

# Council Priority Check-in: Accelerate Zero Waste Infrastructure and Policies

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Lead Waste Reduction and Recycling  
Specialist



## WELCOME

### TO THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS RESIDENTIAL TRASH & RECYCLING PROGRAM!

We are excited to take another step closer to starting our new service. This program is designed to benefit our community by providing:

- Increased opportunities for diverting material from the landfill. Your new service includes weekly recycling and seasonal yard cleanups (10/24/2025).
- Increased safety and reduced noise and emissions by reducing the number of collection trucks on residential streets.
- Consistent and transparent pricing.

To learn more about the program, visit [www.fortcollins.gov/contract-to-test](http://www.fortcollins.gov/contract-to-test).

Your new recycling cart is funded in part by a grant from the Recycling Partnership, a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing recycling. Fort Collins was selected to receive grant support because of our longstanding dedication to advancing recycling. Thank you for everything you do to help us with recycling and moving towards our Zero Waste goal as part of Our Climate Future.

*Kelly DiMartino*  
Kelly DiMartino  
City of Fort Collins



### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**What will happen to the old carts?**  
They will be either re-used (based on their condition) or recycled into new carts.

**Do I have to use the new cart?**  
Yes, starting September 22, Fort Collins contracted hauler will only collect waste from City-issued carts.

**Who owns the new carts?**  
The City owns the carts, so you need to take care of them. If a different issue is needed for the new contract, the City will handle it. The right to use the carts is a competitive bid for service.

**What happens if I put the wrong material in my cart?**

An "Oops" tag will be placed on my cart with the wrong material, with information on how to correct your cart for the next pick-up. If someone uses the cart for the wrong material, the cart may be placed on a future stop. It is important to follow the guidelines on the carts to divert materials from the landfill.

**Can I change my cart size?**  
Yes, you can exchange your cart for free up to two times per year. Additional exchanges cost \$20 each.

City of  
Fort Collins

City of  
Fort Collins  
970-416-2010



### Council Priority

Council Priority:  
Accelerate Zero  
Waste Infrastructure  
and Policies



### 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.



### Strategic Plan

Environmental Health 1

- Do Councilmembers have any questions about the elements underway in this Council Priority?
- Do Councilmembers have feedback on the proposed path forward?



