



Resource Conservation Advisory Committee (RCAB)

Boulder County Staff Liaison: Noah Eisenman, neisenman@bouldercounty.org

Meeting Address: Boulder County Recycling Center • 1901 63rd Street, Boulder, CO 80306 • www.BoulderCounty.gov

Boulder County Resource Conservation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes – April 26, 2023

Board Members Present:

David Snapp – CDPHE (Chair)
Charles Kamenides – Longmont
Zan Jones – Eco Cycle
Tim Towndrow – Republic Services
Lauren Folkerts – City of Boulder
Lizzie Szorad – City of Lafayette
Angie Gilbert – CU Recycling
Kayla Betzold – City of Louisville
Neal Lurie – Resource Central
Dan Hoback – Town of Erie
Alexis Bullen- Town of Superior
Bridget Johnson – Jamestown
Cody Lillstrom – Boulder County Resource
Conservation Division

Board Members not Present:

Matt LeBeau – At Large
Meghan Wiebe – At Large
Mircalla Wozniak – At Large
Leah Haney – Town of Nederland
Eric Loof – Western Disposal

RCAB Staff Liaison:

Noah Eisenman – Boulder County RCD

Guests:

Chandra Valenza – Boulder County RCD
Laura Levesque-Catalano – Technical
Assistance Service Provider
Tim Broderick – OSCAR
Spencer Berlin – Boulder County RCD
Jamie Harkins – City of Boulder

1. Call to Order / Introductions

David Snapp called the meeting to order at 4:49 p.m.

2. Approval of March 15, 2023 Minutes

David asked if the March 15 minutes could be approved. Tim Towndrow motioned to approve, seconded by Charles Kamenides, followed by a unanimous RCAB approval.

3. Presentation: Front Range Waste Diversion Board – Technical Assistance Service Provider

Laura Levesque-Catalano was at the meeting as a representative from the Front Range Waste Diversion Board's (FRWD) new program, Technical Assistance Service Provider (TASP).

Laura provided a presentation about the TASP program including an overview and ideas on how municipalities and the county could take advantage of TASP regarding a universal recycling ordinance.

For the full presentation, please see Laura's PowerPoint in the attachments.

TASP provides communities with resources and no cost technical assistance needed to achieve waste diversion and reduction goals. The no cost is thanks to FRWD enterprise grant fund, administered by CDPHE. It is geared towards towns, cities, unincorporated areas, and K-12 districts. They do not provide capital funding, just technical assistance. Technical assistance could be data collection, education, site

evaluation, stakeholder engagement, etc. There are different tiers to differentiate the support that each organization/municipality would need.

Laura gave an overview of the recycling ordinances in the county. City of Boulder has their Universal Zero Waste Ordinance and City of Longmont is working towards a universal recycling ordinance.

She brought up the point that it will be important to think about how to further promote onsite recycling at multi-family complexes.

Next Laura addressed the two pre-submitted questions from board members: 1. What are best practices in engaging businesses in a universal recycling ordinance? And 2. What is the biggest challenge in passing a recycling ordinance?

Laura shared other community's ordinance language as examples of what other municipalities are doing across the state. This is a good place to start for a new ordinance.

Some of the challenges with a universal recycling ordinance include clear explanation of requirements and exemptions, signage guidance, listing of hauler services, and creating a tiered approach for different sectors within the municipality that will have different waste reduction needs.

To get buy-in for this ordinance it will be important to have stakeholder engagement from the beginning. Best practices include 1:1 hauler interviews, stakeholder meetings, public engagement via tabling, open houses, community surveys, and community focus groups.

At the end of the presentation, Zan asked if anyone on the call was interested in exploring this program further. Noah brought up the point that there is appetite within the different communities but wondering if it's better to pursue this ordinance as a board or if each municipality should do their own. Laura said that TASP would appreciate a cohort effort such as a Boulder County-wide initiative. Lizzie Szorad said that Lafayette is interested in applying either individually or as a cohort. Lafayette is looking for technical assistance especially with multi-family units.

