



# Colorado Association for Recycling 2017 Summit for Recycling Call for Proposals

**Summit for Recycling**  
**June 4-6, 2017**  
Fort Collins Marriott  
350 East Horsetooth Road  
Fort Collins, Colorado

*Please distribute widely to colleagues and contacts!*

**Deadline for Proposals - Extended:** Friday, December 16, 2016

**Theme:** "Recycling – Make it your business"

*Fostering Colorado communities' zero-waste businesses – small, medium and large*

The commercial sector can be an untapped market for increasing waste diversion. Businesses need to know recycling and composting save money by reducing a company's trash bill and provide an opportunity to create a positive image in the community that attracts new customers and brings in more revenue. What steps can businesses that are already recycling take to further increase their sustainability goals? The 2017 Summit for Recycling seeks to educate the business sector about the benefits of waste diversion and sustainable materials management and explore ways our community leaders and local recycling organizations can engage the business sector on this issue. Attendees will learn how to incorporate recycling into sustainability plans, how to educate members of their business community on the benefits of recycling and why they should recycle.

*Submit your most creative ideas!*

CAFR invites you to submit a proposal that will offer original content and an interactive experience for our attendees. Along with networking opportunities and a rich exhibit hall experience, we want the 2017 Summit for Recycling program to speak not only to the business community but also to the haulers, MRF operators, recyclers and the local governments and nonprofits that drive participation in waste diversion programs.

## **Session Models**

We will give preferential consideration to proposals that break away from traditional slide presentations. We are looking for creative session formats that will involve the attendees in debate, discussion and dialogue – interactive, proactive or just plain active! Having attendees leave the Summit with concrete and tangible tools to improve their programs or processes is a high priority.

Some format ideas you might consider:

- Pro/con debate about a particular program
- Panel discussion about a new idea for a cutting edge technology or system
- Case studies and first-hand "testimonials" that illustrate how diverse approaches were used for achieving a goal with discussion about which approaches worked best and why
- Hands-on workshop that introduces entrepreneurs to sustainability
- Examples of a program that DIDN'T work followed by roundtable discussions of how it might be made to work
- Ways to develop networks or support systems for particular sectors of the business community

## **Potential Topics**

Proposals should be non-commercial in nature and appeal to a diverse and discriminating audience that has strong technical experience. Proposals must relate to the overarching theme or to these suggested topics:

1. **Business-centric practices:** What do businesses need to know to effectively implement sustainable materials management practices, including recycling, in their organizations? What steps can businesses that are already recycling take to further increase waste diversion? Attendees should come away with greater understanding about the economic and environmental benefits of waste reduction,



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recycling and composting and the steps to implement a new or enhanced program. What resources are available to businesses to further increase their sustainability goals? How do businesses build a sustainable business culture that is attractive to new employees and customers? How can communities and the state provide business support that helps them be more sustainable?

- 2. Food waste:** An estimated 35% of the material sent to landfill is organic waste. Landfilling of both pre- and postconsumer food waste remains a major source of greenhouse-gas emissions and potential pollution. With new national campaigns and growing public awareness of wasted food and hunger, the time is right for exploring opportunities for innovation and policy developments that address the issue. Attendees should come away with a broadened perspective and knowledge about the tools and educational materials that are available, including different options for food waste such as human consumption, animal feed and compost. The important role of the institutional food industry and restaurant industry to reduce waste and manage organic waste streams should be explored in depth and successful leadership models should be reviewed. Such a discussion should include green procurement, including compostable disposables, green packaging and other products that reduce food waste.
- 3. Sustainable materials management:** As principles of sustainable materials management (SMM) gain traction around the world with large corporations how do we transfer this new body of knowledge to Colorado's business community? Where have successful practices been established that turn SMM concepts into Standard Operating Procedures that could be adopted by attendees? Recycling is a main "plank" in the SMM platform and attendees can start or improve their programs at the same time as they look ahead for what it takes for SMM to become embedded in the business environment.
- 4. Climate impacts:** Products made from organic material such as compost, compost tea, and biochar can create an important carbon "sink" when applied to soil and have great potential for use in Colorado. Attendees should learn the relationship of compost and other organic product programs to state and local climate action plans and have a greater degree of comfort in understanding how these complex biological processes work in relation to their programs, businesses and communities. How does the management of agricultural, forested and range land and the use of organic products affect climate change? Could we move forward state-wide or regionally toward a carbon credit program that pays land managers to apply organic products? Additionally, attendees would benefit from knowing what has happened in the last 12 months that is making materials management a bigger part of the climate change discussion. What have locals done to push materials management as part of their climate change mitigation/prevention strategy?
- 5. Other timely and relevant topics** that may be of interest to attendees include examples of successful regional planning, how to improve worker safety, strategies for recycling business development such as economic incubators and job training programs and how to create or enhance end-markets for recycled materials.

### Submit Your Proposal

To submit your proposal, go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/summit2017proposals>. Those whose proposals are selected and who wish to attend the Summit (other than for their own session) receive a 50% discount on one-day or full registration rates (does not apply to any super early-bird or early-bird rates). Audio/Visual Requirements: Presenters will be responsible for submitting any presentation materials one week prior to the Summit (May 26, 2017). Submitters will be notified whether their proposal has been accepted no later than January 16, 2017.

If you have questions regarding the submission of your proposal, contact Amy Randell at [amy@cafr.org](mailto:amy@cafr.org) or 970-372-5615. For more information on the 2017 Summit, please visit [www.CAFR.org](http://www.CAFR.org). We look forward to seeing you at the 28th Annual Summit for Recycling in Fort Collins, Colorado, June 4-6, 2017!