



Resource Conservation Advisory Committee (RCAB)

Boulder County Resource Conservation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes – June 25, 2025

Board Members present:

Cody Lillstrom – Boulder County Representative
Bridget Johnson – Jamestown Representative
Cassidy Grady – Nederland Representative
Austin Everett – Superior Representative
Taishya Adams – Boulder Representative
Lisa Evans – Lafayette Representative
Nicole Manesh – Longmont Representative
(*secretary*)
Logan Johnson – Louisville Representative
(*vice chair*)
Conor Dougherty – Material Reuse
Angie Gilbert – Academic/Educational Institution (*chair*)
Suzanne Jones – Environmental Non-profit or Advocacy Group
Eric Loof – Hauling Business Licensed in Boulder County
Tim Towndrow – Recycling, Composting or C&D Processor
David Snapp – Member-at-Large
Mircalla Wozniak – Member-at-Large
Michael Springer – Member-at-Large

County Liaison:

Meghan Wiebe – Boulder County Liaison

Guests:

Emma Marino – Town of Erie
Jamie Harkins- City of Boulder
Mellik Gorton – Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment

Board Members not present:

Kathy Carroll – Lyons Representative
Dan Hoback – Erie Representative
Vacant – Town of Ward
Vacant – Member-at-Large
Vacant – Member-at-Large

A quorum for RCAB is half of the membership plus one. Quorum was met for the June meeting. This meeting was held at the Boulder County Recycling Center Classroom Space. There was a hybrid option. Three RCAB members were virtual, and the rest were in-person.

1. Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions

- Angie called meeting to order.

2. Approval of March Minutes

- March minutes overview, meeting notes approved with edits. Eric asked about titles of board members. Bridget moved to approve minutes and Michael seconded.

3. Presentations and Tours Update

- Angie discussed upcoming Ridwell, Nederland, Green Girl, and Western tours. Members encouraged to sign up for tour availability dates.
- 4. **Presentation- Mellik Gorton, The Compostables Labeling Act (CLA)**
 - The CLA requires labels for compostable products.
 - Why CLA?
 - Compost Contamination
 - A1 Organics shared imagery of bags, products, and mass contamination.
 - Confusion, Cost burden, compost stream impact, value loss in compost.
 - Signed into law in 2023; In effect as of July 1, 2024.
 - Food Service products
 - Plastic Defined products
 - Wood is exempt from program- paper.
 - CDPHE's Role
 - Education and outreach
 - Complaint forms
 - Attorney general's office for enforcement
 - How does this impact you?
 - Producers responsible
 - Changing/removing products- businesses
 - Procurement policies- government
 - Submitting complaints- public
 - Requirements for Compostable Products
 - Certification logo- CMA and/or BPI
 - The word "compostable"
 - Green symbol or tinting
 - No chasing arrow recycling symbol
 - Small products comply with one of the 3 requirements
 - Products to avoid/report
 - Tinting, color schemes, labeling, images, or words
 - Guide on CDPHE's website
 - Key Takeaways
 - Compliant certified compostable products- green, "compostable"
 - Submit complaints
 - Review sources and info- using CDPHE guide/resources
 - Michael asked about results- Sysco's website has misleading information. Asked about violation reporting- marketing language.
 - Mellik responded that they could re-open complaint.
 - Mircalla asked about not putting these materials into the compost stream- what is the goal/timeline/removing products from shelves?
 - Mellik responded that the act could help make that possible. Shared state level has no authority over operator.
 - Some small compost collectors accept compostables in the State.
 - Michael asked about straws-
 - Straws need to be green with CLA.
 - Angie asked about complaint types- public versus businesses.

- Mellik responded that they did stakeholder work prior, but that they haven't reached out since.
- Mircalla asked about Whole Foods food boxes- "made from recyclable materials"
 - Mellik responded that this is separate from CLA.
- Nicole asked about complaints
 - Mellik shared that online retailers are the most common currently, for example cups
- Mellik shared that Amazon has built it into their system and will not ship certain products within that state.
- David spoke to process- if package is "questionable" they reach out to the Attorney General's Office. The next step would be to send it on to Consumer Protection folks.
 - Retailers can contest the violation- enforcement is difficult, but they are getting traction, and some products are being taken off shelves.
 - Mellik shared that composters have seen an improvement.
- Lisa asked if they are going to the producer or business?
 - Mellik responded that they are going to the producer.
- Angie asked about making complaints/checking products online- research first? How does the State prefer to get a complaint/ what steps to take prior.
 - Mellik responded to check resources first would be preferred.

Email mwiebe@bouldercounty.gov to access presentation slide deck.

5. Recycle Colorado Summit Review

- Nicole and Jamie spoke about Reclaimed Lumber
 - Construction and deconstruction opportunity
- Angie spoke about a presentation for Parks and Rec utilizing compost as the top level for soil for improving the health of grasses.
 - A1 needs us to help complete the end market cycle for sellable compost.
 - Emma shared about a compost give away event with A1.
 - Lisa shared that Republic does a big drop-off for give aways via A1.
- Angie and Nicole shared about EPR adding battery bill for vapes.
- Emma shared about the chemical recycling
 - Recycle Colorado members/attendees was not very supportive
- Angie shared Vanguard composting backed by Blackrock has 3 facilities
 - All Recycle Colorado Presentations are available online
- Angie spoke about Bio-Char success with CSU

- Austin and Michael spoke about de-packager tour with Western Disposal- sludge is sent to A1 Organics after process breakdown- glass was the contaminant in the sludge.

6. Community Updates/Organizational Updates

- Lisa shared the Lafayette is doing a lost and found art exhibit with reclaimed materials with the art collective.

- Logan shared that Louisville is working to have their hard-to-recycle vouchers set soon.
- Cody shared that Boulder County has their in-vessel composter up and running today in Nederland- closed loop system using materials in the mountains with community member food scraps. Loading daily ~ 400lbs per day currently.
- David shared for CDPHE-
 - battery stewardship bill passed with EPR to build a PRO
 - 25lbs or less for battery weight- hoping to help reduce facility fires
 - CDPHE is updating State Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan.
 - EPR recommended program plan for approval, broader packaging plan, CAA incorporated some proposed plans.
 - Nicole shared municipal series EPR:
 - **Webinar: EPR 101 for Governments** What Colorado’s governments need to know about Producer Responsibility.
 - Thursday, July 10 | 10-11a MDT
 - <https://circularactionalliance.org/events-feed/epr-101-what-colorados-local-governments-need-to-know-about-producer-responsibility>
 - **Webinar: Reimbursements** How local governments will be reimbursed for recycling services.
 - Thursday, Aug. 7 | 10-11a MDT
 - <https://circularactionalliance.org/events-feed/reimbursements-how-colorados-local-governments-can-access-recycling-reimbursements>
- Jamie shared that Boulder transitioned all their C&D data onto Green Halo operating system- will have dashboard with data for ordinance.
 - Contractors/weight tickets can now be automatically added- will share when website when completed.
- Connor from resource Central shared that they are having a summer concert series- to ramp up site as community hub- next sale is July 19, rocking ruse/tool sale.

7. Adjourn

- Austin adjourned; Cody seconded.