



Department of Sustainable Services

July 29, 2010

Mayor
Michael Rendon

Mayor Pro-Tem
Christina Thompson

City Council Members
Doug Lyon
Leigh Meigs
Paul Broderick

City Manager
Ron LeBlanc

Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment
Office of Environmental Integration and Sustainability
c/o Brian Gaboriau
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South
EDO-OEP-SP-B2
Denver, CO 80246-1530

Dear Mr. Gaboriau:

Attached you will find the information requested by the Office of Environmental Integration and Sustainability and that is a part of the 2009 RREO grant received by the City of Durango.

There are two attachments. The first attachment contains all of the information, with the exception of Appendix A: Grant Metrics. Appendix A is attached as a separate Excel spreadsheet.

Please contact me at (970) 375-4830 if you have any questions or concerns about our submittal.

Best regards,

Mark L Williams,
Sustainability Coordinator

cc: Greg Caton, Assistant City Manager

do the right things! Join the movement...dotherightthings.net

949 E. 2nd Ave. • Durango, Co 81301
970-375-5004 • Fax 970-375-5018



Table of Contents

I. ORGANIZATION INFORMATION.....	3
II. WORK PLAN.....	3
III. GRANT PROJECT INFORMATION.....	3
IV. APPENDIX	7

I. ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

1. **Agency Name: City of Durango**
2. **Project Title: Regional Recycling Container Project**
3. **Name of Project Manager: Greg Caton**
4. **Project Manager e-mail address and phone number: catongl@ci.durango.co.com / 970-375-5019.**
5. **Name of person(s) completing this report: Mark Williams**
6. **E-mail address and phone number of person(s) completing this report: williamsml@ci.durango.co.us, 970-375-4830**

II. WORK PLAN

Deliverable	Completion Date
Service bins less frequency	11/20/2009
Reduce staff contact with containers	11/20/2009
Convert to front-load collection	11/2/2009
Conduct additional public outreach using new marketing materials	10/5/2009
Purchase front load trucks	11/13/2010
Replace existing bins with larger containers at drop-off sites for all commodities	11/20/2009

III. GRANT PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Executive Summary

This project came about from a plan by the City of Durango desires to implement better recycling collection practices by converting to an automated front-loader collection system for recyclables. To implement this plan the City purchased two front-load trucks and acquired approximately one hundred fifty 2 to 8 cubic yard dumpsters.

In Phase 1 of the project, existing 300-gallon collection bins and 3-yard dumpsters were replaced at recycling drop-off sites. In Phase 2, the existing 2 and 3-cubic yard bins were replaced and additional containers for commercial cardboard (OCC) collection were

installed. The front-load operation provide increased efficiency over the previous collection methods by requiring less time and fuel for servicing. Employee safety was improved due to automation and route drivers rarely having to leave the cab. Additionally, with the frontload trucks we increased the size of the containers up to 8 cubic yards.

2. Project Description & Overview of Work Completed

The Department of Sustainable Services for the City of Durango obtained several new steel dumpsters to replace the existing containers and collection bins that had been on the recycle drop-off sites. Phase 1 of the project was the replacement of the existing 300-gallon collection bins and 3-yard dumpsters at recycling drop-off sites. Phase 2 consisted of the replacement of the existing 2 and 3-cubic yard bins, as well as the installation of additional containers for commercial cardboard (OCC) collection. In total, the City replaced 24 old containers with 8 new ones, increasing the capacity by 33%, from 42 to 56 cubic yards. The intent of the program was to provide front-load operations that increase efficiency over the existing collection methods by requiring less time and fuel for servicing. The idea is that having fewer, larger containers will make drop offs more convenient for our customers, will keep the facility freer of debris than it has been in the past and that the larger bins will require fewer pick-ups by the Department of Sustainable Services. Employee safety will be improved in that this system would be automated and route drivers would rarely leave the cab. With the frontload trucks which are new to the City, we can increase the size of the containers up to 8 cubic yards. At the recycling center the City picks up cardboard, mixed paper, numbers 1 and 2 plastic, mixed glass, brown glass and cans. The City had to place an additional cardboard dumpster and make the existing containers larger for cardboard drop-offs due to the popularity of the service.

