

FY24-26 Strategic Plan

Front Range Waste Diversion Enterprise

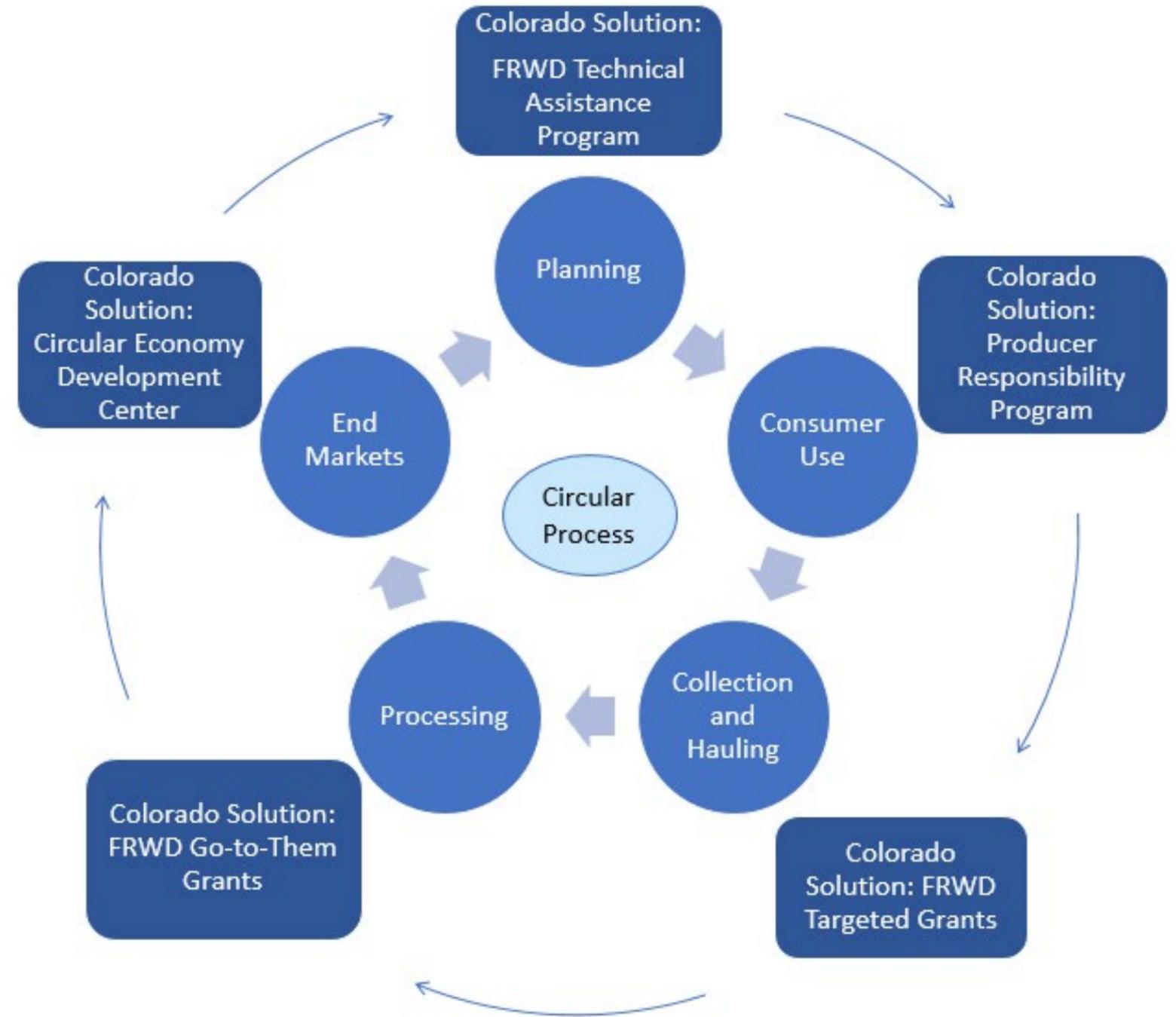
Waste Diversion and Aversion: Understanding the Big Picture

The Front Range Waste Diversion Enterprise Fund and board is not alone in this effort. In 2022, the Colorado General Assembly passed HB22-1159, which establishes Colorado's first Circular Economy Development Center; this legislation aims to empower Colorado businesses to manufacture new products using materials that Coloradans recycle. Also in 2022, the legislature passed HB22-1355, which sets up a Producer Responsibility program to provide recycling services free of charge to all residents in the state.



The enterprise helps thirteen Front Range Counties reduce and divert municipal and solid waste, organics, construction and demolition waste, and other materials. Grants and technical assistance support local governments, businesses, non-profits and schools.

Incrementally, Colorado is putting together the pieces of the puzzle that will support circular communities across the Front Range.



