**RURAL WASTE DIVERSION COLLABORATIVE:**

A Good Approach for Colorado?

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**Workshop Agenda**

- What are the issues?
- How well has a rural collaborative worked elsewhere?
- What is the real need in Colorado?
- What do you all think?
- Where do we go from here?

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**What Are the Issues?**

- Low population density & economy of scale – not enough widgets!
- Lack of infrastructure - single-stream, organics, C&D processing
- Low demand for compost, used building materials, etc.
- Historical dependence on disposal – low landfill tip fees
- Limited regionalization – lots of reinventing the wheel
- Decreasing financial benefit – especially for traditional recyclables

**Have Rural Recycling Cooperatives Worked Elsewhere?**

- Northeast Resource Recovery Association – since 1981, 400 members, 80000 tpy
  - Brokers source-separated/SS recyclables, MSW, C&D, HHW, electronics, etc.
  - Promotes vendors to members & does billing
  - Flat member costs that don’t change with market fluctuations
  - Also grant writing, equipment financing, education services
- Cooperative Teamwork & Recycling Alliance – 22 years & 60 members
  - Source-separated recyclables direct market – single-stream MRF market – batteries – electronics
  - 2-year member contracts - no annual fee – pay 10% of gross revenues
  - Also – grants, equipment, contract negotiation, staff training, market trends, etc.
- New Mexico Recycling Association – key to achieving 80% recycling access state-wide
  - 18 new transfer/storage hubs, >40 collection spokes, new processing infrastructure
  - Rural Recycling Resources coordinated transportation, connected suppliers/buyers, trained staff
  - R3 out of business – NMRC continues to provide tech assistance, statewide data/trend reporting
Is There a Real Need in Colorado?

WHERE?
Western, mountain, eastern regions?

WHAT?

HOW?
Collection? Reuse? Processing? Outreach?

Lessons Learned from NPO Examples

- Members need resources & expertise they don't have from an organization that won't go out of business or relocate out of state
- Vendors need access to more tons & reduced administrative burden
- Collaborative needs
  - Champion in each region
  - Staff that are nimble enough to understand dynamic markets & savvy enough to maintain good relationships with all parties
  - To stay relevant as waste streams & markets change
- Diverse funding to keep all parties "whole" over the long-term

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