

Knowledge Break Series

Take a short break to learn something new

CLIMATE SMART
FUTURE *Ready*



CSFR Focus Areas & Action Teams

5 year Plan (2024-2029) Addressing Climate Risks
through Mitigation & Adaptation



Built Environment,
Circular Economy,
Businesses & Jobs

Mobility of People,
Goods, and Services

Natural Environment,
Water, and Agriculture

Our Approach

- Zoom out and look beyond local government boundaries to what is happening in our County and region
- Consider sustainable (environmental, economic, and social) needs and impacts
- Discover gaps and overlaps
- Nurture and enhance partnerships and align priorities





Recent Work

- Every **\$1** invested = **\$2.50 - \$7.50** impact
- Building codes updates and alignment
- 6,569 acres of land conserved in Larimer County
- 10,547 mattresses diverted
- Awarded 11 new grants for work like landfill diversion and wildfire mitigation



www.larimer.gov/csfr

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Sort It Out!

**Reduce, Reuse,
and Recycle
in Fort Collins &
Larimer County**

INTRODUCTIONS

Abby Kotecki,
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Environmental Services Lead Specialist,
City of Fort Collins

Education at Larimer County Solid Waste

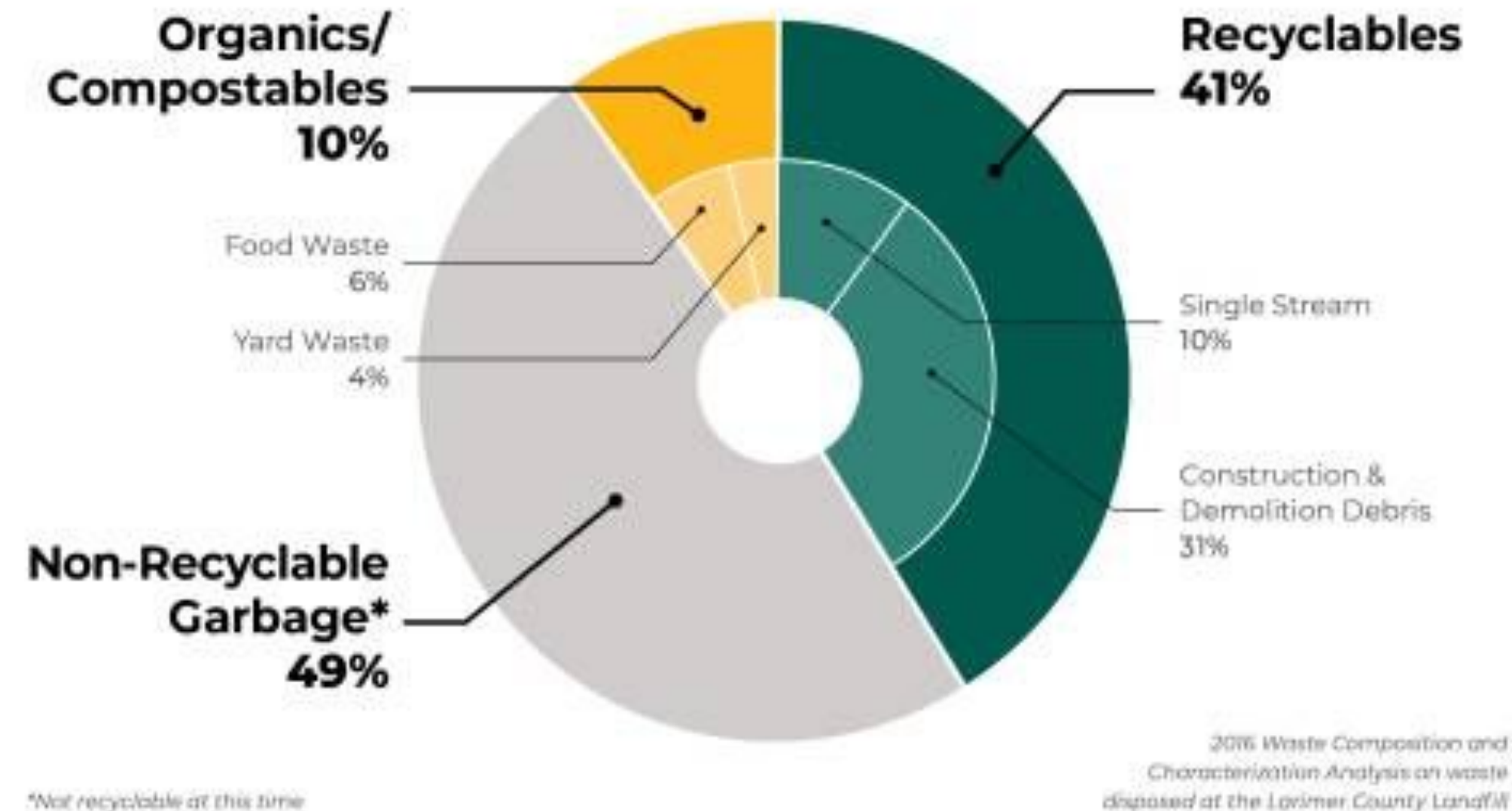


<https://www.larimer.gov/solidwaste/education/edcenter>

n/edcenter

Larimer County Waste Matrix

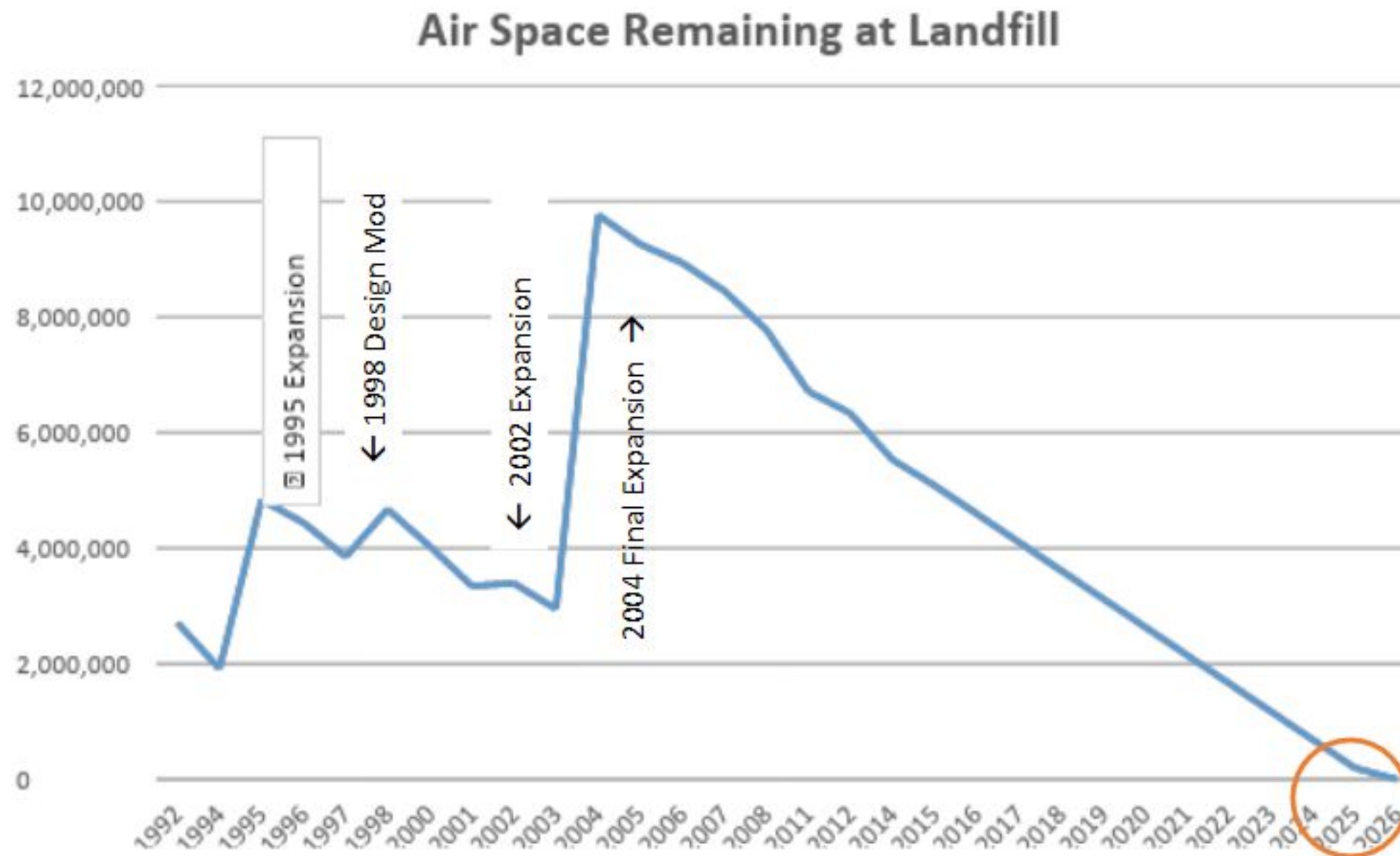
WHAT'S IN OUR TRASH?



