Cardboard Recycling in Fort Collins

Susie Gordon
City of Fort Collins

2013 Cardboard Ordinance
• Bans the landfill disposal of cardboard
• Applies to all sectors
• Effective March 15, 2013
• Adopted policies that support ordinance
  – GHG reduction goal
  – Zero Waste goal
• 1st community in CO (& region) to adopt this approach

How to comply?
• Can recycle or reuse cardboard
• Can recycle cardboard by itself or mixed with other recyclables

Initial Results in 2013 (Q3 & 4)
Fort Collins’ ordinance was only in effect for 9 months when E0Y data was collected but showed:
• increase in cardboard-only collection from businesses by 94.8%
• 89% increase in cardboard recycled at the City’s Recycling Drop-Off Center
• increase in the amount of single-stream recyclables collected
  – from businesses (2.6%)
  – residents (3.5%)

Education Focus* In First 1-2 Years
City staff worked to educate the community
  – Printed publications, Utility bill flyers, newsletter articles
  – In-person presentations & events
• WRAP (Waste Reduction & Recycling Assistance)
  – direct contact/support for apartment managers, businesses

*Future enforcement by Code Compliance staff if/when all other efforts fail...violators subject to fines of $100 (first time) up to $1,000 per violation
Waste Reduction and Recycling Assistance Program (WRAP)

- Provides rebates for locations starting a new recycle program
- Assessments
  - Troubleshooting problems
  - Advice on starting a new program

Thank you!

Susie Gordon
970-221-6265
sgordon@fcgov.com

Road to Zero Waste Master Plan

Update 1999 goal for diverting 50% of waste stream from landfill disposal using systems approach

What is NOT covered by ordinance?

- Waxed cardboard
- Food-coated or excessively dirty cardboard
- Paperboard, paper, and other recyclables
  - Such as cereal boxes, shoe boxes
  - Recyclable, just not covered under ordinance
What is Cardboard?

- Typically used in packaging and moving boxes
- Has a "wavy" layer – corrugation

Tools from the City

- Assessments
  - Troubleshooting problems
  - Advice on starting a new program
- Moving box exchange
  - at fcgov.com/cardboard
  - Craigslist or freecycle work well too