



Resource Conservation Advisory Committee (RCAB)

Boulder County Staff Liaison: Meghan Wiebe, mwiebe@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 – September 27, 2023

Board Members Present:

Mircalla Wozniak – At Large (vice-chair)
Angie Gilbert – CU Recycling
Joe Pitts – Resource Central
Alexis Bullen- Town of Superior
Eric Loof – Western Disposal
Charles Kamenides – City of Longmont
Lizzie Szorad – City of Lafayette
Bridget Johnson – Jamestown
Kayla Betzold – City of Louisville
Lauren Folkerts – City of Boulder
Kathy Carroll – Town of Lyons
Tim Towndrow – Republic Services
Matt LeBeau – At Large
Dan Hoback – Town of Erie
Leah Haney – Town of Nederland

Board Members not present:

Brandon Hill – At Large
David Snapp – CDPHE (Chair)
Zan Jones – EcoCycle
Cody Lillstrom – Boulder County Resource
Conservation Division

County Liaison

Meghan Wiebe – Boulder County RCD

Guests:

Chandra Valenza – Boulder County RCD
Peter Hargreave – Circular Action Alliance
Darla Arians – CDPHE
Nicole Manesh – City of Longmont
Jamie Harkins – City of Boulder
Eryka Thorley – Town of Erie
Marti Matsch – Ecocycle
Andrew Sawusch – Town of Erie
Sean McCoy – City of Longmont

1. Call to Order / Introductions

David Snapp was out of town. Vice-Chair Mircalla Wozniak called the meeting to order at 4:49 p.m.

2. Approval of August 23, 2023 Minutes

Mircalla asked if the August 23, 2023 meeting minutes could be approved.

Bridget Johnson motioned to approve, followed by unanimous RCAB approval.

3. Extended Producer Responsibility update from CDPHE

Darla Arians works at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment as the Producer Responsibility Program Lead. She was at RCAB to present an update about the Producer Responsibility Program for Statewide recycling.

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

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is a “policy approach and practice in which producers take responsibility for management of the products and/or packaging they produce at the end of their useful life.” Responsibility can be fiscal or operational.

Darla shared that EPR is an essential component of a circular economy by bolstering the local supply chain, closing material loops, supporting existing businesses and attracting business expansion.

There are many goals with EPR. Some of which include reducing contamination, creating a uniform statewide recycling list, and obtaining stable funding sources to utilize and expand existing recycling services and infrastructure.

Covered materials in EPR include materials such as paper, plastic, glass, metal, flexible rigid packaging, or combinations of these materials. She said it's also important to note that covered materials in the program are those intended for single or short-term use. And perhaps most importantly, covered materials in this program are those delivered to the consumer, whether they're at a point of sale or via an Internet transaction.

Peter Hargreave was also at the meeting to do a presentation about the Colorado Needs Assessment that will be done for EPR. Peter works for Circular Action Alliance (CAA). Circular Action Alliance was chosen as the Producer Responsibility Organization in charge of implementing Colorado's EPR program. CAA oversees getting the Needs Assessment done. The Needs Assessment is an in-depth study that will assess Colorado's existing recycling system and identify opportunities for growth and improvement of the system.

After the presentation, Mircalla opened the meeting up to questions from RCAB members.

Kathy Carroll asked Peter to elaborate on the community survey that went out for the needs assessment. Peter said the survey has been sent out to all municipal governments across Colorado.

Matt LeBeau shared that as a small business owner in Lafayette, the property manager of his building does not offer recycling for the building. Matt asked how EPR intersects with local ordinances on a municipality-by-municipality level so he can understand if there's a connection with individual city ordinances, EPR, and what the property manager does. Peter said that CAA as the Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) won't have the power to dictate to municipalities how they set their ordinances but thinks they can certainly work with municipalities around how potentially ordinances might be set in a way that would encourage the ability for nonresidential entities to make sure they can have recycling services.

Matt's concern extends to the notion that small business owners and residents can be hidden from community surveys because haulers may not know that they want recycling services where they area.

Mircalla asked if with the EPR act would give the potential for more rural areas to have recycling services provided for them. Darla replied that the PRO has a statutory obligation to provide recycling services to covered entities for the collection and processing of covered materials.