- We provide service to all Larimer County residents
- The average Coloradan produces over 6 pounds of MSW in one day
- Our recycling rates are lower than the national average
- My goal is to get these rates up through education and awareness

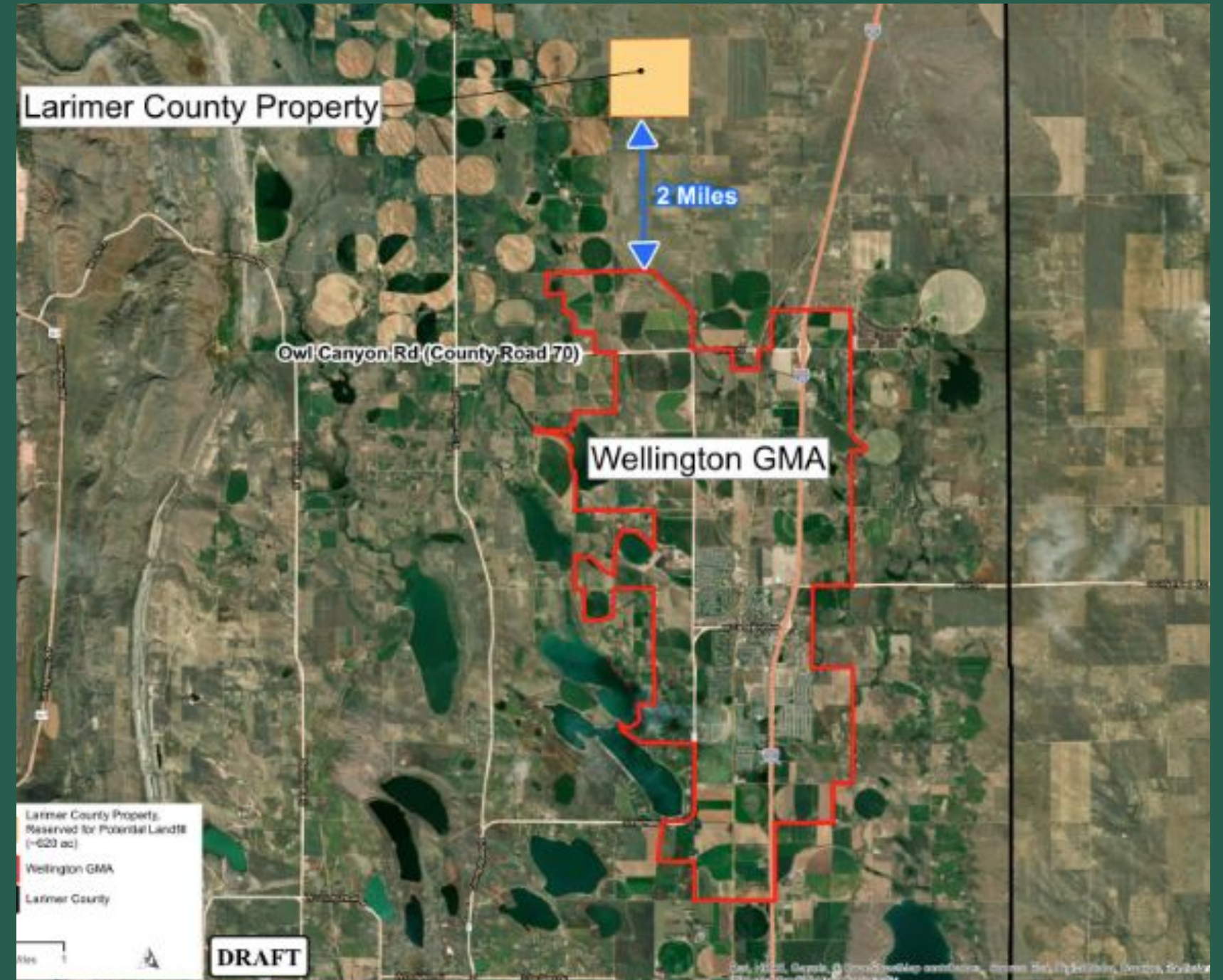
AIRSPACE REMAINING AT LANDFILL

- Established in 1963
- 800-1,200 trucks tip daily
- LC took over operations in 1975
- 180 acres on 651 acre site



New North Landfill

- About 2 miles south of Rawhide Power
- Construction ran from Sept 2024-June 2026
- Opening Day: August 3rd, 2026!







Central Diversion & Transfer Station

- Residents of Fort Collins and South should use this space for trash disposal
- Canopy design for residential drop-off
- Central hub for future diversion projects







Waste Diversion

Projects

- Diversion of waste out of the landfill is a priority for us
- We currently have diversion programs for green waste, tires, appliances and scrap metal
- Our Electronic Waste dropoff and HHW building is also located at the landfill

Accepted Electronics

- Digital cameras, clocks
- Cables, power cords, wires
- Computers, CPUs, mouse devices, keyboards, speakers, monitors, memory, RAM, external hard drives, networking equipment, routers, modems, servers
- Electric alarm clocks
- Fax machines
- Gaming systems
- GPS devices
- Landline phones and cell phones
- Laptops, tablets, smart watches
- Microwave ovens
- Printers, toner cartridges, copiers, scanners
- Remote controls
- Shredders
- Smart devices
- Stereos, speakers
- Televisions
- VCRs, DVRs, DVD players

Unacceptable Items

- Appliances (take to scrap metal recycler, units with freon must be handled by certified professionals)
- Carbon monoxide detectors
- Electrical exercise equipment (remove battery and take to scrap metal recycler)
