



Trash and Recycling in Fort Collins

Caroline Mitchell

- **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

13

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

Licensing with Reporting

28

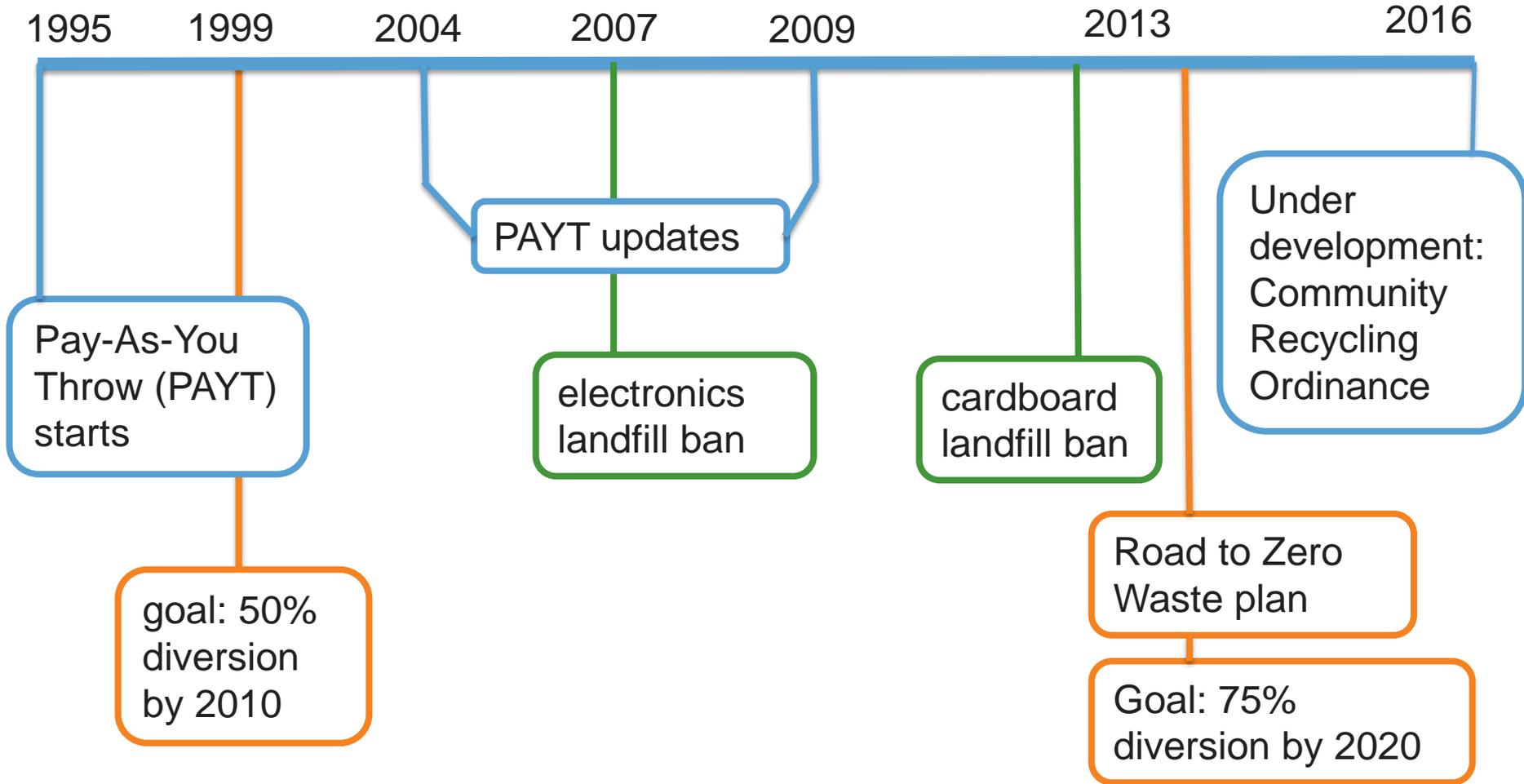
- Any company that hauls trash must have license
- Must report tons by material and by sector twice / year

