

**DATE:** November 29, 2011

**STAFF:** Susie Gordon  
*Pre-taped staff presentation: available  
at [fcgov.com/clerk/agendas.php](http://fcgov.com/clerk/agendas.php)*

## **WORK SESSION ITEM FORT COLLINS CITY COUNCIL**

### **SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION**

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Update on Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling in Fort Collins.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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In August, staff reported to City Council that a 43% communitywide waste diversion rate was reached in 2010, up from 38% in 2009 but still below a goal for 50% waste diversion set in 1999. This work session offers opportunity for staff to describe two ongoing consulting projects for waste diversion/reduction, outreach campaigns, and new program development for recycling at business and multi-family locations.

### **GENERAL DIRECTION SOUGHT AND SPECIFIC QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED**

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This work session is informational only, but staff welcomes Council comments

### **BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION**

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A fundamental element of environmental stewardship, recycling is an easy, convenient “gateway” for Fort Collins citizens to become involved. Furthermore, when citizens reduce their waste and recycle, the City’s Pay-as-you-throw ordinance (PAYT) enables them to save on their household trash bills. The positive experience generates enthusiasm – there are many ardent recyclers in Fort Collins – and confidence to adopt further practices that support environmental sustainability.

The inception of Fort Collins’ first recycling program traces back 25 years and there has since been steady growth and progress. There are now more types and volumes of materials collected (Attachment 1); there is a high public opinion rating of the quality of local recycling programs (Attachments 2 and 3); and there are consistent levels of participation by 85% or more of single-family households. However, analysis of 2010 data show that the community’s waste diversion rate is still falling below adopted goals.

#### **Metrics and Accountability**

Using reporting tools provided in the City’s trash ordinance, staff in the Environmental Services Division of the Natural Resources Department calculates the annual waste diversion rate for the community. Highlights from the analysis of 2010 data include:

- Recycling volumes have remained stable for three years; on average 75,000 tons of fiber (paper) materials, commingled containers (plastic, glass, aluminum and steel containers), and organic materials (yard and food waste) were collected annually.
- Trash volumes dropped at a rate of 15-20% each year since 2008, a trend reflected across the country that many attribute to the national economy.
- The Fort Collins community has reached a 43% waste diversion level. This figure includes tonnages that are attributed to citizens' source reduction behaviors, which are statistically verified to result from PAYT programs.
- The quality of data is improving.
  - Installation of truck scales at the Larimer County landfill in 2010 enables the City to monitor hauling companies' actual weights instead of calculating the weight from "cubic yards of trash."
  - Staff continually obtains new sources of information about diverted materials that broadens knowledge of waste diversion activities in the community.
  - With the hire of a new data analyst, NRD has increased ability to continuously improve reports for waste diversion and other waste reduction measurements.
- The City follows a protocol for reporting the community's waste diversion rate using EPA definitions that omit industrial categories of recycling such as asphalt and concrete.
  - A data collection priority is to avoid inadvertent duplicate counting for recycling tonnages and staff strives to prevent misrepresentations that skew the numbers.
  - The community's diversion rate would be higher if a different methodology was used.

## **New Projects**

The City has demonstrated strong commitment to waste diversion over the years. Still, Fort Collins hasn't reached its adopted goal of 50% diversion. Thus, several new projects are underway that may help boost the City's diversion rate.

Two reports are under development that will identify and explore additional actions that can improve recycling. The first report will be completed in December. The report will identify which three (at minimum) additional materials the City could collect at a public recycling drop-off site. The report will analyze the costs and potential return-on-investment associated with the materials. It also will provide site-specific information about three potentially new drop-off locations if it becomes necessary to expand to a larger site from the current Rivendell recycling facility. The second report will be delivered in January 2012 and will identify what is still in the community's waste stream that could be captured using enhanced recovery systems and facilities, including recycling, composting, bio-digesters, and nontraditional combustion processes, which recently are being introduced for converting waste to energy. These exciting investigations may result in implementation projects that would be proposed in the 2012 Budgeting for Outcomes process.

In addition to the reports, the City Council allocated funding from Keep Fort Collins Great revenues

to hire an additional .5 FTE environmental planner to promote recycling among businesses and multi-family housing. Since May, Caroline Mitchell has developed programs based on input from local businesses, haulers, and comparable communities. New services that are now available include free information and on-site assessments, outreach and education materials, and rebates to reward businesses and apartment complexes for starting a recycling or composting program.

Expanded public outreach programs to promote recycling were also undertaken this year (Attachment 4). The *I Recycle* campaign includes ads, posters, and social media highlighting individuals who recycle and their reasons for doing so. The *Recycle Everywhere You Go* campaign is aimed at reminding the public to recycle “on the go” and that away-from-home recycling is available throughout the community. Staff compiled a map of all the City-provided recycling bins throughout the community, which is available on the City’s website. Outreach for this campaign has included banners hung on light poles throughout the community, as well as stickers provided at festivals, City outreach events, and at schools.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

Citizens typically cite their concern for the environment as the main reason they are engaged in the voluntary curbside or drop-off systems. Recycling and waste reduction contribute to a variety of environmental benefits, including lower greenhouse gas emissions, both from landfill methane and from “up-stream” energy usage when new products are manufactured from virgin materials; water conservation and reduced pollution associated with re-manufacturing; fewer raw materials mined and therefore natural habitat and ecosystems conserved; and, longer lifespans for landfills that also result in savings to taxpayers.

In the Fort Collins community, many people routinely salvage conventional recyclable commodities such as cardboard, paper, and containers made from plastics, glass, steel, and aluminum. However, many people also take initiative to divert harder-to-recycle materials. There is a growing segment of the community willing to source-separate lumber, woody branches and other yard trimmings by using the services of a curbside collectors’ services or a local commercial composter, practicing back-yard composting, or going on-line to give away their fall leaves through the Leaf Exchange. Increasingly, residents are also discovering opportunities to divert things like asphalt and concrete (thus garnering highly significant GHG savings), architectural materials such as doors and windows at local recovery businesses, and used cooking oil, to name a few.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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1. Staff memo dated August 8, 2011; Semi-Annual Solid Waste Report
2. Excerpts from City of Fort Collins Citizen Survey, 2010: Environmental Health ratings
3. Excerpts from Fort Collins 2011 Air Quality/Recycling Survey: Recycling questions, report of results
4. Advertising and outreach materials from new publicity campaigns to promote recycling
5. Powerpoint presentation



**MEMO**

**DATE:** August 8, 2011

**TO:** Mayor and City Councilmembers  
Darin Atteberry, City Manager

**Through:** Wendy Williams, Assistant City Manager  
Marty Heffernan, CPRE Director  
John Stokes, NRD Director

**From:** Susie Gordon, Sr. Environmental Planner  
Caroline Mitchell, Environmental Planner

**RE: Semi-Annual Solid Waste Report**

In 1999, Fort Collins' City Council adopted a resolution for the community to reach a diversion goal of 50% by 2010. Staff in the Natural Resources Department (NRD) has reviewed collective data for 2010 and established that a community-wide waste diversion rate of 43% was reached.

The most significant observation was a 19% drop in the tons of garbage collected in Fort Collins, a decrease of 30,000 tons compared to 2009. (At the same time, recycling volumes grew about 1% - by 1,005 tons.) The City's information corresponds to national trends during the economic recession of 2008-10; during this time landfill managers throughout the country, including Larimer County Landfill, received 15-20% less material for disposal at their facilities. A correlation between landfill volumes and economic conditions has been long recognized in the trash industry. During recessions, people buy fewer goods and make existing products last longer, thereby creating less waste.

In Fort Collins, citizens who took advantage of pay-as-you-throw trash rates were able to increase their waste diversion as well as save on their trash bills. In addition, with decent prices being paid for recyclable commodities like steel, more people were likely to take scrap metal to buy-back centers to make a little money. Finally, the development industry, normally a large contributor of construction and demolition (C&D) debris, was sluggish. As the economy improves, trash volumes may also rebound unless peoples' new-found habits of frugality are maintained.

