

PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
Environmental Policy Advisory Committee
August 28, 2008

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this presentation is to update PACOG regarding the research, discussions, and possible 'Courses of Action' determined on the subject by the Solid Waste Working Group of the Environmental Policy Advisory Committee (EPAC). The Working Group met for the last eight months on a regular basis, and presented their work to the entire EPAC for review monthly. Two separate, but integrally connected, issues were outlined: 1) Residential Waste Collection System, and 2) Recycling Collection System. Five possible Courses of Action arose for residential waste collection, and two possible 'Courses of Action' arose for recycling collection. The advantages and challenges for each Course were weighed and determined. Some current data and general information on each 'Course' was gathered from communities of similar size in Colorado and from other states. Additionally, basic research of *Colorado Revised Statutes* was done. Although the current members were not able to reach consensus, a vote was taken on August 14, 2008, and final opinions and recommendations are summarized below.

EPAC recommends to PACOG:

- All EPAC members were in favor the passage of a mandatory residential waste collection ordinance, in conjunction with increased licensing requirements for all private residential waste haulers, specifically requiring haulers to offer all residential customers variable monthly rates based on the volumes of waste produced, i.e. "*Pay-As-You-Throw*" concept.
- All EPAC members were in favor of the Multi-Step Approach to jump start comprehensive Recycling Collection, emphasizing the immediate establishment of a Recycling Processing Center open to the public and private sector.
- The majority of EPAC members were in favor of the of a Residential Waste Collection System in which the City of Pueblo contract all residential waste collection to a single private hauler with detailed service requirements.

Please see page 17 of this document for discussion related to these recommendations.

SOLID WASTE and RECYCLING COLLECTION OPTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction and Background

The Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG) has charged the Environmental Policy Advisory Committee (EPAC) to prepare options and make recommendations to address improved solid waste management, specifically focusing on (1) mandatory waste collection and (2) recycling in the City of Pueblo with future application to other areas of Pueblo County. EPAC considered and discussed the current problems of declining neighborhood cleanliness; illegal dumping and litter; lack of recycling opportunities; and wear and tear on streets and alleys. Many of these issues were first addressed in the PUEBLO INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN (PIWMP) which was written by EPAC and adopted by PACOG in 2001. It outlined short-term, mid-term and long-term recommendations. Only a small portion of the plan has ever been realized, due to lack of political will, funding and community priority. Pueblo is facing solid waste environmental challenges that require decisive action, sustained funding and implementation of programs.

The current system for residential waste collection and privately owned disposal sites is an “open competition” method. The City of Pueblo and Pueblo County are served by 9 private, solid waste collection service providers (waste haulers), each of whom compete for residential and business accounts. A municipally-owned solid waste utility does not exist. The private haulers are minimally regulated by the City and County licensing process and applicable ordinances, which require truck and trailer inspections by the Pueblo City-County Health Department. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has the authority for citing facilities and approving ‘Certificates of Designation’ for waste transfer stations and landfills. One state-certified, privately-owned and operated landfill disposal site in Pueblo County, the Broadacre Landfill, is restricted to appointment only use since October 2007. The only other state-certified, privately-owned and operated landfill within city limits is the Southside Landfill, which closed temporarily due to over-capacity in May 2008. A possible management agreement between the City of Pueblo and a new private company has been reached for the Southside Landfill, but neither contract details nor the opening date is known. Two waste transfer stations exist which are open to commercial haulers and/or the public.

At this time, regulatory requirements for waste haulers or disposal facilities regarding scope of services, neighborhood aesthetics, waste reduction, or recycling are limited or non-existent. Public streets are subjected to the heavy loads of multiple waste compactors and waste roll-off dumpsters every week. It is not uncommon in several neighborhoods for many trash trucks to make repeated passes on one residential street or alley each week. Damage caused by frequent trash truck traffic, heavily-loaded or not, is obvious. Although no formal study has been done, the cost to the City and County to maintain and repair streets and alleys is certainly significant. Recent statistics from other cities show that one fully loaded trash compactor truck passing over a residential street is the equivalent to the impact of 250 passenger vehicles. Increased street maintenance costs, and a heavy workload creates a burden for both City and County Public Works departments and taxpayers.

Private disposal facilities in the City and County set their own tipping fees by volume, and pay the local Landfill User Fees (\$0.25/cubic yard at both landfills and waste transfer stations) per Ordinance #6859, passed by vote of Pueblo City Council on October 1, 2002. Landfill user fees vary from year to year, but historically have generated \$100,000 to \$120,000 per year to pay for city and county solid waste/litter reduction efforts, recycling events and public education.

Currently, area residents are not offered *any* substantial recycling services by *any* private waste hauler. Limited recycling drop-off sites are offered by private business and some non-profits, but these are geographically scattered. There is no facility or program for dealing with weekly organic yard waste; i.e. tree trimmings, grass clippings, weeds, and other landscape debris, generated by residents, institutions, or commercial business. In the past, the Southside Landfill offered only two days per year for free yard waste drop-off. After the yard waste was chipped, the public was allowed to take complimentary mulch all year round.

The Environmental Coordinator (EC) Program at the Pueblo City-County Health Department manages four, public self-service drop-off recycling sites for a limited list of household commodities (aluminum and tin cans, glass bottles, old newspaper). These bins do not accept plastic bottles, nor have the capacity to serve the total populace. Additionally, in some areas, “neighborhood clean-ups”, occur once a year to provide low-income residents an economical and convenient outlet for hauling yard waste, bulky items, and tires, rather than driving to a transfer station or landfill.

