

ROONEY ROAD

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**Rooney Road Recycling Center
2020 Annual Operations Report**



The Rooney Road Recycling Center at 151 South Rooney Road, Golden, CO.

Introduction

The Rooney Road Recycling Center's (RRRC) mission is to provide affordable Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection, recycling and disposal services to residents and businesses in participating jurisdictions in Jefferson County. Member jurisdictions include Jefferson County and the cities and towns of Arvada, Edgewater, Golden, Lakeside, Lakewood, Morrison, Mountain View and Wheat Ridge. HHW includes household chemicals and other wastes such as paints, batteries, light bulbs, propane gas cylinders and electronics. RRRC continues to safeguard our environment, collecting more than 9,469,510 pounds of potential surface and ground water pollutants since 1994.

The RRRC is conveniently accessible to residents by calling 303-316-6262 or by going online to www.rooneyroadrecycling.org to schedule an appointment to drop off wastes at the facility or schedule a curbside pickup. Facility hours are from 8 am to 2 pm on Wednesday and Saturday, by appointment only. Curbside pickups are conducted once a month to maximize collection route efficiency. Additional collection routes are added based on customer demand. Curbside pickups are convenient for residents who may find it difficult to transport their HHW to the center.

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RRRC before and after HHW collection During HHW Collection

Program Overview

In 2020, the program serviced 5,013 member jurisdiction residents, and 11 out-of-county residents, as shown in Tables 1, 2, and 3. Historically, the total number of participants served grew slightly each year through 2016. Participation decreased in number in 2017, most likely due to increasing awareness of neighborhood PaintCare collection sites. Moderate growth in participation returned for 2018 and 2019. In 2020, participation grew by nearly 19%, the largest increase since the facility opened in 1994.

Table 1: Five Year Participation Data by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Arvada	1146	1061	1208	636	665*
Edgewater	15	16	12	22	40
Golden	684	555	561	514	594
Lakeside	2	5	10	9	5
Lakewood	1040	876	915	863	925*
Morrison	28	63	101	90	139
Mountain View	6	6	6	5	4
Unincorporated Jeffco	1130	1063	1168	1946	2493*
Wheat Ridge	146	132	163	134	148*
Total	4197	3777	4166	4219	5013

Unsubsidized users from outside of Jefferson County are not included in this table.

**Discovery of a data collection error in 2020 resulted in inaccurate participation data for four jurisdictions. Counts for Arvada, Lakewood, and Wheat Ridge are artificially low, while Unincorporated Jefferson County is artificially high. Two factors contributed to this error. The recycling contractor, Veolia, uses Square as the third-party platform to schedule appointments, process credit/debit card payments, record transactions, and compile monthly transaction reports. The location and sort order of the jurisdiction selection button in the software is not user friendly, and Square limits Veolia’s ability to modify the platform. Additionally, a new Veolia employee entered many participants as Unincorporated Jefferson County due to inexperience with the platform. This error persisted for approximately four months.*

Table 2: 2020 Facility Drop off Participation by Jurisdiction

Drop off at Facility	# Participants	% of Total
Arvada	642	13
Edgewater	39	<1
Golden	580	12
Lakeside	5	<1
Lakewood	897	18
Morrison	136	3
Mountain View	4	<1
Unincorporated Jeffco	2440	50
Wheat Ridge	146	3
Out-of-County	11	<1
Total	4900	100

Table 3 2020 Curbside Pickup Participation by Jurisdiction

Curbside Pickup	# Participants	% of Total
Arvada	23	19
Edgewater	1	<1
Golden	14	11
Lakeside	0	0
Lakewood	28	23
Morrison	3	2
Mountain View	0	0
Unincorporated Jeffco	53	43
Wheat Ridge	2	2
Total	124	100

The values of the RRRRC continue to prioritize reuse of HHW first, recycling of HHW second and proper disposal of HHW as the third and final manner of proper disposition of waste. Figure 1 presents the disposition of RRRRC HHW collected in 2020.