**2010 Raw Data and Sources**

Total landfill tons	129,867
Total diversion (recycling) tons	76,698
Diversion rate	37%
Diversion rate w/ source reduction factor of 6%*	43%

\*Based on nationally researched data, communities with pay-as-you-throw programs such as Fort Collins may use a placeholder to represent the decrease in trash that occurs as a result of source reduction efforts

by citizens. For 2010, nearly 8,000 tons of waste were calculated to have been deliberately avoided through source reduction strategies, e.g., using mulching mowers for lawn care, and, buying goods in bulk to prevent the need to dispose of excessive packaging.

**Methodology**

The City collects data directly from licensed trash haulers and recycling companies (listed in Appendix A) for volumes of garbage and volumes of recyclables, and uses Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) classifications for discarded materials<sup>1</sup>, which excludes many industrially-generated wastes. For instance, while the City notes the amount of asphalt and concrete recycled into road-base by the Streets Department (over 85,000 tons in 2010), as industrial material these tons are not factored into the community waste diversion calculation.

The mathematical formula used by City to calculate waste diversion rate is based on EPA’s methodology<sup>2</sup> for municipal solid waste (MSW) diversion:

$$\frac{\text{Total MSW Recycled}}{\text{Total MSW Generated (MSW Recycled + MSW Disposed)}} \times 100$$

Amendments to the PAYT ordinance went into effect in 2010 that require haulers to now report trash volumes by weight. Since then, Larimer County Landfill installed three in-ground scales for customers to use, which will allow haulers to easily and routinely track their tonnages. This represents a significant improvement to the accuracy of MSW data - it is no longer necessary to convert yardage to weight-based measurements<sup>3</sup>. The increased accuracy due to scale weights will be reflected in the 2011 reports.

**2010 Enhancements to Waste Diversion & Recycling**

The City Council adopted a requirement (2009) for the licensed haulers in Fort Collins to provide larger recycling containers to residential customers upon request. Haulers were given the option of charging a refundable advance deposit for lidded “poly-cart” containers to replace the small, open-topped tubs that were previously available. Customers’ selections for larger recycling container size must also be documented as part of the City’s reporting requirements. As of 2010, nearly 55% of curbside recyclers in Fort Collins moved up to one of the poly-carts.

**Distribution of Recycling Service Levels:**

- 45.5% = 18-gal. tubs
- 36.5% = 65-gal. carts

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<sup>1</sup> EPA’s MSW recycled materials classification list includes: paper, cardboard, plastic, glass, metals, electronics, yard waste, food scraps, batteries, tires, commingled containers, textiles and Styrofoam.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.epa.gov/osw/conserve/tools/recmeas/docs/guide.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> We do, however, continue to apply EPA weight conversion coefficients for certain recyclable material categories, such as wood debris, which are often measured in yardage by voluntarily reporting facilities.

18.4% = 95-gal. carts

Another new PAYT provision requires haulers to report on the number of customers at each level of service for trash. As of 2010, the City now has baseline data for measuring households' progress in "down-sizing" their residential garbage service subscriptions over time.

*Distribution of Trash Service Levels:*

33.2% = one-can per week or less service

36.2% = two-can per week service

30.6% = three-can per week<sup>4</sup> service

*Other Initiatives*

Citizens increasingly express interest in diverting more organics from landfill disposal, as evidenced in 2010 by the emergence of two companies in Fort Collins that offer food scrap collection and composting. With 25-30% of Larimer County Landfill's space being consumed by organic material<sup>5</sup>, there are large gains to be made in waste diversion, especially by certain types of businesses such as restaurants and groceries. A limiting factor is the distance (60 miles each way) to transport loads to the nearest permitted composting facility that accepts food scraps. As a demonstration project, the City of Fort Collins piloted a small, in-vessel composting system using manufactured equipment known as Earth Tubs. Five "client" restaurants and City buildings have been collecting food scraps that are made into compost, which is then used as a soil amendment in flower pots that decorate the Old Town area.

In addition to composting initiatives, an RFP to examine and characterize the waste stream and its potential for additional diversion, including waste-to-energy opportunities, will be released in the near future.

As a result of the KFCG citizens' initiative, new funding became available in 2011 for staffing, including a .5 FTE in the City's waste reduction and recycling program. Among other duties, the new position will create and implement strategies to enhance recycling by the commercial sector and by multi-family residents of Fort Collins. The new FTE, Caroline Mitchell, recently started her job and her efforts will gather steam this year and next.

Increased attention is also being directed internally to waste diversion by the municipal operations of the City, with a goal of halving the organization's waste stream.

- The internal office-place recycling program continues to function at robust levels nearly 20 years after its inception. The City's contracts for recycling and trash hauling were combined into one service during 2010, with new performance goals for down-sizing waste volumes.
- An important project has been the development of greater composting capability for plant and tree trimmings generated by parks, cemeteries, urban forestry, and streets maintenance work.
- The long-established crushing operations managed by the Streets Department, which recycles 85,000-110,000 tons of old asphalt and cement (and porcelain fixtures) each year into road-base, is increasingly popular with the public.

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<sup>4</sup> Three-can service equates to a 95-gallon cart.

<sup>5</sup> 2007 Larimer County Landfill Waste Characterization citation

- Twenty of our tube-shaped street sweeping brooms were recycled into “backscratchers” by the livestock industry.
- Utilities crews routinely dry excavated soil from maintenance jobs to be used later as back-fill.
- Scrap metal from all departments is recycled and the revenues are returned to the City’s budget.
- In City construction and/or demolition projects, Operations Services sets high goals for recovering building materials, such as historic bricks that were salvaged from the recently deconstructed Creamery building.
- An exciting new opportunity is available at several large City office buildings for employees to set aside lunch scraps, coffee grounds, etc. to be collected and placed in “Earth Tubs” for composting. We anticipate that more City buildings will be added to the collection route in coming months.

### **Conclusions**

A community-wide waste diversion rate of 43% stands as the City’s final calculation for 2010, including both residential and commercial sectors. We are unable to find a peer city in this part of the country with which to compare Fort Collins’ overall diversion rate. Many municipalities only report residential waste diversion, since that information is often readily available. The City of Loveland, for instance, has documented a 54% residential waste diversion rate. However, since Fort Collins’ haulers do not collect residential waste separately from their commercial customer route, it is not possible for us to make a reasonable comparison with Loveland’s residential-only data.

The most recent (2009) data collected by the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment<sup>6</sup> show Colorado’s citizens averaged 1.7 pounds of recycling and 6.8 pounds of trash per day, a total 8.5 pounds of “discards”. Based on a population total of 144,000<sup>7</sup>, in 2010 it appears the citizens of Fort Collins discarded less material than their counterparts in other parts of the state, with 3.0 pounds of recycling and 5.1 pounds of landfill waste per day (8.1 pounds of discards).

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<sup>6</sup> 2009 Annual Report to the Colorado General Assembly on the Status of the Solid Waste and Material Management Program in Colorado (<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/hm/sw/100201leg rpt.pdf> ).