- 1) Fort Collins' Zero Waste Context
- 2) What We're Doing Now
- 3) Next Steps



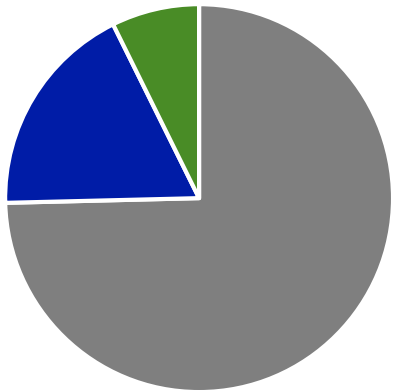
# Context

Goal: Zero Waste by 2030

2023 Diversion Rates

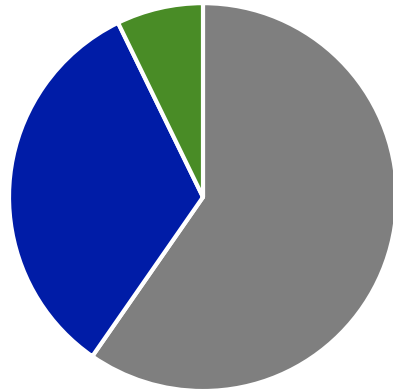
Residential

 25%



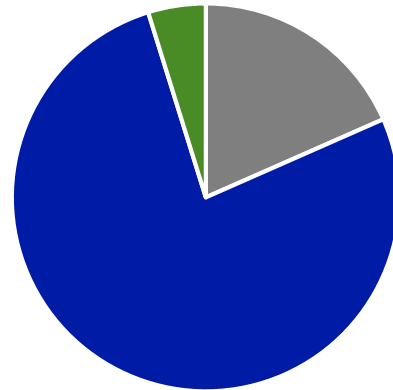
Commercial

 40%



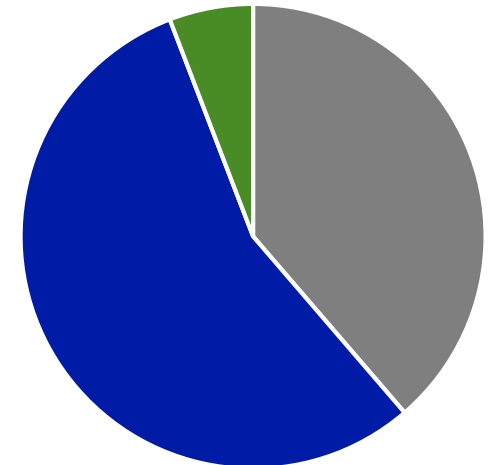
Industrial

 82%



Combined  
(Community Diversion Rate)

