

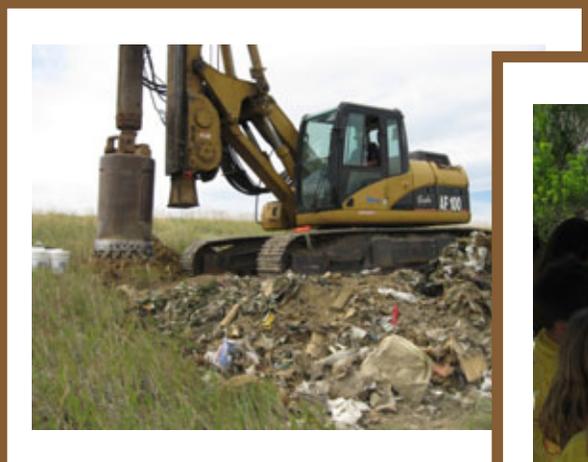
SOLID WASTE

2009 ANNUAL REPORT



Doing our part to return the landfill to its natural inhabitants

Photo of deer grazing on landfill property



The Larimer County Landfill -

A modern, environmentally regulated, state-of-the-art landfill

Internal programs include:

* Special wastes * Environmental monitoring * Education * Recycling

Notes from the Director

2009 was a challenge to all of us. Solid Waste was able to meet these challenges and continue to offer our services to our customers.



At the end of 2008, the recycling market collapsed. Larimer County continued to offer the same services to our recycle customers, and the recycle market continues to climb slowly back up. It has a long way to go, but the outlook is positive.

Our landfill has also faced some challenges. Volumes continue to decrease but we believe we have started to turn the corner and see signs of stability.

We are always trying to minimize what goes into our landfill but we still need landfill volumes to sustain our Solid Waste program here in Larimer County.

Household Hazardous Waste had a very interesting year. The potential has always been there for the wrong chemicals to be delivered to our facility. This happened twice in 2009 and our partnership with the Northern Colorado Bomb Squad paid off. In both incidences, the chemical was detonated on site with little disruption of our services.

The Garbage Garage continues to be a destination for many groups and for outreach educational activities. If you have never had an opportunity to stop by, please do. You will be surprised what you can learn about recycling and our Solid Waste programs here in Larimer County.

Transfer stations are operated throughout the County. Here are opportunities to dispose of materials closer to home. These transfer stations are located in Berthoud, Estes Park, Red Feather, and Wellington.

Late in October, our landfill gas collection system was complete. If you drive by at night you will see a flare burning methane gas. This spring a Caterpillar engine will be installed to burn this methane gas and generate electricity.

The Solid Waste Department looks forward to continuing to serve the disposal and recycle needs of our customers. Please drop by and visit us.

Stephen Gillette
Solid Waste Director

Environmental Compliance



Landfill gas took center stage in 2009 as we worked to monitor, contain, collect, and control the gasses that are produced by decomposing buried waste. Landfill gas is a mixture of methane and carbon dioxide, with

some volatile organic compounds mixed in. From an environmental perspective, landfill gas poses a triple threat – as an explosion hazard, as a source of hazardous air pollutants, and as a greenhouse gas. An extensive study of the landfill’s gas chemistry was conducted in the spring in order to calculate organic compound emissions. Results showed that annual emissions are well below the limit set by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency. In the latter half of the year, Larimer County began to benefit from construction of the landfill’s first active gas collection system – a project that will address all three landfill gas concerns. Timberline Energy, LLC, through a business partnership with Larimer County, paid to install forty-one gas extraction wells in the three completed phases of the landfill. All the wells were connected by thousands of feet of piping to a central location, where landfill gas is now being collected and flared. Collecting the gas helps to prevent off-site migration, and combusting it significantly reduces organic compound and

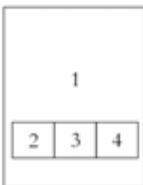
greenhouse gas emissions. In the future, Timberline hopes to put the gas to some beneficial use as a fuel for heat or electric generation.

Weather in 2009 improved slightly over the previous year, but it was still a little drier and windier than usual, with a noticeable impact on the local environment and efforts to control pollution. Ample rain in May and June helped revegetation – an important element of erosion control – but there was not enough precipitation through the year to recharge the local aquifers. The landfill was forced to close 25 days due to high winds.



On The Cover:

1. Wild deer at Landfill
Photo by Robert Nielsen
2. Gas well drilling
Photo by Steve Harem
3. Group at Education Event.
Photo by Rose Watson
4. Covering trash
Photo by Rita Trostel



Recycling

January 2009 started off with the recycle commodities markets at a virtual stand still.