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.fcgov.com/advanceplanning/trends.php>

## APPENDIX A

### Reporting Sources – Trash

- Trash hauler reports (2x / yr); source: NRD, hauler reports per ordinance for commercial and residentially-generated trash
- CSU (annual); voluntary source: CSU facilities department
- % Larimer County Landfill citizen self-haul (annual); voluntary source: Larimer County Solid Waste Department
- Fort Collins municipal self-haul (annual); source: Larimer County Solid Waste Department

### Reporting Sources – Recycling

- Trash hauler reports (2x / yr); source: NRD, hauler reports per ordinance for recycling
- Trash hauler reports (2x / yr); voluntary source: NRD, hauler reports for composting
- CSU (annual); voluntary source: CSU facilities department
- Hageman Earth Cycle (annual); voluntary source: Hageman Earth Cycle
- Recycling companies (annual); voluntary sources including but not limited to: Waste-Not Recycling; Professional Document Management; National Recycling; Aragon Iron & Metal; Colorado Iron & Metal
- Fort Collins municipal operations wood waste recycling (annual); source: NRD
- Rivendell Recycling Center (annual); source: NRD (as reported by recycling vendor, currently National Recycling)
- Larimer Recycling Drop-Off (annual); voluntary source: Larimer County Solid Waste Department

# CITY OF FORT COLLINS CITIZEN SURVEY REPORT OF RESULTS

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July 2010

Prepared by:



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## Environmental Health

A set of six survey questions assessed residents’ perceptions of the quality of the environment in Fort Collins. About 9 in 10 residents praised the overall quality of the environment (89% “good” or “very good”), drinking water quality (88%), and the community’s visual attractiveness (86%). Approximately 8 in 10 gave a “good” or “very good” rating when asked to rate the remaining aspects of the environment, including air quality in Fort Collins (85%), the City’s conservation efforts (81%), and City recycling programs (78%).

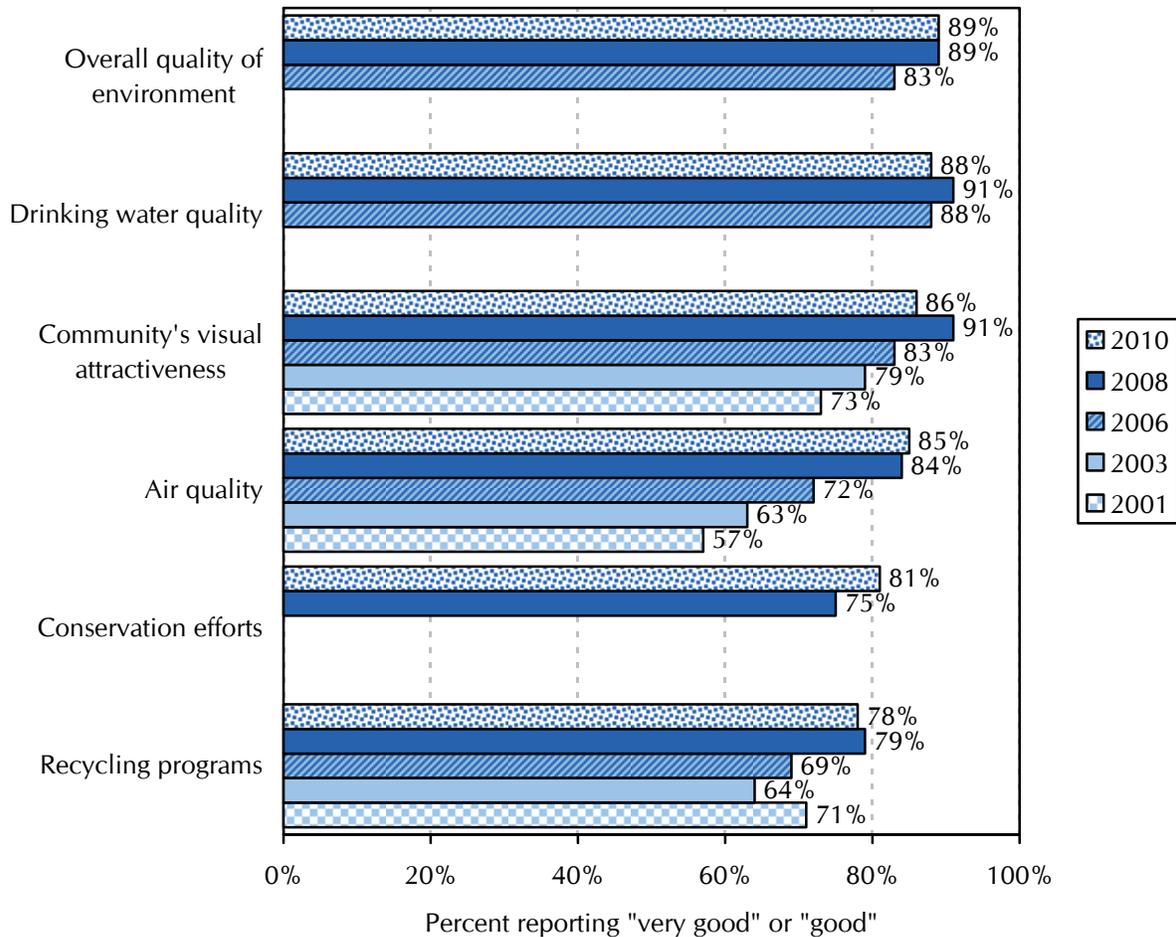
All environmental topics were given much higher marks by Fort Collins residents than those living in other jurisdictions across the nation and in the Front Range (with the exception of conservation efforts, for which no comparison data were available).

**Table 9: Ratings of the Environment in Fort Collins**

<b>Please rate the quality of the environment in Fort Collins on each of the items listed below.</b>	<b>Very good</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Bad</b>	<b>Very bad</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>National comparison</b>	<b>Front Range comparison</b>
Overall quality of environment	36%	53%	10%	1%	0%	100%	Much above	Much above
Drinking water quality	52%	36%	11%	1%	0%	100%	Much above	Much above
Community's visual attractiveness	36%	50%	13%	1%	0%	100%	Much above	Much above
Air quality	35%	49%	15%	1%	0%	100%	Much above	Much above
Conservation efforts	32%	50%	16%	1%	1%	100%	NA	NA
Recycling programs	38%	40%	18%	2%	2%	100%	Much above	Much above

Questions related to Fort Collins’ environment were compared to previous survey years. A higher proportion of respondents in 2010 than in 2008 rated the City’s conservation efforts as “very good” or “good” (81% in 2010 versus 75% in 2008).

**Figure 5: Quality of the Environment Compared by Year**



These ratings were compared by respondent characteristics and by geographic area of residence. Air quality and conservation efforts were rated less favorably by residents who reported living in Fort Collins for 11 or more years than those living in the City for a shorter period of time. Shorter term residents (5 years or less) were less likely to give high marks for drinking water quality than were those reporting a longer length of residency. Residents living in dormitories gave higher ratings for recycling programs than those living in detached units or apartments (see *Appendix D. Comparison of Select Questions by Respondent Characteristics*).

## Appendix B. Complete Set of Survey Frequencies

The following pages contain a complete set of responses to each question, including “no opinion” responses.

Question 1							
Please rate Fort Collins as a community on each of the items listed below.	Very good	Good	Average	Bad	Very bad	No opinion	Total
Overall, as a place to live	60%	33%	7%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Overall safety of residents	37%	50%	11%	2%	0%	0%	100%
Availability and diversity of shopping	23%	37%	31%	8%	2%	0%	100%
Availability and diversity of dining	47%	33%	16%	3%	1%	0%	100%
Availability and diversity of entertainment	20%	38%	34%	7%	1%	2%	100%
Availability and diversity of job opportunities	4%	21%	40%	19%	8%	8%	100%
Availability of affordable quality housing	9%	30%	38%	14%	3%	5%	100%
Availability and diversity of arts and cultural activities	17%	42%	29%	6%	1%	4%	100%
Availability and diversity of recreational opportunities	48%	36%	12%	1%	0%	2%	100%
Availability of quality healthcare	29%	37%	18%	4%	2%	10%	100%
Quality of public schools	25%	29%	13%	2%	1%	29%	100%
Quality of public library services	32%	35%	16%	1%	0%	16%	100%
As a place to raise children	43%	32%	9%	1%	0%	16%	100%
As a place to retire	33%	29%	13%	2%	1%	21%	100%
As a place to attend college	48%	37%	8%	1%	0%	6%	100%
As a place to work	28%	39%	23%	4%	2%	5%	100%
Community openness and acceptance of all people	22%	40%	28%	6%	2%	2%	100%
Overall quality of life in Fort Collins	44%	44%	11%	1%	0%	0%	100%