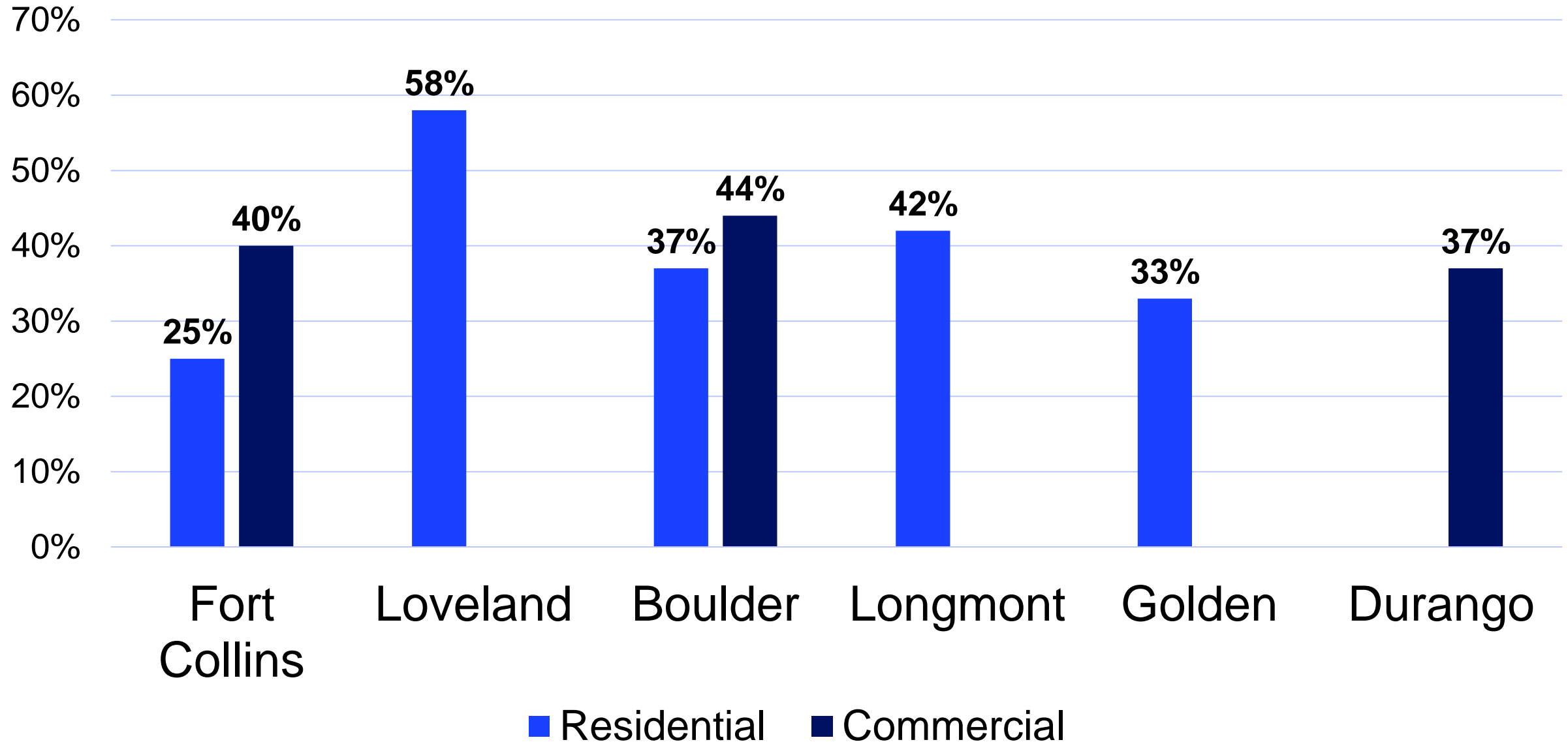
   61%



 Recycled

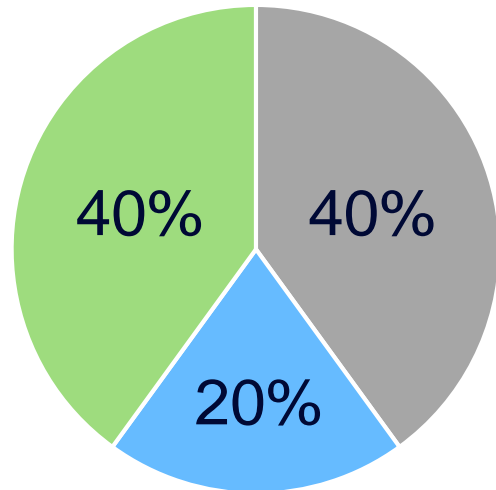
 Composted

 Landfilled

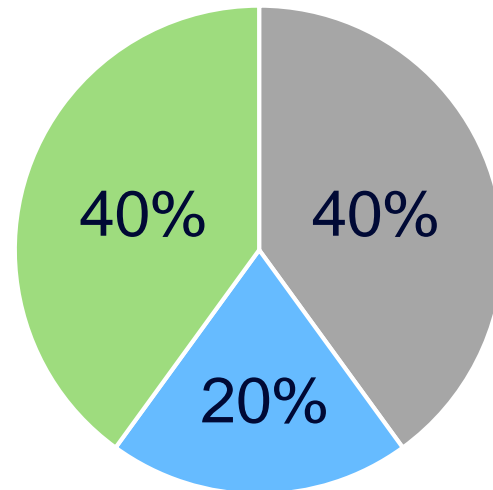


### Waste Composition (2016 data)

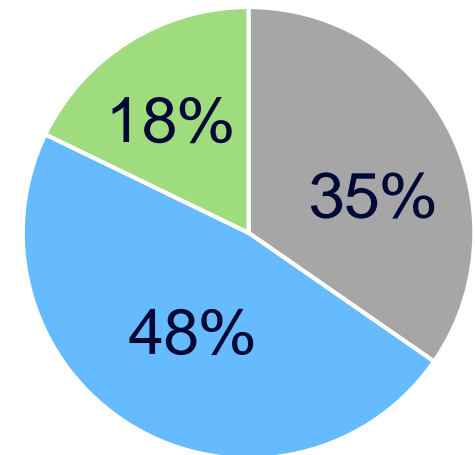
Residential



Commercial



Industrial



Could Be Recycled

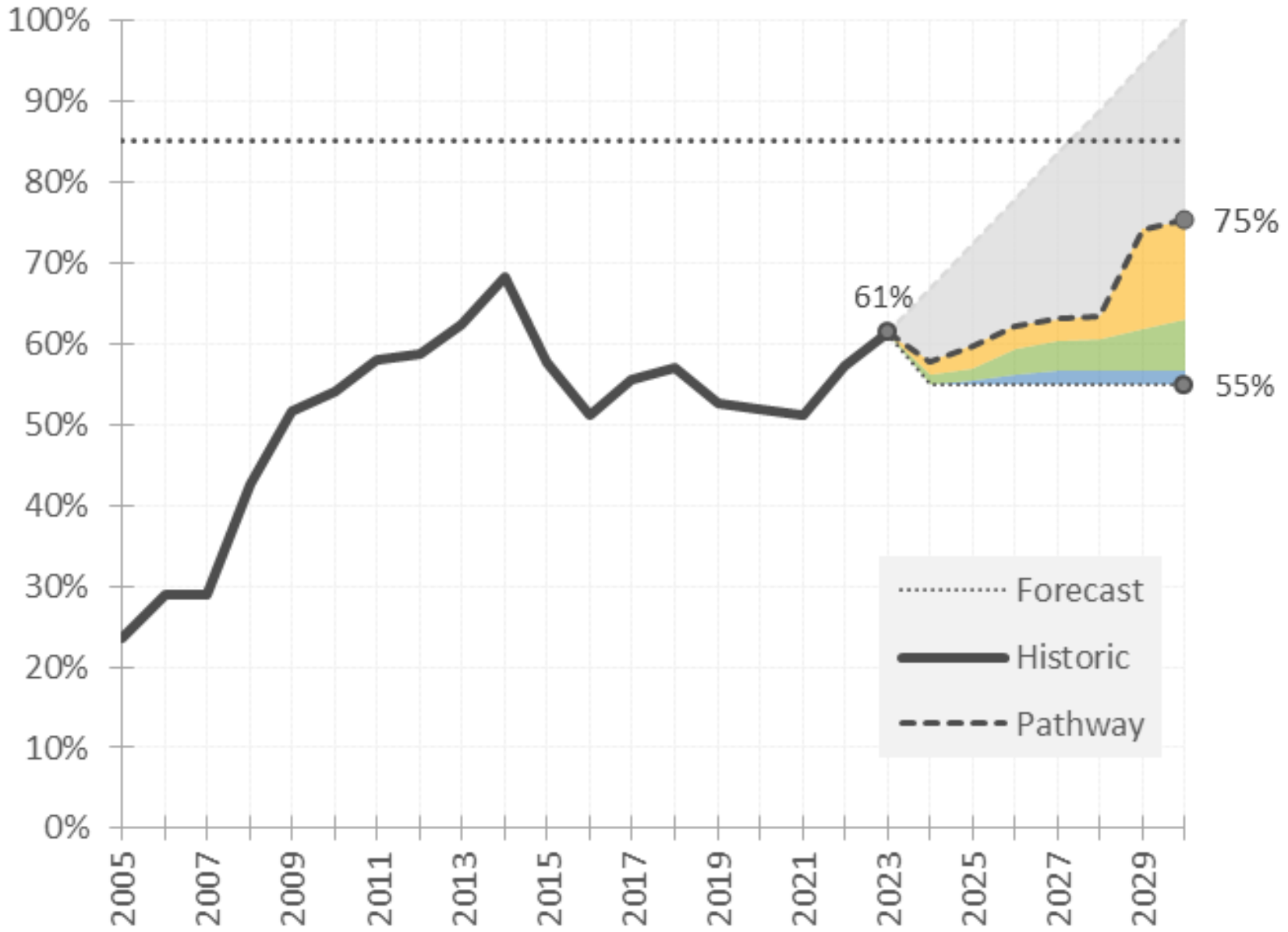
Could Be Composted

No Options Other Than Landfill



# Community Diversion

% of materials generated



- Pathways Potential     20%
- Construction and Demolition**     **12%**
- Yard Trimmings and Food Scraps**     **6%**
- City Industrial Waste**     **2%**



# What We're Doing Now



## Detached Residential

- Volume-based trash pricing
- Recycling and yard trimmings included for no additional charge
- Contracted hauling: consistent, affordable pricing



## Commercial & Attached Res.

- Recycling included with trash service
- Grocers required to compost



## Industrial / Const & Demo

- Requirements to recycle cardboard, metal, wood, aggregates
- Regular inspections of C&D sites