Figure 1: 2020 Percentage Material Disposition

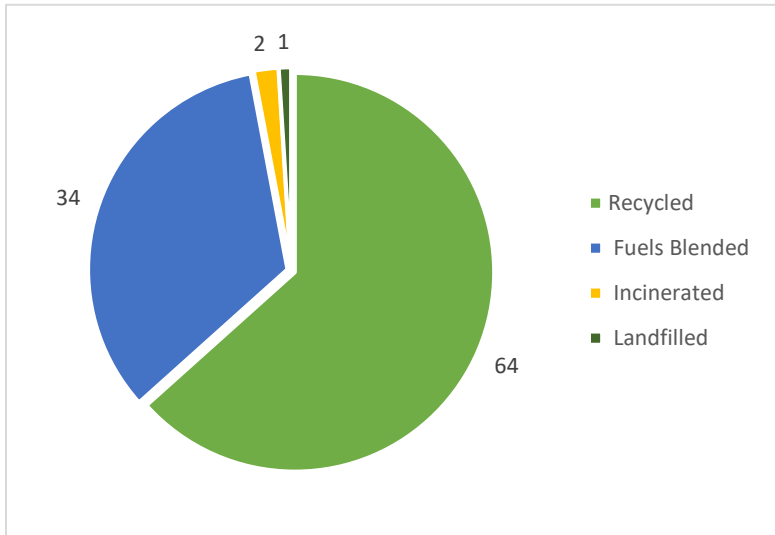


Figure 2 and Table 4 show the last five years of RRRC HHW disposition. The contractor responsible for managing the HHW collected at the facility prior to 2016 directed more waste to incineration instead of fuels blending. Veolia, the current RRRC contractor, utilizes fuels blending as much as possible. Fuels blending is a disposal method which repurposes the HHW as a fuel source.

Figure 2: Five Years of RRRC HHW Recycling

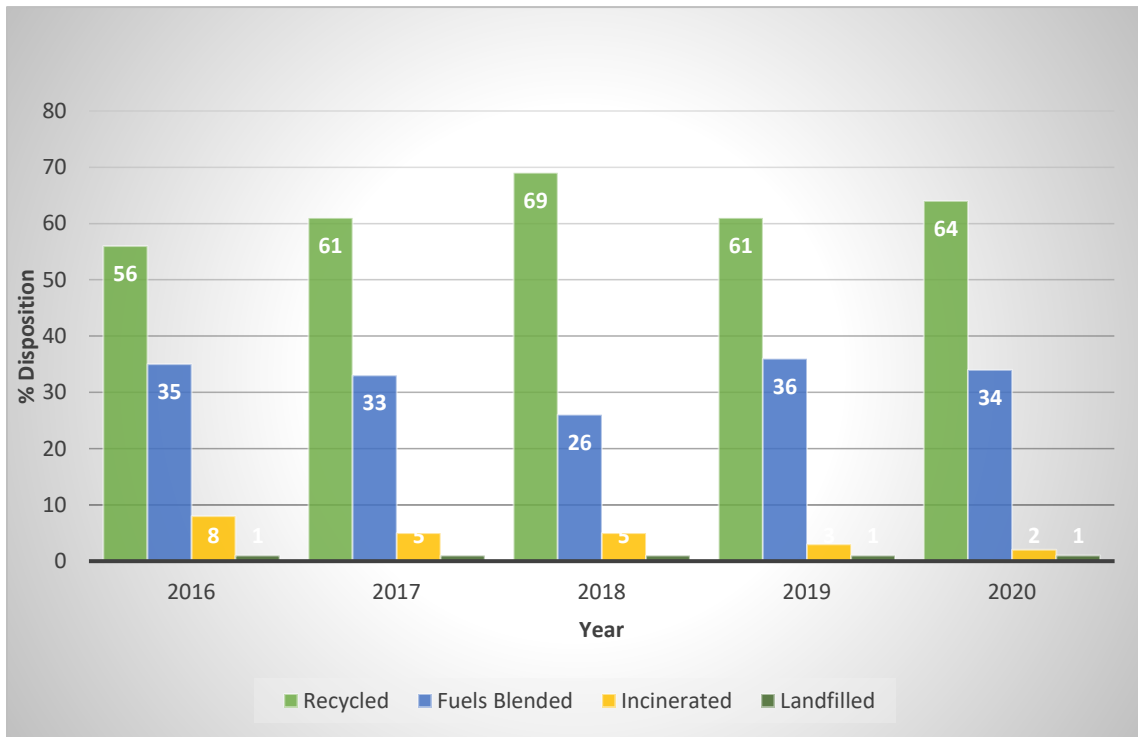


Table 4: Five Years of RRRC HHW Recycling

% Disposition	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Recycled	56	61	69	61	64
Fuels Blended	35	33	26	36	34
Incinerated	8	5	5	3	2
Landfilled	1	<1	<1	<1	<1

Residents, out-of-county customers, businesses and jurisdictions disposed 624,841 pounds of household hazardous waste during the year. Table 5 indicates the types and weights of waste collected at the facility.