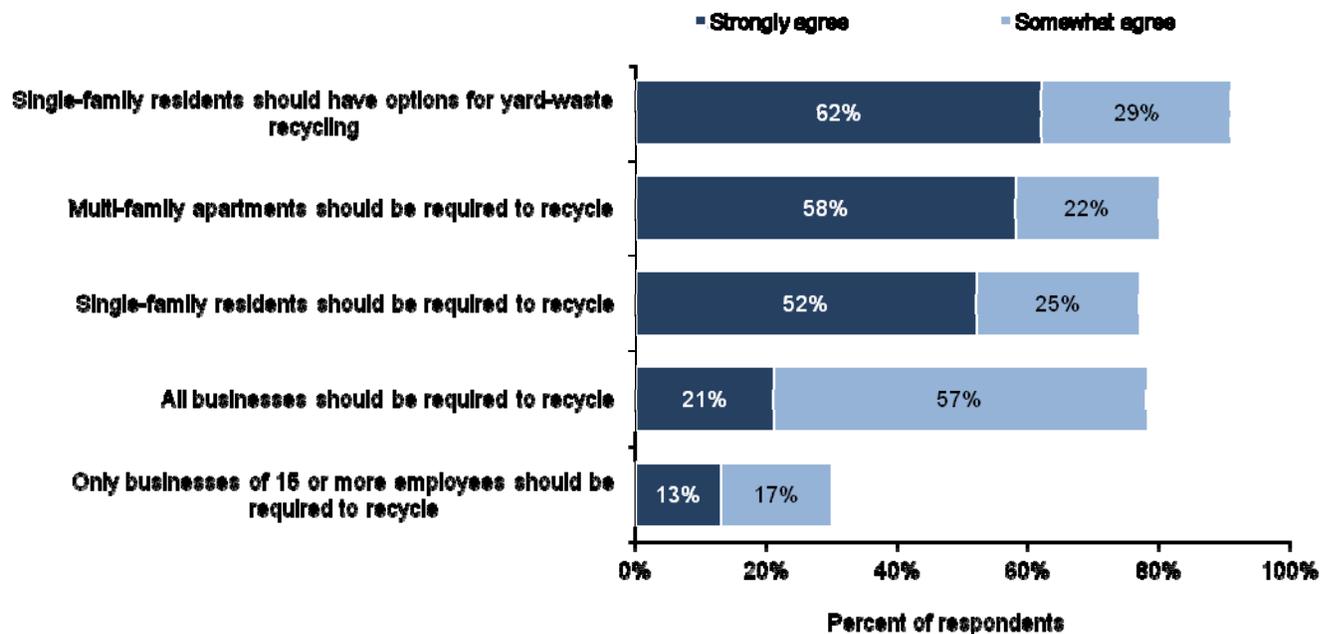
Question 2							
Please rate the quality of the environment in Fort Collins on each of the items listed below.	Very good	Good	Average	Bad	Very bad	No opinion	Total
Community's visual attractiveness	36%	50%	13%	1%	0%	0%	100%
Air quality	35%	49%	15%	1%	0%	0%	100%
Drinking water quality	52%	36%	10%	1%	0%	1%	100%
Recycling programs	37%	39%	18%	2%	2%	2%	100%
Conservation efforts	30%	47%	15%	1%	1%	6%	100%
Overall quality of environment	36%	53%	10%	1%	0%	0%	100%

## Air Quality & Recycling Survey Report of Results 2011

Page 25 – excerpts

Support for recycling in Fort Collins was strong. Most residents in Fort Collins (about 80%) somewhat or strongly agreed that businesses and residents in both single and multi-family dwellings should be required to recycle. About 90% of respondents would like to see yard waste recycling options for single-family residences. Most do not think that smaller businesses should be exempt from recycling requirements.

Figure 1: To Help Increase Recycling I Think: (2011)



**Question 26**

I recycle at the following level:		2011		2007	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Curbside recycling program	Can't, it is not available	43	10%	49	9%
	Never, but it is available	18	4%	79	14%
	Less than once a month	3	1%	0	0%
	Once a month	19	4%	90	16%
	Twice a month or more	326	75%	345	61%
	Don't know	23	5%	0	0%
	Total	432	100%	564	100%
Yard trimmings	Can't, it is not available	79	20%	106	19%
	Never, but it is available	85	22%	98	18%
	Less than once a month	58	15%	0	0%
	Once a month	20	5%	150	27%
	Twice a month or more	62	16%	196	36%
	Don't know	90	23%	0	0%
	Total	393	100%	549	100%
Electronic waste	Can't, it is not available	62	15%	106	19%
	Never, but it is available	71	18%	81	15%
	Less than once a month	142	35%	0	0%
	Once a month	7	2%	121	22%
	Twice a month or more	9	2%	239	44%
	Don't know	110	27%	0	0%
	Total	400	100%	547	100%
Drop-off site at Rivendell School, NE corner of Riverside and E. Prospect*	Can't, it is not available	18	4%	NA	NA
	Never, but it is available	140	35%	NA	NA
	Less than once a month	97	24%	NA	NA
	Once a month	29	7%	NA	NA
	Twice a month or more	17	4%	NA	NA
	Don't know	103	25%	NA	NA
	Total	405	100%	NA	NA

*2007 had different response categories they matched to 2011 data as follows: "Always"= "Twice a month or more", "Sometimes"= "Once a month", "Never"= "Never", "Can't/Don't know"= "Can't, it is not available"*

**Question 27 (2011 only)**

To help increase recycling I think:		Number	Percent
All businesses should be required to recycle	Strongly agree	256	57%
	Somewhat agree	95	21%
	Somewhat disagree	46	10%
	Strongly disagree	44	10%
	Don't know	6	1%
	Total	447	100%
Only businesses of 15 or more employees should be required to recycle	Strongly agree	54	13%
	Somewhat agree	75	17%
	Somewhat disagree	116	27%
	Strongly disagree	161	37%
	Don't know	24	6%
	Total	430	100%
Multi-family apartments should be required to recycle	Strongly agree	258	58%
	Somewhat agree	98	22%
	Somewhat disagree	34	8%
	Strongly disagree	46	10%
	Don't know	10	2%
	Total	445	100%
Single-family residents should be required to recycle	Strongly agree	230	52%
	Somewhat agree	111	25%
	Somewhat disagree	41	9%
	Strongly disagree	53	12%
	Don't know	10	2%
	Total	445	100%
Single-family residents should have options for yard-waste recycling	Strongly agree	273	62%
	Somewhat agree	129	29%
	Somewhat disagree	9	2%

Attachment 3  
November 29, 2011  
Work Session

	Strongly disagree	19	4%
	Don't know	13	3%
	Total	443	100%

## Appendix III: Verbatim Responses to Open-ended Survey Questions

Following are verbatim responses to open-ended questions as written on the survey in the respondents' own words, which have not been edited for spelling or grammar. Within each question, the responses are in alphabetical order.

***Question 28: Please tell us if there are any parts of the recycling system in Fort Collins that don't work for you or that you would like to see changed.***

### Comments related to cost

- City should provide low-cost drop-off recycling of E-waste, Incl. Batteries, 2. City should provide free drop-off recycling of scrap metal.
- Curb side free service good.
- Free curbside.
- Free yard waste & other house hold recycling.
- I like the free recycling program with Gallegos sanitation. If yard waste has free as well that would be great.
- I take my recycling to work and deposit in their bins. I think FTC should have a free location to drop off.
- I think it's great! The only thing that may not work for some people is the cost. I feel really good filling my recycle bin full every 2 WKS!
- If you make the recycle program voluntary and no cost. People will use it I believe
- Need to have our company offer more pickups at curbside recycle without charging.
- Recycling, including yard waste should be free. Curbside City should pick up leaves raked into street in fall for compost (free).
- The Taft hill land fill requires residents to pay too electronic and non-paper waste. Bad Bad policy!!
- Too expensive.
- Too many containers for amount of storage area at residence – also too expensive.
- We need a higher return like California or Michigan, than people will recycle, & it's all about money.
- We recycle as long as it is free of charge. It currently is free through our waste removal company.
- Would like to see no charge for electronic waste recycle. For you can trough/piece into the dump at a time.

