

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.

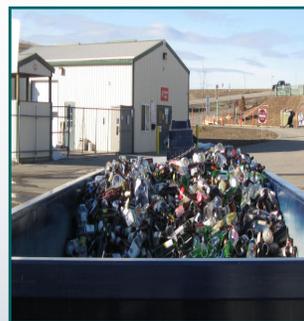
Fossil Creek needed to be moved back to its natural path to avoid any contamination from possible landfill run off

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%