

SOLID WASTE

2010 ANNUAL REPORT



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

2010 was a time for new things here at Solid Waste. We continue to bring the services our customers want, at affordable prices.

This spring we addressed a potential problem before it escalated into a REAL problem! A few years ago, Fossil Creek had been straightened out, away from its natural meandering path. This year it was redirected back into its more natural channel, preventing the possibility of the landfill sloughing off into the channel.

Another major project this year was the installation of a solar array south of the Waste Management Recycle Center. This 19.3 kilo-watt system meets all the electrical needs of our Administration building and our Household Hazardous Waste facility.

This was a joint venture of our Facilities department, the City of Fort Collins, and the Solid Waste department, made possible with some other grants.

The landfill continues to see waste volumes go down. Some of this is due to citizen recycling and diversion, but most of the decreases are attributable to commercial trash haulers taking their business to private landfills in nearby counties, diverting the trash and also the revenue away from Larimer County. This is just one of the financial challenges of keeping our landfill and services available and sustainable.

If you have not been to the landfill for a while, you will see that we have three new scales. These scales were mandated and installed per EPA regulations. The scales will be a traffic challenge for us next summer on busy

weekends, but we are currently requesting to the EPA to allow to use pre-determined weights for self-haul residential customers.

The landfill currently charges fees based on cubic yards, not weight. Maintaining the great services offered at the Landfill, the Recycling Center, the Education Program, the Household Hazardous Waste facility, the rural transfer stations and recycling drop-off centers without using General Fund tax dollars, continues to be an ever increasing fiscal challenge.



Stephen Gillete
Solid Waste Director

Environmental Compliance

Keeping the landfill in compliance with environmental regulations means adapting to changes, and in 2010 there were plenty of changes! There is a new mandatory Greenhouse Gas Reporting rule, which added a whole new set of measurement requirements. Adapt-

ing for this required a significant capital investment in the purchase of a gas analyzer, and the installation of truck scales. The workload has increased sharply to keep up with the data reporting requirements.

The same weather likely played a role in landfill gas problems.

In the spring, explosive levels of methane gas migrated beyond the north property line. We hired a geotechnical consultant to do a detailed study of subsurface conditions to ensure our neighbors were not at risk. The problem has since cleared up and we are at work on plans to prevent any reoccurrence in the future.



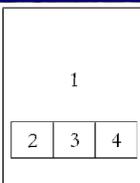
2010 was again drier and windier than usual making it difficult to control dust, litter and erosion. The landfill crew put a lot of extra miles on the water truck to suppress dust on our haul roads. Dry weather, ironically, makes it harder to control erosion because we rely on healthy grasses to hold soil on the landfill slopes. We made an extra effort to improve ditches and reseed critical areas to control runoff the next time it rains.

The Solid Waste Department has a responsibility to prepare for the unexpected and to protect human health and the environment. We monitor and address issues when they arise.



On The Cover:

1. Installation of scale
Photo by Steve Harem
2. New solar panel system
Photo by Rose Watson
3. Lane construction.
Photo by Steve Harem
4. Fossil Creek redirection



Recycling



We are very proud that we share our revenue with the customers who bring in the materials. This year \$846,766 was rebated to our customers at the recycle center. Our facility has had some of the highest rebates in the State of Colorado. This is a valuable service for our citizens and the environment.

- December 2009 mixed paper sales averaged \$58.91/ton
- One year later mixed paper sales averaged \$113.85/ton
- January 2009 mixed paper sales averaged \$5.00/ton
- One year later mixed paper sales averaged \$70.00/ton

Recycling continues to rebound from last year. In 2010 the recycle center took in 33,778.38 tons of recyclables. This is a 7.71% increase over 2009 tonnages primarily because of participants in the curbside programs, the collectors of the curbside materials, businesses, and our partner at the recycle center, Waste Management, Inc.

We also sent 4033 tires off the site to be recycled.



Hazardous Waste



In 2010 HHW Technicians processed over 1.7 million pounds of hazardous materials



Of that material more than 272,000 pounds of reusable material was given back to the public for free.

Larimer County Household Hazardous Waste facility continues to be a source for positive community projects. Some of the materials given away have been used in ventures like the construction divider wall at the Loveland Library, prom décor at Fort Collins High School, utility box painting, painting the offices of Green Ride, the City of Ft Collins graffiti abatement program and residential home improvements.

Other areas of service for residents include the Sharps program and the **Business Hazardous Waste Assistance Program and Education (BHAPE)**

All of these efforts are made in order to keep our landfill compliant, protect the environment and be a part of keeping our Larimer County community safe.



Community Enrichment



*E*nvironmental *S*tewardship

As part of our responsibility to the environment, we completed the installation of a solar panel system which powers several buildings on site.



Returning our closed areas to a natural landscape.



We take pride in seeing the wildlife return to our completed areas.

