



COLORADO

Front Range Waste Diversion Enterprise Board of Directors

Department of Public Health & Environment



May 18, 2022

The Colorado State Legislature established the Front Range Waste Diversion Enterprise (FRWD, or “forward”) in 2019 to advance sustainable waste diversion across the Front Range. The FRWD Enterprise consists of the FRWD board of directors (board) and staff from the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE), and provides grants and technical assistance to Front Range communities—including local governments, businesses, institutions, and other entities engaged in Zero Waste solutions—to increase waste diversion to achieve the following waste diversion goals: 39% by 2026 and 51% by 2036.

In an effort to further FRWD’s mandate, this letter supports local government projects on Colorado’s Front Range that expand waste services policy for residents by offering services such as:

- Expanded recycling and compost collection services, such as weekly collections, or larger recycling and compost bins.
- Volume-based pricing or pay-as-you-throw (PAYT) models for trash collection
- Instant rebate programs to help low-income households pay for collection services

Weekly collection efforts are important because polls (including in Denver) indicate that recycling bins fill up faster than trash bins if collected every other week. The PAYT model has proven to reduce trash going to landfills, and increase recycling and composting. The following are examples of PAYT success stories in our state:

- Loveland (highest residential diversion rate in CO): 58%
- Boulder: 53%
- Longmont: 41%
- According to High Country Conservation, Vail doubled its waste diversion rate because of implementing a PAYT system.

The FRWD enterprise fund is financed by an increase in user fees at Front Range landfills. Collection of these fees began in January 2020 and will increase over the next several years, ultimately providing an estimated \$15,000,000 per year. The board endorses expanded waste service policy projects and supports the use of FRWD funds to move the Front Range toward its waste diversion goals.

Sincerely,

Laurie Johnson
Chair, FRWD Board of Directors

