

# WASTELESS COS

A Grant Funded Initiative



# INTRODUCTIONS



## City of Colorado Springs:



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## Virtual Speakers



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Outreach & Technical  
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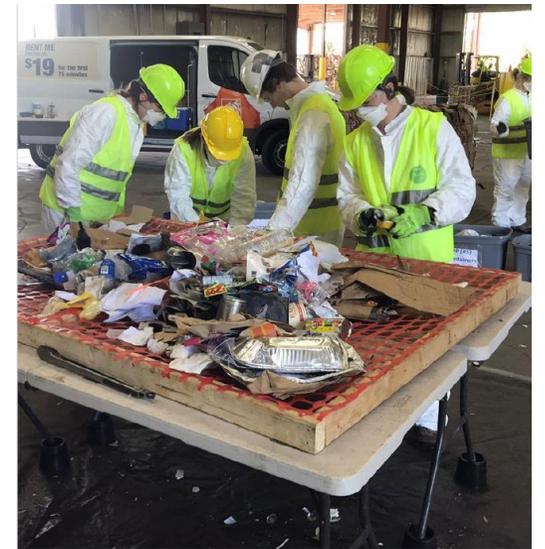
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Senior Consultant Project  
Manager



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Colorado  
Communications  
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# WASTELESS COS

- The City of Colorado Springs received **C3 funding** and partnered with **Resource Recycling Systems**
- Project goal to provide an analysis of the **community's needs, opportunities, and challenges** regarding waste and recycling
- Established high level strategies to improve diversion rate from **16% to 37% by 2045**



# METHODOLOGY

## Inspection

**One-season** field inspection conducted over **five days** in December 2023

Observed 286 households' trash and recycling carts across multiple

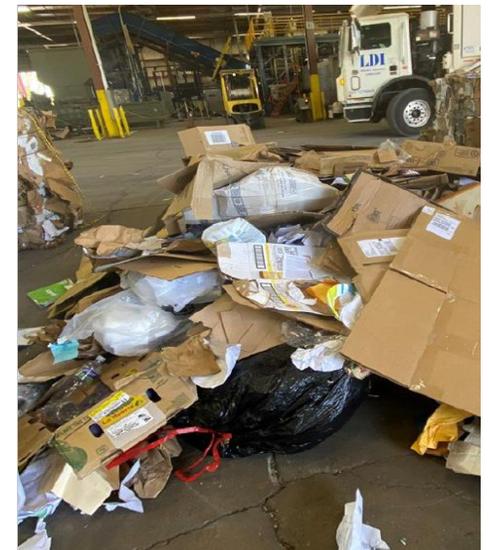
## Composition Study

**Two-season** waste composition study of residential and commercial

Sampling conducted in **Spring** (May 2024) and **Fall** (September 2024)

## System Evaluation

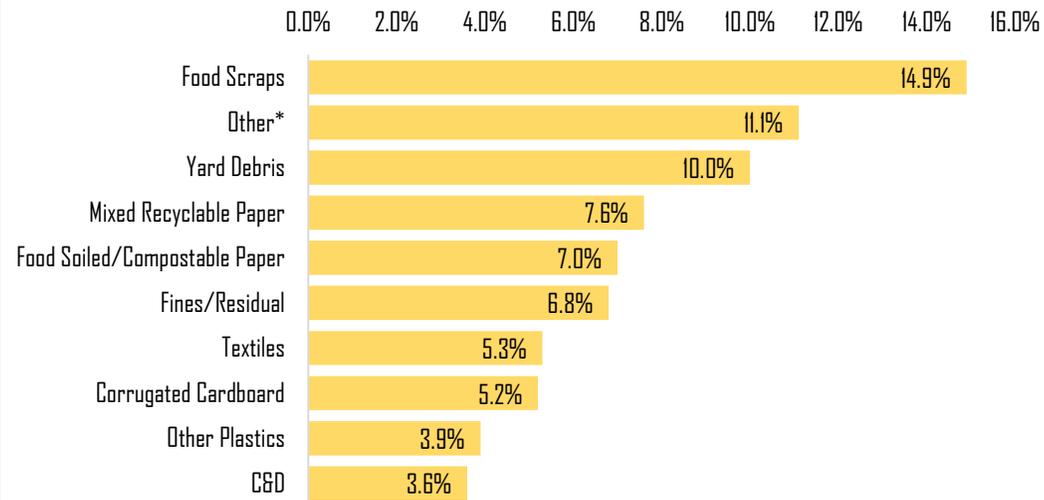
**Comprehensive evaluation** including City staff interviews, policy reviews, comparable city analysis, tonnage modeling, and gap analysis.



