



RECYCLE COLORADO

2025

ANNUAL

REPORT

Recycle Colorado
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About Recycle Colorado

Recycle Colorado is the statewide nonprofit advancing a circular economy for Colorado. Our membership represents a diverse array of individuals and organizations, including businesses, producers, haulers, municipalities, nonprofits & more. We strive to create a more circular economy in Colorado so that Colorado's waste streams get recycled, composted or diverted to reuse or remanufacturing.



Mission

To advance infrastructure, end markets, and state and local policies in waste reduction, recovery, and diversion.



Vision

To transform Colorado into a national leader in waste reduction, recovery, and diversion.





A Letter from our Executive Director, Brandy Moe

As I reflect on 2025, I am struck by the momentum, collaboration, and shared purpose that continue to define Recycle Colorado and the broader waste diversion community across our state.

At its core, Recycle Colorado brings people together—across sectors, regions, and perspectives—to move Colorado toward a more circular economy. From the successful passage of Colorado’s Battery Stewardship legislation to continued progress on Producer Responsibility for paper and packaging, we are seeing systems-level change take hold.

2025 was also a year of transition for our organization. In June, I stepped into the role of Executive Director, following the incredible leadership of Liz Chapman. Liz led Recycle Colorado to new heights, and it was truly an honor to step into this role and build on the strong foundation she created. Her leadership, vision, and commitment to this community have left a lasting mark on both the organization and the state.

I am equally grateful for Ally Byzewski, who served as Operations Coordinator throughout 2025 and has since stepped into the role of Director of Operations in 2026. Ally has been a steady, thoughtful leader behind the scenes for years, and I can say without hesitation that I could not have done this work without her partnership.

What continues to inspire me most is our membership. Across councils, committees, and events, our members are showing up—sharing ideas, solving problems, and pushing this work forward together. Whether we were gathered at the Summit for Recycling, a Snack & Share, or our Annual Meeting, the level of engagement and collaboration this year was something special.

We also made important strides as an organization, including launching a newly redesigned website to better connect members with resources, opportunities, and each other, and continuing to invest in education and leadership development across the state.

There is still more work ahead. Expanding access to recycling and composting, strengthening end markets, and ensuring policies translate into real-world impact will take continued partnership and persistence. But if this year is any indication, this community is ready for that challenge.

Thank you to our members, partners, board, and staff for your trust, your leadership, and your commitment to this work. It is an honor to do this alongside you.

Membership Benefits

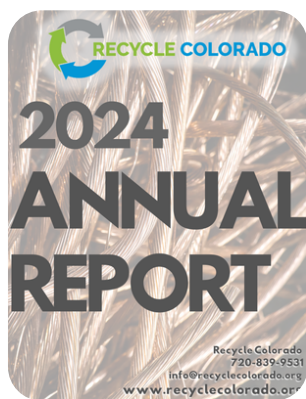
Joining Recycle Colorado ensures the crucial work we have done continues into the future. There are multiple benefits to joining Recycle Colorado and supporting the organization's vision and mission. Year-round, through councils and webinars, members keep up to date on the latest trends in recycling and materials management, form new professional relationships, make sure their voice is heard and can participate in numerous fun events.

Your involvement helps our organization grow!



Programs, Events, and Working Groups

Recycle Colorado partners with like-minded organizations to engage all ages in understanding how they support our mission. Whether it is tabling at community events, facilitating working groups and webinars, or celebrating the creativity of Colorado's youth, we provide multiple opportunities for our members to participate and learn.



Directory & Networking

Recycle Colorado's online membership directory provides the public with access to recycling information and services. The members only directory is a benefit of Recycle Colorado membership which gives members access to the direct contact information for all Recycle Colorado members. Members are given multiple opportunities during each year to network with others in the state, whether virtual or in-person.



Summit for Recycling

The Summit for Recycling is Colorado's local conference focused on providing opportunities for attendees to network, learn from, and celebrate with other recycling, composting, reuse, and zero waste professionals. Every year, Recycle Colorado focuses on filling every day of our conference with engaging workshops, tours, keynote speakers, and breakout sessions on the topics you want to hear about. The Summit is a great place for new and returning waste professionals to network, collaborate on ideas, and discuss the future for Colorado's recycling and composting potential.



