• 158,000 residents
• College town (Colorado State University)
• Privatized collection system – open market for all sectors
• Three primary haulers operate in town
• City involved in policy, education, data collection, regulation (licenses trash haulers), infrastructure
Private Hauler Collection Requirements

- Haulers required to bundle recycling service into trash service for single family homes, use PAYT pricing structure

Licensing with Reporting

- Any company that hauls trash must have license
- Must report tons by material and by sector twice / year

Single-stream recycling

- Not required by policy, but in practice by most haulers
Recycling policy in Fort Collins

- **1995**: Pay-As-You Throw (PAYT) starts
- **1999**: Electronics landfill ban
- **2004**: PAYT updates
- **2007**: Cardboard landfill ban
- **2009**: Under development: Community Recycling Ordinance
- **2013**: Road to Zero Waste plan
- **2016**: Goal: 75% diversion by 2020

**Road to Zero**
- Goal: 50% diversion by 2010
Recycling goals in Fort Collins

1999

goal: 50% diversion by 2010

2013

Road to Zero Waste plan

Goal: 75% diversion by 2020

Goal: Zero Waste by 2030

2015

Climate Action Goal Adopted; Road to Zero Waste is key component
Landfill Bans in Fort Collins

- **2007**
  - Landfill ban on electronics
  - Landfill ban on cardboard

- **2013**
  - Resulted in increases in commercial and residential single stream, cardboard-only collection, and cardboard collected at drop-off centers
  - Continued education and reinforcement needed
  - Difficult to implement without haulers rejecting pickups

Landfill ban on electronics now in effect state-wide in Colorado
Single-Family Policy

1) Haulers must provide carts
2) Recycling bundled with trash for no charge
3) Pricing based on volume of trash can subscription with 100% price differences between sizes

*rates are for example – actual rates set by haulers*
2014 Recycling Subscription Rate, Fort Collins (% of customers subscribed to recycling service)

- Single Family Homes: 95%
- Multi-Family Complexes: 68%
- Commercial: 48%

Data provided by Fort Collins’ private haulers
WRAP (Waste Reduction and Recycling Assistance Program)

- Educational materials
- Rebates
  - conversation starter rather than primary incentive
- On-site waste assessments
  - Identify opportunities to divert more, save $ by decreasing trash
ClimateWise program

- Voluntary program for businesses (370 participants)
- Assistance and recognition regarding waste, energy, transportation, water

- Since 2000, the program has:
  - saved more than $92 million
  - reduced 1.3 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent.
Outreach & Education

- Guidelines available as paper sign, decal, metal sign
- Share guidelines graphic with haulers, regional partners
  - aiming for consistent communications
- Recycling directory on website
Lead by Example: Municipal Activities

- Green Procurement
- Road Construction
- Recycling
  - Include quarterly audits, ability to decrease trash service in contract

Waste Innovation Fund
Public Space Recycling

• Goal of 1:1 trash:recycling ratio
• Accomplished in 2015 for all parks
• In progress for downtown
Backyard composting education via:

- Classes (videos of classes on website too)

Partnering in distributed neighborhood compost pilot in 2016:

- Small-scale compost bins in community gardens hosted by neighborhood volunteer
Construction & Demolition Recycling

Building code requires recycling on construction sites:

- Wood
- Metal
- Cardboard
- Aggregates (concrete, bricks, etc.)

City provides a C&D resource sheet with all permit applications, includes info for deconstruction non-profit (National Center for Craftsmanship)
Recycling drop-off center opens (Traditional recyclables)

Hard-to-Recycle Center opening:
electronics, wood, yard trimmings, antifreeze, batteries, oil, paint
http://www.fcgov.com/recycling/timberline.php
City of Fort Collins
Crushing Facility

- Accepts Asphalt, Concrete, Dirt, Porcelain
- Available for use by municipal operations, public too

- Recycled 213,500 tons of material in 2014
  - 132,000 tons of MSW generated in 2014
- Revenue-neutral project
Source of Fort Collins Community Discards (2014)

Industrial Materials:
- concrete, asphalt, dirt, scrap metal, commercial wood scraps, brewery organics, biosolids, trash collected in roll-off containers
Private Sector Programs

Teachers’ Closet – supplies for teachers and students

Compost Processing: yard trimmings only at in-town compost drop-off site, all organics at site 20 miles from town

Anaerobic Digestion:
• Heartland Biodigester (40 miles from town)
• possible expansion of wastewater treatment facility

Commercial Food Scraps Collection
fcgov.com/recycling

Caroline Mitchell

cmitchell@fcgov.com

970-221-6288
Diversion Rates in Fort Collins

2014 MSW Diversion rate = 34%

Chart includes residential, commercial, and industrial materials
Commercial / Multi-Family System

Same as single family homes:
- Volume-based pricing for trash
  (Bill based on size of dumpster, service frequency)

Different than single family homes:
- Recycling is separate fee, NOT bundled

Landfill bans on cardboard and electronics do apply