Marti Matsch asked how the plan will ensure or incentivize eco-modulation. Darla replied that there are specific eco-modulation factors that have been identified in the bill. Eco-modulation is an incentive schedule for producers to create more sustainable, less toxic, less resource products and packaging. Each producer is paying is paying a fee to the PRO for every type of material they have in their package. The PRO will develop the eco-modulation fees and criteria with the advisory board. The state will create the schedule of those fees and how they're applied.

Mircalla asked for clarification on what is traditionally recyclable vs. what is not traditionally recyclable and how that applies to EPR. Darla said that the intent of the act is to create incentives strong enough or create malices that are strong enough to change the packaging design behavior so that producers of non-recyclable materials will find

alternative packaging that is recyclable. Peter added that if producers have a material that is not accepted they pay a higher fee.

Mircalla asked how the PRO plans on capturing data like frequency of services in different communities. Peter shared that this is part of the needs assessment and gap analysis. Darla said that any comments, thoughts, and questions like this can be sent to the EPR comments email and will be looked over during the Producer Responsibility Advisory Board meetings.

Kathy shared that she's interested to hear how EPR will change communities in the next five years. Darla said that more locations will have access to recycling. Peter said there will be implementation of better practices, greater transparency in material streams, infrastructure investments, and end market improvements.

Eryka Thorley asked about opportunities for reimbursement for town's that operate their own recycling center. Darla said that it will be the same for the recycling services they're providing for covered materials. Eryka then asked when the town could expect reimbursement for the recycling center. Peter said that those details have not been worked out yet. Darla shared that the projected program implementation is January 2026 and that is when eligibility for reimbursement would start.

4. Boulder County Resource Conservation Division updates

Chandra Valenza shared updates on behalf of the Resource Conservation Division. The first update was that Noah Eisenman has resigned. Cody Lillstrom is the interim Deputy Director.

The second update was about the Circular Economy Funding grant. Eleven applications were submitted with over \$400,000 requested.

5. Selecting a new RCAB priority – discussion

Meghan Wiebe shared the results from the survey that RCAB members did before the meeting about selecting a new priority for this year. The top selected priority was composting infrastructure. The next top priority was the adoption of a universal recycling ordinance.

Based on that survey, Mircalla asked if the board would like to discuss next steps. Meghan mentioned that CDPHE is going through compost permitting regulation updates. There will be the opportunity for mid-tier compost facilities (5000 cubic yards). She also mentioned that she can give a deeper dive on what's happening at the county level for compost infrastructure.

Matt brought up the point that the top two priorities voted on were very different. Compost infrastructure will take many years whereas universal recycling ordinances can be done in a quicker timeline. Mircalla shared that the board doesn't necessarily need to do only do one priority and not the others. Meghan echoed that saying the thought with the priorities is to home in on action items and march towards some deliverables. One priority is not at the exclusion of the rest.

Kathy asked for clarification on the word "adoption" for universal recycling ordinances. Mircalla's understanding was that it is development of a template ordinance for the board to urge the county to adopt it.

Lizzie Szorad said that the City of Lafayette is moving forward with a recycling ordinance using the Technical Assistance Service Provider (TASP) program. The draft

ordinance could possibly apply to other towns and Lizzie is open to letting others use the draft ordinance.

Charlie reminded the board that they can work on multiple things, it's all a matter of bandwidth.

6. Community Updates

Lizzie Szorad for City of Lafayette: Ecotoberfest is happening on October 7 in Louisville. There will be an EV showcase, costume exchange, bike recycling, and live music.

Charlie Kamenides for City of Longmont: There is a hard to recycle event in October. It is a two-week event with Green Girl Recycling. November will be the fall leaf collection event.

Bridget Johnson for Town of Jamestown: There are leaf reduction programs where residents can bring yard clippings and yard waste.

Bridget Johnson for Green Girl Recycling: Bridget would like to talk about gate fees at a future meeting.

Angie Gilbert for CU: CU is working hard on their recycling efforts during football games. They are talking with A1 Organics and Ecoproducts about the possibility of accepting compostables. With the new CMA certification, it is much more difficult to utilize compostable products.

Eryka Thorley for Town of Erie: The town just had a clean up day and they are adding more vendors. A Bedder World took 38 mattresses during this time. They also offered free landfill during this week.

7. Adjourn

Mircalla adjourned the meeting at 6:33 p.m.