



# THE RECYCLER

WINTER 2006

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 1

## Striving for 50% Recycling in Fort Collins

Over the past few months, the city of Fort Collins has taken time out to study recycling participation and potential throughout the community. Currently, Fort Collins residents and businesses are recycling around 30% of the local waste stream.

During the fall of 2005, the city hired Skumatz Economic Research Associates, Inc. (SERA) to put together a plan to reach a rate of 50% recycling by 2010. As part of this project, a steering committee made up of city Natural Resources staff, related industry representatives, local business and community members were involved in an effort to outline several options for reaching the goal. In addition, a community survey, by Corona Research, was conducted of around 400 area residents and a community meeting was held on December 1<sup>st</sup>.



The study conducted looked more deeply into areas such as education, what makes up the current waste stream, how people feel about recycling, and what is successful in other communities. Findings indicate that major waste generators do include the business sector and area construction. With this in mind, many ideas were sited, from partially city-paid recycling services to material bans, all to encourage area businesses to participate or increase participation. At the December community meeting, three strategic packages were unveiled and discussed by those in attendance. For a copy of these drafts visit [fcgov.com/takingtrash](http://fcgov.com/takingtrash).

The survey brought out many interesting points. For example, 73% of respondents currently have curbside recycling at their home. 96% of respondents recycle at least occasionally, with 76% setting something out for recycle collection "pretty much every week." When asked the primary reasons "that you don't recycle regularly", 35% of these respondents said because it difficult or a hassle to recycle. In addition, many respondents were unaware that recycling service was available to everyone living in city limits. Yardwaste recycling was sited by 39% of respondents as a desired service.

This brings to mind the question, what makes up our waste stream? Surprisingly, PAPER (24%), Construction material (31%), Yardwaste (16%), and Foodwaste (9%) are the major pieces. Undeniably, there is plenty all of us can do to improve our recycling habits, from participation at our home to our place of work. In coming issues of this newsletter we will be discussing more about the recommendations of SERA, the survey results and several other options to help us reach the goal of 50% diversion in Fort Collins.

## 2006 Recycle Guide

All items below have been designated by the Cities of Fort Collins and Loveland, and Larimer County as Recyclable Materials.

### Acceptable Curbside Recyclables

- Type 1 and 2 plastics (milk jugs, pop bottles)
- Green, Amber, Clear Glass
- Aluminum & other Metal Cans (Aerosol Cans okay)
- Newsprint including inserts
- Junk Mail, Magazines & Catalogs
- Cardboard & Paperboard (**NEW!**) including cereal, shoe and beer boxes

### Unacceptable Curbside Recyclables

- Plastic other than Type 1 or 2
- Plate Glass (windows), cookware, lightbulbs
- Plastic Grocery bags
- Garbage, including Tissues, Diapers, Animal Feces and any other items not designated on the list to the right

**ALL ITEMS SHOULD BE RINSED THOROUGHLY TO AVOID CONTAMINATION**



## Yardwaste Collection 2006

This spring we will begin our 7<sup>th</sup> season offering curbside yardwaste collection to area neighborhood groups and homeowner's associations. We are excited for the coming season and would like to see you take advantage of this service only available to GSI customers!

For a small monthly fee you can reduce waste, benefiting our community, saving landfill space, and helping out the environment by recycling more. We are accepting NEW subscribers now. If you participated in our program last year and kept your container, you will be automatically enrolled for the coming season.

Whether you have participated in the program in the past or will be for the first time, you can take advantage of discounted service if you pay for the season in advance. Contact us at your earliest convenience to see if you are eligible to participate. The program is scheduled to begin the first week of May and ends the last week in October. Participants will be notified of any changes to the schedule start or end dates.

**Why wait till the season is upon you? Sign up today!**

## Districting Trash Services Update

This past November, Fort Collins City Council elected to set aside the issue of conducting a paid study that could result in districted trash services for all of Fort Collins residential areas. The study was not included in the budget covering 2006/2007. However, the issue is not closed.

We want to thank those of you who responded to our article last quarter. We received hundreds of responses and greatly appreciate the support. It seems many of you have lived in areas where a similar type of program is used. Comments ranged from the issue of added "bureaucracy", to "what will they regulate next (fedex vs ups)", to issues of quality of service and the need for competition.

If you wanted to comment on the districting issue, we still want to hear from any of you. You can email your comments to: [custservice@GallegosSanitation.com](mailto:custservice@GallegosSanitation.com) or send in a note with your payment. Thanks again Fort Collins!



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## Cardboard Comes to Curbside

Starting in January 2006, we will begin collecting cardboard and paperboard from residential curbside recycling participants.

With this new service there are guidelines all participants MUST follow to ensure these new materials are picked up regularly and recycled. These materials present somewhat of a challenge to area waste haulers since, as we have all experienced frequently living along the Front Range, wind can send these materials from one end of our community to the other on trash day! We need your help to ensure that all items are collected on your pickup day, no items end up blown across your neighborhood or have to be "trashed" because of improper preparation. We recognize that additional preparation is less convenient but the size limits are necessary. If you find that you have many items that are larger than the preparation instructions allow, please contact our office to make other pickup arrangements.

Materials accepted include corrugated cardboard, and paperboard, such as cereal, shoe, and beer boxes. Please be sure to break down boxes along the folds and place them in your recycle bin or in a box next to and no larger than your recycle bin.

Do not "smash" them flat. Cardboard boxes should NOT EXCEED 2'x2' but may be cut down to meet size requirements. Do not include any packaging materials such as Styrofoam, plastic, or packing paper.

**REMEMBER: ITEMS THAT DO NOT FIT THE PREPARATION STANDARDS MAY BE LEFT OR COLLECTED BY THE TRASH CREW AT AN ADDITIONAL FEE.**

## HOLIDAY ALERT!

Area Landfills are closed every year on the following holidays:  
**New Years Day - Memorial Day - Independence Day - Labor Day - Thanksgiving Day - Christmas Day**

For 2006, if your pickup day falls ON or AFTER the following holiday **during the regular work week**, your normal pickup will be **delayed by one day**:

<b>Memorial Day</b>	Monday, May 29 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Independence Day</b>	Tuesday, July 4 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Labor Day</b>	Monday, September 4 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Thanksgiving Day</b>	Thursday, November 23 <sup>rd</sup>
<b>Christmas Day</b>	Monday, December 25 <sup>th</sup>
<b>New Year's Day</b>	Monday, January 1 <sup>st</sup>