Table 5: Waste Stream

PAINTCARE RECYCLED	WEIGHT (LBS)
LATEX PAINT	256,921
OIL BASED PAINT	57,573
PAINTCARE RECYCLED TOTAL	314,494

ELECTRONIC WASTE RECYCLED	WEIGHT (LBS)
GENERAL EWASTE	45,587
TVS (80 LBS OR MORE IN WEIGHT)	11,880
ELECTRONIC WASTE RECYCLED TOTAL	57,467

OTHER HHW RECYCLED	WEIGHT (LBS)
ACETYLENE	60
ALKALINE BATTERIES	5,229
BUTANE CYLINDERS	20
COMPACT FLUORESCENT BULBS	699
FIRE EXTINGUISHERS	887
FLUORESCENT BULBS	3,344
FREON	157
LEAD ACID BATTERIES	12,022
LITHIUM ION BATTERIES	532
LITHIUM METAL BATTERIES	36
MAPP GAS	20
MERCURY ARTICLES	60
NI CAD BATTERIES	343
NICKLE METAL HYDRID BATTERIES	176
NEON LAMPS	41
NON PCB BALLAST	344

PROPANE	4,372
VSQG MERCURY ARTICLES	20
VSQG ANSULITE A364	800
VSQG HIGH PRESSURE SODIUM BULBS	74
VSQG OIL FILTERS	188
VSQG PROPANE	154
VSQG FLUORESCENT BULBS	252
OTHER HHW RECYCLED TOTAL	29,830

FUELS BLENDED	WEIGHT (LBS)
AEROSOL CANS	19,063
FLAMMABLE SOLVENTS	56,615
LOOSEPACK OF FLAMMABLE TOXICS	43,806
LSPK OF FLAMMABLE PAINT RELATED MATERIAL	29,472
LOOSEPACK OF PESTICIDES AND TOXICS	16,678
OIL/ANTIFREEZE	43,680
VSQG FLAMMABLE PEST AND TOXICS LSPK	402
FUELS BLENDED TOTAL	209,716

INCINERATED	WEIGHT (LBS)
AMMONIUM SOLUTION LOOSEPACK	1,434
BLEACH SOLUTION	593
LAB PACK	1,125
LOOSEPACK OF BASES	2,932
LOOSEPACK OF INORGANIC ACIDS	3,169
LOOSEPACK OF ORGANIC ACIDS	1,920
OXYGEN AND CO2 CYLINDERS	246
PEPPER SPRAY	119
ROAD FLARES	52
VSQG LABPACK	25
VSQG LOOSEPACK OF INORGANIC ACIDS	280
INCINERATED TOTAL	11,895

LANDFILLED	WEIGHT (LBS)
AMMONIUM PHOSPHATE DIBASIC	979
ASBESTOS CONTAINING MATERIAL	460
LANDFILLED TOTAL	1439

GRAND TOTAL	624,841
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Staff serving customer at RRRRC during Covid-19 pandemic.

Operations during the Covid-19 Virus Pandemic

In late March 2020, the RRRRC suspended operations temporarily as a result of the rapidly growing Covid-19 Virus public health crisis and associated health department restrictions and recommendations. This shutdown allowed the RRRRC Authority Management Committee to work with the facility contractor to coordinate the steps necessary to continue receiving waste while remaining compliant with public health orders.

To protect staff and customers, only curbside pickups were conducted in April 2020. Appointments already scheduled at the facility were rescheduled to curbside pickups until more was known about the spread of the Covid-19 Virus. In May, appointments at the facility resumed with modified procedures. Appointments were scheduled every ten minutes rather than the usual five-minute interval. An attendant was stationed at the lower gate on the entrance road from Rooney Road to operate the entrance gate, ask customers health screening questions before they drove to the facility, and ensure customers were wearing masks. Within a few weeks, the gate staffing was removed and health screening questions were asked when the customer arrived for their appointment at the center.