Single-stream recycling

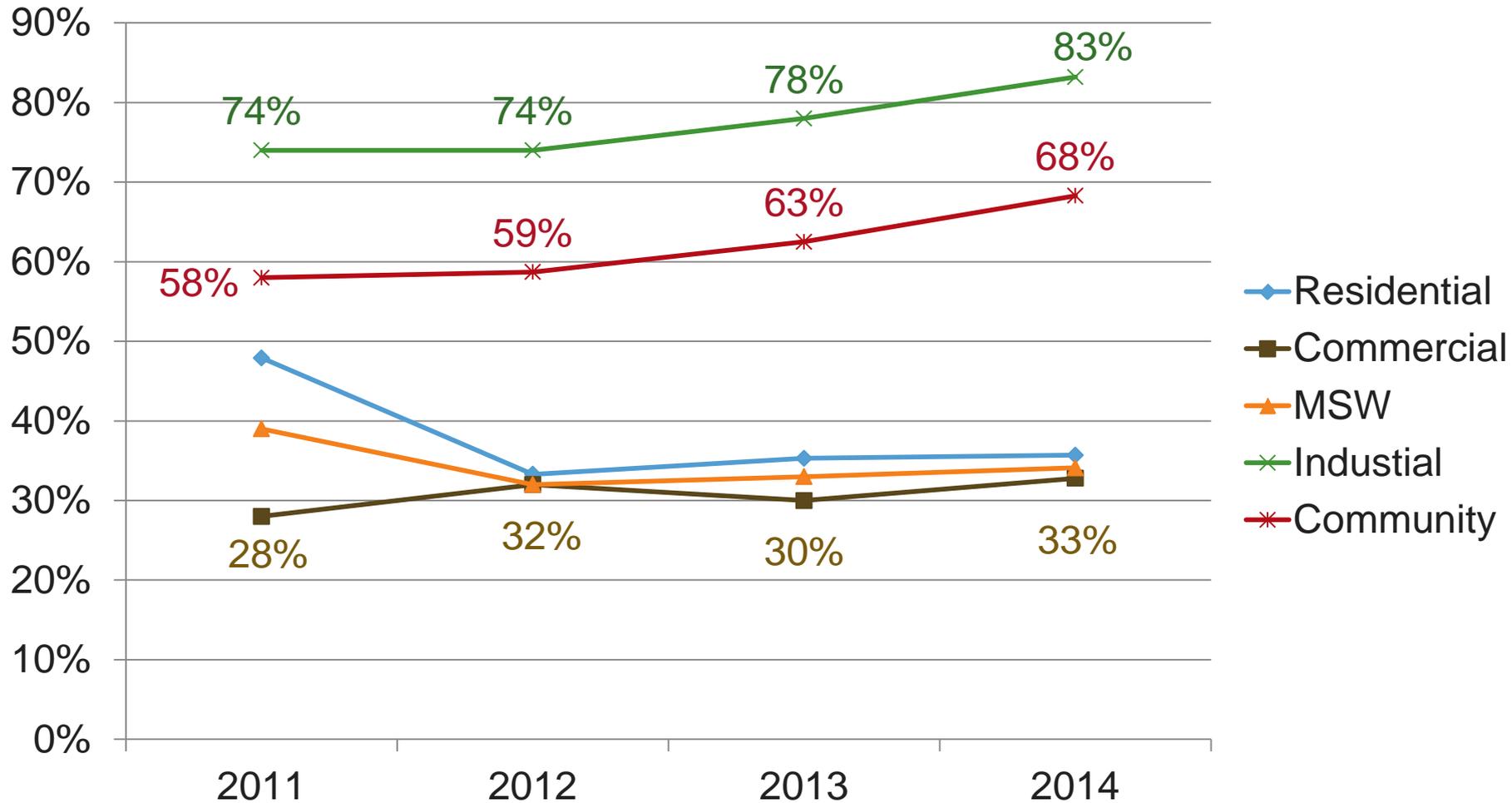
40

- Not required by policy, but in practice by most haulers

Recycling policy in Fort Collins



Diversion Rates in Fort Collins



Recycling goals in Fort Collins

1999

1

goal: 50%
diversion
by 2010

2013

2

Road to Zero
Waste plan

Goal: 75%
diversion by 2020

Goal: Zero Waste
by 2030

2015

3

Climate
Action Goal
Adopted;
Road to Zero
Waste is key
component

6

2007

electronics
landfill ban

Landfill ban on electronics now in effect state-wide in Colorado

2013

cardboard
landfill ban



6

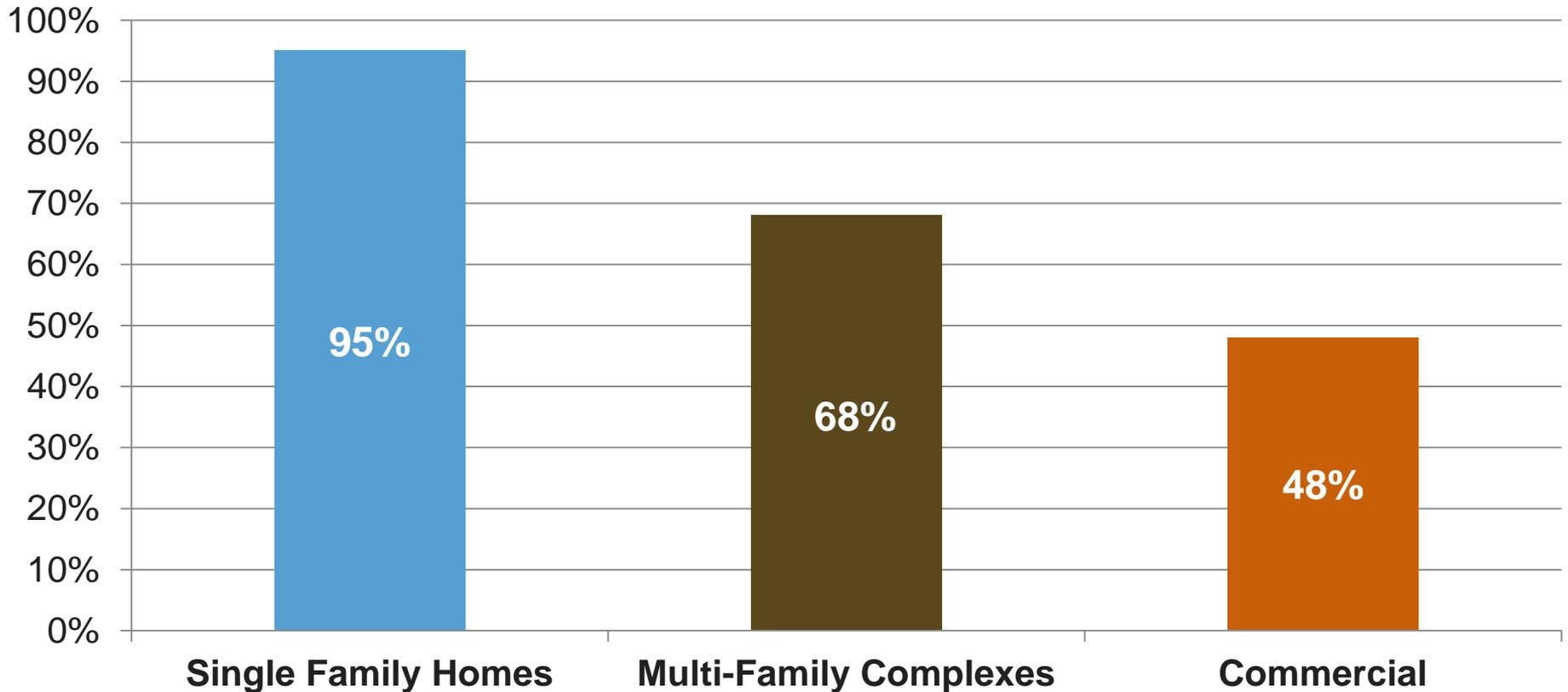
- Resulted in increases in commercial and residential single stream, cardboard-only collection, and cardboard collected at drop-off centers
- Continued education and reinforcement needed
- Difficult to implement without haulers rejecting pickups

- 1) Haulers must provide carts 40
- 2) Recycling bundled with trash for no charge 12
- 3) Pricing based on volume of trash can subscription with 100% price differences between sizes 16



*rates are for example – actual rates set by haulers

2014 Recycling Subscription Rate, Fort Collins (% of customers subscribed to recycling service)



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

39

42

54

55



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.





