuals/organizations in your network who would benefit from the development of the toolkit?*
 - Supports local governments that don't have the resources to perform research themselves
 - Providing an example framework or model language to kickstart/accelerate progress
 - Promote consistency across regions and agencies
 - Local entities often have their own versions, at least on a project to project basis, such as Denver Water
 - Provide education and awareness on why these materials are needed in the first place (more of a How-to, less of a policy toolkit)
 - *What value could you/your organization contribute to the development of the toolkit?*
 - Eco-cycle recently published a study on organics which could help inform research components
 - Kathy Doesken has a volunteer who is a former purchasing agent for Larimer County
 - Recycle Colorado can support the production and publishing of educational and outreach programming like webinars
 - We can all contribute in our own way to the distribution and communication of the toolkit
 - Create a list of decision-maker to approach with personal conversations
 - Informational materials to be placed at sites where materials were used
 - Concern: maintenance of the resources

- We must commit to an adaptable format and sufficient resources to handle routine updates and monitoring
- Making it Happen: C&D Policy Toolkit (Emily Freeman)
- Group Discussion: Go or No Go
 - Conclusion:
 - Group is more interested in a How-To Guide that focuses on success stories, education, and demonstrating the benefits of local procurement. It would still include elements related to policy such as model language and recommended frameworks. The static resource would be complemented by webinars and educational sessions.
 - Kathy volunteered to draft a strategy document.

Closing Remarks