3. Summary of Findings & Results

We have received feedback that the containers are easier to understand which product goes where. Also, even though the containers fill up, people do like the larger capacity in the containers. It irritates people when they were previously always full. The addition of the new recycling containers enhanced the ability of the City to collect recyclables at all of its recycling drop-off centers. The busiest center is frequented by businesses dropping of materials as well as county residents who do not have access to curbside recycling. Prior to the installation of the steel recycling containers there were a number of 300-gallon containers and a few smaller dumpsters. The site had a tendency to become messy and unkept because the smaller containers could not handle the amount of material that was being delivered. Loose paper was the worst culprit, but there were also cardboard, cans and bottles on the ground because the departmental staff could not keep up with the site's usage. Since the addition of the new dumpsters the site has remained much cleaner. The City anticipated that more capacity at the site to hold a greater amount of materials would equate into fewer pickups. However, the increased capacity appears to have acted to induce capacity in the same way that adding vehicle lanes creates more traffic: the added capacity at the site revealed the latent demand that exists in residential communities outside the Durango city limits. Now, the overall amount of material being dropped off at the site is the highest it has ever been, although there have been fluctuations by material type. Cardboard containers, used mostly used by in-town businesses that do not use our recycling program, fill every time a new container is added or an existing one is enlarged. In the 3rd Quarter of 2009 our

recycling program picked up a total of 907 cubic yards from our drop-off sites. In the 4th Quarter, after the installation of the new containers, the total was 1,052 cubic yards. The rapid fill-up indicates that the City needs to rethink the size of the drop-off site – we are currently assessing ways to increase the size of the drop-off center or relocate to another larger site to ensure adequate capacity.

4. Summary of Unanticipated Outcomes or Roadblocks

The biggest unexpected outcome from the increase in the storage capacity of the recycling drop-off center was the increase in the amount of materials being dropped-off at the site. The increase in the amount of materials being dropped off points to at least two different factors at work. First, some city businesses, for a variety of reasons, do not participate in the city's recycle collection program. Rather than pay the monthly fee for the City to pick up their recycling, they deliver it themselves. The new capacity has allowed them to drop off material in ever greater amounts, especially cardboard. Second, La Plata County residents have limited access to curbside recycling but many residents would like to have that access. The County residents load their cardboard, paper, cans, glass and plastic into their cars and drive to the center because they feel it is the right thing to do. The 32nd Street drop-off has become the de facto rural recycling program for the north central portion of the county. Now that there is more drop-off capacity, we are beginning to see that the demand for the recycling programs is far greater than anticipated. The City spends \$40,000 annually to service the site. A portion of the expenditures is recovered when the City sells the commodities, but not enough to cover our expenses. The response to the expansion has been so strong that we are beginning the process to expand the drop-off site to provide even more containers. Because expenses will be incurred, the City will attempt with the San Juan Basin Recycling Association or La Plata County to help offset the costs.

5. Communication of Project

The City held a ribbon cutting at the 32nd Street drop-off, an event that was covered in the local newspaper, the Durango Herald. At the ceremony, the City also unveiled the new signage, which is larger, more vibrantly colored and easier to understand. The City contracts with a local media relations and public relations firm, Chimera Communications, which has worked with the City to design the components of a public education campaign. Chimera designed the new signage, as well as new logos for our recycling trucks. Chimera also created a new website, 'DurangoRecycles.com', that is solely devoted to the City's recycling program. The website has information on the availability of certain containers at City drop-off sites, of which there are a total of three. Another website, 'DotheRightThings.net', also contains information on the recycling program and was designed by Chimera as well.

6. Future Impact of Project

The City will maintain and enlarge the drop-off site. The popularity of the site underscores the fact that a significant number of residents in the county feel recycling is important and our drop-off site is the closest recycling facility they have. The current site will either be

doubled in size or reconfigured to accommodate more containers, or move to another location to achieve the same goal. The City will operate under the assumption that the capacity of each type of material collection will need to be doubled, and that some of the expanded area will need to be reserved for a small amount of storage when the City's hauling capacity cannot keep up with drop-offs.

7. Financial Summary

The City received a total of \$31,960. The City provided a substantial amount of match, totaling more than \$342,000. To service the new front-load containers, the City had to purchase two new trucks, at a cost of \$210,000 for one and \$120,000 for the other. A number of existing containers were converted to front-load, at a cost of \$10,000. The City also spent approximately \$2,000 on marketing, materials and promotion of the containers. All funds received through the grant were expended in 2009, and the new containers had already been in place and in operation for two months before the end of the year.

