

Solid Waste Program Update

This information provides an update on Larimer County Solid Waste's negotiations with Republic Services Group (RSG) for the Landfill, Central Transfer Station, and Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), as well as conveying anticipated next steps for the Solid Waste Program.

No Further Negotiations for Republic Services Group (RSG) Contract

On August 31, 2023, Larimer County terminated further negotiations with RSG for the Landfill, Central Transfer Station, and Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). Negotiations had been occurring for many months, and the County and RSG were not able to come to a mutual agreement on terms. The County appreciates the relationship with RSG and will continue to work with the organization as a valued customer.

Next Steps - Alternatives and Diversion Program

County Built, Owned, and Operated Landfill and Modified Transfer Station

Larimer County Solid Waste continues to explore alternatives and anticipates constructing the new North Landfill and possibly a modified version of the Central Transfer Station. The County's fund balance will not cover the cost to build the projects as originally envisioned; however, the landfill and modified, smaller transfer station for individual haulers are financially feasible under certain conditions. Municipalities have indicated they may support waste materials flowing to County facilities, and that is for further discussion with the Solid Waste Policy Advisory Council. Fees also will need to be moderately increased at the landfill in 2024. Additionally, Remediation Financial Assurance will continue to be a liability and cost to the County for the next three decades.

Diversion Programs and Emerging Technologies

County Solid Waste plans on entering into agreements with multiple entities to develop diversion programs that are financially viable along with a landfill operation. Therefore, the County has awarded contracts pending negotiations for certain diversion facilities and emerging technology opportunities. The County is beginning contract negotiations with possible compost partners, wood and forestry waste, and organic materials processing. The partners selected include A1 Organics, Anaergia, Biochar Now, and Plasma Development. More information will become available as diversion projects progress.

Recycling and Other Future Programs

Solid Waste will continue to support current recycling center operations, making improvements when possible and expanding the current methane collection system to develop a source for beneficial use of methane gas. Additionally, the department will continue to evaluate Anaerobic digesters to process/convert commercial food waste into renewable natural gas and other advanced technologies to support diversion, recycling, and conversion of waste materials to create a useful form of energy.

Updating Intergovernmental Agreement for Solid Waste Programming (IGA)

As directed by the Solid Waste Policy Advisory Council on August 10, 2023 the partners are exploring amending and updating the Intergovernmental Agreement for Solid Waste Programming (IGA). The County and partners are discussing options to determine a preferred approach.