### Comments related to single or multi stream

- 1. Attract markets to purchase recycled water, 2. Reduce contamination in single.

- Curbside recycling is co-mingled. Rivendell has too many separated bins – makes it a pain to have 5! Bins at my house. Rivendell should have one co-mingled at least.
- Looks like a very inefficient process to co-mingle all recyclables only to have to separate them later.
- Paper should probably be separated rather than dumped in with everything else as it used to be.
- Separate bins for plastics & glass composting bins would be good too.
- Single-stream trash/recycle should be implemented.
- The curbside recycle program should require better sorting – it seems that most of the material is being contaminated by broken glass & errant additions.
- The drop-off site near riverside should be single-stream!

#### Comments related to item type

- A definitive list of every item that can be recycle, i.e. TV dinner cartons & plastic containers in them-cups (Wendy's) etc.
- Add Styrofoam recycling; allow recycling of plastic food containers if washed.
- Better pet waste recycling easier/better household chemical/hazardous waste recycling.
- Broader scope of curbside recycling (I.E. Styrofoam, electronics) composing should be more encouraged/taught.
- Can't recycle certain plastics, milk & juice cantons covered with plastic coating.
- Electronic recycling is needed, I read the paper and inserts but never see anything.
- Expand plastic recycling to include all types. Add green/composting recycling to single homes.
- For a city this size not to have yard waste drop-off should be felonious!! Idiots!!
- I think it should be easier / encouraged to recycle household batteries.
- I was not aware of the programs how do I recycle office paper all newspapers.
- I was used to separating recyclables & recycling Polystyrene foam that should be available.
- I would like to know where old appliances, old computers, can be recycled.
- I would like to see curbside glass recycle separated from the remaining co-mingled material.
- I would like to see more plastic recycling. Also, I would like a bottle/can deposit to encourage recycling.
- I'd love to know more about electronic waste recycling – I'm not aware of such a program, & we need one!
- I'm perpetually confused by what is recyclable and what is not. Jar lids? Clam shell containers? A good, clear pouch that doesn't change would be great!
- Improve explanation of acceptable items. Put sticker on recycling bins/boxes.
- Is there a better way to recycle clothes paper clips, pencils etc.
- I've heard rumors (from breweries) that the city does not actually recycle glass.

- Knowing how clean items need to be in order to be recycled.
- Milk cartons and the like should be recycled.
- More accessible or better advertised electronics recycling.
- More signs available in stores as to what containers & numbers are accepted in Ft Collins.
- Need info on electronic waste.
- Need option for Styrofoam.
- Need to have recycling available for Styrofoam and yard waste.
- Plastics are confusing; push for less packaging.
- Please ban Telephone Company from issuing phone books unless requested by customers.
- Styrofoam collection. Reduction in trash cost for recycling implemented. Weekly pickup please.
- Styrofoam recycling should be added.
- Take Styrofoam.
- The descriptions on the Corr. Cardboard & paper board containers at the Rivendell site need better details.
- We should be able to recycle more types of plastic; electronics recycling should be easier to access; should be able to recycle grocery bags in curbside recycle bins.
- We use a lot of waxed cartons & aseptic packages (for tofu & soy milk). I'd like to be able to recycle those. More frequent hazardous or pharmaceutical waste days. (Seems like they happen when I'm out of town).
- What is accepted for recycling can be confusing; would like to drop batteries/electronics somewhere other than landfill.
- Where can we take old TVs and computers for free disposal?
- Would like to recycle Styrofoam.

#### **Comments related to yard waste**

- Cheaper, year-long availability of the yard waste cars.
- Drop off for electronic recycling, leaf recycling at parks, branches at parks, used oil at more places, having more drop off days for paint etc.
- Fort Collins should adopt the city of Loveland's yard waste & recycling program.
- Garbage companies provide yard waste pick up as part of package w/o high additional cost.
- Green waste (yard trimming) recycling should be easier.
- I don't know but the yard trimmings program.
- I have no obvious direction to go with yard waste.
- I have to pay for yard trimmings at Hageman's about 3 or 4 times a year – I wish our neighbor would have a method of doing this.
- I would like to see more yard waste recycling options since we don't compost.

- In spring & fall, the city of Ft. Collins should have some type of tax break for private waste trash services to pick up residential yard trimmings & leaves at no cost to residents.
- Love the curbside recycling. Curbside – or at least easy – yard waste would be helpful.
- Need year-round curbside recycling for yard waste.
- No yard waste available in F.C.
- Offer free yard waste recycling – possibly once per month.
- Only small amount yard waste – would not deliver container for it pick up.
- Please please please add a free yard waste/recycle program it would help everyone and make for the city.
- Residential curbside yard waste recycling would be great. We even had that in Kentucky. Also, I don't think anyone should be required to recycle. But there should be incentives.
- The yard waste (above) would be great – Also a composting option!
- What about composting or the programs in Boulder for compost in public buildings?
- Would like to have a yard waste site to dispose of tree branches etc. available.
- Yard trimming recycle sites are avail. But, for a cost. I don't mind recycling yard trimmings, but I will not pay for it.
- Yard trimmings – I'm not sure how/where to recycle my yard debris.
- Yard waste recycling is good, saves Lar. Co money and improves land fill life and quality. Make it free, it'll get used more.
- Yard waste recycling would be good if it was a reasonable cost.

**Comments related to increasing service (pickup, hours or locations)**

- Either extended hours or one extra Saturday per month to drop off electronics recycling the WM facility.
- Have to drive several miles to recycle oil, antifreeze or pay extra for yard trimmings.
- I fill up my recycle more than my trash, but it only comes every other week. It should be switched with trash pick-up.
- I use Gallegos sanitation & they only pick up recycle cars every other week. Recycle cars should be picked up every week.
- I would recycle but unaware of location at City Park & Elizabeth St. Convenient enough to walk trash too. It breaks my heart, really.
- Instead of every two weeks pick up make it every week because it fills up too fast.
- Larger recycling containers, our 95-gallon overflows at each every-other-week pickup.
- More drop-off site for E-waste. No change on yard training.
- More drop-offs for e-waste & household hazardous waste (Batteries, CFLS, etc.).
- More electronic waste (ex. Batteries) drop-off sites.
- More info & options on how to dispose of odd things I.E. Paint, Batteries.
- More recycling.
- Our bin gets too full and not everyone uses it properly.

- Pick up once a week instead of every other week.
- Plastic bag recycling needs to increase & be easier to access & do recycling pickups should be more frequent in "non-home" areas (i.e. apartments, condos).
- Recycling seems limited and not well known, provide better labels for what is recyclable & build more infrastructures to support additional types of recycling.
- See that everybody has access to a recycling system.
- Some areas in Fort Collins don't supply recycle bins to use.
- The number of trucks that come down the street.
- The public parks & Downtown should have recycling bins attached to or next to (important that they are next to each other) the trash.
- There could be more recycling bins in public areas / the biggest problem in this town is traffic congestion and noise from traffic.
- They cut down recycling pick up to every other week instead of weekly. So it gets too full.
- We as a sustainable city need! need! Recycle cans/bins in the old town area. I'm always looking but they are not there.
- We fill our recycling every two weeks – if it was provided every week we would recycle almost everything.
- We need more "drop off" dates for hazardous waste so people will use it – many won't drive to landfill.
- We would like to see weekly recycling return & the opportunity to recycle electronics & yard waste at least.
- Weekend hours for hazardous waste drop extended more electronic recycle resources.
- Would like weekly pickup.

