

Recycle Colorado – Western Slope Council Meeting Minutes

Date: 3/3/2023, this was our first meeting in 2023

Members In Attendance: David Miller; Alicia Archibald; Liz Chapman; Bob Peterson; Kym Beck; Jennifer Nitzky; Beth Markham; Carolyn Lavailee; Darin Graber; Jennifer Richardson; Ally Byzewski

With special guests: Erica Chavez, American Recycling (electronic waste recycler in Lincoln, NE) (531) 500-1662, ericak@americanrecyclingne.com

1. American Recycling
 - a. CORRecycling is no longer in operation. This is a major blow for communities recycling electronics on the western slope. American Recycling is an R2-certified electronics recycler headquartered out of Lincoln, NE. R2 certification ensures electronics are recycled and not going to the landfill. Additionally, it ensures complete data destruction of any information that may be saved to an electronic device. American Recycling can help with collection events or can come to your facility and pick up any electronics that have been collected. Please schedule a pickup one or two weeks in advance. Prices vary, but you can contact Erica at (531) 500-1662, ericak@americanrecyclingne.com or Chad at (531) 500-1601, chad@americanrecyclingne.com to discuss options.
2. Plastics Ban Ordinance in Telluride
 - a. The sale of single-use plastic water bottles under a half-gallon is prohibited. Also, the ordinance requires anyone providing single-use plastic ware to ask if the customer wants plastic ware before giving it to them; in other words, the customer must opt-in for single-use plastic ware. The town wanted to include all beverage containers but was turned down.
3. Western Slope Council Member Updates
 - a. Alpine Bank
 - i. Alpine Bank completed their Recycling Best Practices 2.0. This latest rendition includes prioritization of composting. Alpine Bank's green team is looking to partner with composting organizations. They would like to collect food waste and other compostable materials from the local branch and get them to the nearest compost facility. Alpine Bank has branches all around Colorado and understands that each location might have a different model. If you are interested in helping your local branch start a compost program, don't hesitate to contact David Miller. He may not be the person you need to talk to, but he can get you in touch with the right person; davidmiller@alpinebank.com.
 - b. City of Grand Junction
 - i. The City of Grand Junction will offer curbside yard waste pickup to select residents in April. Dedicated trucks will be utilized for this service, and the collected materials will be hauled to a transfer station located on Mesa County's Solid Waste Management Campus. These materials will be brought to 3XM Grinding and Composting in Olathe for processing.
 - ii. The City of Grand Junction received a USDA grant to provide funds for the previously-mentioned program and composting outreach. Grant money will also fund a study to explore how the local agriculture community can best utilize

regionally available compost. The study will specifically look at the benefits of compost use in terms of water retention and crop productivity.

4. Recycle Colorado Updates

- a. Recycle Colorado's Summit for Recycling will be in Steamboat and is scheduled for May 21-23. The policy committee will host their annual retreat on the 21st, and the remaining dates will have two learning tracks, one for recycling and another for composting.
- b. Composting Council: focused on truth in labeling and ensuring that materials labeled as compostable are truly compostable.
- c. Rural Policy Council:
 - i. Aspen has made it illegal to dispose of compostable items at the landfill. They are taking a phased approach and will only enforce this on businesses for now. Aspen had some funding available, and they will provide metal, self-latching containers to businesses at no cost.
 - ii. The South Canyon Landfill has implemented a yard waste ban. This ban does not include residential pickup from commercial haulers. However, if a landscaper brings a load into the landfill that is >5% yard waste, they can no longer dispose of that material in the landfill working face and must go to the compost site.

5. Action Items:

- a. The Western Slope Council is looking for a Vice President and a Recorder. By joining the Western Slope Council's leadership team, you are committing to a half-hour meeting once a month and attending the quarterly council meeting. If you want to volunteer for one of these positions or have more questions, please contact Jennifer Richardson at jennifer.richardson@mesacounty.us or 970-254-4158.
- b. The Western Slope Council is looking to grow its membership. The council is meant to solve regional recycling hurdles by connecting people up and down the state's western half. If you know anyone with an invested interest in growing recycling in our region or anyone who might be impacted by increasing recycling in the area, please invite them to the next Western Slope Council meeting. Our next meeting in Grand Junction is scheduled for June 2, 2-4 PM. The council is committed to providing a virtual option for all our members. Thank you for your patience as we figure the virtual component out. After two hybrid meetings, we hope the third meeting will go smoothly. We are very spread out and want to hear from everyone! Between now and our next meeting, a Google Sheet will be shared with the group where you can make a note of anyone you've contacted about the council and their interest level.
- c. The City of Grand Junction and Mesa County are looking to contract with LBA Associates to conduct a feasibility study for a regional recycling facility, and we could use your input. Between now and our next meeting, a Google Sheet will be shared with the group with a list of recycling-related questions. Please note who you've contacted and their responses to these questions.