

Regional Wasteshed Update: Intergovernmental Agreement and Immediate Next Steps

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Sustainability Officer



1. What feedback do Councilmembers have about whether to bring forward a Resolution placing the 2019 Intergovernmental Agreement into abeyance?
2. What are the areas of primary importance to Councilmembers as staff engage in finding regional solutions for missing infrastructure?
3. Do Councilmembers wish to hold a joint meeting with the Larimer County Board of Commissioners to discuss Regional Wasteshed collaboration?



Council Priority

Accelerate Zero Waste Policies and Infrastructure



Our Climate Future

Critical Path to Achieving Climate Goals (composting)

Big Move 2:
Zero Waste Neighborhoods

Big Move 10:
Zero Waste Economy



City Plan

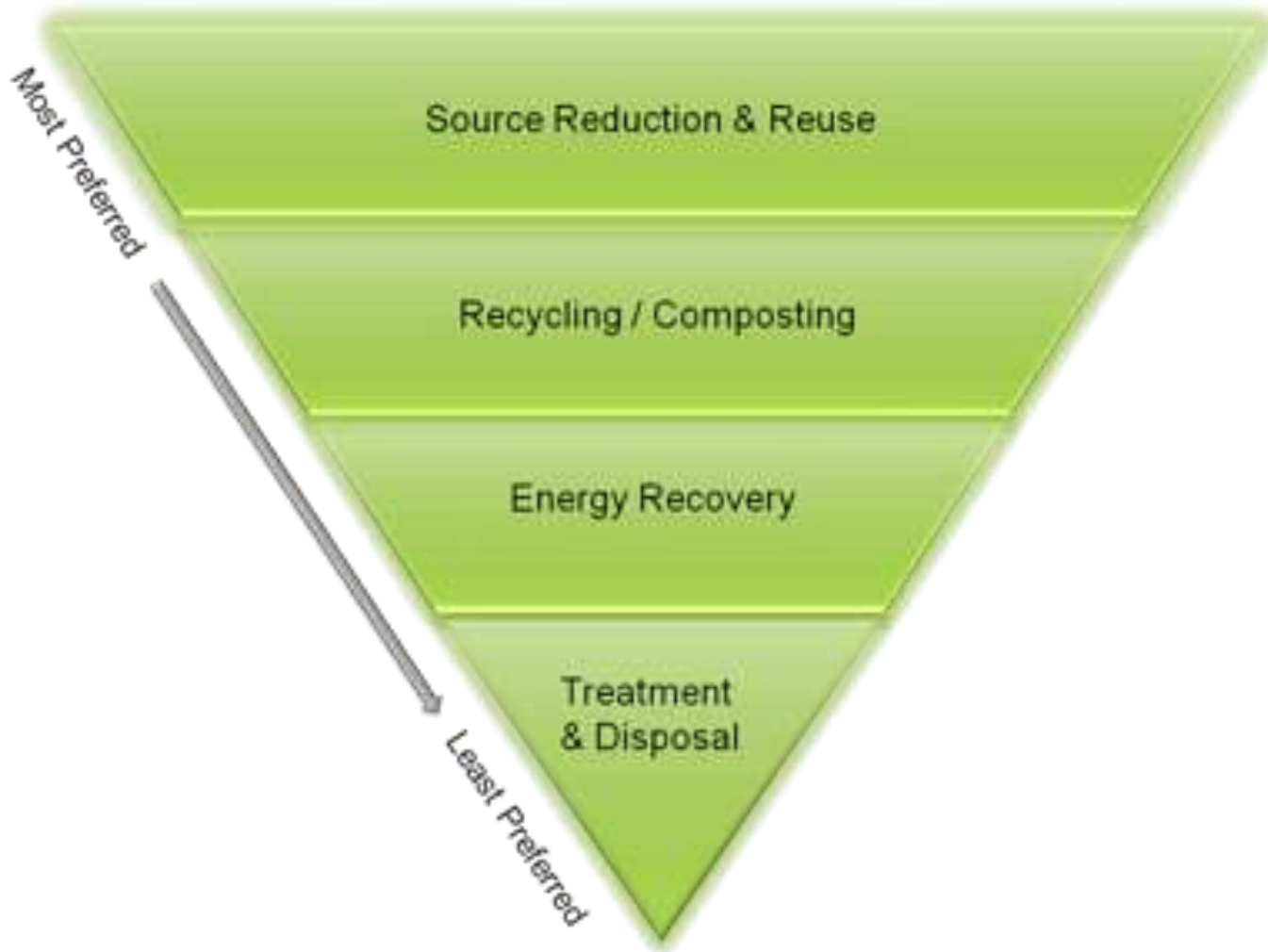
Principle ENV 5:
Create a Zero Waste system.



City Strategic Plan

Environmental Health
ENV 1

Waste Management Hierarchy



EPA Waste Management Hierarchy adopted in Fort Collins municipal code to support decisions about how to handle materials.