Customers, who were physically able and agreeable to doing so, unloaded their HHW onto decontaminated carts, while physically distancing and wearing a mask. Staff unloaded HHW for customers who were unable or preferred not to unload their vehicles. Payment by credit card was encouraged to further limit interactions between the staff and customers.

The staff at the facility are required to be trained and qualified in personal protective equipment (PPE) because of their work with HHW. Staff increased the frequency of changing their PPE, but largely operated as usual, by wearing N95 masks or disposable masks, nitrile gloves and Tyvek coveralls.

The RRRC served 5,043 total customers, including residents, non-residents and businesses, and collected and properly disposed of 624,841 pounds of household hazardous waste during 2020. In 2019, 4,256 total customers were served and 576,642 pounds of household hazardous waste was collected. No advertising was performed during 2020. The increase of 48,199 pounds of HHW and 787 customers appears to be the result of residents cleaning the HHW out their homes during the Covid-19 pandemic.





Collected electronic waste.

Electronic Waste

In 2001, the EPA categorized computer monitors and televisions as hazardous waste. According to at least two federal acts, these items cannot legally be disposed of by non-household sources (government or industry) in a sanitary landfill. Colorado Senate Bill 12-133 banned disposal of certain electronic wastes (e-waste) in landfills by residents starting July 1, 2014.

As a result of these decisions, a program was implemented to allow residents and businesses the convenience of dropping off their e-waste at the RRRRC or having curbside pickup of their e-waste. Participants pay 100% of the cost of recycling, and participation has been excellent. A total of 57,467 pounds of material was collected by the RRRRC in 2020.

The RRRRC e-waste program ensures that each item is securely stored at the facility and during transportation to a reputable U.S. facility where it is disassembled, and its components are distributed for further processing.

PaintCare

As of July 1, 2015, all paint sold in Colorado includes a surcharge to pay for used architectural paint recycling. The program is managed by PaintCare with detailed information available at www.paintcare.org. The RRRC became an operating drop-off location for the PaintCare program in January 2016. PaintCare transports and recycles the paint at no charge to the customer or to the center. A total of 314,494 pounds of paint was recycled in 2020, including 256,921 pounds of latex paint and 57,573 pounds of oil-based paint. Paint recycled at the facility represented 50% of the total HHW received. There were 1,585 paint-only recycling visits to the RRRC, which represented 32% of the visits to the facility in 2020. The recycling fees saved by the PaintCare program were able to be redirected to facility repair, maintenance and capital improvements.



One-gallon paint containers available for use in the PaintCare room.

Free paint is available to the public whenever the center is open in the PaintCare room. Paint, which appears to be in good condition and is in clearly labelled containers, which has been brought in by residents is available for free for direct reuse by the public. Two hundred sixty-one (261) cans of paint were acquired by the public for reuse in 2020. This program decreases the amount of paint which must be manufactured, transported and leftover after a paint project. It also provides the preferred method of direct reuse of leftover paint.

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Other HHW Items Recycled at No Cost to Customers

Motor oil and lead-acid car batteries are recycled for free due to their inherent value. Because the price for new one-pound propane cylinders is currently less than the cost of recycling them, the RRRC Authority started subsidizing the entire cost of recycling one pound (camping size) propane cylinders in 2019 to encourage their recycling and to advertise the benefits of using the RRRC. One thousand six hundred thirty-nine (1,639) one-pound propane cylinders were recycled at no charge to the public in 2020.



One pound propane (camping) cylinders recycled for free.



HHW available for customer pickup and reuse in the HazMart.

HazMart

Household chemicals which appear to be in good condition and are in clearly labelled containers are also offered for direct reuse for free to the public. These items are available whenever the center is open in the HazMart room. This program allowing for reuse of chemicals instead of buying new chemicals decreases the amount of HHW which must be manufactured, transported and leftover after a project. It also provides the preferred method of direct reuse of leftover HHW.