#### **Comments related to multi-family dwellings**

- Awareness of recycling locations for those of us in apt. Complexes with no recycling.
- Condo recycling by contractor.
- Don't have enough room in the can provided at my S-apartment building.
- Feel strongly about recycling not being available in condo/apartment units. It should be available.
- HOAs and condo associations should be required to offer recycling services.
- I would like a recycling bin at our complex.
- If you use a dumpster at a residence, GSI won't pick up recycling.
- Many apartment complexes & do not have recycling bins – OR – the bins provided are too few or in a very poor location.
- Many apt complexes do not make recycling available to tenants.
- More bias at my apartment complex (New Colony).
- Multi-family apartments should be required to offer recycling.
- My condo only provides for newspaper recycling, but everyone puts their cardboard in there anyway. I would like it included.

- My Prop. Management does not provide recycling. It is frustrating!
- Recycle bins at apts. get filled quickly; it would be nice if more bins were provided.
- There is no recycling option at my apartment complex, a separate GM for recycling would most likely increase expending here.

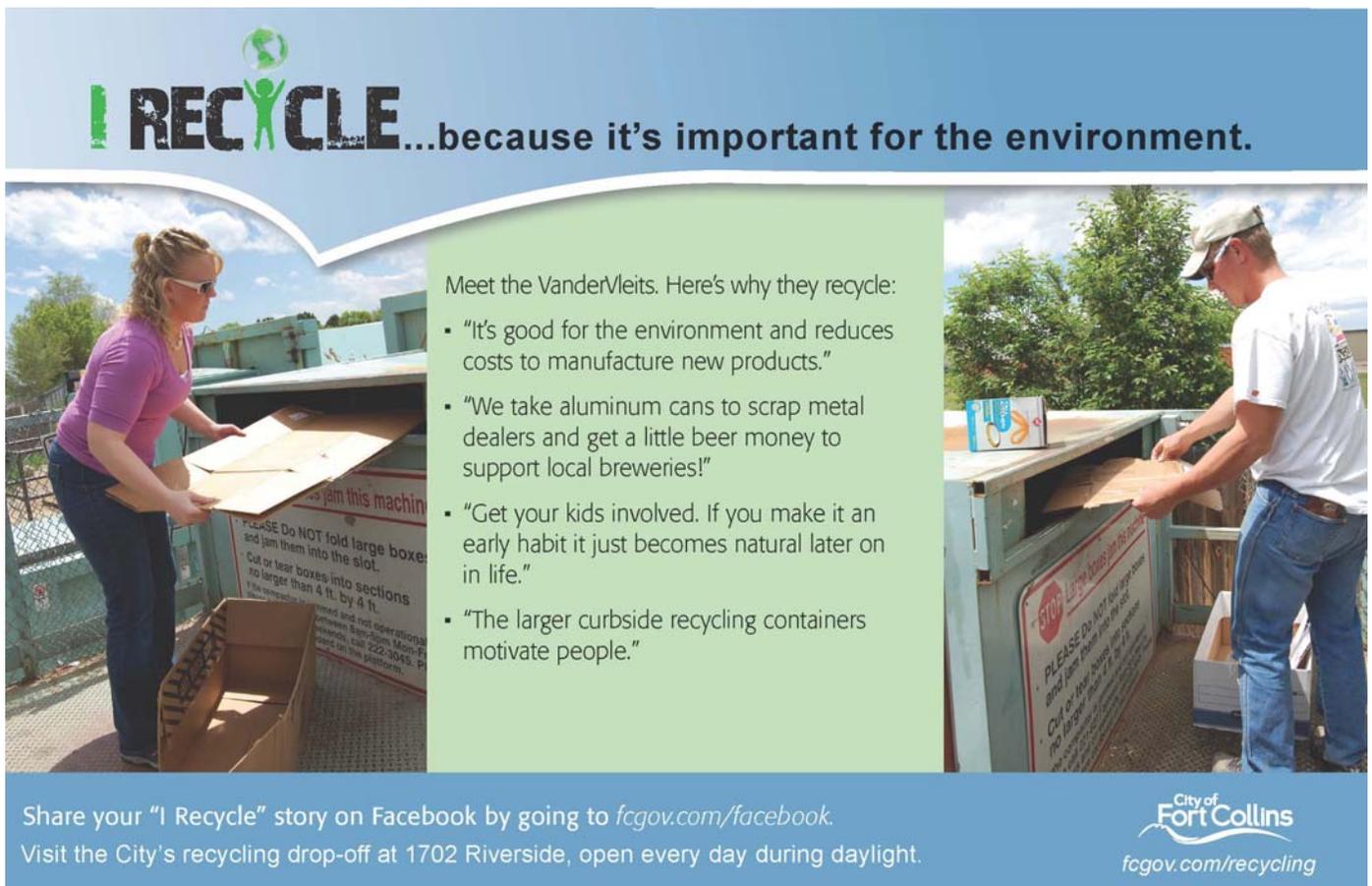
#### **General (uncategorized) comments**

- Container too small – need more frequent pick up.
- Don't know.
- Eliminate vehicle listing cost exclude benefits.
- Fort Collins is great @ recycling!
- I think that people & Business should have the requirement to recycle, but some people can't afford it, they should be able to get assistance for the program.
- Investing in a local recycling plant would cut down on recycle transport costs & provide community jobs.
- I've only lived in Ft. Collins since Sept. 2010 – Thus, I am less knowledgeable than many residents!
- Just moved here from Dallas, TX and compared to there, Y'all's recycling program is outstanding!
- Periodic info re recycling included in utility bills.
- Recycling bins are constantly stolen by drunken college students, but not much can be done about this.
- Recycling mandates similar to the SF Bay area would be great.
- So far, the current recycling system is working great.
- The recycle Karts – Totters are too big we like the smaller 18 gal baskets better.
- Trees in alleys need to be pruned regularly – city worst at it!
- We are satisfied.
- You can't make businesses & families; recycle – We need to continue to educate people through schools & possibly when applying for small business.

#### **Comments expressing disagreement**

- City has no business telling/forcing people to recycle.
- I do not like government intervention in every aspect of our lives.
- I don't believe it should cost extra \$ and I don't support taxpayer subsidies on this program. If it works economically it must stand on its own.
- Keep it voluntary and keep Government out of my business and my home!! This survey is very slanted!
- Roads & efficient stop lights are much more important to me than this. Personal efforts are important, but government should not spend trying to stop charges in climate. It's a futile waste of money!

## Recycling Outreach Campaigns



**I RECYCLE...because it's important for the environment.**

Meet the VanderVleits. Here's why they recycle:

- "It's good for the environment and reduces costs to manufacture new products."
- "We take aluminum cans to scrap metal dealers and get a little beer money to support local breweries!"
- "Get your kids involved. If you make it an early habit it just becomes natural later on in life."
- "The larger curbside recycling containers motivate people."

Share your "I Recycle" story on Facebook by going to [fcgov.com/facebook](http://fcgov.com/facebook).  
Visit the City's recycling drop-off at 1702 Riverside, open every day during daylight.

City of Fort Collins  
[fcgov.com/recycling](http://fcgov.com/recycling)

The I Recycle Campaign consists of individual recycling stories. Three editions have been produced thus far. Each edition is made into advertisements published in the *Coloradoan* and posters which are displayed throughout town. Readers are encouraged to share their own recycling stories on the City's Facebook page.

