Challenges of Waste Diversion in Rural Communities
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Yampa Valley Sustainability Council

Agenda
- Background of Waste Diversion in Routt County
- Common rural recycling issues
- Complicating factors
- Recommendations

Routt County

Yampa Valley Sustainability Council
The mission of YVSC is to be a resource and catalyst for building a sustainable community. We do this through education, programs and by building collaboration among individuals, organizations, businesses, and government.

- Programs
  - Waste Diversion
    - Recycling
    - Food Waste
    - Zero Waste
    - Reuse
    - Repair
**Evolution of Waste Diversion in Routt County**

- **2000** - City recycling ordinance passed
- **mid-1990s** - Yampa Valley Recycles formed
- **2000** - Green Machines placed in Steamboat
- **2009** - First Community Recycling Drop-Off
- **2009** - Compost at Twin Enviro. Services
- **2009** - Zero Waste at SSRC
- **2009** - First Community Recycling Drop-Off
- **2009** - Compost at Twin Enviro. Services
- **2016** - MRF built at Twin Enviro.
- **2017** - Compost at Twin suspended
- **2017** - Regional Waste Diversion Study with Sauder Miller Associates

**Estimated Routt County’s MSW Stats**

- **% by weight**

**Current Recycling Program**

- **Residential & commercial recycling**
  - Curbside collection (open system)
  - Single-stream
  - City hauler ordinance for small residential (1-2 units)

  - County/city population = 23,400 / 12,000
  - County/city housing units = 16,100 / 9,700
  - City <3 units/3 or more units = 54% / 46%
  - City business listings = 1,100

**Current Recycling Program**

- **Hayden, Oak Creek & Yampa**
  - Contract for residential trash service
  - Mix of drop site recycling - county & private

**Other Communities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Owner/Operator</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>County (WM ops)</td>
<td>Oak Creek, Yampa (both 1 week/month)</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Routt County (WM ops)</td>
<td>Clark (community initiative)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Milner LF (fee), WM Transfer (fee) &amp; Hayden (WM)</td>
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Why does it have to be so complicated?

Common Rural Recycling Issues
- Low Tonnage
  - Low population/density
  - Lack of regionalization
  - Lack of buy-in from elected officials/enforcement
- Low Quality
- Long distance to Market
  - Lack of Colorado markets
  - Long haul distances
- Lack of HHW/HTR options

Complicating Factors
- County owned vs Privately owned landfill
- Contracted vs Open
- Number of competing haulers
- Single-stream vs Multi-stream
- Regional Partnerships (or lack of)
- Community Expectations
- Stakeholders

Recommendations
- Enforcement of data reporting
- Electronic stewardship programs
- County owned landfill
- Ordinances (multi-family, business)
- Regional partnerships
- Local markets
- Organics recycling
- Local government & community education

State-wide Improvements

County-wide Improvements
Questions

THANK YOU!

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