Grant Budget Table Breakdown (City of Durango) (RREO)

	Grant Funds Spent	Matching/In Kind Amount (if any)	Total Amount
Personnel Salaries & Wages			
Fringe Benefits			
Tuition/Fees			
Travel Costs			
Materials/Supplies/Equipment (under \$5,000)			
Equipment Purchases (over \$5,000)	\$31,960	\$398,000 for two front load trucks	\$429,960
Contractors/Subcontractors			
Consultants			
Training/Educational classes			
Marketing/Advertising			
Other Direct Costs			
Indirect Costs			
Total Project Cost:	\$31,960	\$398,000	\$429,960

Total award amount: \$31,960

8. Final Conclusion

The increase of capacity of the 32nd Street drop off has been a success by any measure. The City is now planning an expansion of the facility to increase the capacity once again. Two alternative plans are being evaluated and the City hopes to expand capacity by approximately 50%. The RREO grant program was tremendously beneficial and it is possible the City may apply in the future for funding for the 32nd Street center facility or another project.

APPENDIX

- a. **Community Leaders Contact Information**
- b. **Pictures & Articles**
- c. **Grant Metrics**

Community Leaders Contact Information

- Michael Rendon, Mayor of Durango, 970-375-5001, Michael_rendon@ci.durango.co.us
- Walt Serfoss, La Plata County Sustainability Coordinator, 970-382-6417, SerfossWA@co.laplata.co.us,
- Ron LeBlanc, Durango City Manager, 970-375-5009, LeBlancRP@ci.durango.co.us

Manuals, Brochures, Print Advertisements, Pictures, Educational Materials, etc.



32nd Street drop-off site in Summer of 2010, viewed from the south. There is usually at least one car at the site. On this occasion a third car pulled in just after this picture was taken.



Assistant City Manager Greg Caton, with City Councilor Christina Rinderle Thompson at right, presides at the official dedication of the new and improved 32nd Street drop-off in November 2009.



Dedication of the new and improved 32nd Street drop-off facility. The recycling truck is emptying a load of glass from one of two new six cy containers for glass that replaced eight 1.5 cy containers.

Newspaper Article from November 21, 2009

THE DURANGO HERALD

Redesigning recycling

Drop-off site on 32nd Street gets a facelift

by Dale Rodebaugh
Herald Staff Writer

Article Last Updated; Saturday, November 21, 2009 12:00AM



Dale Cogswell, left, solid-waste manager for the city, and Shane Roukema, a code-enforcement officer, clean up in front of the city's new recycling truck and slogan. The city unveiled its new truck and branding campaign Friday at a redesigned drop-off point on 32nd street.

City of Durango officials, in a brief ceremony Friday, unveiled the new face of city-sponsored drop-off recycling.

"Instead of the 24 containers we had here before, we now have eight," Assistant City Manager Greg Caton, who directs the Department of Sustainable Services, said at the drop-off center behind at East Second Avenue and east 32nd Street. Caton said the center has 33 percent more capacity, but pickups will be cut by more than half.

So it was - three bins for cardboard and one each for plastic bottles, glass, brown glass, cans and paper. The city's other two drop-off points - at Fort Lewis College and the recycling center on Tech Center Drive - are equipped with the same capacity.

The ceremony also called attention to the city's sustainability efforts, particularly two Web sites that give the public information about recycling.

Information about recycling, alternative transportation and healthy living is available at www.DoTheRightThings.net, while www.DurangoRecycles.com provides information about what and how to recycle.

Even as the ceremony unfolded, members of the public stopped to deposit items in the corresponding bins. Vern Friesen had a single container of plastic bottles, while Tess Jordan and Mimi Fountain moved from bin to bin to deposit glass, plastic, newspaper and cans.

"It's cleaner," Jordan said.

"The bins are bigger and they look a lot nicer," Fountain said. "The bins used to have a lot of broken lids."

City councilors Michael Rendon and Christina Thompson did the honors in unveiling a sign bearing the Durango Recycles logo.

Thompson then clambered into the driver's seat of a front-loader recycling truck and, under the eye of regular driver Roy Smith, worked the levers that raised the brown-glass bin and dumped the contents into the truck.

A truck used to visit the East Second Avenue drop-off point 50 times a week, including once a day for brown glass, Caton said.

The bigger bins will reduce the frequency of brown-glass recovery to every other day, Caton said.