*M*aking a *d*ifference

Visitors to the Garbage Garage Education Center learn about responsible solid waste disposal along with how to reduce waste, reuse items, and recycle correctly to reduce the impact on our natural resources.



Our energetic staff and volunteers make learning fun for adults and children alike!



Participation in community events such as fairs, Colorado children's Day, Halloween and others provide fun and educational opportunities

Our classrooms also include schools, businesses, clubs, churches and other venues through our outreach programs.

Guided tours on site and other activities enhance the learning experience!

Spokesrat Patty Packrat even has a weekly column in the Loveland paper!

Thousands of people a year hear the three R's message through the efforts of the Solid Waste Education Program.



Partnerships and people



We collaborated with other city and county departments on multiple projects in 2010.



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 ·

Our PEOPLE are our STRENGTH!



Robert Turner



Donna Climer

Our TEAM delivers the best service at the most affordable rate in the area



Robert Nielsen



Mark Clutter

Three of our dedicated employees retired and now enjoying a more leisurely pace.

- Robert Turner - 16 years of service
- Donna Climer - 10 years of service
- Robert “Dane” Nielsen - 26 years of service

Their positions were Assistant Manager, Gate Attendant and Landfill Operations Manager, respectively.

The Assistant Manager position will be left vacant because of budget cuts.

24 year employee, Mark Clutter has been promoted to Landfill Operations Manager.

New scales!



County College 101

The Landfill hosted the first ever Division of Public Works, County College 101.

This was an opportunity for us to share with interested citizens about how challenges are met and decisions are made in Public Works. The participants were treated to tours of the facilities. Exhibits of large equipment were brought in for an up-close look at the sheer size and mechanical marvel of the fleets used in Public Works.



The cost of the equipment is better understood when standing next to the giant machines and learning what is required with each unit from an operator.

Participants were immersed in a variety of hands-on activities such as making tough budget decisions with simulated interactive games.

The landfill staff was especially proud to host this event and received a lot of kudos from the participants for keeping our facility so clean and for being so progressive in our vision.

These people are now sharing their experience in the community and we are excited about our next event in 2011.



Serving the Community

"...I have been able to get numerous items from the Drop & Swap including household paint, lawn fertilizer, weed killer and wallpaper remover. Thank you for providing a great service that reuses potentially hazardous chemicals."

"...I recently moved to Larimer County and have found that all of my experiences with the landfill have been very positive. The free mulch service is a great resource for any property owner, the recycling center is convenient and easy to use, and the trash hauling rates are lower than any landfill in the area. I've been so impressed with the services provided at the Larimer County Landfill that I seriously considered canceling my curbside service and using the Landfill exclusively."

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 - \$3,431,095
- Recycling - \$469,545
- HHW - \$32,291
- Transfer Stations - \$217,254
- Interest/ Sale of Assets - \$324,326

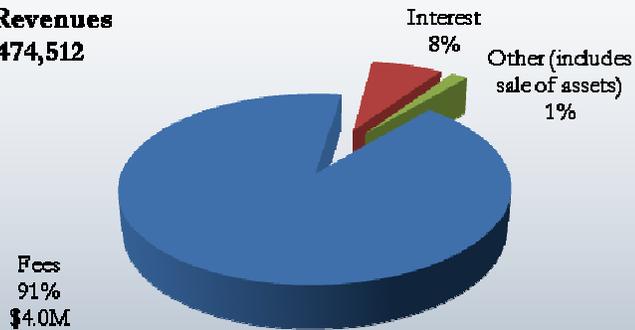
Expenses for 2010 \$4.0 million.

Expenses by Major Category:

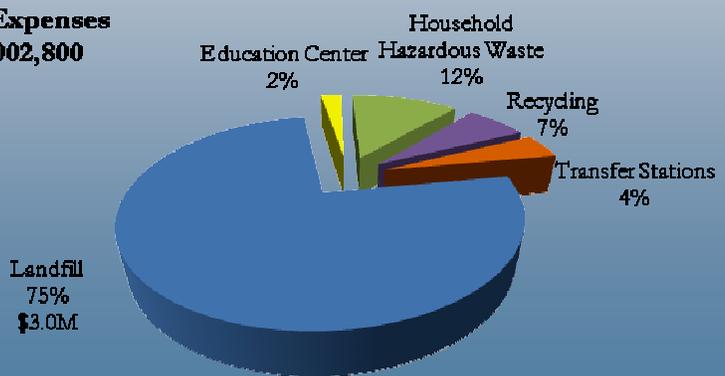
- Personnel - \$1,715,241
- Operating - \$2,287,559
- Capital - \$0

These figures are unaudited.
The audit is to be complete mid 2011

2010 Revenues \$4,474,512



2010 Expenses \$4,002,800



Looking Toward the Future

Early in 2011 a World Café model, Solid Waste discussion session is scheduled to help build future partnerships with citizens, businesses, non-profits, cities, towns, and groups. The discussion topic will be: How together we can solve the solid waste issues we are facing here in Larimer County.