Annual Meeting

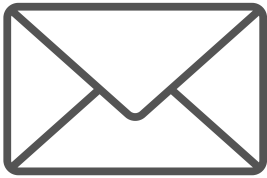
The Annual Meeting is an organization-focused event for new, returning, and non-members looking to learn more about Recycle Colorado and connect with others in the industry. Networking, professional development, and the Colorado recycling updates are provided each year to help keep attendees in the loop.

Communications



Newsletters

Our monthly newsletters provide the latest information on Recycle Colorado programs and activities, while also highlighting member accomplishments. Article submissions are open to all Recycle Colorado members who want to share news about events, research, legislation or other information relevant to recycling professionals in the state. Recycle Colorado is a resource for those who are looking to fill positions within their organization and promote events to our membership.



Email Communications

As a way to update members of upcoming council and committee meetings, various events, and engagement opportunities, we utilize email communication.



NEW Website

Our website plays an important role in our organization by providing important information to our members and those seeking information on recycling. In 2025 we completed a full makeover to our website. It is now easier to find job listings, grant opportunities, policy information, educational resources, and highlights from our members on their program successes. The updated members portal provides resources and communications for members participating in events and councils. Check out the new site!

www.recyclecolorado.org



Social Media

Our social media accounts (LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube) are tools we utilize to optimize our reach to those in the industry who we may not directly interact with, providing updates on recycling and composting in Colorado.



Recycle4Colorado



Recycle Colorado



recyclecolorado_



recyclecolorado

Councils and Committees

Attending Recycle Colorado events and participating in a council or committee is the best benefit Recycle Colorado has to offer. Councils and committees hold quarterly or monthly meetings for members to collaborate and share industry developments, successes, and challenges. Subject-matter councils bring together people interested in specific focus areas of waste reduction, diversion and recovery.

Construction & Deconstruction (C&D) Council



Colorado Composting Council (COCC)



Policy Committee



Snack & Share



Find your fit by joining a Council or Committee!

Plastics Circularity Council



Greater Colorado Council

Northern Colorado Council

Councils & Committees

Colorado Composting Council (COCC)

The Colorado Composting Council champions the growth and success of the composting industry by advancing organics recycling, compost manufacturing, and strong end markets. As a state chapter of the US Composting Council (USCC), it is their mission to provide:

- Advocacy that shapes supportive policies and advances access to organics recycling across the state
- Research that fuels innovation
- Standards and practices that ensure quality
- Education that empowers professionals and the public
- Market development that delivers lasting economic and environmental value



In 2025, COCC successfully developed and hosted several trainings and education. They hosted a Compost Operations Training Course in Fort Collins and developed and hosted a well-attended Organics Track at the 2025 Recycle Colorado Summit. Because of these efforts, COCC received the 2025 State Chapter of Excellence Award from the USCC, for demonstrating outstanding achievements in chapter leadership.



Construction & Deconstruction (C&D) Council

The C&D Council continued advancing strategies to increase diversion and reuse of construction, deconstruction, and demolition materials across Colorado. In 2025, the council focused on sharing best practices from local governments, advancing salvage lumber education efforts, and strengthening collaboration across jurisdictions and industry stakeholders. Presentations included updates on the City of Aspen's new C&D diversion ordinance and national policy developments such as LEED v5, which increases recognition for material reuse and circular building practices.



Council members also launched a salvage lumber working group to increase awareness of how reclaimed lumber can be used within current building codes and to develop guidance for unstamped lumber. The council continued supporting knowledge-sharing through surveys, working groups, and discussions on end-market development, material tracking tools such as GreenHalo, and opportunities for expanding reuse and recycling infrastructure statewide.

Northern Colorado Council

The Northern Colorado Council supports Recycle Colorado members in Fort Collins, Larimer County, Weld County, and Boulder County. In 2025, this council planned happy hour opportunities for members and community members to collaborate and learn from one another. This group will be evolving into an event planning group in the coming years.