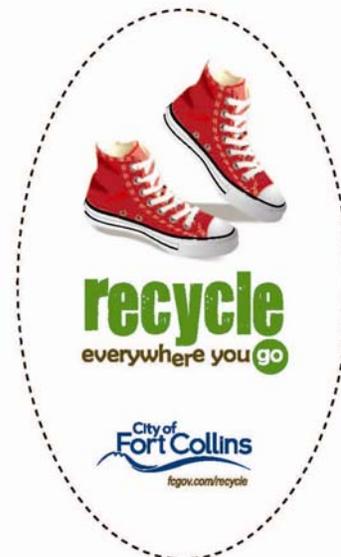
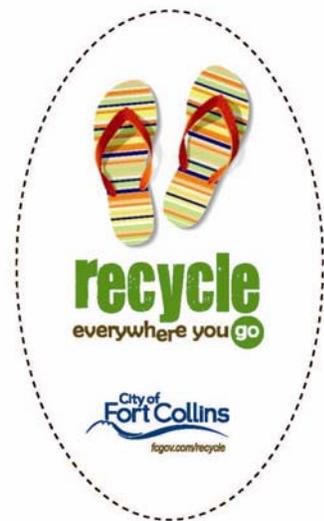
[fcgov.com/recycle](http://fcgov.com/recycle)



**recycle**  
everywhere you **go**

City of  
**Fort Collins**

The Recycle Everywhere You Go campaign outreach includes six banners (example pictured at left), each with a different shoe image, that are hung on lamp posts throughout town. A set of three different stickers (pictured below) are being distributed at festivals and fairs, in Natural Areas educational presentations, and at other venues. The website includes a map of City-serviced recycling bins in public spaces as well as additional recycling facts and information.



# Waste Reduction & Recycling Update

## City Council Work Session

### November 29, 2011

Susie Gordon, Sr. Environmental Planner  
221-6265  
[sgordon@fcgov.com](mailto:sgordon@fcgov.com)

Caroline Mitchell, Environmental Planner  
221-6288  
[cmitchell@fcgov.com](mailto:cmitchell@fcgov.com)

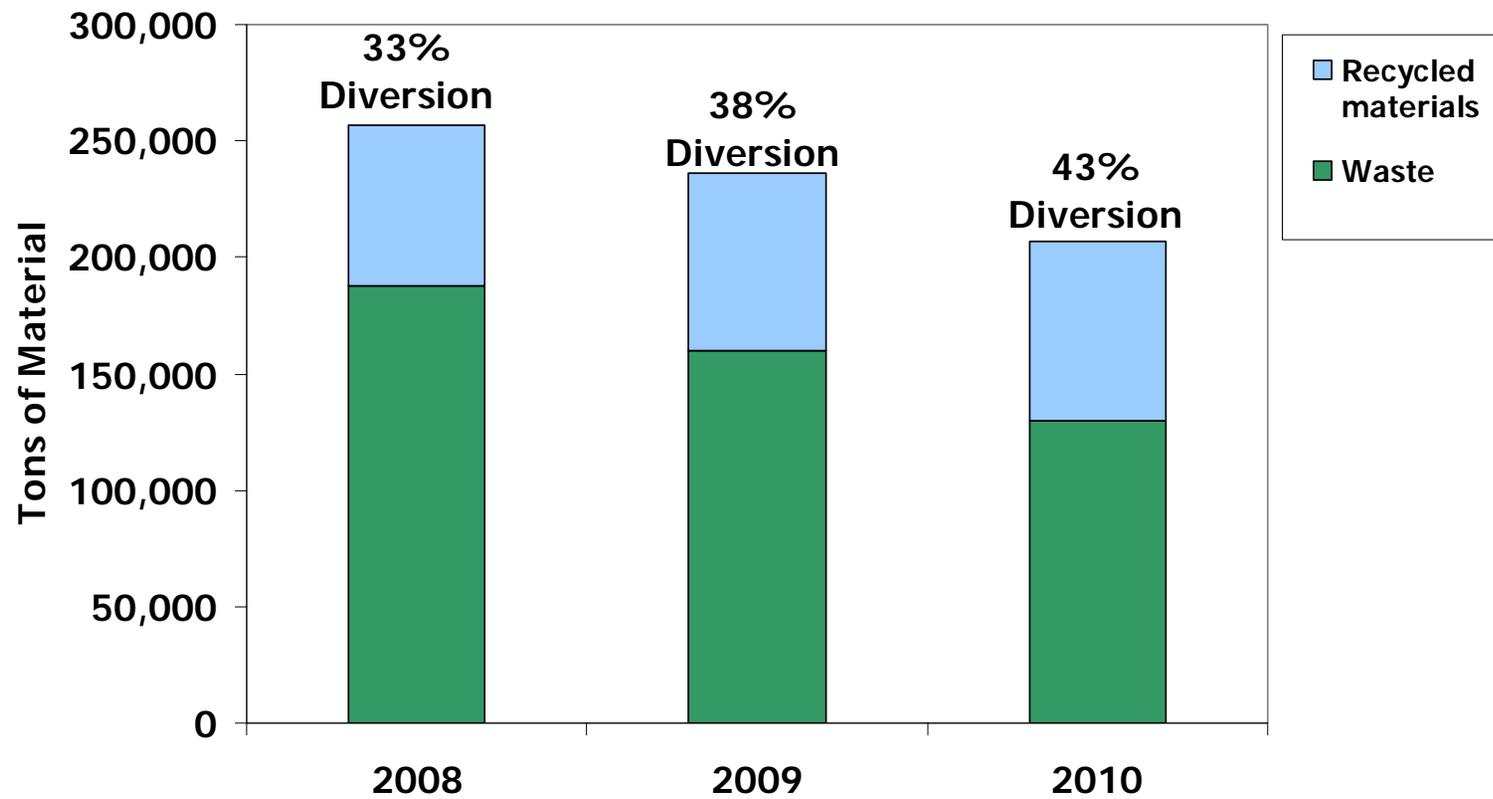
## Update includes:

- Report on community-wide recycling rates for 2010
- Status of two consulting projects
  - Integrated Recycling Facility
  - Waste Stream Study
- New recycling opportunities; business & multi-family
- Education and outreach campaigns

# Report on 2010 Data

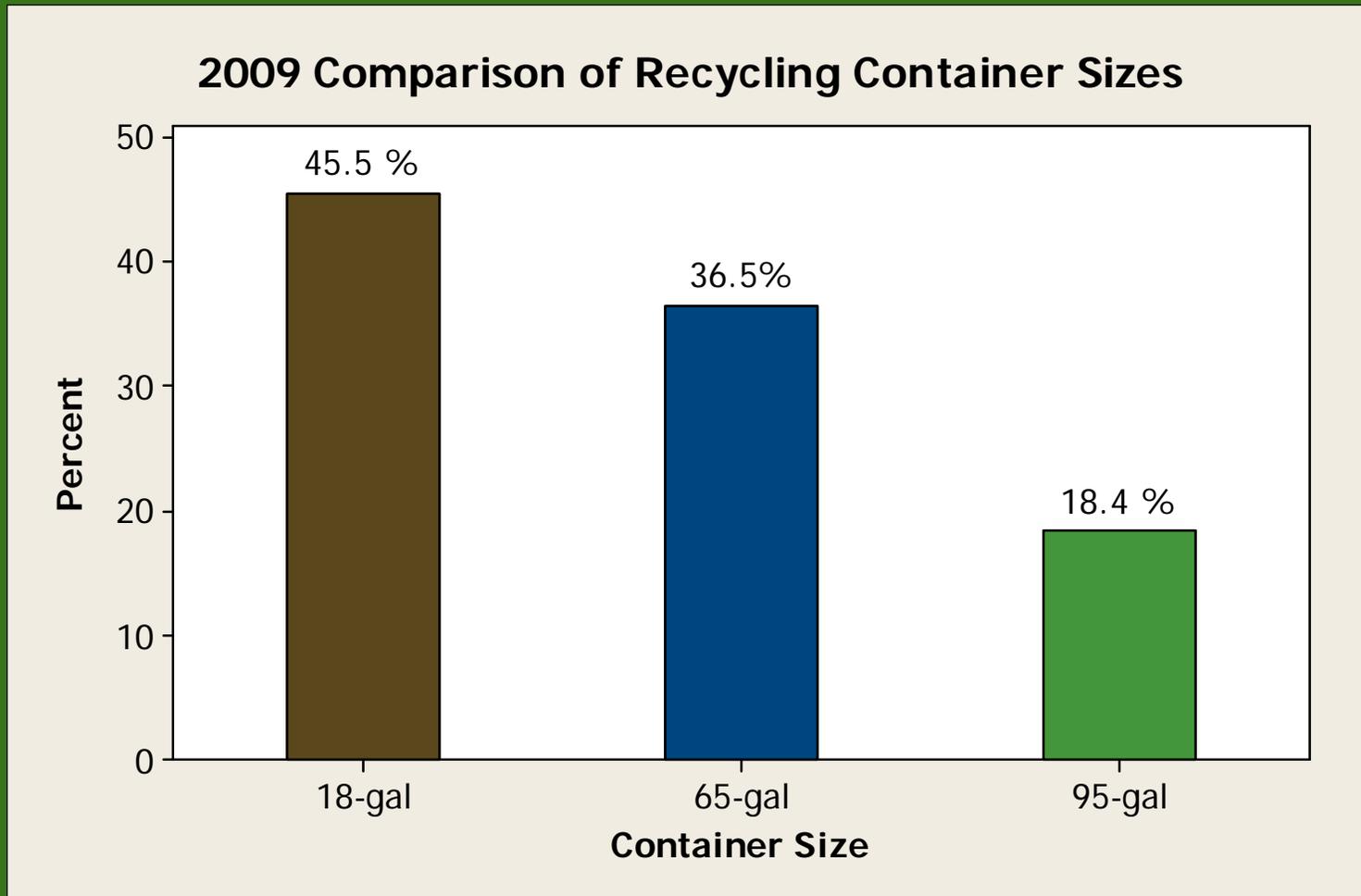
- 43% community-wide waste diversion rate
  - up from 38% in 2009
  - still below 1999 goal set for 50% waste diversion
- Lower trash volumes normal during economic downturns
- Recycling volumes have been steady for past 3 years

