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City of Durango Southwest Regional Hub Expansion

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July 26, 2013

WORK PLAN

Please use the format provided in the table below for your goals and objectives as listed in your Scope of Work. Indicate the date each deliverable was completed or briefly describe why the deliverable was not completed.

Deliverable	Completion Date	Comments (if deliverable was not completed, please explain why or what progress has been made)
Equipment design	01/21/2013	
Equipment RFP and purchase	6/28/2013	
Equipment installed	6/24/2013	
Implement single-stream recycling	02/04/2013	

PROJECT SUMMARY

1. Executive Summary

Prior to implementing this project, the City of Durango's existing recycling facility was unable to efficiently process the recyclable materials that are generated by Durango residents and businesses, and by the surrounding spoke communities. The RREO grant funds were used to purchase a new conveyor for the public drop-off location, which is part of a larger effort to expand and upgrade the Durango Recycle Center to meet the needs of our growing community. Though expanding the capacity to collect and process recyclable material, the City was able to expand the material that are accepted in the recycling program and increase recycling opportunities for residents, local businesses, and surrounding communities.

During the first 5 months of the project—January through May of 2013—the amount of material the City processed at its recycling facility was up 76% over the processing figures for the first 6-months of 2012. During this time frame, the City processed and shipped approximately 2,700 tons of recyclable material. This equates to 88% of the amount of material that the City collected and processed in all of 2012. These figures are particularly intriguing when considering that the City began its new single stream recycling program on February 4, 2013, and has yet to receive the June 2013 processing weights. Over the next 7 months, if community

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participation and diversion continue at the current rate, the City is on target to surpass its goal to increase local municipal solid waste diversion by 50% during the first year of the project.

The primary environmental benefits associated with this project are twofold, in the form of emissions reductions and the reduction in material that is being sent to the landfill. The Metric Tonne (ton) Carbon Dioxide Equivalent, or the amount of greenhouse gas emissions that are reduced by the material that was diverted during the first part of 2013, equates to 9,395 MtCO_{2e}¹. This is equivalent to the annual emissions generated from 1,842 passenger vehicles. Correspondingly, as a result of the new program, the City has seen a slight reduction in the amount of material that is being transported to the landfill. In addition to the environmental benefits associated with transporting less material to the landfill, there are also quantitative economic benefits associated with the reduction in landfill tipping fees.

The community's response to the new program has been overwhelmingly positive. The City has added nearly 40 new commercial customers and 1,560 new residential customers since January due to the transition to single stream recycling. With the existing number of residential customers, approximately 65% percent of city residents have single stream recycling containers. Not only do 65% of residents have single stream containers, they use them on a regular basis. Moreover, the transition to single stream recycling has rejuvenated community discussions regarding developing a holistic approach to waste management planning that includes organic materials management.

The RREO grant funds account for 5% of the total cost of the project. These funds coupled with additional grant funding, local matching funds, as well as the City's investment will continue to have an overwhelming, positive impact on our community and the Southwest Region.

2. Project Description & Overview of Work Completed

The primary goal of this project was to expand the City's capacity to collect and process recyclable materials generated by city residents, local businesses, and by the surrounding spoke communities. This goal was achieved through accomplishing the following project objectives: 1) renovating and expanding the City's existing regional recycling facility; 2) purchasing and installing two new conveyors and a new baler; and 3)

¹ Greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions were calculated using the EPA's Waste Reduction Model (WARM), Version 11-8/10, for solid waste planners and organizers. Land filling is assumed to be the alternative option.

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instituting the necessary structural/operational changes to increase the amount of material the city is diverting from the landfill.

Through upgrading the Recycle Center, the City has substantially increased its capacity to process recyclable materials. As a result, the City was able to add additional products to the list of materials that are accepted in the City's recycling program and has expanded recycling options throughout the region. Other communities now have an outlet for their material; and as a result, are considering providing recycling services to their residents that did not exist prior to the implementation of this project. One examples of this is the Town of Bayfield, which is considering adding curbside recycling to its solid waste services. Additionally, La Plata County is considering providing recycling public drop-off locations at two of its transfer station locations. These recycling opportunities did not exist prior to this project.

3. **Summary of Findings & Results**

As mentioned above, during the first five months of 2013 (Jan – May) the City processed and shipped approximately 2,700 tons of recyclable material. As compared to the amount of material that was processed and shipped during the first 6 months of 2012, this is a 76% increase in material. This equates to approximately 88% of the amount of material that the City collected and processed in all of 2012.

Anecdotal feedback from residents supports this trend as well. Numerous residents have noted substantial increases in material that they are able to recycle under the new program. This sediment is captured in the below statement from a city resident.