Plastics Circularity Council

The Plastics Circularity Council has been replaced by the Materials Education Council (MEC), broadening the focus from plastics alone to the full range of materials that Recycle Colorado members encounter. Where the previous council worked to map Colorado's plastics ecosystem, the MEC is designed as an educational resource covering materials science, hard-to-recycle items, and Colorado-specific recycling context across paper, metals, glass, textiles, hazardous waste, and more. The council is built for accessibility, targeting all Recycle Colorado members regardless of technical background, and meets quarterly with field trips beginning after the 2025 summit.

Policy Committee

The Recycle Colorado Policy Committee works on local and state policy to advance waste diversion through reuse, remanufacturing and composting. To learn more about the Policy Committee's work, please see the "Policy in Action" section on the next page.

Greater Colorado Council

The Greater Colorado Council (GCC) is committed to strengthening and expanding recycling and waste diversion efforts across the state, with a special focus on communities beyond the Front Range. Accomplishments of the GCC in 2025 include:

- Bringing timely Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) updates to the Council and facilitated direct facetime with the Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO), enabling those representing Greater Colorado and rural communities to advocate for their unique needs.
- Supporting members through major policy developments, including ongoing updates to the Battery Stewardship Bill, statewide organics and C&D diversion discussions, and the evaluation of Colorado's Producer Responsibility program plan.
- Creating a platform for Greater Colorado communities to share local wins, challenges, and innovations, from new composting pilots to major infrastructure projects such as Grand Junction's C3-funded regional MRF slated to open in 2026.
- Expanding awareness of grant and technical-assistance opportunities, including C3, STEPS, BPI micro-grants, and local funding models, helping communities secure resources for diversion, composting, and hard-to-recycle programs.



Snack & Shares

In 2025, our Snack & Shares program continued to be a success. Snack & Shares provide an opportunity to network and learn about current innovations, solutions, and resources in our industry. Check out our full list of events in 2025:

- JANUARY: Circular Economy Development Center & Front Range Transload Updates
- FEBRUARY: Wind Power Solutions
- APRIL: Recycle Colorado Membership Après-ciation
- MAY: Planter Box Creation at Perks Deconstruction
- JUNE: Planting at Compost Colorado
- JULY: Organic Waste Diversion Program Development Resources
- AUGUST: EPR in Colorado Updates with CAA
- SEPTEMBER: Don't Trash Glass
- OCTOBER: Refill Shop Tour at Source Zero
- DECEMBER: Farm to Summit Tour



Poster Contest

Each year Recycle Colorado invites students from across the state to participate in our annual poster contest. This is an opportunity for students to showcase their creative skills, while also learning about recycling in their state and community. The 2025 theme was "Thank You Waste Diversion Teams!". K-12 students across the state were encouraged to create a poster demonstrating their appreciation for members of waste diversion teams who collect and sort trash, recycling and composting in schools, communities or in waste diversion facilities. Waste diversion includes trash, recycling and compost.



We received 88 submissions from kids all over Colorado. Winners received gift cards from Goodwill to go hunting for treasures.

Policy in Action

In 2025, Recycle Colorado partnered with the National Waste and Recycling Association (Rocky Mtn. Chapter) to pass SB25-163, Battery Stewardship Program for small/medium batteries. The bill was passed in both houses with bipartisan support. Our partnership and support on the battery bill strengthened Recycle Colorado’s connections to national nonprofits and allowed for strong collaboration with our stakeholders.

Recycle Colorado also hosted another successful Lobby Day in 2025. The policy committee also hosts an annual Lobby Day. More than 50 volunteers joined Recycle Colorado staff to advocate for the Battery Stewardship bill. The day included a breakfast, training, and exhibits to create additional opportunities for volunteers to meet with legislators. Best of all, Molson, the fire safety dog, joined the event and was the hit of the day!

Through the legislative session in 2025, the following principles guided the work of the Policy Committee:

- Develop legislative champions in the Colorado House and Senate;
- Provide opportunities for members to engage and interact with legislators;
- Cultivate partnerships with aligned organizations;
- Develop strong relationship with Governor’s office;
- Advocate for recycling, composting and waste reduction as climate solutions;
- Support legislation we have gotten passed such as Circular Economy Center and Producer Responsibility;
- Integrate Environmental Justice into policies and cultivate relationships with organizations that directly work with underserved communities.



