







Environmental Services Department
222 Laporte Ave.
PO Box 580, Fort Collins, CO 80522

WORK SESSION MEMORANDUM

Date: April 22, 2025
To: Mayor and City Councilmembers
Through: Kelly DiMartino, City Manager ^{DS}
Tyler Marr, Deputy City Manager ^{Initial}
Jacob Castillo, Chief Sustainability Officer ^{Initial}
From: Honore Depew, Sr. Manager, Environmental Sustainability ^{Initial}
Subject: April 8, 2025 Work Session Summary – Zero Waste Infrastructure and Policies

BOTTOM LINE

The purpose of this memo is to document the summary of discussions during the April 8, 2025 Work Session. All Councilmembers were present.

DISCUSSION SUMMARY

Staff shared progress on the items within the Council Priority for Zero Waste Infrastructure and Policies, which includes identifying pathways to compost and construction & demolition (C&D) infrastructure, and expanding residential yard trimmings service.

Councilmembers expressed support for:

- Continue to actively explore pathways to infrastructure for C&D and organics (food scraps) diversion from landfill
- Explore future strategies and initiatives that further Zero Waste goals (e.g. Commercial Yard Trimmings policy)
- Continue/expand community education & outreach, including encouraging behavior change and support for businesses and individuals in reducing plastic waste
- For the City organization leading by example, specifically for reducing or eliminating single-use plastics
- Support local businesses working towards Zero Waste and explore public-private partnerships for future waste diversion initiatives

NEXT STEPS

Staff will continue to focus on progress toward local/regional diversion infrastructure by completing the grant-funded feasibility analysis for a local composting facility and supporting Larimer County's development of a C&D recycling facility. This will likely be a 3-5 year process.

Staff will conduct education & outreach (for City departments and the community) to encourage behavior changes that support waste reduction at the source, with an emphasis on reducing plastic waste.

CC: Rupa Venkatesh, Assistant City Manager

Many additional strategies (*Potential Zero Waste Next Moves*) have been identified to help the community make progress on Zero Waste. Staff will assess these opportunities thoroughly to help current and future City Councils prioritize effectively in a resource-constrained environment.

Staff will work towards a Council Work Session later this year to share findings of the compost facility feasibility analysis, provide further information on Zero Waste strategies (impacts, timelines, and tradeoffs), and align work with Councilmember expectations.

FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

Staff was asked to provide further detail on several items:

Detail of 2023 Diversion Rates Data (pie charts presented on Slide 6)

- See *2023 Fort Collins Community Waste & Recycling Summary* attached to this memo for the data behind the summary charts.
- **In 2023, the Fort Collins community recycled or composted 61% of the total waste that was generated**, up from 57% in 2022. Called the community diversion rate, this community-wide indicator can vary significantly year to year based on large construction projects and other factors.
- In 2023, the primary factors that led to a higher diversion rate were:
 - Demolition of a large commercial space (which led to larger amounts of industrial materials being recycled)
 - Increased asphalt, concrete and soil recycled at the City Streets Department's Hoffman Mill Crushing Facility
 - A new data source for commercial cardboard recycling (a methodology change that means we are including these materials in the diversion rate for the first time)

Detail of 2016 Waste Composition Study Data (pie charts presented on Slide 8)

- See *Waste Composition and Characterization Analysis* for the data behind the summary charts found on the City's website:
 - https://www.fcgov.com/recycling/pdf/2016_Landfill_Waste_Composition_Report_28Fort_Collins29.pdf?1555024955

Further Explanation of Residential Yard Trimming Collection Participation Rates

- **Approximately 56% of households that are enrolled in the City's program have yard trimmings collection.** As of September 30th, 2024, haulers providing service outside of the City program (such as those serving exempt HOAs and households that

chose to opt-out of the City program) were required per City ordinance to offer yard trimmings to residential customers on an opt-out basis. Residents have the choice to decline the service if they do not want it.

- Based on staff review of haulers' contracts with HOAs that applied for and received exemptions from the City program, haulers are providing this service to HOAs.
- Staff collect data on the number of households enrolled in yard trimmings collection and will be able to report near the end of 2025 on the number of households in exempt HOAs that are enrolled in yard trimmings service since this rule went into effect

Styrofoam Ban (Plastics Pollution Reduction Act) – Compliance and Monitoring

- City Council's most recent update to the Disposable Bag Ordinance (February 2025), aligning code to be consistent with the State's Plastics Pollution Reduction Act, authorized **the City to start enforcing the ban of expanded polystyrene (i.e., Styrofoam) at restaurants, effective July 2025**. Staff from Environmental Services and Economic Health are working to develop effective methods to engage and educate businesses on the upcoming changes and requirements.
- Many businesses have successfully made the transition from the use of expanded polystyrene. Current communications to businesses occur when complaints are received. When the City receives a complaint, staff send an educational letter and connect restaurants to resources like the 2050 Tax-funded [NocoBiz Connect](#) for transition of takeout materials.
- To date, the City has followed up on five complaints and proactive communication through various methods will rollout to support businesses over the coming months.
- Staff continues to monitor the growing list of new businesses in partnership with Sales Tax to ensure they are also informed.