EPA does not consider waste-to-energy (a.k.a. energy recovery) as “diversion” – they are considered a form of disposal as the materials can no longer be used again after the process.

Goals

2025

- 90% diversion
- 2.8 lbs. / day / capita landfilled

2030: Zero Waste

Current Diversion Status

Residential: **29%**

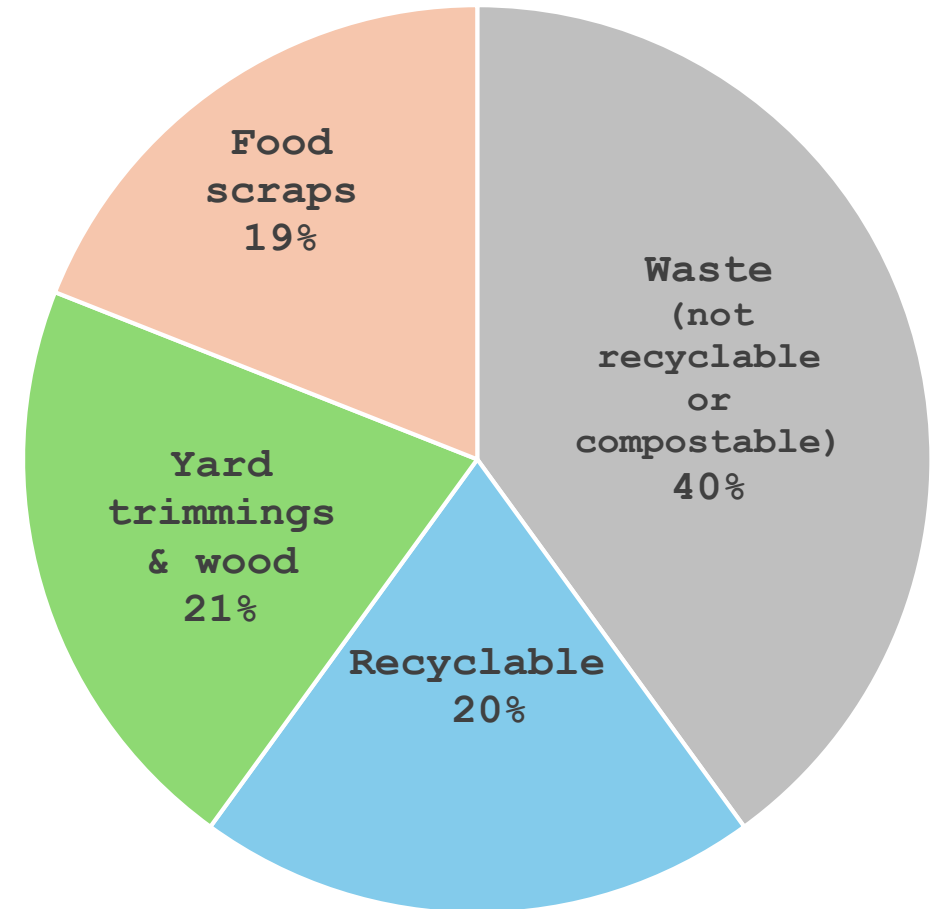
Commercial / Multi-Unit: **32%**

Industrial: **66%**

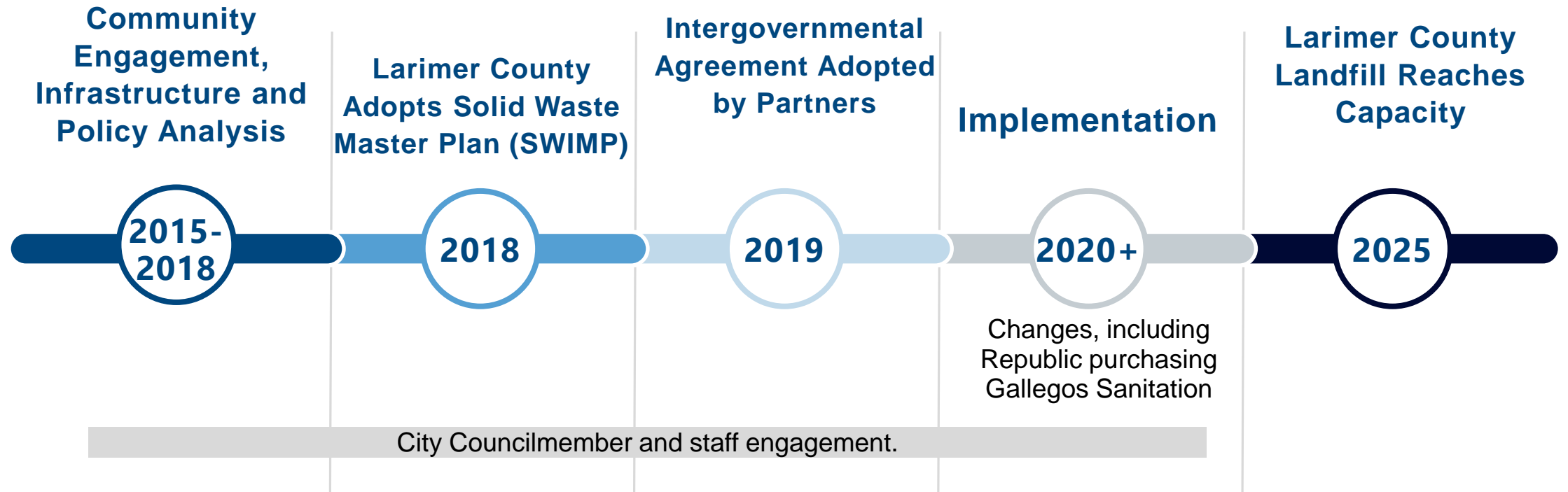
Community-wide diversion: **52%**

Pounds/capita/day landfilled: **5.38**

Contents of Material Landfilled by Fort Collins Residents and Businesses



Regional Wasteshed Coalition Background








Coalition Partners: Larimer County, Loveland, Estes Park, Wellington

Current Larimer County Facilities



Existing Facility	Notes related to Regional Wasteshed
Landfill	Will reach capacity in 2025
Recycling programs <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scrap metal• Yard trimmings• Mattresses	Will remain in place
Recycling Center (transfer station for everyday recyclables)	Will remain in place (Could be expanded to full Material Recovery Facility if receives enough material)
Recycling drop-off center	Will remain in place
Household Hazardous Waste	Will remain in place
Garbage Garage education center	Will remain in place

Initially Planned (SWIMP / IGA)

Tier 1 (highest priority)

- New landfill (near Rawhide Power Plant) 
- Transfer station 
- Yard trimmings compost 
- Food scrap compost 
- Construction and Demolition (C&D) recycling 

Tier 2 (next for consideration)

- Expanded recycling facility (for everyday recyclables) 
- Anaerobic digestion (for food scraps) 

Tier 3 (for possible consideration after Tier 1 and 2)

- Waste to Energy 

Current Status






Under Construction

- New landfill (near Rawhide Power Plant) 

Planned

- Transfer station 

Under Consideration

- Construction and Demolition (C&D) recycling 
- Yard trimmings compost 
- Anaerobic digestion (food scraps or mixed waste)  
- Waste to Energy 

IGA Contents

- Includes all regional watershed partners
- Commits to tiered prioritization of infrastructure projects
- Addresses the chicken / egg problem of infrastructure and materials to process
 - For C&D recycling, yard trimmings, food scraps
- Creates ongoing staff (TAC) and elected official (PAC) working groups to collaborate on implementation and update the IGA / SWIMP as needed to adapt to changes as they arise

Current Status

- Larimer County has requested partners put IGA into abeyance (suspend)
- IGA *not* anticipated to come out of abeyance
- IGA commitments not being met
- All partner communities have put it into abeyance (other than Fort Collins)
 - Means IGA still in effect
- Timeline, roles to create next IGA not clear
 - Next IGA could be between Larimer County and each agency individually or possibly regional



