

History of Single Hauler program in the City of Golden

Intent

- In 2007 the City embarked on a sustainability initiative. A public town hall meeting was held and seven community working groups were organized to address sustainability issues in several areas. The seven groups covered areas that included building, economic health, education and communications, energy, solid waste and recycling, transportation and water. These groups then made recommendations to City Council for changes that would help make Golden more sustainable and establish sustainability goals in each of the seven areas. By August of 2007, City Council had passed a resolution that established specific goals for each area of sustainability. The specific goal for solid waste and recycling is to reduce Golden's solid waste stream contribution by 25% by 2017.

Process

- Based on citizen recommendations from Golden's Sustainability Initiative, City Holds a two day Open House titled "Let's Talk Trash" that presented multiple options to reduce solid waste contributions and improve curbside recycling.
- Based on comments from the Open House, City issued a RFP for a single hauler, volume based trash and recycling contract that includes curbside single stream recycling.
- City spends the summer of 2009 presenting the results of the RFP to residents of Golden at eight previously scheduled neighborhood BBQs and through the city's monthly publication, *The Golden Informer*.
- Fall 2009, City staff presented the public comments collected from the summer to City Council. Council directs staff to issue a second RFP with changes based on the comments received over the summer.
- Winter 2010, city staff presented the results of the second RFP to City Council and received direction to negotiate a contract with the lowest bidder, EDS Waste Solutions Inc.
- May 13th, 2010, City Council voted on and approved Ordinance 1868 that allows for the implementation of a single hauler Pay-As-You-Throw contract for residential trash and recycling services. Council also approved the negotiated contract and fees for service by resolution.

Outcome

- Customer prices changed dramatically. Pricing for unlimited service prior to change ranged from \$22-\$30/mo. PAYT Pricing range from \$6.19-\$16.29/mo., includes recycling and twice annual yard waste collection. Every resident covered by the program has the opportunity to lower their trash bill by diverting more materials into the recycling bin and decreasing the size of their trash container.
- Approximately 7 haulers were providing service prior to PAYT being implemented. After the PAYT program was implemented, one hauler was selected: EDS Waste Solutions Inc., and several other haulers still serve other areas not covered by the program.
- Diversion levels have steadily increased from 25% to 36% since September 2010.
- Implementation of the program was very controversial despite the City's efforts at public outreach. However, even with all of the passionate opposition, Golden residents generally supported the program by a 2:1 margin.
- City experienced a large volume of calls during the two months before and after the implementation of the program. Once the program was up and running and people saw that they were being charged what they were told and trash continued to be collected, much of the controversy quickly dissipated.