



# Recycle Colorado Lobby Day Advocate Handouts



## Colorado Capitol Address

200 E. Colfax Ave.

## State Services Building (Legislator Offices)

1525 Sherman St.

## Legislative Services Building

(Joint Budget Committee) 200 E. 14th Ave.

## Advocate & Legislator Reception Location

Forte Wine Bar in Lincoln Center Building

1660 Lincoln Street, Denver, CO

## Contact if you need help

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## ↓ Advocate Resources ↓



## Recycle Colorado's 2026 Legislative Priorities

### 1. Support SB26-003 Electric Vehicle Battery End-Of-Life Management

- Recycle Colorado supports a strong producer responsibility program for products, including small, medium, and electric vehicle batteries.
- A strong producer responsibility program:
  - Reduces pollution
  - Reduces consumer confusion about battery recycling
  - Mitigates hidden recycling costs
  - Increases battery recycling access
  - Shifts the cost burden of collection and processing from residents and local governments to producers
  - Captures valuable materials contained in used batteries

### 2. Salvaged Lumber for New Construction

- **ACTION FOR 2026: HELP US CONNECT WITH LOCAL INTEREST GROUPS**
- Local codes lack a clear, consistent pathway for grading, certification, and permitted use for salvaged lumber.
- This will not create new requirements, but will clarify & promote allowable opportunities for use.
- We are leading an education and outreach effort to help builders and communities reuse salvaged lumber with confidence.





- Using salvaged lumber reduces greenhouse gas emissions, supports local businesses & labor, minimizes waste and impacts on forests, and increases local supplies of usable lumber

### 3. Organics Diversion for Colorado

- **ACTION FOR 2026: WORK WITH US TO CREATE FUTURE LEGISLATION TO KEEP FOOD SCRAPS & YARD TRIMMINGS OUT OF LANDFILLS**
- *Organics Diversion legislation would:*
  - Build resilient landscapes: Save water, increase flood & drought tolerance, & reduce wildfire risk
  - Reverse climate change: Sequester carbon & avoid landfill methane emissions
  - Support Colorado agriculture: Help grow healthy foods, restore topsoil & grazing land & save farmers money
  - Build local economies: Creates five times more jobs than landfilling, develop innovative business opportunities, & save municipalities money

## Lobby Day Agenda - March 12th, 2025

**7:45 AM - Arrive at the Capitol (200 East Colfax Avenue, Denver)**

- Go through security on either the north side (Colfax and Sherman) or the south side (E. 14th Ave.) removing belts and all metal. Place bags through the machine. You do not need to remove shoes.
- Meet up on the first floor at the base of the main staircase next to the West Foyer. Light breakfast will be provided.

**8:30 AM - 11:30 AM - Lobbying in Senate and House Chambers and office meetings with legislators.**

- Each group will have its own schedule and legislative targets. Each group will have an experienced team leader (see script below).

**11:30 AM - 4:00 PM - Lunch and office meetings with legislators.**

**4:00 - 6:30 PM - Advocate & Legislator Reception at Forte Wine Bar**

## Lobby Day Script - Meeting (15-30 minutes)

### 1. LEADER - Welcome

- a. **Thank Legislator/Staff Person** for the meeting and anything else the legislator has done/supported (like SB25-163 Battery Stewardship Program). Congratulate new legislators on being elected.
- b. **Introduce Recycle Colorado - establish your credentials:** Recycle Colorado is a statewide nonprofit organization working to advance infrastructure, end markets, and state and local policies in waste reduction, recovery and diversion. We have more than 300 members from across the state, from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors.

### 2. EVERYONE - Introductions

- a. **Introduce yourselves** - where you live/where you work/what you do and if you are a constituent

### 3. LEADER - State the topic of the meeting

- a. We are here today to talk to legislators like yourself about how important recycling, composting, reuse, and remanufacturing is to our state and the need for us to do more to build our recycling economy.



- b. Last year we helped champion the Battery Stewardship Program, SB25-163 that sets up a collection and recycling program for small and medium format batteries, paid for by the producers of the batteries.
4. **VOLUNTEER 1 - Tell the legislator WHY they should care - HEART**
  - a. ***Appeal to their heart*** - briefly share your personal emotions, experiences with them about why recycling, organics diversion, and construction and deconstruction is important to you. Try to make a personal connection with the legislator.
5. **VOLUNTEER 2- Tell the legislator WHY they should care - HEAD**
  - a. ***Appeal to their head***-briefly share facts, data. Overall, Colorado is currently recycling and composting only 15.5% of its waste, half the national average.
6. **VOLUNTEER 3 (or can be shared between two/three volunteers)- Ask for their support on bills we are running or supporting**
  - a. **SB26-003 Electric Vehicle End of Life Management:** Please vote yes on SB26-003 and support Colorado's leadership in producer responsibility. This bill builds off of the work we have done with paint, packaging and small and medium format batteries. It requires EV manufacturers to collect, responsibly handle and recycle unwanted batteries starting in Oct. 2028. Additionally, the bill promotes the reuse, remanufacturing, and repurposing of EV batteries before they are ultimately recycled.
    - i. **ACTION: Will you support SB26-003?**
  - b. **Salvaged Lumber for New Construction:** Local codes lack a clear, consistent pathway for grading, certification, and permitted use for salvaged lumber. Using salvaged lumber reduces greenhouse gas emissions, supports local businesses & labor, minimizes waste and impacts on forests, and increases local supplies of usable lumber. We are leading an education and outreach effort to help builders and communities reuse salvaged lumber with confidence.
    - i. **ACTION: Can you help us connect with local interest groups to inform them of the importance of using salvaged lumber?**
  - c. **Keeping food scraps and yard trimmings out of landfills:** 40% of what we put in the landfill could be eaten or composted. It is valuable material that could be used to build more resilient soils as compost, support local agriculture and reverse climate change.
    - i. **ACTION: Will you help us work on future legislation that will keep food scraps and yard trimmings out of landfills?**
7. **VOLUNTEER 5 or LEADER** - Ask if the legislator has questions or if we can follow up with any additional information.
8. **LEADER - Closing**
  - a. Tell the legislator/staffer our factsheets and materials are available through the QR Code.
  - b. We will also follow up with answers to the questions he or she asked.
  - c. Thank the legislator again.

## TIPS

- Be sure to make the conversation 50/50. Let the legislator respond and ask questions.
- Don't make anything up. It is WAY better to say, "I don't know. That is a great question. We will get back to you with an answer or have someone contact you who knows the answer."
- Don't forget to fill out the report form!