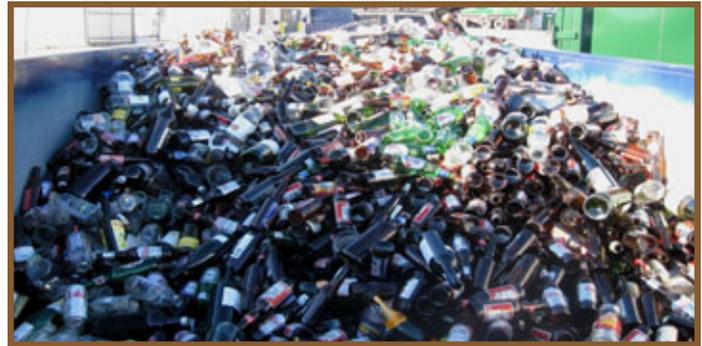
- Jan 2008 sale of mixed paper averaged - - \$109.29
- Dec 2008 sale of mixed paper averaged - - \$55.69
- Jan 2009 sale of mixed paper averaged - - \$5.00
- Dec 2009 sale of mixed paper averaged - - \$58.91

There was stockpiling occurring and we were pondering the instability and consequences of the recycle market.



The markets have slowly climbed out of these record low levels and continue to inch upward. It is believed the trend was a result of resisting panic; we kept doing business as usual. Tonnages declined about 4% in 2009.

The Larimer County recycling center is the only facility paying rebates to commercial customers.



New in 2009, we now offer the ability to drop off glass bottles and jars separately

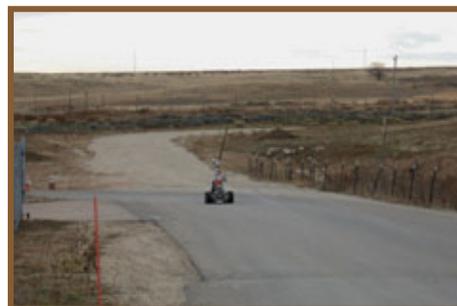
Hazardous Waste

The Larimer County **H**ousehold **H**azardous **W**aste (**HHW**) program had 1,473 more customers this year. We are seeing a higher number of participants yet the total amount of waste collected is dropping. Materials being sent out through Drop n' Swap is increasing. This is a good indicator of our program's success with County residents. We are receiving smaller loads with more useable materials. Residents are cleaning out sooner and some maybe more often. The outcome of this is safer homes, and help for those who need it.

This was a year to be rid of old unstable chemicals. Two separate incidents of unstable chemicals being brought to the Larimer County landfill led to the need for assistance from the Northern Colorado Bomb squad.

Both occurrences were handled in a professional, controlled manner and the aide and expertise of the bomb squad was appreciated.

We also partnered with CSU to detonate some old rounds of cyanide laced ammunition that was approved by the Colorado Department of Health and Environment. All three of these events would have been devastating costs to our program without the help of these partner agencies.



Bomb Squad robot. Photo: Linda Hayden

Business Hazardous Waste remains steady.



Detonation of explosives.
Photo: Linda Hayden

We helped businesses and various agencies dispose of \$30,000 dollars of waste to date. The program is designed to allow some cost savings for smaller quantity generators needing to dispose of, or recycle, anything from non-hazardous liquids to fluorescent light bulbs. Other similar programs would cost them much more. We served 175 different customers making up a total of 230 business appointments.

*P*reserving our Investments

Being good stewards to the environment and returning the property to its natural inhabitants is an important part of our mission. It is rewarding to see the wildlife returning to our completed areas.



Post closure & prior closure photos

*E*ducation *“We are so glad you took the time to come into our classroom. All of us learned so much about recycling.”*
Van Buren 4th grade classes in Loveland.

The story of “Reducing, Reusing and Recycling” continues to be shared with students of all ages—from preschoolers to senior adults. New programs developed in 2009 emphasizing the life cycles of products and environmental responsibility added value to the message with more hands-on learning. From summer classes for youth, to Saturday classes for adults and families, outreach in the community at fairs and festivals, classroom presentations, and collaborative programming with other venues, the staff and volunteers directly impacted well over 6,000 people in 2009.



Matt Forrest, HHW technician, top left, explains to a group of students what happens when hazardous materials go into the Landfill

Our weekly and monthly columns in local newspapers help answer many questions Larimer County citizens have when they commit to “Recycling Right.” We remind everyone that trash never “just goes away.”



Maureen McCarthy, Education Center Assistant, leads a tour group of school children through the recycling bin area

The Education Center has more curb appeal in 2009!

The composting demonstration area is complete. Landscaping, and some upgrades to the Education Center made for a more inviting and educational atmosphere. An exciting new exhibit is planned for 2010.



Stephen Gillette Communicating in sign language with hearing impaired visitor to our booth at Fair

Partnerships



"No man is an island." ...John Donne

As a County department we cannot be an island. Partnerships with the following entities help us to achieve our goals and to provide the best possible services and programs for our citizens.