I am sure you have gotten lots of positive feedback about the Single Stream Recycling Program, but I wanted to let you know that we have cut our garbage generation by more than half. Our family of 4 is averaging about 1 1/2 kitchen garbage bags a week now for the last three weeks since we started collecting. Before [the single stream program] we averaged about 4 bags per week, and that was while still taking advantage of the full recycling program that you had before. Most of what is left is compostable, so if I can get that figured out, we'll really be cutting it down.

As this resident indicates, the new program has had a positive impact on our community.

Summary of Unanticipated Outcomes or Roadblocks

As with most large construction projects, the facility completion date was adjusted several times over the last few months. Although the delays are

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on the contractors end, it's the City's responsibility to keep the public abreast of changes in the project schedule and facility completion date. Providing accurate, up-to-date information to the public has been a challenge throughout this process due to the evolving project schedule and the need to disseminated information to more people than just city residents. The city's recycling program, and public drop-off locations are highly utilized by non-city residents; as a result, the public outreach campaign had to be expanded to reach these individuals. Information on the programmatic changes was distributed to community partners and the surrounding communities well in advance as an attempt to mitigate these issues. Retaining the credibility has been a high priority throughout this process.

4. Communication of Project Findings

Given that this project is highly visible throughout the community, it has generated a fair amount of media coverage. Several community and City Council members, who are recycling advocates, have championed this project, which has allowed the opportunity to share the project benefits with the community on multiple occasions. To date, however, qualitative data has not been disseminated to the community. Over the next few months, once tracking matrix are in place, quantitative data and program benefits will be shared with the community in a variety of forums. This includes via press releases, community presentations, and print and radio ads.

5. Future Impact of the Project

This project has rejuvenated community discussions regarding waste management planning, which may open the door for market development and continued diversion opportunities. The City remains hopeful that a viable local end market for the recyclable material will arise over the next few years. Without a viable local commodity market, the City will continue to ship its single stream material out of the region. To the greatest extent possible, the City will continue to utilize Colorado end Markets and MRFs.

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6. Financial Summary

Grant Budget Table

Description	Grant Funds Spent	Matching/In Kind Amount (if any)	Total Amount
Personnel Salaries	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fringe Benefits	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Tuition/Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Travel Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Materials/Supplies/Equipment(under \$5000)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Equipment Purchases (over \$5000)	\$95,000.00	\$9,500.00	\$104,500.00
Contractors/Subcontractors	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Training/Education	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Marketing/Advertising	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Direct Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Indirect Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Project Cost:	\$95,000.00	\$9,500.00	\$104,500.00

The grant budget table reflects the total grant award amount of \$95,000.00 as well as the in-kind matching funds from the San Juan Basin Recycling Association (\$9,500). These funds were used to purchase a conveyor for the public drop-off location that interfaces with an additional conveyor that feeds material into the baler from the commercial drop-off location. The additional conveyor and new baler were purchased with Department of Local Affairs grant funding.

As presented in the Scope of Work, the total cost of the project, including renovating the recycling facility, purchasing a new single stream collection vehicle, purchasing new single stream recycling containers, purchasing a baler and two new conveyors, as well as advertising and outreach efforts was estimated to be \$1,884,022.00. Although the final project costs are not available, thus far, the City has invested approximately \$1,620,000 in facility improvements and the operational infrastructure needed to facilitate expanded collection and processing of recyclable material.

7. Conclusion

This project provides the City with the tools needed to meet the needs of our growing community. The project has not only expanded the City's capacity to collect and process recyclable material, but it has also increased recycling opportunities for City residents, local businesses and the residents of surrounding spoke communities. As the community momentum generated

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by this project continues, the economic and environmental benefits associated with this project will continue to multiply.

8. **Appendix**

- a. Grant Metrics Table

Please see attached.

- b. Community Leader Contact Information

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

- i. It is preferred that these items be attached to the report electronically. If this is not possible, you may send hard copies to the mailing address listed above.

Source Separated Program Operations

Old Facility



Left & Above: Conveyor and Baler.

Right: Primary point of access for city trucks & staff, the public, commercial haulers, surrounding communities, local businesses, and tractor trailers.

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Source Separated Manual Collection Method



Curbside Collection Vehicle



Curbside Collection Containers

Single Stream Recycling Program Operations



Automated Collection Vehicle



Automated Collection Containers

Facility Improvements



Public Drop-off Conveyor purchased with RREO Grant



New public drop-off area. June 2013



Above: Commercial Drop-off point.
Right: Commercial Drop-off Conveyor.