Plastic bag ban, Paper bag fee, Styrofoam ban

Education and outreach programs, Landfill ban on cardboard

Infrastructure: Timberline Recycling Center, Hoffman Mill Crushing Facility

# Council Priority Elements Complete or Underway

## Complete

Leverage Existing Infrastructure to increase Yard Trimmings Composted

- Implement contracted hauling with increased yard trimmings collection

## Underway

Identify Pathways to C&D and Food Scraps Infrastructure

- Grant-funded consulting support
- Regional Wasteshed partnership

## Yard Trimmings collection:



**46% more households  
now have curbside collection  
(11,400 homes)**



## Infrastructure for food scraps composting essential to further progress

Grant-funded consulting work to identify composting and C&D infrastructure pathways





**Infrastructure for mixed construction & demolition material is important for further progress**

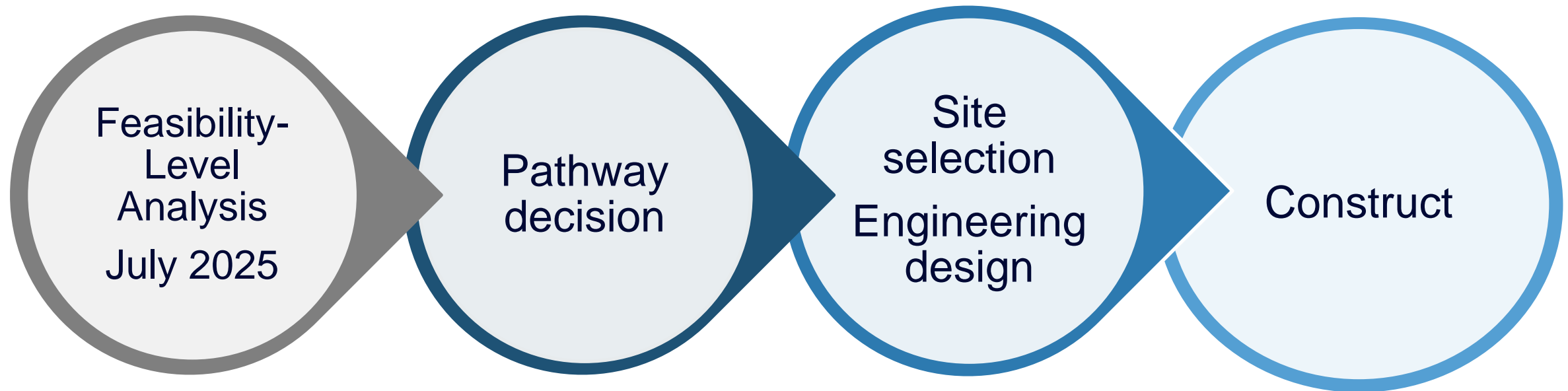
**Recent Council guidance:**  
Letter of support for Larimer County C&D Facility



# Next Steps



## Grant-funded consulting work to identify composting and C&D infrastructure pathways






## Larimer County C&D Site:

*(if state grant is awarded and remaining funding identified)*







- Provide funding
- City already adopted policy to direct material to site



# Council Priority Items Underway or Complete

Next Move	Diversion Impact	Notes
Expanded yard trimmings collection through contracted hauling	High 	Complete
Food scraps composting site or compost transfer station	High 	Underway; multiple years until full implementation
Mixed C&D recycling sorting facility	High 	Underway; multiple years until full implementation

# Potential Zero Waste Next Moves

Next Move	Diversion Impact		Notes
Commercial yard trimmings policy	High		Leverages existing infrastructure
Develop food scraps policy	High		Dependent on infrastructure timing
Increase municipal reuse / recycling	High		
Deconstruction practices	Med/High		
Additional plastics reduction policy	Low		Impacts behavior change
Additional measurement approaches / updated waste composition study	Low		Updated info for infrastructure planning

