



Recycle Colorado's 2023 Legislative Priorities

1. **Defend and fully implement the Producer Responsibility Act of 2022 (HB22-1355).** The Producer Responsibility Act passed in 2022 was only the third law passed of its kind in the US that will fully fund recycling through a producer run system. This landmark legislation will ensure that in 2026 and beyond all residents will receive free of charge recycling services for all consumer-facing packaging and paper. Companies that sell printed paper, cardboard, and metal, glass, and plastic packaging into the state will be required to pay for a statewide recycling system that will be administered by a producer-run nonprofit, known as a Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO), supported by an advisory board, and overseen by CDPHE. The PRO will collect and manage producer funds and reimburse public and private service providers for collecting and processing recyclables. The goal is to ensure that every Coloradan will have free, convenient recycling that is just as easy as their trash service. Recycle Colorado will work with the advisory board, CDPHE and the PRO to implement the act and receive approval from the Joint Budget Committee of the Needs Assessment in 2023.
2. **Defend and fully implement the Circular Economy Center (HB22-1159).** The new center is to be set up and running the summer of 2023. It will attract new entrepreneurs and businesses to the state to utilize recycled materials diverted from the landfill to make into new products. The Center will offer assistance to existing and new businesses, develop incentives and provide necessary infrastructure, logistics, and marketing to create a sustainable circular economy for recycled commodities. Recycle Colorado will work with the contractor designated to run the center and CDPHE to ensure the new Center attracts new recycling end markets to Colorado.
3. **Prioritize Organics Diversion to reduce methane, extend landfill life and create valuable soil amendments.** Thirty-seven percent of material that is landfilled in Colorado is organic (yard and food waste) that could have been diverted from landfills through food donation, composting or mulching which reduce greenhouse gas emissions, support resilient local economies, create green jobs, and in the case of compost, build healthy soils and more productive agricultural lands. Recycle Colorado will champion a bill requiring CDPHE to study how a mandatory organics recycling law could be implemented in the state that effectively diverts organic materials from the landfill and into beneficial uses. The study will evaluate phased bans and required food waste recycling, consider the feasibility and benefits of banning organic materials from the landfill, how to best phase in the landfill diversion requirements and requirements for food recycling, and how best to mitigate negative or unintended impacts on rural and underserved communities.

For questions, please contact:

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