Community Recycling Ordinance – Enforcement, Tracking, and Reporting

- In October 2021 staff completed a “sweep” of the community, with the assistance of Code Compliance. The sweep identified approximately 200 non-compliant businesses and multi-family housing developments, all of which were brought into compliance. This process included 212 variance applications, 125 were approved.
- Currently, enforcement is complaint-based when recycling is not offered. The City has plans to conduct a sweep every 5 years, per City Code, and **staff are reviewing timing and capacity to complete a full compliance sweep in 2026**.

2023 Fort Collins Community Waste & Recycling Summary

Recyclables	
Residential Curbside Recycling	Tons
Single-stream	8,185
Curbside Total:	8,185
Multifamily & Commercial Recycling	
Commercial single-stream	5,793
Multi-family single-stream	1,069
Mixed Paper	26
Office paper	12
Corrugated Cardboard	18,836
Glass	1,084
Commingled containers (aluminum, steel, glass, plastic)	20
Multi-Family & Commercial Total:	26,840
Drop-off Centers	
Corrugated cardboard	783
Paperboard, low-grade paper	0
Mixed Paper	324
Commingled containers	132
Glass	276
White Office Paper	26
Hard-to-recycle items from Timberline Recycling Center	140
Drop-off System Total:	1,681
Other Recyclables	
Electronics	101
Plastic bags / shrink wrap	566
Textiles	0
Total Other:	667
TOTAL MSW RECYCLING TONS	37,373
Industrial Recyclables	
Scrap metal	8,408
Concrete	51,756
Asphalt	90,115
Soil and other aggregate	23,649
Total Industrial Recycling Tons	173,928
TOTAL RECYCLING TONS	211,300

Organics	
Residential / Commercial Organics	Tons
Residential food scraps	292
Commercial food scraps	1,691
Residential yard trimmings	5,523
Commercial yard trimmings	4,307
Total MSW Organics	11,812
Industrial Organics	
Spent brewery grain	346
Wood scrap	5,953
Municipal and other organics	2,390
Biosolids	2,198
Total Industrial Organics	10,887
TOTAL ORGANICS TONS	22,699

Landfill	
Tons of Solid Waste Landfilled	Tons
Residential	59,314
Multi-family	6,214
Commercial	43,350
Industrial	41,674
Alternative Daily Cover (soils used to meet landfill cover needs)	0
TOTAL LANDFILL TONS	150,552

Recycling Participation	
Customer Type	% of Customer w Recycling
Residential	94%
Residential yard trimmings collection	17%
Residential food scraps collection	3%
Multi-family	88%
Commercial	66%
Industrial	6%
Total customers with recycling	86%

Non-Industrial Totals (MSW)	Residential	Commercial	Overall	Lbs / Capita / Day
Total Landfill	59,314	49,565	108,878	3.42
Total Organics Composted	5,815	5,997	11,812	0.37
Total Recycling	9,866	27,507	37,373	1.17
PAYT Source Reduction "tons"	4,500	n/a	4,500	0.14
Total Disposed	79,495	83,069	162,563	5.11
Diversion Rate	20.9%	40.3%	31.1%	
Diversion Rate w/ Source Reduction	25.4%	n/a	33.0%	

Industrial Totals	Tons	Lbs/Cap/Day
Total Landfill	41,674	1.31
Total ADC	0	0.00
Total Organics Composted	10,887	0.34
Total Recycling	173,928	5.46
Total Disposed	226,488	7.11
Diversion Rate	81.6%	
Diversion Rate, ADC as diversion	81.6%	

Combined Totals	MSW	Industrial	Overall	Day
Total Landfill	108,878	41,674	150,552	4.73
Total ADC	n/a	0	0	0.00
Total Organics Composted	11,812	10,887	22,699	0.71
Total Recycling	37,373	173,928	211,300	6.64
PAYT Source Reduction	4,500	n/a	4,500	0.14
Total Disposed	162,563	226,488	389,051	12.22
Diversion Rate, no Source Reduction	31.1%	81.6%	60.8%	
Diversion Rate with PAYT Source Reduction	33.0%		61.3%	
Diversion Rate with PAYT Source Reduction, ADC as diversion			61.3%	


Single stream recycling totals reduced to account for contamination
(and trash totals increased commensurately).
This year's contamination rate: 14.85%






Social Sustainability Department
222 Laporte Ave.
PO Box 580, Fort Collins, CO 80522

WORK SESSION MEMORANDUM

Date: April 15, 2025

To: Mayor and City Councilmembers ^{DS} 

Through: Kelly DiMartino, City Manager ^{DS} 
Tyler Marr, Deputy City Manager ^{Initial} 
Jacob Castillo, Chief Sustainability Officer ^{Initial} 

From: Beth Yonce, Social Sustainability Department Director

Subject: Work Session Summary – April 8, 2025, Council Priority: Improve Human and Social Health for Vulnerable Populations

BOTTOM LINE

The purpose of this memo is to document the summary of discussions during the April 8, 2025 Work Session. All Councilmembers were present.