# Proposed next steps



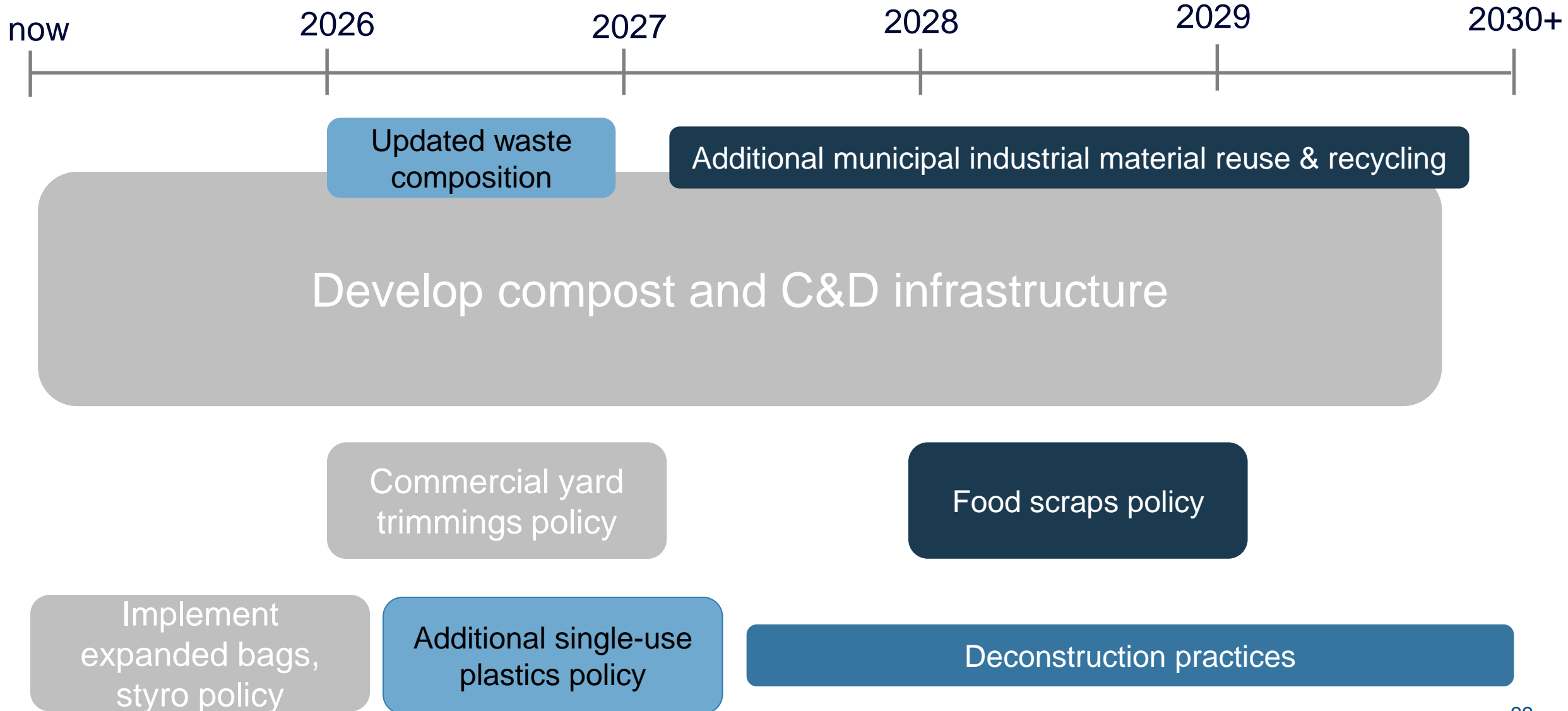
Develop compost and C&D infrastructure

Commercial yard trimmings policy

Implement expanded bags, styro policy\*

*\* ongoing work, but not part of this Council Priority*

# Potential additional next moves



# Proposed next steps



Implement expanded bags, styro policy

## Develop compost and C&D infrastructure

Commercial yard trimmings policy

*Additional next moves as prioritized*

Check in on infrastructure next steps

Check in on next prioritization

- Do Councilmembers have any questions about the elements underway in this Council Priority?
  
- Do Councilmembers have feedback on the proposed path forward?





# Thank you!

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