



Colorado Association for Recycling
PO Box 11130
Denver, CO 80211-0130
Turning today's waste into tomorrow's resources.

March 28, 2016

Mr. Wolf Kray
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South
Denver, CO 80246

Dear Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment:

The Colorado Association for Recycling (CAFR) is the state's leading independent, non-profit organization that is actively working to promote and encourage recycling through programs that educate the public, local governments, businesses, and Colorado's elected officials. On behalf of our nearly 300 members, the CAFR Board of Directors is pleased to submit the following statement regarding CDPHE's statewide solid waste planning efforts.

CAFR urges CDPHE to prioritize and promote programs, policies, and planning that favor material reuse, recycling, and composting (materials management), over those that result in valuable commodities being buried in a landfill. CAFR and its membership reflect the economic, geographic, and political diversity in Colorado and we believe that any state level actions should take these factors into consideration. In order to advance materials management in Colorado, CAFR and its membership support the following broad policies and initiatives:

- *The adoption of a recycling goal in the state of Colorado and a plan to reach it with tailored strategies for rural and urban areas.*
- *Designate or hire staff to oversee implementation of the state plan and to promote recycled materials markets in Colorado.*
- *A preference for reuse, recycling, or composting programs, policies, purchases, and contracts over those that lead to increased landfilling and waste-to-energy*
- *Increased access to reuse, recycling, and composting programs for Colorado residents, students, visitors, and businesses*
- *Expanded outreach and education programs for students, residents, businesses, and lawmakers in the state*
- *State level policies, incentives, and regulations that support the reuse, recycling and composting industries*
- *Thoughtful regulations that balance the need to protect the environment with supporting industry growth and innovation*
- *Programs and policies that encourage and support source reduction (i.e. reduced packaging, evaluation of industry supported product responsibility programs, environmentally preferable procurement policies)*
- *Inclusion of materials management policies and strategies in the Colorado Climate Plan*
- *Using a life-cycle based approach that includes the full benefits of materials management when evaluating all policies and programs*
- *Collaboration with and support of industry and local governments to advance materials management in Colorado*



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- *Inclusion of a detailed strategy in the state plan to increase funding for materials management programs in the state*
- *Completion of a Market Analysis for the recycling, reuse, and composting industries in Colorado*

Finally, CAFR would like to commend CDPHE for conducting this statewide planning effort as we see this a strong first step toward the state government taking more of a leadership role in materials management. CAFR believes that with state leadership and investment, we can grow our Materials Management Economy and make Colorado the national leader in sustainable materials management.

Sincerely,

Colorado Association Board of Directors

Laurie Batchelder Adams, LBA Associates; Jessie Burley, High Country Conservation Center; Tim Dailey, Hi-Tec Plastics; Brandy Dietz, Colorado Industrial Recycling; Juri Freeman, Resource Recycling Systems; Cliff Henry, Yuma County Landfill; Bryce Isaacson, Western Disposal Services; Tameem Khizer, Rocky Mountain Recycling; Megan Lane, City and County of Denver/Denver Recycles; Matt McLaughlin, Electronic Recyclers International; Caroline Mitchell, City of Fort Collins; Janice Oldemeyer, I.T. Refresh; Amber Swasey, Mesa County Solid Waste.