



Boulder County Comprehensive Plan

SOLID WASTE

Goals, Policies, & Maps Element

It was clearly established that the Solid Waste Element should be simply one of the many urban services provided and planned for in the overall comprehensive planning process, and that the solid waste program should be subordinate to and guided by the overall planning efforts of the county. The original Solid Waste Element of the *Boulder County Comprehensive Plan* was adopted in 1978. The general planning objectives which were adopted at that time following extensive public comment were utilized together with new information to develop the 1982 Solid Waste Plan. The Goals and Policies set forth in the following sections are the result of the 1987 update of the Solid Waste Element.

The development and adoption of objectives to guide the Boulder County Solid Waste Management Plan was a significant undertaking. Program objectives were established so that the planning could proceed in a direction identified by the goals. Special effort was spent in establishing the proper relationship between the “Solid Waste Element” and the overall Boulder County Comprehensive Plan.

● **Boulder County’s Role**

Boulder County’s role in providing for the proper management of solid wastes shall be as set forth in the following sections. The intent is to differentiate between the respective responsibilities of the private sector and other levels of government so as to concentrate limited resources on those areas of involvement where the county is likely to be most effective.

Solid waste management is primarily a function of municipalities.

● **Primary Concentration**

Primary concentration of solid waste occurs at the generation source and is primarily the responsibility of municipalities and private haulers who provide individual collection services or the state and federal government where hazardous or radiological wastes are concerned. Boulder County’s responsibility with such matters as container sizing, container types, container locations, types of wastes allowed and pick up frequency for the primary concentration of solid waste is directed to aid the regulation of land use proposals where these matters become a local land use concern, the requiring or encouraging of source separation to assist reuse activities, and waste generation

AMENDMENT STATUS

Goals & Policies	Associated Maps	Background Element
Amended 12/16/87	N/A	Amended 12/16/87



Solid Waste is a term that applies to materials that are recycled, or materials headed for landfills.

reduction through means that may be effective on a local level.

- **Transportation**

Transportation of solid waste consists of the hauling of wastes from the primary concentration point to a disposal facility or to a transfer facility. This function is primarily the responsibility of those municipalities and private haulers who provide individual collection services or to state and federal government where hazardous or radiological wastes are concerned. Boulder County's responsibility with the transportation of solid waste is directed toward the alleviation of adverse environmental impacts in the unincorporated areas of the county and on public roadways and toward the designation of exclusive disposal or processing sites for the more efficient and effective routing of the solid waste stream and the possible encouragement of reuse opportunities.

- **Secondary Concentration**

Secondary concentration of solid waste occurs at transfer facilities which are utilized to minimize hauling and to improve environmental control. This function is a direct responsibility of Boulder County insofar as it relates to the mountain compactor or green box program and to land use proposals where such facilities are to be owned or operated by others.

- **Processing**

Processing solid waste consists of shredding, grinding, baling, incineration and similar processes that are used to alter the character of the solid waste stream to facilitate handling. These functions are of particular concern to those who own or operate solid waste disposal or reuse facilities. Boulder County's responsibility relating to these processes is directed toward the encouragement of reuse

opportunities, improved site environment and the prolonging of landfill life in order to reduce land requirements for final disposal purposes.

- **Resource Recovery and Recycling**

Resource recovery and recycling consists of diverting potentially reusable materials from the solid waste stream and redirecting them toward a useful purpose. Resource recovery and recycling is considered to be in the best public interest and as such is deemed not only a responsibility of Boulder County but of the private sector, other levels of government and individual citizens as well.

- **Final Disposal**

Final disposal consists of the burial, dispersal, incineration, or other methods that are used to dispose of unwanted wastes and is a primary responsibility of Boulder County for non-hazardous or non-radiological wastes. It is recognized that sanitary landfills will be needed for most wastes until resource conservation and recovery practices are successful. It is also recognized that landfills and rubble fills will still be needed thereafter for the disposal of irreducible residues.