CANS, BOTTLES & GLASS



PLASTIC BOTTLES, TUBS, JUGS & JARS



CONTAINERS & CARTONS



PAPER & CARDBOARD



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

76

73

Lead by Example: Municipal Activities



Green Procurement

40

Road Construction

10

Recycling

31

- Include quarterly audits, ability to decrease trash service in contract

Waste Innovation Fund

- Goal of 1:1 trash:recycling ratio
- Accomplished in 2015 for all parks
- In progress for downtown



Backyard composting education via:

- Website www.fcgov.com/composting.php
- 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

Building code requires recycling on construction sites:

67

- 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)

69

2002

2016

83

Recycling drop-off center opens (Traditional recyclables)

86

Hard-to-Recycle Center opening:
electronics, wood, yard trimmings,
antifreeze, batteries, oil, paint

<http://www.fcgov.com/recycling/timberline.php>

93



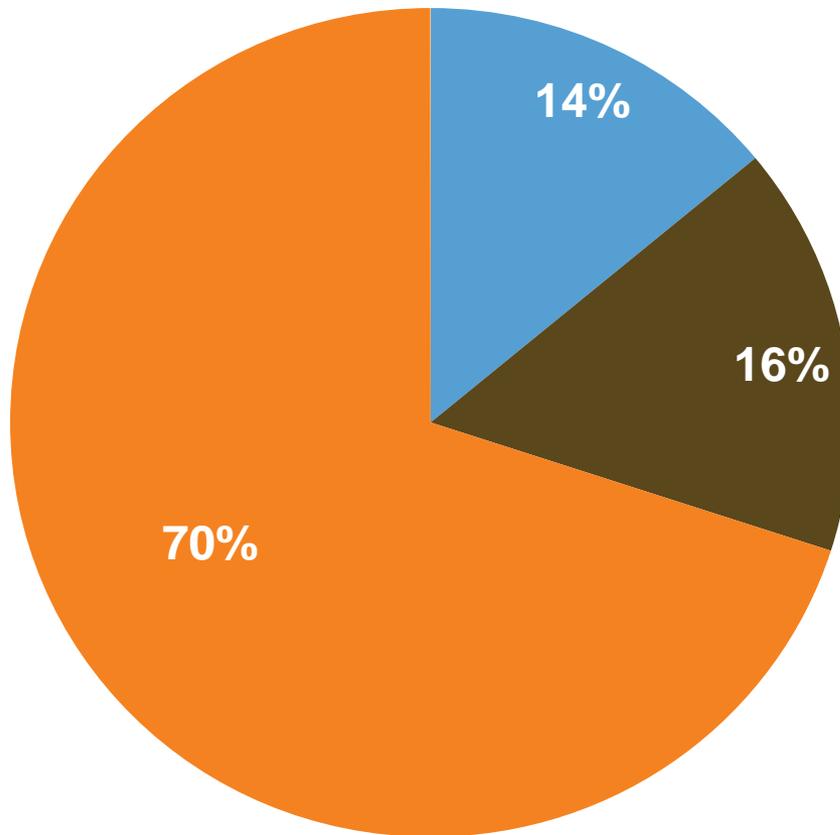
- Accepts Asphalt, Concrete, Dirt, Porcelain
- Available for use by municipal operations, public too

96



- 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)



- Commercial
- Residential
- Industrial

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

Teachers' Closet – supplies for teachers and students

87

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

94

Anaerobic Digestion:

- Heartland Biodigester (40 miles from town)
- possible expansion of wastewater treatment facility

95

Commercial Food Scraps Collection

53

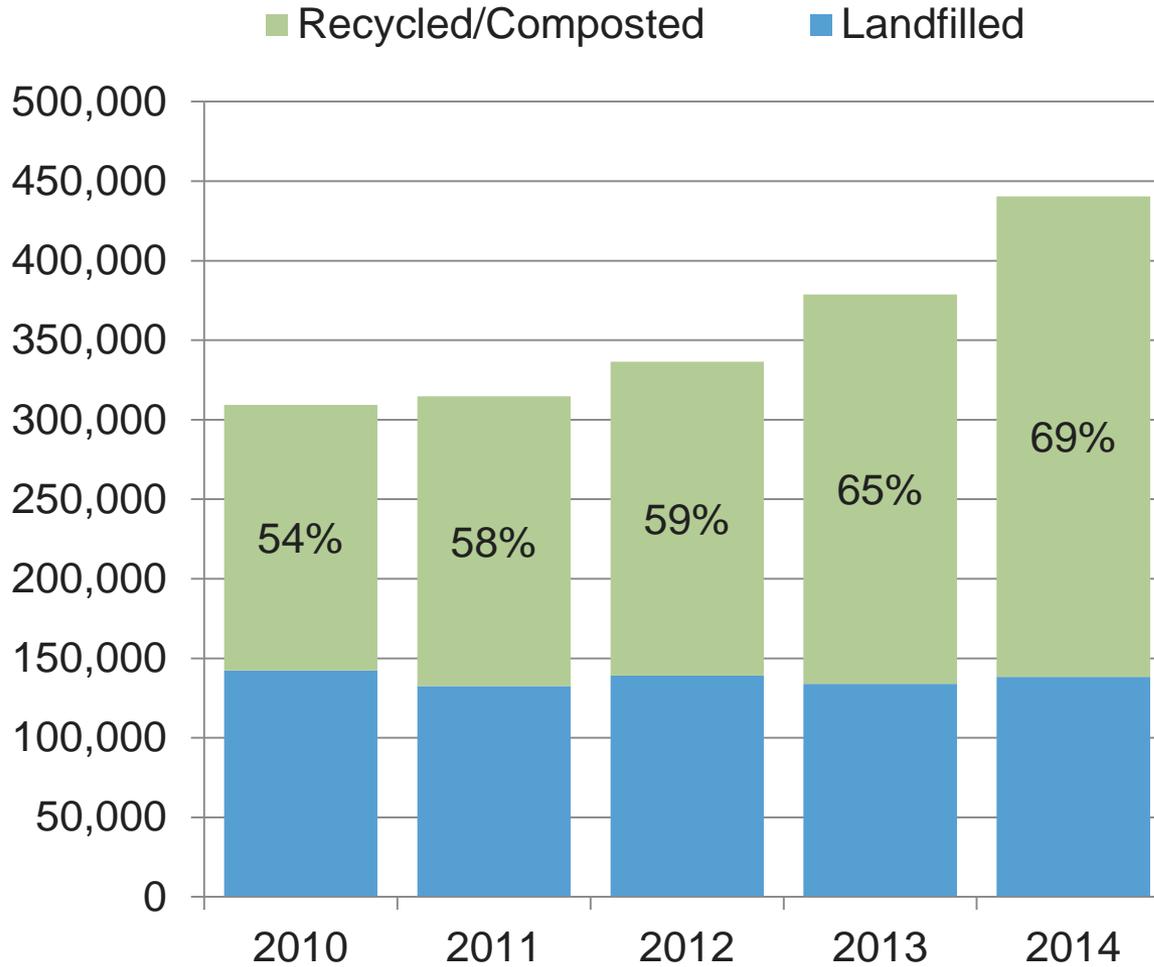
fcgov.com/recycling

Caroline Mitchell

cmitchell@fcgov.com

970-221-6288

Diversion Rates in Fort Collins



**2014 MSW
Diversion rate
= 34%**

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

