

DRAFT
Zero Waste Strategic Plan
ACTION PLAN
February 2015

What is this Action Plan?

The 2015 Zero Waste Strategic Plan (ZWSP) is designed to set an overarching framework for achieving the zero waste goals set within it and provide guiding investment principles and evaluation criteria to assist with the prioritization of year-to-year opportunities for investing Trash Tax revenue in new and/or expanded programs, incentives and facilities for the Boulder community. This Action Plan is designed to accompany the ZWSP and outlines the strategies the city will pursue in the coming three years based on current waste reduction needs and funding available. The Action Plan, along with community progress towards the ZWSP goals, will be updated annually.

The City of Boulder Action Plan is intended to be viewed in tandem with other community zero waste partners' action plans. Taken together, they paint a more complete picture of the Boulder community's zero waste facilities, services and regulations, as these are all needed to move toward the zero waste Boulder that is encapsulated by the Strategic Plan. A "Zero Waste Boulder" requires the seven basic zero waste facilities described in the plan with universal access – plus high levels of participation in services driven by programs, incentives and regulations – to bring materials to these facilities and minimize the amount of waste heading toward our neighboring counties' landfills.

Focus of 2015 Action Plan

The most recent diversion data for each sector is presented below. Despite the progress made since the original 2006 Master Plan for Waste Reduction, community-wide waste diversion has only risen modestly to 33 percent in 2013. Gains have been made in the residential sector's diversion rates; however, the percentage of Boulder's waste stream generated by the commercial sector has increased significantly while the corresponding diversion rate has remained stagnant. This has contributed to keeping Boulder's community-wide diversion rate relatively low. Due to this, as well as the significant barriers faced by the commercial sector, the 2015 Action Plan primarily targets this sector along with the multifamily residential sector; and work with community partners to ensure cost-effective, universal access to facilities that can serve the Boulder community for years to come.

Diversion Rates		
	2004	2013*
Single-Family Residential	48%	54%
Multi-Family Residential	14%	21%
Commercial and Industrial	25%	28%
Community Wide	30%	33%

**Does not include 2013 flood debris trash*

2015 Work Plan Items*

**Sustainability Framework icons will be added to final plan to reflect which categories each initiative addresses.*

- Deliver expanded multifamily housing assistance program based on findings of 2014 targeted pilot project which increased diversion at five complexes by between 4% and 16%.
 - Create a strategy for a cost-effective and efficient approach to providing zero waste education and assistance to the broader multi-family community.
 - Gather data and research the existing multi-family complexes to inform and prioritize outreach efforts.
 - Develop tiers of service to address common barriers (will be tailored to needs):
 - First tier will include a toolkit with resources, educational videos, handouts and signs for waste enclosures
 - Second tier will include toolkit alone with additional assistance, including adjustments to collection service levels, door-to-door outreach, and training for residents
 - Final tier will also include waste audits, recycling and compost containers for units, and on-going feedback to residents

- Finalize Universal Recycling Ordinance
 - Develop ordinance implementation plan (if adopted)
 - Develop compliance and enforcement plan (if adopted)
 - Research online self-reporting form option for compliance
 - Research ways to encourage and incentivize edible food waste donations

- Expand business assistance and advising program with multiple tiers of service:
 - Toolkit for do-it-yourself businesses to include employee training videos, free signage, list of resources; examples of good collection setups
 - “Light touch” advising and technical assistance to help businesses establish internal collection systems and signage; incentives available for standardized, bulk-purchased collection bins
 - “Deep dive” zero waste advising delivered by PACE advisors focused on:
 - Food-generating businesses that need to establish compost collection service
 - Commercial leased spaces where landlord-tenant issues could introduce compliance issues
 - Businesses that choose to go beyond basic service provision and work toward achieving 70-85% waste diversion

- Update waste contracts to reflect partner roles outlined in ZWSP.

- Negotiate with Western Disposal and A-1 Organics for equitable, cost-effective and convenient composting options for all area organics haulers.

- As part of the 2016 budget process and based on the criteria outlined in the ZWSP, develop a priority-based budgeting analysis within which to filter funding options for 2016.

Additional Future Initiatives for the Next Two to Three Years*

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- Continue improving business assistance and advising program in response to needs and barriers that arise.
- Assess the rate of early compliance with any commercial regulations adopted and adjust business technical assistance to bring as many businesses on board prior to compliance deadlines.
- Expand the reach of the multifamily residential assistance program.
- Expand community-wide educational efforts on available services, incentives, and facilities as well as proper recycling/composting/source reduction methods.
- Collaborate with Boulder County and other partners on developing a regional construction and demolition recycling facility.
- Perform a programming exercise to further Investigate/Analyze future uses of 6400 Arapahoe site.
 - As part of this, consider a community conversation to re-name the site
 - Analyze the potential to locate ArtParts creative reuse center on site along with expansion needs for Eco-Cycle and ReSource