4. Presentation: Consumption Based Emissions Inventory - OSCAR

Tim Broderick of the Boulder County Office of Sustainability, Climate Action and Resilience (OSCAR) was at the meeting to present on the recent Consumption Based Emissions Inventory (CBEI) done for the county by an outside consultant. The County is the first within Colorado to have conducted this inventory. It is similar to the Urban Metabolism Study. This body of data is different in that it is CO₂ first and flows from there into materials. This data set can connect the work of climate action to the importance of a circular economy.

For the full presentation, please see Tim's PowerPoint in the attachments.

Tim explained that a CBEI calculates greenhouse gas emissions associated with producing, transporting, using, and disposing of products and services consumed by a particular community in a given year. This information will eventually be a live dashboard available to all residents.

One of the things measured in the inventory was household consumption. This was driven by six characteristics: income, household size, home size, home ownership, vehicle ownership, educational attainment.

Among all the categories in the inventory transportation, housing, and services are the largest emissions contributors in the county.

There are many ways to unpack the data from the inventory. OSCAR is thinking about many systems approaches to address what they've learned from this data. Some of the ideas Tim mentioned for RCAB included more public transportation, denser housing communities, construction and deconstruction facilities, a red meat tax, and composting in agriculture.

Census blocks within urban environments have significantly household emissions. The highest households are 60-70 metric tons of CO₂ and lowest households are 14 metric tons.

Some of the key take-aways for OSCAR include high energy emissions have declined significantly due to cleaner power but we still have a long ways to go; the county is highly auto dependent and have large home sizes; transportation and buildings are the largest emissions categories; there have been mostly minor changes in household characteristics since 2007.

After the presentation Lizzie brought up the notion that density is going to be one of the ways we decrease our footprint, there is a lot of hesitance around creating more density because we are preserving that small-town feel. It can be a touchy point for residents when talking about development. She asked, "how do we move forward with residents and planners?" Tim believes it is going to be a long journey to unpack solutions in what density looks like in historically small towns. We've got to consider the benefits. There are big nature-based solutions benefits to keeping natural and agricultural spaces on the periphery of our towns. We can amplify resources like tax exemptions, rebates, and grant programs to preserve the agricultural lands.

5. **Community Updates**

David Snapp for CDPHE: He will testify in favor of SB23-253, the compost labeling bill. Another bill they are tracking is a "closed-landfill remediation bill." The last bill CDPHE is tracking is the "compost plan bill" which will expand on the organics management plan.

Zan Jones for Ecocycle: Thanks to CDPHE for supporting all three of those bills.

The electric compost collections truck will be in use starting late April.

Lizzie Szorad for Lafayette: 13 different events for Earth Month.

Launched their e-bike rebate program and applications are due May 5.

Neal Lurie for ReSource Central: Excited to be partnering with many others in spring events like the CU student moveout process, Nederland and Erie community pick up days.

Bridget Johnson for Jamestown: Spring clean up scheduled for June. Would love to collaborate with ReSource Central. Green Girl Recycling has been very busy with Earth Month events where they've collected e-waste and shredding.

Jamie Harkins for City of Boulder: Working with everyone in the community on compost contamination issues. They've met with county food safety folks and others to see what impacts the compost changes are having.

Boulder is launching a reuse incentive. There is \$2000 available for reusables and/or dishwashers. There have been 20 applicants so far.

Continuing special pick up days for CHaRM materials by partnering with Boulder Housing Partners and affordable housing communities.

Dan Hoback for Town of Erie: Erie is having an Arbor Day/Earth Day celebration on April 29th.

Angie Gilbert for CU: It is the end of the semester for CU. They are setting up for the move-out donation drive partnering with EFAA, USAgain, and ReSource Central. Donating food, clothing, personal care items to the Buff Pantry on campus.

Spring football game was the first experience with the new compost changes.

Kayla from City of Louisville: Partnered with Lafayette on Town Hall on Compost Changes with A1 Organics.

Proposing commercial waste reduction programs from bag tax revenue. Currently hiring a new staff person to help with these new programs.

Noah brought up the TASP application deadline of April 25th and wondering if any board members wanted to start crafting the application on universal recycling ordinance. Kayla said she would prefer to go at this ordinance and TASP application as a collaborative. Louisville does not have capacity to move forward with it on their own but do support a cohort application. Noah concluded that an email will be sent out to gather who is interested and Laura can guide what we need to do between now and the application deadline.

6. Adjourn

David adjourned the meeting at 6:21 p.m.