- **Regulation**

Regulation consists of the promulgation of standards and requirements for the collection, transportation, disposal, processing and resource conservation activities for the general public health and welfare. This function is a responsibility of all levels of government and a primary responsibility of Boulder County in those areas defined herein as a Boulder County role. It is assumed that the State of Colorado views the management of normal solid wastes as distinguished from radiological or hazardous wastes as a local government responsibility with the state providing direct management responsibility for radiological

and hazardous wastes. It is also assumed that the main impetus of federal requirements is aimed at the state level of government in that states are required to develop and implement solid waste management programs particularly in the area of hazardous wastes and local government agencies are responsible for securing compliance with state and federal regulations relating to solid waste facilities owned, operated or permitted by the local government. In that states are required to develop and implement solid waste management programs, particularly in the area of hazardous wastes, and local government agencies are responsible for securing compliance with state and federal regulations relating to solid waste facilities owned, operated, or permitted by the local government.

● **Services Fees and Charges**

This function consists of the recovery of economic, social, and environmental costs incurred in providing either private or public solid waste services and it is a responsibility of Boulder County insofar as it relates to the effective and fair implementation of Boulder County’s solid waste management plan.

The following policies will be Boulder County’s official position on the management of solid waste and shall guide staff, appointed committees and commissions as well as the Board of County Commissioners in reaching decisions on solid waste management for at least the next three to five years.

Solid Waste Policies

● **Environmental**

SW 1.01 Solid waste facilities in Boulder County shall be planned, located, designed and operated to prevent unacceptable air, water, noise and visual pollution, and in consideration of the inventory,

goals and policies of the Environmental Resources Element of the *Boulder County Comprehensive Plan*.

SW 1.02 Solid waste facilities that are to be operated in Boulder County shall be designed and operated in conformance with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations.

SW 1.03 The county’s criteria for the planning, design, location, operation and enforcement for new or expanded solid waste sanitary landfill facilities shall be updated by the Transportation Department in cooperation with the Land Use Department and county Health Department and shall include provisions for assigning long term responsibility for abandoned facilities.

SW 1.04 The county shall monitor the remedial actions undertaken by responsible parties at the Marshall Landfill under the direction of EPA and the State Health Department.

SW 1.05 The county’s municipalities and sanitation districts shall be encouraged to seek and develop means of utilizing sludge for possible public benefits including land application of digested sludge for crop production or methane production.

SW 1.06 The Land Use Department, in cooperation with the county Health Department, shall continue to secure agreements from the large municipalities and sanitation districts to provide adequate drop-off facilities for septic wastes so that they can be properly treated.

The Solid Waste Division is housed within the Land Use Department.

The Household Hazardous Waste program is an important aspect of environmentally sound disposal of common-place hazardous substances.

SW 1.07 The county shall utilize regulations developed by the Water Quality Control Division of the State Health Department for the management of sludge, septic wastes, and the unlawful disposal of hazardous and radioactive wastes received at facilities designed for normal wastes.

SW 1.08 Hazardous waste disposal facilities shall not be located in Boulder County because of the populous nature of the county and the potential for damage to life, health and the environment from a permanent disposal site. Transfer facilities for the handling of small quantities of hazardous waste may be allowed if such facilities can meet all federal, state, and local requirements for the handling of hazardous wastes.

SW 1.09 The county shall cooperate with the state and federal agencies to assure that hazardous and special wastes generated within the county are properly recycled, neutralized or disposed of at authorized facilities as prescribed by the 1976 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and any amendments.

SW 1.10 The county Health Department, in cooperation with the Land Use Department, shall encourage the proper management of household hazardous waste through public education and environmentally sound disposal methods.

● **Public Involvement**

SW 2.01 Public participation in the decision making process shall be encouraged through ample

notice of meetings where major solid waste management and planning issues are being considered.

● **Governmental Relations**

SW 3.01 The county Land Use Department shall provide a sufficient level of communication between all known public agencies and special interest groups that are actively engaged in solid waste activities and issues involving Boulder County.

SW 3.02 The county shall cooperate actively with existing intergovernmental agencies on efforts to develop regional approaches and necessary legislation to meet current and anticipated solid and hazardous waste problems.

SW 3.03 The county shall encourage a cooperative effort in the implementation and continuation of a local hazardous materials response plan and action.