Comments from Residents

All customers are encouraged to submit comments on the process of scheduling and dropping off their hazardous waste. Comments were collected from customers of the RRRRC using two methods. Comment cards are available at the facility to fill out and mail directly to the RRRRC Authority Management Committee. In addition, those customers who paid by credit card were asked about their experience in the emailed receipt through the Square software application. Fifty-one (51) participants responded to the Square survey and 3 mailed comment cards.

Some of the fifty-one (51) positive comments are provided below:

- “This is a wonderful service for those of us who wish to recycle material in a safe manner for our environment. I greatly appreciate the ease of taking items to your facility and know they will be properly disposed of or that others may be able to use them. The men working were very helpful in unloading the boxes for me.” \$29.45
- “Very professional, understanding, courteous, and helpful service. Very well done and organized. Super. Good show, and very well done.” \$135.00
- “Ease of unloading with all the help. You made this so easy and I can sleep at night knowing that my household products will be recycled or disposed of properly. Thank you” \$86.00
- “It was quick, easy and they took everything I brought.” \$60.50
- “You were very busy today, and still worked quickly to accommodate all customers. Good job!” \$20.00
- “This was my first visit to the Rooney Rd facility and was so pleased with how I was able to recycle my items so easily. The attendant was so helpful and pleasant. This is such a wonderful resource. Thank you.” \$20.00
- “The gentleman that helped me was especially nice and very helpful to answer all my concerns. Plus, he helped me with a great friendly outlook. Thank you for that positive start of my day.” \$20.00

Comments regarding potential improvement to services included only three (3) customers who remarked that appointments had to be made two to four weeks in advance. Due to the increased use of the center during the pandemic, additional open days were added to almost every month to decrease potential wait times for an appointment.

- “Great service. Only negative was having to wait almost a month for appointment. The staff at the facility were very helpful and friendly.” \$130.00
- “I wish it was a little easier to get an appointment within a week or two. I think my appointment was 3 or 4 weeks from when I made it. It worked, though and I am glad we have this service for the sake of environment.” \$42.95

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Very Small Quantity Generators

The Very Small Quantity Generator (VSQG) program provides an opportunity for businesses, non-profits and governmental jurisdictions to recycle their hazardous waste at modest prices without the need for hazardous waste reporting. In 2019, the state of Colorado mandated that VSQG waste was to be handled and stored separately from HHW accepted from residents. The entire cost of recycling is paid by participating VSQGs. Businesses and other entities that generate less than 220 pounds of hazardous waste each month or have no more than 2,200 pounds on hand at one time are eligible to participate. These businesses can also arrange for pickups at their own facilities for a nominal fee to avoid transporting the waste. Nineteen (19) Jefferson County businesses, governmental jurisdictions, and out-of-county businesses used the VSQG program in 2020, recycling 2,195 pounds of waste.



2020 Operations Summary

Residents, businesses and other entities safely recycled 624,841 pounds of household hazardous waste during 2020. During 2020, there was an increase of 48,199 pounds of HHW recycled and 787 customers at the RRRC from 2019 usage, which appears to be the result of residents cleaning the HHW out their homes during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Goals of the RRRC during 2021 include the following:

- Implement outreach campaign which will use behavioral change techniques to increase the number of residents using the facility
- Continue to prioritize and implement repairs, maintenance and capital improvements
- Continue the PaintCare program
- Continue to encourage qualifying VSQG entities to recycle their HHW



Preparing for the Future

The financial position of the RRRC remains strong. However, the cost of managing hazardous waste continues to rise. Additionally, the frequency of maintenance and repairs continue to increase as the building ages and safety systems reach the end of their useful life or become obsolete. These maintenance, repair, and replacement projects have largely been funded by the savings generated by the PaintCare program in recent years. The Rooney Road Recycling Center Authority Management Committee closely monitors the RRRC's finances. The committee estimates surplus funds for repairs and maintenance will be exhausted within the next 2 to 4 years. Additionally, operational expenses are expected to exceed revenue within the same time frame as a result of increasing demand for service and rising operational expenses. The management committee continues to monitor this closely and will communicate ongoing financial needs with participating jurisdictions as circumstances change.

Lastly, the contributions to the RRRC's operating budget are proportionally calculated using US Census data. Once the 2020 census data is released, the RRRC is obligated by the Intergovernmental Agreement to recalculate each jurisdiction's proportion of the annual operating budget. Once calculated, any changes in proportions will be shared with each jurisdiction.