Front Range Waste Diversion Board Business Plan

The Front Range Waste Diversion enterprise provides financial resources and technical assistance to support strategic efforts that increase waste diversion and aversion across the Colorado Front Range. We assess, identify, and catalyze high potential projects focused on improving access, services, infrastructure, and markets for waste diversion. Reducing and diverting waste has many benefits, including:

- Extending the useful life of current local landfills
- Creating local jobs, supporting regional businesses, and diversifying current and new end markets
- Increasing value for households by reducing wasted food, encouraging material reuse, and promoting recycling and composting
- Addressing non-attainment and improving air quality by reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- Promoting wise use of natural resources

All of these benefits can be achieved through a circular economy where waste is reduced and materials are reused, recycled, composted or otherwise put to beneficial and efficient use.

GRANT PROGRAM

Go-to-them Grants

Activate large, catalytic public-private projects to reduce tons and increase infrastructure capacity.

Targeted Grants

Address priorities, gaps and opportunities.

Contribution Grants

Support innovations, entrepreneurs, and education programs.

SERVICES & OUTREACH

Technical Assistance Program (TASP)

Provide local governments technical assistance to achieve waste diversion and reduction goals at no cost to the local government.

FRWD Ambassadors

Marketing and outreach for FRWD and FRWD grant opportunities.

ADMINISTRATION

Efficient and Effective Grant Administration

Increasingly effective use of board and staff time, allocation of resources, and operational efficiencies to support overall program effectiveness.

FY24-26 Business Strategies

| Business Strategy | Strategic Priority | FY23-24 Metric | Circular Process Focus Area | Material |
|---|---|---|-----------------------------|--|
| Go-to-Them Funding Opportunities Activate large, catalytic public-private projects to increase infrastructure capacity and increase diversion. | Yes, this new activity is Strategic Priority #1. | By June 30, 2024, in regular coordination with CEDC, NextCycle, TASP and the FRWD Ambassador, FRWD will solicit or pursue two major projects to propel public-private partnerships to build a sorting facility to process construction or demolition material, process organics in or for the benefit of the front range, or establish end markets. | Processing | Construction and demolition, or Organics |
| Targeted RFAs Address known gaps, priorities, and opportunities. | | By June 30, 2024, FRWD will release one targeted RFA. BY March 1, 2024, FRWD will review the PRO Needs Assessment (released in early 2024) to inform CY24 RFAs. | TBD | TBD |
| Contribution Grants Support innovations, entrepreneurs, and education programs (benefits including and beyond tons). | | By June 30, 2024, FRWD will review and approve grants to support local governments, businesses, non-profits and schools innovations, entrepreneurial endeavors, and education programs. | Any | Any |
| TASP Provide local governments technical assistance to achieve waste diversion and reduction goals at no cost to the local government. | Yes, this is a new phase of a prior Strategic Priority. This activity is Strategic Priority #2. | Continue this existing activity. By December 31, 2023, the board will authorize the Round 1 and Round 2 Tier 2 and Tier 3 projects. | Any | Any |
| FRWD Ambassadors Marketing and outreach for TASP and support for prospective grant applicants, with emphasis on under-served communities. | | # of contacts made through the marketing plan # of website visitors # of office hours booked # of events attended and speaking engagements | Any | Any |
| Improve programmatic efficiencies and effectiveness Increasingly effective use of board and staff time, allocation of resources, and operational efficiencies and effectiveness | | By June 30, 2024, staff will implement at least three process improvements (such as revise the de minimis language in the FRWD-CDPHE MOU, streamline grantmaking, draft the board's noncompliance grant to loan policy). | All | All |

*Front Range counties are: Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, Elbert, El Paso, Jefferson, Larimer, Pueblo, Teller, and Weld.

Front Range Waste Diversion Board Considerations

The concept of a circular opportunity is quickly evolving. There are model practices; however, strict definitions yet to be established. This allow the board to attune to Front Range communities, balance accountability with flexibility, and consider increased capacity, access and innovation as well as tons diverted. Here are some examples of what the board considers:

NEW TONS

- Tons of material that is not being processed our counted by another entity in the circular economy process
- Use of weight tickets show diversion opportunity and demonstrate grant project success
- Requiring proof of material origination
- Letters of intent to provide feedback
- Processing a material not currently being recycled.

INCLUSIVITY, ACCESS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- Meeting local governments where they are
- Under-resourced, under-represented communities and disproportionately impacted communities
- Consideration for small businesses (small haulers and processors)
- Proof of collaborative relationships

ESTABLISH MODELS AND INNOVATIONS

- New technology
- New processing protocols
- Lab scale development
- Small production
- Proof of concept for products or process

COMMUNITY CHALLENGES

- Volatile commodity prices
- Difficulty siting facilities
- High transportation costs
- Demand exceeds supply, and supply chain delays

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SYNERGY

- Circular Economy Development Center (CEDC) for end markets and private partners
- Producer Responsibility Program to increase statewide recycling of packaging material and paper
- Shared studies such as completed curbside study, the in-progress Producer responsibility needs assessment, organics management study, and CEDC End-market gap assessment