

Recycling Board Report

UAACOG Board Meeting

April 16, 2007

2008 Collections Update:

Collections have been pretty steady for 2008. We have seen a moderate decrease in the amount of newspaper that is being recycled. We have recently formed a "Public Education" committee to look at a public education campaign pilot in Fremont County. Most residents do not realize that 100% of the proceeds from the sale of materials are used to support recycling.

Plastic Update:

We have been holding plastic collections on a quarterly basis in Fremont County. The event in March was the most successful event to date with over 560 participants and over 2 tons of plastic being recycled. This surpasses the old record of 380 participants and 2,300 pounds.

Cottonwood Manufacturing:

Cottonwood Manufacturing is a Fremont County based cellulose insulation manufacturer that uses large amounts of recycled newspaper. We began marketing our newspaper to them in 2007 for a substantial increase in revenue. This revenue allowed us to decrease the per capita rate to .96 cents in 2008. I anticipate that we will be decreasing the per capita rate again for 2009. My goal is to be able to bill below .90 cents for 2009.

Colorado Association for Recycling-(CAFR):

I have concluded my term on the Board of Directors of the Colorado Association for Recycling. I believe the experience was beneficial for the program.

Capacity Building:

As part of the Capacity Building Grant that Judy was awarded, on behalf of UAACOG, I attended SWANA's (Solid Waste Association of North America) Recycling training in February to become a Certified Recycling Systems Manager. The pass rate for the test is only 30% and the classes and testing were very intensive. I am happy to report that I passed the test and am now certified.

Current Projects:

In Chaffee County, we have been working with local volunteers to develop a program to promote "green" business practices. This should be particularly effective in Chaffee County. We will be promoting the EPA's WasteWise Program. This program is set to launch on Earth Day, 2008-(April 22nd).

In Fremont County, we have kicked off the "Caught in the Act of Recycling" campaign. Every month, we are surprising someone using the recycling bins and rewarding them with a donated prize from a local business. Also, with the help of volunteers, we will be going to every 3rd grade classroom in Fremont County between April 15th and May 1st. We will also be doing presentations for the Fremont County Head Start classrooms as soon as we can get them scheduled.

In Custer County, the HCRC group continues to be a very active group. Their current projects include cardboard recycling collections every Saturday, as well as the placement of recycling barrels in the downtown area. These barrels are serviced by volunteers and will be kept downtown year-round.

In Pueblo County, we are consolidating a couple of low-use sites and move them to the Pueblo West Wal-Mart. This will provide more exposure and with our developing relationship with Wal-Mart, I believe that this could be a valuable partnership for Pueblo in the future. We hope to have the bins moved and doing a ribbon cutting around Earth Day, 2008.

Respectfully submitted-

Beth Lenz
Recycling Coordinator