Producer Responsibility

In 2025, Recycle Colorado continued its leadership role in the implementation of Colorado’s Producer Responsibility Program for Paper and Packaging, established under HB22-1355. Even after stepping down as Recycle Colorado Executive Director, Luz Chapman continued to serve as Chair of the state’s Producer Responsibility Advisory Board, guiding the Board through several critical milestones. Recycle Colorado members are also engaged in the advisory Board, with nine members serving on the Board.

In 2025, Recycle Colorado remained committed to supporting the Advisory Board’s efforts and amplified opportunities for education and engagement to ensure that stakeholders and Recycle Colorado members were aware of the work of CAA and program milestones to ensure the successful implementation of the Producer Responsibility Program in Colorado.



Annual Meeting

Held in beautiful Salida, the 2025 Annual Meeting was a beacon of connection and innovation! With 57 members from around the state attending, we met our Board member candidates, received updates on committee and council work, and celebrated the many of our members for their outstanding work. The grand finale of the day was a tour of Julie Mach’s Elements Mountain Compost facility and a wonderful happy hour by the river, surrounded by new friends and colleagues.

A heartfelt thank you to our amazing sponsor, WM, for fueling our gathering and nourishing our minds and bodies. We’re thrilled your team could join the celebration!



Summit for Recycling

Recycle Colorado had a very successful 2025 Summit for Recycling Conference in Grand Junction with more than 220 attendees joining for three days of networking, education, and celebration.

Before the conference began, the Policy Retreat on Monday, June 2nd brought together advocates within our organization to discuss the recent legislation and strategize about the future of policy for Recycle Colorado. Following the policy retreat, attendees networked over snacks and drinks at the Welcome Reception. The room was abuzz with excitement for the sessions and fun coming up over the few days.

The main conference featured three topic tracks including Materials Recycling, Organics, and Communications. Many of the sessions included hands-on workshops, to provide attendees with applicable and relevant resources from colleagues. Tours at the Summit highlighted the great waste diversion work being done in Grand County, with a focus on composting, hard to recycle materials, and innovation for circular economies. The Awards Gala provided an opportunity to recognize governments, businesses, organizations and people who exemplify the mission and vision of Recycle Colorado. The outside picnic-themed gala was filled with connections, games, and lots of dancing!



Recycle Colorado's First Fellow

Recycle Colorado hosted our first University of Colorado MENV Organic Fellow. Dani O'Connor spent 400 hours with us over the summer, meeting with key organics stakeholders across Colorado to understand the current landscape of organics recycling. She presented to municipalities and small businesses across the state to increase awareness of on the findings from the Organics Management Plan developed by the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment and solicited and analyzed feedback to develop future outreach opportunities.



Colorado Gives Day

Colorado Gives Day is a statewide celebration to increase online giving, presented by the Community First Foundation and FirstBank. A total of \$3,912 was donated to Recycle Colorado and the Colorado Composting Council in 2025 by 33 donors.



Help Recycle Colorado GROW by getting involved:

- Donate what you can to support our mission
- Become a member!
- Follow us on social media and interact with our posts
- Attend events like Snack & Shares, the Summit and Lobby Day
- Stay in the loop on your local ordinances and policies
- Share what you learn with friends, neighbors, or co-workers
- Volunteer at your local recycling center
- Participate in local sustainability events

THANK YOU

RECYCLE COLORADO MEMBERS



Eco-Cycle Circular Action Alliance Paintcare
Greensheen Paint Molson Coors Rehrig Pacific Company

5280 Waste Solutions A-1 Organics Alpine Bank AMP Association of Plastics Recyclers
Bruin Waste Management Colorado Beverage Association Eunomia Eco-Products
Glass Packaging Institute Goodwill of Colorado HDR Engineering I.T. Refresh
LyondellBasell Midwest Biosystems New Belgium Brewing Company Niagara Bottling
PakTech Pretred Power Screening Product Stewardship Institute (PSI) Recycle Coach
Toter Waste Connections of Colorado TOMRA



Chaffee County Denver International Airport City of Boulder
Larimer County Solid Waste City of Lakewood

City & County of Broomfield Boulder County Resource Conservation Division City of Longmont
City of Salida City of Grand Junction City of Steamboat Springs Douglas County Public Works
City & County of Denver - DOTI Pitkin County Solid Waste Center Town of Mountain Village
Town of Winter Park Summit County Resource Allocation Park (SCRAP) Town of Vail