The 24 old bins could hold 42 cubic yards of waste. The eight new bins have a combined capacity of 56 cubic yards.

The front-loader truck was purchased with \$105,000 from the city and \$100,000 in State Energy Impact funds.

A \$32,000 grant from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment bought bins all drop-off centers.

Contents copyright ©, the Durango Herald. All rights reserved.

THE DURANGO HERALD

Recycling changes

Durango hoping residents can sort it all out, follow rules

by Dale Rodebaugh

Herald Staff Writer

Article Last Updated: Thursday, November 26, 2009 8:00AM



Photo by NICK MANNING/Herald

Coral Hackler of the Fort Lewis College Environmental Center's Zero Waste Team, working as a volunteer, sorts plastics at Durango Natural Foods on Friday. DNF sends off No. 5 plastics to Preserve Products in New York to be recycled.

[Click image to enlarge](#)



NICK MANNING/Herald

Monica Erickson, also with the Zero Waste Team, helps the sorting.

The city of Durango, which last week unveiled upgraded drop-off sites for household recyclable waste, needs the cooperation of users to expand the program, says the guy in charge of the operation.

"Our community in general is very responsive to recycling," Assistant City Manager Greg Caton said Monday. "People respect the environment and want to do the right thing."

But recycling is labor-intensive, and when improper items are recycled or placed in the wrong bin, it costs time and money to sort them out, Caton said.

Placing items in the wrong bin (mixed glass with brown glass), discarding items that the city doesn't collect (cereal boxes mixed with corrugated cardboard) or putting any old plastic bottle in with those with numbers 1 or 2 in the triangular recycling symbol creates extra work for workers at the recycling center, he said.

"We have to separate numbers 1 and 2 plastic because we have different buyers," Caton said. If it's another plastic - a butter tub, for example - the city takes it to the transfer station north of the recycling center, operated by Waste Management.

"It really helps if only items that we collect are put in bins," Caton said. "Anything we have to take to the transfer station reduces the efficiency of the operation."

Also, the prices the city receives for what it sells - newspaper, cardboard, metals, plastic bottles and brown and mixed glass - are fickle, Caton said.

"When commodity prices are solid, our recycling operates in the black," Caton said. "But this year we've been hit hard and it will be a struggle to break even."

A small cost increase to collect, haul or process recyclable materials or to handle and dispose of items the city doesn't collect makes a big difference in the bottom line, Caton said. The amount of unwanted recyclables the city collects in one month - about 150 cubic yards - is equal to the amount of garbage a typical single-family home produces in seven years, he said.

In transit, 150 cubic yards of trash compacts, but even so, the \$8.59-per-cubic-yard charged by Waste Management to dispose of the items costs the city \$1,000 a month, Caton said.

La Plata County is part of the recycling scene, too. The county maintains recycling centers at the fairgrounds and on property adjacent to the Sheriff's Office in Bodo Park, drop-off points in Bayfield and Marvel, and a dozen sites where spent batteries can be left, said Walt Serfoss, the county sustainability coordinator.

"Our goal is to get residents to reduce, reuse and recycle," Serfoss said. "It's a matter of changing behavior to do the right thing for the right reasons."

The city of Durango has expanded the recycling program it began 19 years ago, adding plastic bottles to the list of acceptable items in recent years and sponsoring - with partners - annual collections of electronic goods and household chemicals, Caton said.

Upgrading recycling drop-off centers was the latest milestone. Twenty-four bins at each of three sites - Fort Lewis College, the Durango Tech Center and next to north City Market - were replaced with eight larger containers that provide 33 percent more capacity. A fourth location, in the alley behind Wagon Wheel Liquors in Town Plaza, will be upgraded soon.

Two new front-loader trucks, which require only a single operator, make many fewer runs to the drop-off centers, Caton said. Recycling trucks, which used to make 50-plus visits a week to the north City Market center (twice a day for cardboard sometimes) now don't go more than once a day for anything.

Curbside pickup allows householders to mix all glass, which is crushed locally for mulch, Caton said. Drop-off centers and commercial accounts produce the vast majority of brown glass, which is collected separately for sale to Coors Brewing Co. in Golden. Green and clear glass from drop-off centers and commercial accounts is ground into mulch along with curbside collections.

"We're looking for funding to expand the Tech Center Drive recycling center, but we haven't been successful," Caton said. "We need \$1 (million) or \$2 million to relocate the transfer station and enlarge the recycling center."