* * * * *

City of Ft Collins · City of Loveland · Town of Wellington ·
 Town of Berthoud · Town of Estes Park · Glacier View ·
 U.S. Forest Service · CSU · Waste Management, Inc.
 · CO Dept of Wildlife · Rocky Mountain National Park ·
 Private and municipal waste haulers · CO Assoc For Recycling ·
 Solid Waste Assoc of North America · CO Alliance of Environmental Educators ·
 CO Dept. of Public Health & Environment · Larimer County Public Works Division ·
 County Manager · Human Resources ·
 Health & Environment · Facilities · Commissioners · Sheriff ·
 Purchasing · Information Technology ·
 Northern Colorado Bomb Squad · ... and others

Sister City San Cristobal



Our visitors from San Cristobal were especially interested in our Environmental Education program, as they want to protect and conserve their natural heritage. Our visitors enjoyed seeing how we educate citizens and groups in the area of environmental responsibility.

Another area of interest to them was our plan to reduce our environmental impact at the landfill through harvesting the landfill gas and eventually turning it into energy that helps support our surrounding community.

In 2009 we were honored to share environmental and landfill information with visiting dignitaries from our Sister city of San Cristobal, Mexico, who are looking at our model of Solid Waste disposal.

San Cristobal is a beautiful city rich in its landscape and culture. They also are challenged by minimizing their environmental footprint.

They came to the Larimer County landfill to see our modern sanitary landfill in operation. This was an opportunity to gather ideas and share information about challenges. It served as a reminder to us that globally we all have an environmental responsibility and we need to partner in preservation.



Landfill

We accepted 706,605 cubic yards of materials into the landfill in 2009.

By mid 2009 landfill volumes were down 14% from the previous year. The entire Solid Waste staff went on mandated furloughs. Volumes began to rise again when the City of Fort Collins brought 21,000 cubic yards of sludge from the water treatment plant and when we welcomed our new customer, Northern Colorado Disposal.



With these additional volumes, our revenue at the end of the year was down by only 4% from 2008.

In 2009 we were able to divert and recycle:

- 562, 622 pounds of white goods (appliances)
- 1,100 tires to Front Range Tire Recycling



We continued our annual Christmas tree recycling program. (above picture) Trees will be turned into free mulch for citizens in the spring.

In 2010 we will redirect Fossil Creek back onto its original course, alleviating the potential erosion control problem on the north side of the landfill. This is a major project.



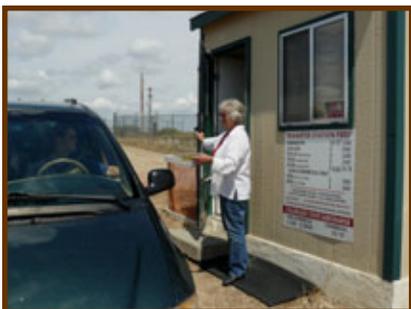
Northern Colorado Disposal

Transfer Stations

Berthoud and Red Feather Transfer

Stations saw an increase in revenue for 2009. Wellington however, saw a drop in revenue due to reduced hours. Our usual summer Wednesday hours were eliminated from the schedule in 2009 to decrease expenses at this location and overall for Solid Waste. While the transfer stations provide a needed service to their communities, they are *not* financially self sustaining.

Lois continues to offer service with a smile two days a week in Wellington. Stop in to say Hello!



Lois Schwindt Wellington Transfer Station
Photo: Rose Watson



Fred Torres, Jr.
Berthoud
Transfer Station
Photo:
Rose Watson

Berthoud had some repairs made to correct cracking concrete and storm water drainage issues. The gate was modified and repaired by adding a wheel and adjusting the hinges. Fred is enjoying another year of getting to know our customers in the Berthoud community. He continues to be a great addition to our Berthoud location.

In November, transfer station rate increases of 5% were approved by the Commissioners. Transfer station rates had not been increased since January 1, 2003.

As part of the new storm water inspection process for Larimer County, Ann Lujan, Solid Waste Manager, has been doing quarterly inspections at the transfer stations and making necessary modifications to ensure our continued compliance with the EPA's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES) requirements.

Nancy's refreshing personality has Red Feather customers returning throughout the year.



Nancy Fleischbucker
Red Feather
Transfer Station
Photo: Ann Lujan

Summary of Finances

Larimer County Solid Waste is an enterprise fund department receiving zero tax dollars

Total revenues for the department \$4.5 million.