2011 Issues include:

- *How to use the weight data that we are collecting from vehicles .
- *Should we charge by weight or volume?
- *Possible legislative bans on electronic waste from landfills
- *Closing another partial phase of the landfill

- *Extending our gas collection system.
 - *Anticipating enough gas collection to stop gas flaring and generate electricity.
- The Landfill and our other facilities are great places to visit, so please stop by and learn about our history and all of our services. We welcome your ideas and input.

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

Phone: (970)498-5762

Email: sgillette@larimer.org





**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

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



“Dane” Nielsen employee of month October

This publication
printed on
recycled paper



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Monday - Friday

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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

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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

SOLID WASTE

2006 - 2010 Five Year Review



PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION

*L*istening to our customers

Over the last 5 years, Solid Waste services have been added and improved for our customers: *We opened a transfer station in Red Feather *We added recycling options to the Berthoud and Red Feather Transfer Stations *We added plastic containers #3-#7 to the curbside single stream mix *Our Hazardous Waste program participation has grown and added sharps disposal *Our Education and outreach to the community is bigger than ever *A new Recycle Center baler was purchased.

In 2007 a new and green-built business office was completed on the Landfill property. The new on-site office improved staff efficiency. It made financial sense to locate the entire team where our customers are. This building was designed to minimize our carbon footprint and to serve our customers better! The building is equipped with solar panels and an alternative energy, geothermal coil heating system; It was built to Silver LEED standards and is extremely energy efficient.

A Change in awareness

The Solid Waste industry has been adapting to the new “green” awareness that is in the media with more frequency than ever before. Americans are learning to be better caretakers of Mother Earth. We are more mindful of leaving something for future generations.

The EPA is actively responsive to preserving resources. Newly mandated regulations from the EPA have changed the data required for landfill reporting over the last 5 years. As part of the new requirements, computerized scales have been constructed.

The Landfill is also bound to new regulations about greenhouse gases. This change has meant some major capital investment purchases of measurement equipment and has added to the manpower requirements to record and report to the state.

In 2007 a waste characterization study was made public and new regulations banning lead acid batteries, motor oil, and tires from all Colorado landfills went into effect.

*E*conomic impact

The global economy as well as political influences have forced changes in the Solid Waste industry over the last five years. There has been a general decline in volumes, thus revenue, over the last 5 years.

There was a near total collapse of the recycle market world wide in 2008 and a slow recycle market recovery to date.

In 2009 with the continued decline in volumes, and budgets tightening, the landfill staff was furloughed and Sundays cut from the operating hours. Two employees took voluntary early retirement offered by the County. These positions will not be filled.

Like other industries we have had to learn to do more with less. We are looking at efficiencies, we are auditing for excesses and soliciting our customers for input. We are cutting back and becoming more efficient with the time, talent and resources that we already have. Everything we do, every program, and service we offer to our customers is currently being reviewed for ways to improve or maintain on reduced volume revenues. We are not funded with tax dollars and rely on volumes at the gate.



Looking ahead

It's not premature to be thinking about the future of Solid Waste in Larimer County. We anticipate the need for a future site and in 2006 we bought a parcel north of Wellington. We don't know yet how this location might be used, but we have acquired this parcel for whatever needs the future might hold.

The Landfill added a gas collection system with the first phase completed in 2009.

Memorable events

Life is always interesting at the Landfill. There were two bomb squad incidents at the Hazardous Waste facility. We are happy to report that there was no injury to staff or customers. This type of event underscores why staff training is important, so that they are able to identify hazards and keep our community and customers safe.

Mother Nature has challenged us a few times in the last five years. We had a record number (37) of wind closure days set in 2008, and precipitation would be a welcome event when we are reseeded closed areas to stabilize slopes. On the flip side, too much snow also closed down Landfill operations a couple times.

Fossil Creek needed to be moved back to its natural path to avoid any contamination from possible landfill run off

This project was completed in 2010.



New Teams!

The Public Works Division is now working more on transparency and communication with citizens through development of a joint Communication Team to report and inform the public on the departments within Public Works. There are learning opportunities offered, web site updates, and reports available. There is also a newly assembled Finance Team to simplify financial reporting. This helps identify trends and excesses to improve the services of these departments.



Solid Waste Department - Then and Now

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2010</u>	
Number of Staff	31	27	↓ 13%
Total annual LF volumes	760,042 cy	645,412 cy	↓ 15%
Tons of recyclables shipped	35,622	33,778	↓ 5%
Haz waste shipped	1,903,121	2,251,434	↑ 18%
Water/dust control	1,695,728 gal	2,168,559 gal	↑ 28%
Water truck miles	1,761 miles	2,183 miles	↑ 24%
Air space remaining	8,938,896 cy	7,115,741 cy	↓ 20%
Freon units recycled	1,492	1,020	↓ 32%
Tires recycled	0	4,033	~
Education participants	2,312	3,823	↑ 65%
Haz Sharps participants	39	141	↑ 262%