



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

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Taryn Finnessey
Climate Change Risk Management Specialist
Colorado Department of Natural Resources
1313 Sherman Street Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Taryn:

Thank you so much for coming to Grand Junction to speak at the 2016 Colorado Association for Recycling Summit and our special session on the Colorado Climate Plan. We found it extremely valuable to have you there to present and answer questions about the climate plan to bring our industry up to speed on the exciting work already happening in Colorado.

We were thrilled to hear so many good ideas from the session participants on how we can reduce greenhouse gas emissions through waste reduction, recycling and composting. Collectively these activities are known as sustainable materials management.

Attached is the full list of notes that were captured from the session. In particular, we would like to highlight the following ten strategies that we would like to see prioritized by the Hickenlooper administration as it moves forward with implementing the Colorado Climate Plan:

1. Emphasize sustainable materials management (recycling, composting, reuse, product stewardship, green purchasing) as a key tool to address climate change and reduce greenhouse gases at the state level.
2. Coordinate with CDPHE to implement the Integrated Solid Waste and Materials Management Plan currently under development and connect the plan to the state Climate Plan.
3. Dedicate staff at the state level to work on initiating and enhancing recycling, waste reduction and waste diversion in all state-owned and state-operated buildings and agencies (in support of #4 below), developing markets for sustainable materials management, implementing a state materials management plan and providing technical assistance to local communities.
4. Lead by example in state government by strengthening and enforcing the Green Purchasing Order, by recycling and composting in all state agency facilities and by expanding state agency efforts to reduce food waste. Ensure these activities are acknowledged and supported by the state's Greening Government Leadership Council. Share these efforts with local government partners.
5. Seek avenues for state funding that support innovation in the waste sector, provide expanded waste diversion infrastructure to both rural and urban communities and provide incentives for markets for recycled material (e.g., tax breaks for citing a facility to make corrugated cardboard

into new paper). Ensure waste recovery programs are eligible for funding sources focused on greenhouse gas reduction.

6. Implement policies that reduce organics (yard and food waste) in the landfill (a source of methane, a potent greenhouse gas). Prioritize policies that keep organic materials out of the landfill over mitigation programs such as landfill gas recovery systems.
7. Include consumption emissions (the total emissions for a product, including its production and consumption) in future greenhouse gas inventories. Consumption emissions are reduced when products are recycled or re-used. Without the inclusion of consumption emissions in inventories, the full benefits of recycling and re-use are not included.
8. Invest in materials management education and infrastructure in schools.
9. Support market development of compost use, including CDOT purchasing.
10. Quantify and include the greenhouse gas savings from waste reduction, recycling and composting in any plan updates or annual reports to highlight work already in progress.

We look forward to partnering with Governor Hickenlooper and working with you to implement a strong and effective Climate Action Plan for Colorado. Please let us know how we can engage around the plan implementation and collaborate on improving Colorado's environment and our economy through greenhouse gas reductions.

Sincerely,

Juri Freeman

President, Colorado Association for Recycling