The long-term goal is to be able to accept plastics - numbers 3 through 7 - and cereal boxes; increase the number of commercial solid-waste accounts; and explore turning food waste into compost, Caton said.

"People who recycle can help us become more efficient," Caton said. "This is preparation for expanding services."

Contents copyright ©, the Durango Herald. All rights reserved.

Grant Metrics

Date project fully operational:

November-09

(Based on deliverables- month that impact of grant would have changed volumes/job creation/participants)

Diversion Rates:

(Choose one material per box. Only list those collected over the grant cycle. Must be listed as "tons". See tab labeled "Conversion Tables" if needed.)

Material Diverted #1 Cardboard	
Tons Diverted	
July-09	36.4
August-09	36.4
September-09	36.4
October-09	36.4
November-09	55.6
December-09	55.6
January-10	55.6
February-10	55.6
March-10	55.6
April-10	55.6
May-10	55.6
June-10	55.6
Total	590.4

Other div. material:

Material Diverted #2 Newspaper/Office paper	
Tons Diverted	
July-09	328.125
August-09	328.125
September-09	328.125
October-09	328.125
November-09	273
December-09	273
January-10	273
February-10	273
March-10	273
April-10	273
May-10	273
June-10	273
Total	3496.5

Other div. material:

Material Diverted #3 Aluminum / Steel cans	
Tons Diverted	
July-09	28.5
August-09	28.5
September-09	28.5
October-09	28.5
November-09	47
December-09	47
January-10	47
February-10	47
March-10	47
April-10	47
May-10	47
June-10	47
Total	490

Other div. material:

Material Diverted #4 Plastics (#1-7)	
Tons Diverted	
July-09	12.18
August-09	12.18
September-09	12.18
October-09	12.18
November-09	11.06
December-09	11.06
January-10	11.06
February-10	11.06
March-10	11.06
April-10	11.06
May-10	11.06
June-10	11.06
Total	137.2

Other div. material:

Material Diverted #5 Glass	
Tons Diverted	
July-09	31.1
August-09	31.1
September-09	31.1
October-09	31.1
November-09	83.9
December-09	83.9
January-10	83.9
February-10	83.9
March-10	83.9
April-10	83.9
May-10	83.9
June-10	83.9
Total	795.432

Other div. material:

Material Diverted #6	
Tons Diverted	
July-09	
August-09	
September-09	
October-09	
November-09	
December-09	
January-10	
February-10	
March-10	
April-10	
May-10	
June-10	
Total	0

Other div. material:

Material Diverted #7	
Tons Diverted	
July-09	
August-09	
September-09	
October-09	
November-09	
December-09	
January-10	
February-10	
March-10	
April-10	
May-10	
June-10	
Total	0

Other div. material:

Material Diverted #8	
Tons Diverted	
July-09	
August-09	
September-09	
October-09	
November-09	
December-09	
January-10	
February-10	
March-10	
April-10	
May-10	
June-10	
Total	0

Other div. material:

End use of diverted materials:

(Describe where materials are going [e.g., MRF, new products, reuse])

Cardboard - Shipped to Durango-McKinley in New Mexico for reuse as new cardboard; Mixed paper - Shipped to Snowflake Arizona to be reused as newsprint in Phoenix; Brown Glass - Shipped to Denver metro area to be remade into new beer bottles for Coors; Mixed glass - Stored at the Durango Recycling Center and sold as glass mulch, pipeline backfill and as other opportunities arise; Aluminum - Shipped to Fort Lupton, Colorado to be remade into new cans; Steel - Shipped to highest bidder, for reuse as steel; Plastic - Shipped to California or Phoenix to be reprocessed into new plastic material.

Number of Permanent Jobs Created:

(Include full-time & part time paid positions. 1 FTE = 2080 Hours Worked)

0

Type of Permanent Job(s) Created:

(Provide titles of jobs created)

0

Average Salaries of Jobs Created:

(Average of all jobs created)

Average Monthly Customers for FY 09:

(July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009)

Unknown

Average Monthly Customers for FY 10:

(Estimate or customer lists)

Ave. Monthly Amount	
July-09	N/A
August-09	N/A
September-09	N/A
October-09	N/A
November-09	N/A
December-09	N/A
January-10	N/A
February-10	N/A
March-10	N/A
April-10	N/A
May-10	N/A
June-10	N/A
Ave. / FY 10	#DIV/0!