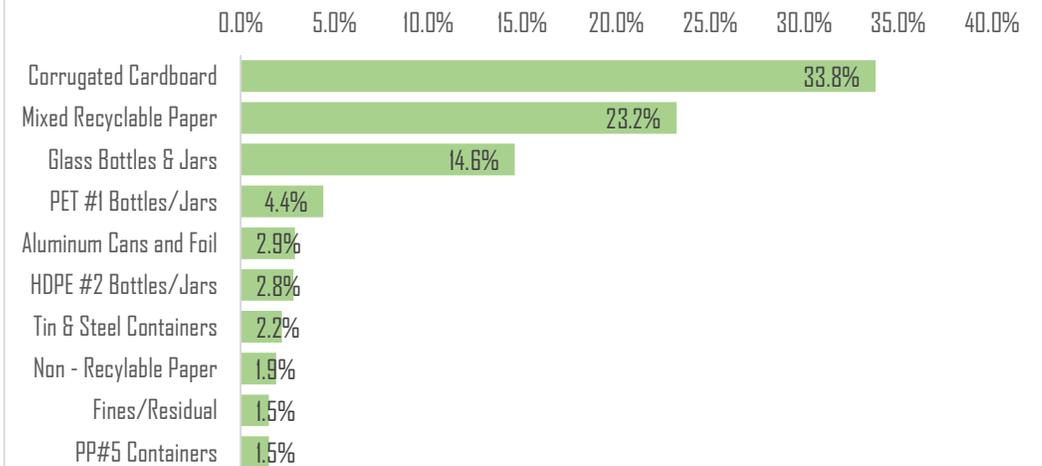
# WHAT'S IN OUR TRASH?



**Top 10 Prevalent Materials in MSW**



**Top 10 Prevalent Materials in Recycling**



# GAP ANALYSIS



Category	Score	Major Gaps
Collection	C-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Limited access for <b>organics</b></li> <li>○ Participation is <b>voluntary and opt-in</b></li> <li>○ <b>Varied access</b> across the city</li> </ul>
Infrastructure	B-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Only <b>one local MRF</b> for mixed single-stream processing</li> <li>○ <b>Limited processing capacity</b> for organics and hard-to-recycle materials</li> </ul>
Policy	C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No <b>incentives</b> for waste diversion</li> <li>○ <b>No hauler licensing</b> or mandatory reporting to support data collection</li> <li>○ <b>Lack unified diversion targets</b></li> </ul>
Outreach & Education	C-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>No consistent education</b> and outreach</li> <li>○ No requirement for haulers to provide standardized <b>educational materials or visual cues</b></li> <li>○ <b>Ongoing public engagement and multilingual resources are limited</b></li> </ul>
End Markets	C+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Limited end markets for certain recyclable materials within Colorado</li> <li>○ <b>Contamination and inconsistent material quality</b> affect the viability of end markets</li> </ul>

# COMMUNITY INPUT

Stakeholder Engagement : **97**

Survey Participation: **841**



- **Strong community support for waste diversion** and consistent access to services.
- **Organics readiness is high with** both residents and businesses.
- **Businesses want to improve diversion**, despite operational constraints.
- **Education gaps and contamination** are widely recognized as system-wide issues.
- **Distrust that recyclables** are recycled impacting motivation to recycle.
- **Widespread community support** exists to improve recycling for household hazardous waste and hard-to-recycle materials.

# STRATEGIES

## Leverage EPR

Leverage Colorado's Producer Responsibility for Recycling Program for Printed Paper and Packaging.

**Producers pay for recycling** cost of product

Impact for COS - our residents receive free recycling from our service providers

\$, Staff Time

## Organics

Establish a robust **organics management system** that combines infrastructure investment, **curbside and drop-off services**, public-sector compost procurement, and regional partnerships to **reduce food and yard waste** and support a circular economy.

\$\$\$\$, Capital Costs

## Education

Implement an **inclusive, multilingual education** and outreach strategy that engages residents, businesses, schools, and property managers through accessible materials, community events, digital tools, and on-site support to build widespread awareness, participation, and compliance with waste diversion goals.

\$\$\$\$, Staff Time

## Governance

Establish a comprehensive governance framework that ensures **dedicated staffing, mandatory data reporting, waste diversion targets, and policy requirements** across all sectors and facilities to implement, track, and advance citywide waste reduction and recycling efforts.

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## Specialty

Implement policies and infrastructure that promote **construction and demolition (C&D) material reuse, mandate recycling and source separation, and prohibit C&D waste from landfill** disposal to advance a circular construction economy in Colorado Springs. Provide recycling access for hard to recycle materials.

Staff Time

# DIVERSION GOAL

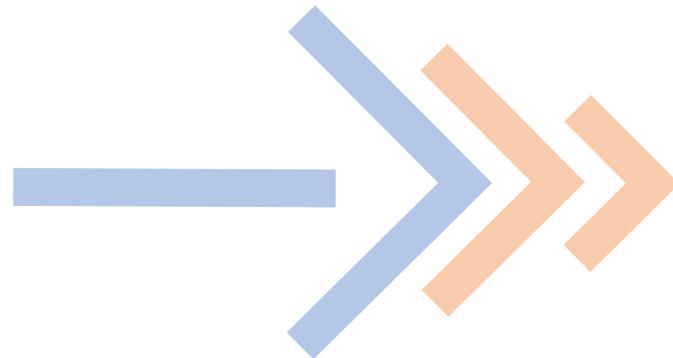


2025

2045

16%

This is the baseline for all residents and business.



Single Family	41%
Multi Family	41%
Commercial	34%
Colorado Springs Community	37%

# NEXT STEPS

## Circular Action Alliance

### Local Government

- How and when reimbursement occurs
- Benefits for local government
- April 13 COS deadline

### Open Market Collectors

- How and when reimbursement occurs
- Benefits for residents
- Q1 CAA announcement

## C3 – Colorado Circular Communities

### STEPS program

- Yard debris collection events
- Composting programs – public private partnership
- Bulky materials pick up events
- Hauler licensing
- Impact of garbage trucks on roads



**THANK YOU**