Revenues by Major Program:

Landfill - \$3,607,004
 Recycling - \$160,835
 HHW - \$39,751
 Transfer Stations - \$190,020
 Interest/Sale of Assets - \$500,155

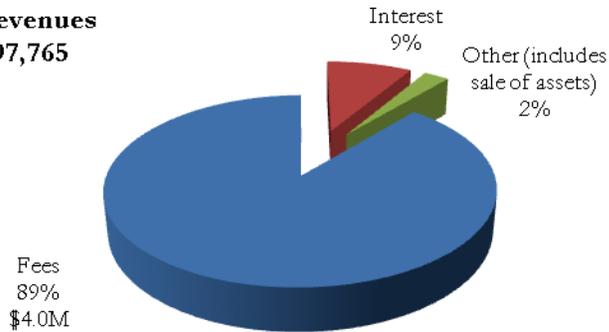
Expenses for 2009
 \$3.5 million.

Expenses by Major Category:

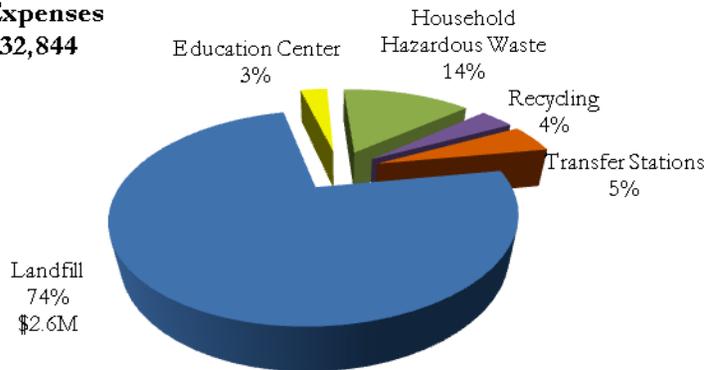
Personnel - \$1,584,518
 Operating - \$1,269,953
 Capital - \$678,373

These figures are unaudited.
 The audit is to be complete mid 2010

2009 Revenues \$4,497,765



2009 Expenses \$3,532,844



Looking Toward the Future

As we enter 2010, we'll be facing a year of all new challenges.

From the first recorded history of a municipal dump in ancient (400BC) Athens, landfilling has been the technique of handling solid waste. As practices and standards continue to evolve, the Larimer County Solid Waste Department plans to host a 2010 Solid Waste Summit to gather input from our landfill users to see where we should be heading.

We held a Recycling Summit in April of 2003 that resulted in a number of changes to our recycling contract and what things are recycled at the Larimer County Recycle Center.

Highlights of upcoming changes that will impact the handling of waste products include:

City of Fort Collins adopted an ordinance that requires solid waste companies to report data to the City. The Larimer County landfill is in the process of installing a scale system so that our customers can, at their option, weigh their vehicle.

The State Legislature is looking into banning e-scrap (computers, televisions, etc.) this year. We want to be ready so that no one is surprised when and if this ban occurs. There are many outlets to recycle e-scrap and the recycle center at the Landfill currently accept these products for a fee.

Generating electricity at our landfill will hopefully begin spring of 2010. This presents an opportunity to take a problem (greenhouse gas) and make it into a useable product (electricity). This fits very well into our goal of reducing our environmental footprint.

If you have ideas to share, please let us know. Contact:

Phone: (970)498-5762

Email: sgillette@larimer.org



Photo: mulching over re-seeding



Larimer County Vision Statement

Larimer County will add value to the lives of its citizens by:

- Building Partnerships
- Being Customer Driven
- Empowering People to Take Responsibility
- Being a Fulfilling and Enjoyable Place to Work
- Being a Good Steward of Public Resources

Solid Waste Department FAST Facts

We receive ZERO tax dollars

We have 7 major service areas:
Sanitary Landfill * Hazardous Waste * Environmental Compliance * Education * Transfer Stations, * Recycling * Support Services

This publication
printed on
recycled paper



Contact Information

Address

Administrative Office
5887 S. Taft Hill Rd.
Fort Collins, CO 80526

Phone

(970) 498-5760
(970) 498-5780 Fax

Office Hours

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Monday - Friday

On the Web at:

www.larimer.org/solidwaste

Public Works Division

Marc Engemoen, Director

Engineering

Fleet

Natural Resources

Road and Bridge

Solid Waste

The Ranch



Solid Waste Facilities

Landfill

5887 S. Taft Hill Rd.
Ft Collins, CO 80526
970-498-5760

Hazardous Waste

5887 S. Taft Hill Rd.
Ft Collins, CO 80624
970-498-5771

Education Center

5887 S. Taft Hill Rd
Ft Collins, CO 80526
970-498-5772

Berthoud Transfer

Hwy.56 & County Line
Berthoud, CO
970-498-5760

Wellington Transfer

Owl Canyon Rd.
Wellington, CO
970-498-5760

Red Feather Transfer

West of Parvin Lake
Red Feather, CO
970-498-5760