- Electrical lawn maintenance equipment (remove battery and take to scrap metal recycler)
- Fire and smoke alarms and detectors (remove battery and discard in trash)
- Food preparation appliances (such as coffee makers, blenders, electric kettles, soda streams)
- Lava lamps
- Personal hygiene items (such as electric toothbrushes, hair dryers, waterpiks)
- Toys
- VHS tapes, cassette tapes

Mattress Diversion at the Landfill



In 2024 We Diverted...

- 10,547 Mattresses/Boxsprings
- 290.04 Tons
- 6,591.88 Cubic Yards

Out of our Landfill!

What happens when a mattress is **recycled**?



More than 75%
of a mattress can be recycled into new
consumer and industrial products.



Household Hazardous Waste

**For Larimer County Residents, it
is free to dispose of Household
Hazardous Waste!**

Non-Hazardous:

- Antifreeze
- Batteries (Alkaline, Auto, Lithium, Rechargeable)
- Florescent bulbs
- Latex Paint Box
- Ink Cartridges
- Used Oil
- Propane Tanks
- Fire Extinguishers

Hazardous:

- Aerosols
- Amines
- Bases
- Bleach
- Flammables
- Acids
- Mercury
- Oil-based Paint
- Vape Waste
- Oxidizers
- Lab Packs



Our MRF-- Materials Recovery Facility

- Accepts single stream recycling
- 150 bales of cardboard/day!



RECYCLE

ALL ITEMS MUST BE EMPTY AND DRY

METALS & GLASS



CARDBOARD & PAPER



PLASTIC BOTTLES, TUBS & PAPER CARTONS



KEEP OUT

THESE ITEMS CAUSE PROBLEMS



Recycling Guide:

PLASTIC

Bottles, tubs, jugs and jars



Plastic Recycling:

It's all about size and shape

Zero-waste Initiatives at City of Fort Collins

Micah Warners, Lead Specialist



City's Trash and Recycling Program

Program Overview

- Collects trash, recycling, and yard trimmings for households within City limits
- Increases opportunity to divert material from the landfill to make progress towards City's zero-waste goals
- Pay As You Throw – the less you throw away, the less you pay!