Join RECYCLE COLORADO's Membership

Capstone \$8,000

8 Votes

Benefits: Annual Report Highlight, Logo on Website & Newsletter

Summit for Recycling: 4 Registrations, Partnership Recognition, Partner Spotlight, Exhibitor Booth

Annual Meeting: 6 Registrations, Partnership Recognition

Cornerstone \$6,000

6 Votes

Benefits: Annual Report Highlight, Logo on Website & Newsletter

Summit for Recycling: 3 Registrations, Partnership Recognition, Partner Spotlight, Exhibitor Booth

Annual Meeting: 4 Registrations, Partnership Recognition

Supporting \$4,000

4 Votes

Benefits: Annual Report Highlight, Name on Website & Newsletter

Summit for Recycling: 2 Registrations, Partnership Recognition, Exhibitor Booth

Annual Meeting: 2 Registrations, Partnership Recognition

Business \$2,000

3 Votes

Benefits: Annual Report Highlight, Name on Website & Newsletter

Summit for Recycling: 1 Registration, Partnership Recognition, Exhibitor Booth

Annual Meeting: 1 Registration, Partnership Recognition

Community \$350

2 Votes

Can participate in council & committee meetings and can vote on during policy votes & board of director elections

Recycle Colorado is a statewide nonprofit advancing circular economies & improving recycling across the state. Our membership represents a diverse array of individuals and organizations, including businesses, producers, haulers, municipalities, nonprofits & more.

Value of Benefits

- \$560 Summit Registration
- \$30 Annual Meeting Registration
- 1000 Newsletter Subscribers
- 10,000 Yearly Website Visits
- Bi-Weekly Posts on LinkedIn, Facebook, & Twitter

Municipal Membership Levels

Gold Partner \$5,000

5 Votes

Benefits: Annual Report Highlight, Logo on Website & Newsletter

Summit: 4 Registrations, Partnership Recognition

Annual Meeting: 4 Registrations, Partnership Recognition

Silver Partner \$3,000

3 Votes

Benefits: Annual Report Highlight, Name on Website & Newsletter

Summit: 3 Registrations, Partnership Recognition

Annual Meeting: 3 Registrations, Partnership Recognition

Bronze Partner \$1,500

2 Votes

Benefits: Annual Report Highlight, Name on Website & Newsletter

Summit: 2 Registrations, Partnership Recognition

Annual Meeting: 2 Registrations, Partnership Recognition

Individual \$100

No Voting Eligibility

Individual members can participate in council & committee meetings & votes on policy, but are not able to vote during BOD elections.

2025 Recycle Colorado Financial Summary

The 2025 year-end financials illustrate a well-managed budget for the organization. Total revenue was \$352,262.96. Interest income totaled \$2,436.26. Membership income was strong at \$214,586.70 and sponsorship income was also strong at \$59,917.50. Recycle Colorado staff did a great job controlling expenses in 2025, with a total expenditure of \$354,439.78. The year-end net revenue was \$259.44.

The 2025 year-end statement of financial position shows a total of \$79,554.15 in the Alpine Bank checking account, of which \$26,527.55 is funds of Colorado Composting Council. Recycle Colorado's reserved funds (Domini Fund) totals \$91,008.89.

Assets as of	Dec. 31, 2024	Dec. 31, 2025
Cash	\$76,985.28	\$79,554.15
Domini Fund	\$88,793.44	\$91,009.89
Accounts Receivable	\$0	\$0
Total Assets	\$165,778.72	\$170,564.04

2025 Year End Annual Budget vs Actuals			
Budgeted Income	\$354,278.00	Actual Income	\$354,699.22
Budgeted Expense	\$365,422.58	Actual Expense	\$354,439.78
Budgeted Net	\$ -11,144.58	Actual Net	\$259.44



2025 COCC Financial Summary

The Colorado Composting Council remained in good financial health despite lower than anticipated sponsorship revenue. Membership revenue was strong and exceeded budget goals. The majority of expenses were related to marketing and promotional items as well as contributions to Recycle Colorado for administrative and lobbying support.

Funding also supported sponsorship of several partner events to raise awareness about COCC in the agricultural community and beyond.

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