## Fort Collins Solid Waste Diversion



## 2010-11 Situation for Recycling

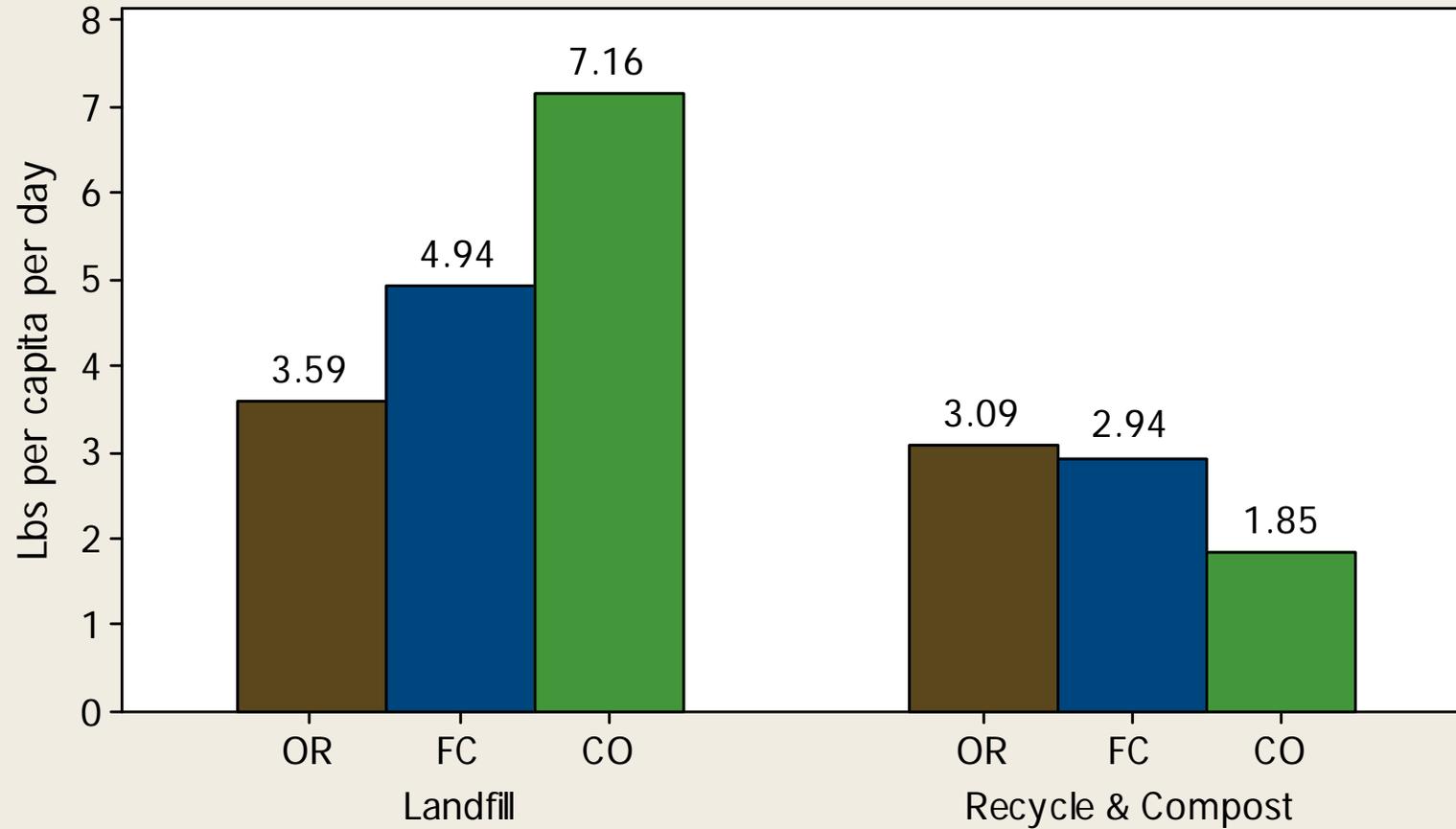
- Commodity prices greatly improved since 2008 slump
- More curbside composting services available
- Larimer County Landfill installed in-ground scales
  - weight-based trash data instead of cubic yards
- First year of data on use of recycling carts
  - 55% of residential customers upgraded to carts



## Per Capita Rates for Trash & Recycling

- Data from 2010 show that in comparison with average Coloradoans, citizens of Fort Collins:
  - Recycle 59% more
  - Generate 31% less trash
- By comparison, citizens in Oregon:
  - Recycle 5% more
  - Generate 27% less trash than Fort Collins residents

## 2010 Waste Generation Oregon, Fort Collins, & Colorado



## Special project: Integrated Recycling Facility

- “IRF” report, due in December, will:
  - Recommend which 3 new materials to consider collecting at expanded City drop-off facility
  - List several best locations for an expanded site
  - Describe budget, resources needed

# Special project: Waste Stream Study

- Due in January, 2012, this report will analyze:
  - What is sent to landfills from Fort Collins community
  - How much of these discards could still be diverted to recycling markets and other recovery systems
  - Two of the most feasible energy-conversion systems to use for additional diversion, e.g.,
    - Composting or bio-digestion technology
    - Energy manufacture using latest conversion technologies

# Programs for Multi-Family & Business

- Financial incentives to start recycling and/or composting service accounts
- Reward for referring other businesses or multi-family complexes to start a program
- Free on-site recycling assessments and education
- Customized recycling-guidelines signage
- Public award program

# Public Education Campaign #1

- “I Recycle” advertisements featuring actual residents
  - Personal-statement approach conveys peer support for recycling in Fort Collins
  - Introduces several demographic and age groups
    - Additional ads under development
  - Extensively delivered through conventional ads
  - Debuted on social media: “tell us your story” on Twitter, Facebook

## Public Education Campaign #2

- “Recycle Everywhere You Go” theme
  - Fun style is a lighthearted reminder to recycle
  - Provides suggestions on how to solve the away-from-home-recycling dilemma
    - On-line map of places to recycle in Fort Collins
  - Featured in street banners and adhesive stickers

## Other activities in the community that are supported by the City include:

- Rivendell Recycling Center
- On-line Leaf Exchange & Worm Exchange (for vermiculture composting)
- Green Building Code requirements for construction site recycling, effective 2012
- Household hazardous waste collections
- Prescription drug take-back events
- Electronic recycling collection events
- Christmas tree recycling

**Questions?**

**Input?**