Diversion Impacts So Far

- In 2025, the program diverted:

8,773
tons of
recycling

4,287
tons of
yard
trimmings

- Diversion rates:

2025: **35%**
(within program)

2023: **25%**
(pre-program,
from a similar
resident base)



Objective:

Support businesses and the community to reduce single-use plastics through education, outreach, and strategies that align with municipal code, zero waste and sustainability goals.



Single-Use Plastics Reduction (SUPR)

- Compliance
 - 170 stores are required to charge \$0.10 for disposable paper bags and remit 60% of that revenue to the City
 - » (e.g., Lowe's, Barnes & Noble)
 - Styrofoam™ (Expanded Polystyrene) ban for all restaurants
- Business Support
 - Communication
 - Technical Assistance
- Education
 - Promoting re-use
 - Opting out of single-use plastics





2025 By the Numbers

- \$295,868 remittance
- 4.9 million recyclable paper bags purchased instead of plastic bags distributed

Anecdotal Impact Information

- Some businesses are eliminating the sale of disposable bags entirely
- Plastic bags are reported as less common during Poudre River clean-ups

Remittance & Other Funding in Action

- 61 restaurants received mini-grants from NOCOBiz Connect to transition to more sustainable materials with equitable support
- Education & K-12 initiatives
- Community partnerships

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

Program Overview

- Shifts costs of recycling to companies that produce and sell packaging and paper
- Funds the *collection, processing and education* of recycling
- Will bring "free, convenient recycling for every CO household" and help standardize recyclable materials across Colorado

What It Means for Us

- Recycling will be free to residents in 2027 through Contracted Hauler Program
- Increased Education & Outreach funding
- Timberline Recycling Center to get reimbursed for some of their recycling



Statewide Media Campaign

- Awareness & Behavior Change

Local Education & Outreach – Behavior Change

- **2026-27 Topic:** Recycling fundamentals!
- **Goal:** Decrease recycling contamination in Fort Collins



Easy Recycling Tips

Recycling can be confusing!
The good news: more than 80% of recycling in Fort Collins is done correctly, giving materials a new life.

Here are a few quick tips to help:

- **Empty, Dry and Clean**
Keep recyclables free of food and liquid.
- **Keep It Loose**
Put recyclables directly in your bin—not in plastic bags. Flatten cardboard, but not other containers!
- **Know Before You Throw**
Check the guide on your bin or our A-Z List online before recycling.

Learn more at FortCollins.gov/Recycling

PUT ME ON YOUR FRIDGE!
26-321740

LANDFILL



PLASTIC-COATED PAPER PRODUCTS



NON-RECYCLABLE PLASTICS



FOOD, WRAPPERS AND FROZEN FOOD PACKAGING



Other common contaminants that end up landfilled:

- Bagged recyclables
- Pet food packaging
- Mixed material containers (ex: Pringles can)
- Items smaller than a post-it note

List of Resources



Disposal

- Landfill Fees / Calculator
- Subscribe to Closure Notifications
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Transfer Station & Residential Convenience Centers
- A-Z List of Waste Materials
- Landfill Webcam & Weather



Waste Diversion

- Hazardous Waste
- Recycling
- Composting
- Electronics Recycling
- Green Waste Program
- Drop 'N' Swap



Business Office

- Hauler License
- Pay Operating License Online
- Pay Landfill Bill Online
- Applications, Forms & Report



Education

- Garbage Garage Education Center
- Virtual Environmental Education
- Educational Resources
- Activities & Facts
- Connect With Us

<https://www.fcgov.com/recycling/>

<https://www.larimer.gov/solidwaste>

<https://www.lovgov.org/services/public-works/trash-recycling/recycling-center>

Sign up for the Garbage Garage newsletter!



Thank you!

Do you have any questions?

LARIMER
COUNTY