● **Solid Waste Management**

SW 4.01 The county shall continue the mountain transfer station program in the Nederland and Allenspark/Ward areas as a county-owned, operated and partially user-fee financed program.

SW 4.02 The private sector shall be encouraged to provide trash collection services in the plains and in the mountain areas not served by the mountain transfer station program, and the county shall regulate private haulers for safety and health reasons through the issuance of trash haulers' licenses.

SW 4.03 Since the Landfill Siting Study did not identify suitable land disposal sites in Boulder County, the county should assure that sites are available for land disposal in adjacent counties, as needed, through intergovernmental agreements or governmental acquisition of a site, if needed. Further, the county shall continue to explore a region-wide approach to solid waste management.

SW 4.04 The county shall monitor performance goals and requirements for any proposed new or expanded disposal facilities leaving the actual design to competent engineers and geologists and the operations and management of the facilities to appropriately qualified contractors or similarly qualified public personnel.

SW 4.05 The planning and design of solid waste facilities shall be based on normal waste generation in Boulder County using the latest and most reliable population, land use and waste generation types and projections consistent with the *Boulder County Comprehensive Plan*.

SW 4.06 The private sector may be allowed opportunities to participate in any publicly owned solid waste facility. Quality control shall be maintained through contractual arrangements containing appropriate operations, inspections and enforcement provisions.

SW 4.07 The county shall continue to utilize a combination of general property tax revenues (Solid Waste Mill Levy) and user fees

to support the planning, construction, and operation of solid waste facilities and funding of public education on the ways of proper disposal of waste.

SW 4.08 In order to provide appropriate administration for the successful implementation of the solid waste management plan, the county shall provide adequate technical staff and the Boulder County Solid Waste Advisory Committee shall continue to serve as the county's citizen advisory body.

● **Resource Recovery and Recycling**

SW 5.01 Efforts shall be made to reduce the amount of solid waste disposed of in landfills by 20 percent by 2000 through the diversion of rubble and sludge to more useful purposes and through the implementation of effective resource recovery and recycling activities.

Efforts shall be made to reduce the amount of solid waste disposed of in landfills.

SW 5.02 Efforts shall be made to recover 30 percent of the reusable components of solid waste by 2000 through the provision of economic incentives for recycling operations and by the promulgation of new local regulations. New state and federal legislation shall be sought as required.

SW 5.03 Solid waste collection, transportation, disposal, and processing facilities shall be planned, operated and encouraged to promote the development of resource recovery and recycling opportunities.

SW 5.04 Funds from the approved Resource Recovery and Recy-

The county maintains transfer stations for disposal of solid waste in the mountains.

cling Fee levied at the Marshall Landfill or other regulated solid waste facilities shall be used by the county or by other public or private organizations for resource recovery and recycling activities. The Board of County Commissioners upon recommendation of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee shall distribute these funds based upon the amount of waste diverted; ability to perform; integration with existing solid waste management activities; environmental and ecological soundness; public education/support value; potential for long-term viability and the targeted audience.

an ordinance which would give regulatory authority to the appropriate departments to oversee operations of all transfer stations in Boulder County.

- SW 5.05 Household separation, collection centers, and similar small scale resource recovery and recycling activities shall be encouraged and may be financially aided, until such time as they are replaced with more effective, self-supporting programs. The integration and coordination of resource recovery and recycling activities, collection services and disposal facilities shall be encouraged and required, if possible, to minimize overall recovery costs. The county shall cooperate with the staff of involved municipalities to encourage the most cost-efficient means of collection.

- SW 5.06 The county shall set performance goals and requirements for any proposed privately-owned transfer stations in order to assure that comprehensive recycling is implemented and to preserve the option of converting transfer stations to waste-to-energy facilities in the long-term. The county shall pursue adopting

- SW 5.07 The county shall encourage activities which educate the citizenry in the values, methods and techniques of recycling, resource recovery and waste reduction.

- SW 5.08 The county shall actively encourage and pursue the reduction of waste generation.

- SW 5.09 The county shall pursue long-term financing solutions to solid waste management.