Potential IGA Actions to Consider

Option	Considerations
1) Place IGA into abeyance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ends commitment to tiered prioritization of infrastructure elements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Infrastructure decisions may take place without collaboratively-set criteria for decision making • Meets Larimer County request and aligns with partner actions
2) Place IGA into abeyance with conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could place current IGA into abeyance for a certain amount of time and have it come back into effect unless specific actions (e.g. creating a new IGA) have been completed • Same considerations as Option 1
3) Replace and repeal IGA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop new IGA and repeal prior at the same time as adopting new • Would have clarity on next agreement prior to exiting existing • Unclear timeline or pathway to next IGA
4) Terminate IGA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would likely have same impact as putting IGA into abeyance, as Larimer County does not intend to bring the IGA out of abeyance • Requires notification and goes into effect 18 months after notice is given <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Could place IGA into abeyance for the 18 months until it is terminated • May be clearer than unending abeyance
5) No action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current IGA would remain in place but commitments unlikely to be met • Next steps unclear

Flow Control: *directing waste material to a specific facility*

- Facility must be publicly owned and operated
- Must provide benefit to community

Request from Larimer County:

- Flow control waste from Fort Collins' residential hauler contract to Larimer County

Staff Recommendation:

- Include analysis and collaboration regarding flow control as part of 2024-25 staff work to identify and vet potential pathways to food scrap and C&D materials infrastructure as driven by Council Priority to Accelerate Zero Waste Policies and Infrastructure

- Staff will bring forward a Resolution relating to the IGA, if desired, consistent with Council feedback.
- If Councilmembers desire a joint Work Session with the Larimer County Commissioners, an off-cycle meeting time will be set.
- City staff will work to further identify and vet potential pathways to food scrap and C&D materials infrastructure, including analysis and collaboration regarding flow control informed by Councilmember feedback
 - City received a grant for free consulting support for this work (TASP grant)
- City staff will propose next steps for the Council Priority to Accelerate Zero Waste Policies and Infrastructure at the Council Work Session on May 14.

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