DISCUSSION SUMMARY

At the Work Session, staff provided a status report on Council's Priority: Improve Human and Social Health for Vulnerable Populations, discussed identified barriers and programs focused on removing obstacles, shared real-life human impact stories, and discussed newly emerging barriers and challenges.

Highlights and themes from Council discussion are as follows:

- General support for current programs and efforts to address and lower barriers and to connect and support disproportionately impacted communities in Fort Collins
- Affirmation that staff are generally meeting Council's expectations and to keep the work moving forward
- Council noted that staff should report on specific barriers programs are removing and data to show the impact of program outcomes. For example: how many potential households could be signing up for Get FoCo? What percentage have we reached to date.
- Council noted the importance of translation and interpretation services for City services and programs/events
- Questions were posed about the regional response to air quality concerns, and the economic impacts of poor air quality.
 - Regional response: The City, Larimer County and State Air Pollution Control Division have worked jointly to expand air quality monitoring to inform real time conditions, trends and links to sources of emissions. Additionally, the State has

recently adopted, and continues to evaluate, a number of rules and regulations that tighten emission limits and leak-detection requirements for sources. This is informed by advocacy from local jurisdictions including the City and County.

- Economic impacts: In Larimer County, thousands of residents suffer from asthma or COPD, conditions made worse by ozone pollution. Hospitals and clinics see increases in emergency room visits and respiratory cases on high ozone and smoke days. While difficult to quantify, these health impacts translate to economic costs, including medical expenses and missed days at work and school.
- Concern about how Spin scooters may impact sidewalk accessibility, especially for people who may use wheelchairs or have other physical disabilities, when they are left in the middle of sidewalks. Staff from FC Moves provided this information:
 - Spin regularly monitors for improperly parked bikes and scooters when an Artificial Intelligence (AI) tool that reviews the end-of-ride photos riders must submit to end a ride and with drivers who pick up bikes and scooters that have not been rented in 3-7 days.
 - Riders who park improperly receive a warning with escalating penalties for repeat offenses. Spin issues hundreds of warnings each month and repeat offenses are rare.
 - The City has installed 40 bike/scooter boxes for riders to park into encouraging proper parking.
 - There are 3 ways to report improperly parked bikes and scooters: via the Spin app, email fortcollinsops@spinteam.pm, or call 1-888-249-9698.
- Council asked about Federal funding impacts and plans to address potential cuts:
 - While staff continue to monitor whether Fort Collins will be impacted by Federal funding cuts, it is important to recognize that large Federal cuts to human services and other programs supporting the most disproportionately impacted communities would be catastrophic. Staff continue to work closely with community partners to support and plan as best as possible.
- In response to a question from Council regarding whether the Epic Homes program is delivering the intended outcomes:
 - As of March 2025, Utilities has supported 597 home efficiency, heat pump, and solar upgrades through the Epic Loans on-bill financing program, loaning over \$10M to support homeowners improving residential buildings, averaging approximately 70 new loans annually.
 - The loan program helps provide an alternative cash flow solution for funding home upgrades but is not necessarily intended to fill a “gap” in any given demographic that may not be otherwise participating. The average income of households served by the Epic Loans program is ~ \$145,000 which indicates that we are serving households who wouldn’t qualify for our income qualified program, but who also need financing to be able to afford energy upgrades.
 - The loan program is an example of a program designed to lower barriers to support community home upgrades, while other strategies include providing up-

front incentives, technical energy advising services, and assistance working with contractors. Utilities has gathered feedback to continuously improve the program and has measured customer satisfaction through third party program evaluations.

- As an alternative to the Epic Loans Program, Utilities also partners with Energy Outreach Colorado's CARE program to serve income-qualified households. CARE provides no-cost home efficiency upgrades and has experienced significant growth—serving ten times more households in 2024 than in 2019, and double the number served in 2023.
- In terms of vulnerable populations, efforts to improve accessibility with mobile home households and rental households have also been made:
 - Nearly 50% of all CARE program households served in 2024 were in mobile homes.
 - In July of 2024, Epic Homes began offering bonus incentives for rental property owners to make efficiency and electrification upgrades to their rentals. Rental retrofit participation jumped 60% after the bonus incentive launched, with 16 rental participants in six months compared to 10 in all of 2023.
- Barriers/obstacles being addressed with current City programs were presented in the Agenda Item Summary and presentation as: cost/affordability, language, transportation, communication and outreach, documentation and fear, digital divide, and difficult processes. Council suggested focusing on how our work is addressing these and emerging barriers, identifying clear goals, and showing how we are meeting our goals.
 - Suggested that staff report on which barriers are being removed by programs with data to support the impact, what is the household potential reach of a program, and how many have we reached.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will continue to provide regular updates on this Council Priority and will continue to work on metrics improvements.

FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

Council Work Session later this year to further discuss options for Mobile Home Park support.