The cost of hosting events and paying for waste disposal is funded by the previously mentioned Landfill User Fees. The fee has not been increased since the ordinance was initiated in 2002. These events are not fulfilling the rising public need, and are costly to produce. With extended temporary closure of both private landfills in Pueblo, Landfill User Fees will undoubtedly decrease, jeopardizing the existence of future public recycling opportunities or events. The yearly funding for the bins is not guaranteed. The EC has finite funding to stage yearly collection events for recyclable and hazardous waste (used oil, electronics, toxics, and poisons).

EPAC has outlined several ‘Courses of Action’* regarding residential waste and recycling collection and possible funding sources for consideration by the PACOG. This study does not address the waste collection system or practices serving the commercial or business sector. Many of the concepts presented here are in line with strategies outlined in the PIWMP adopted in 2001, and are being implemented with success in other Colorado communities.

**These ‘Courses of Action’ are not mutually exclusive, and can be chosen as one, in combination with or modified to create a comprehensive, best-scenario program for Pueblo citizens.*

WASTE COLLECTION SYSTEM OPTIONS

MAIN ISSUE: To research and outline current options to consider that will improve residential solid waste collection in the City of Pueblo, with the goal of expansion/application to the urbanized rural areas in Pueblo County.

ASSUMPTIONS RELATED TO THE MAIN ISSUE:

1. Rising cost of fuels will adversely impact the ability of companies and individuals to transport their solid waste to appropriate disposal sites.
2. Heavy use of alleys and roadways requires more maintenance
3. It is in the best interest of the community if waste is dealt with in an organized and efficient manner.
4. Increased demand by the community to promote and support recycling.
5. Diversion of recyclable materials would be implemented in any mandatory waste collection system.

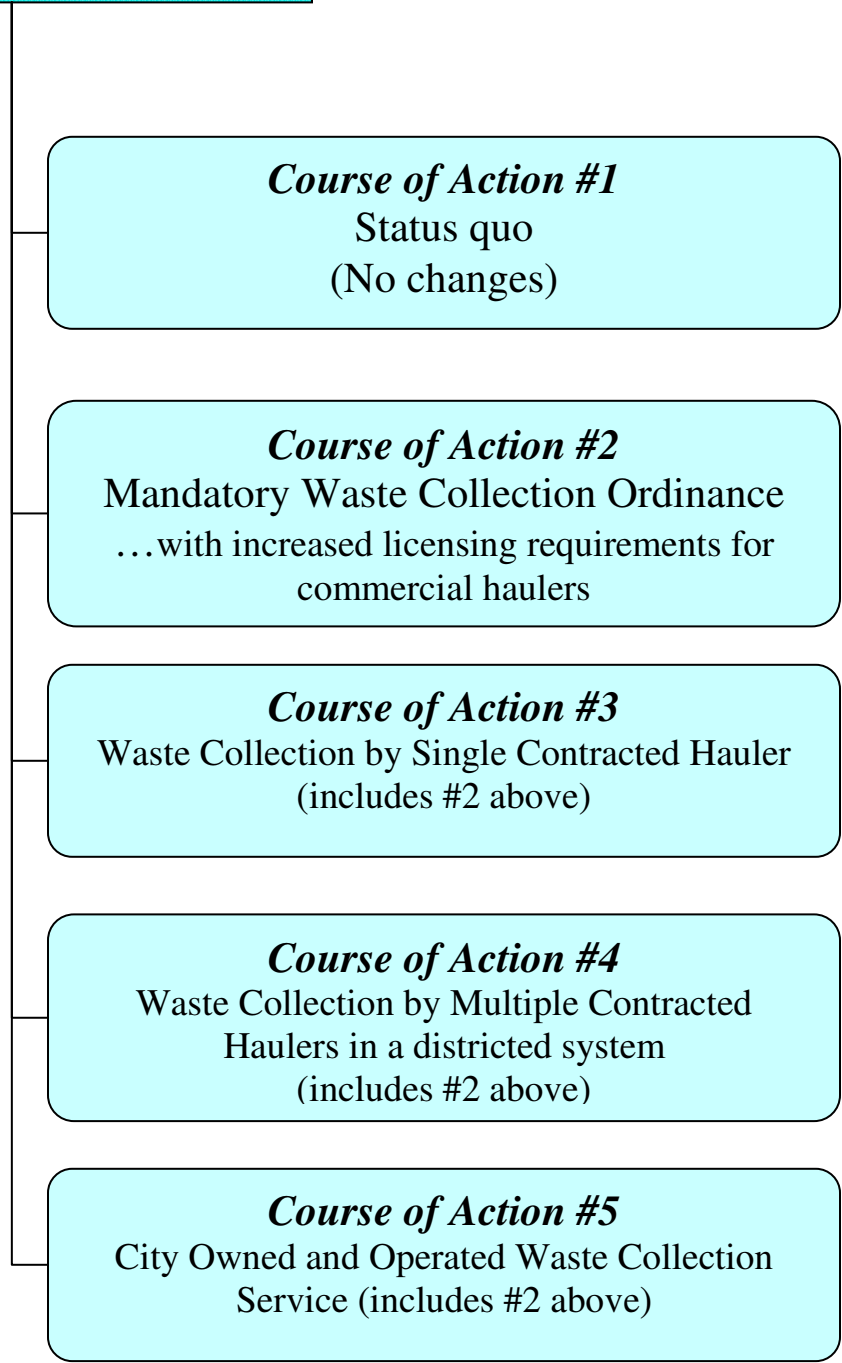
FACTS BEARING ON THE MAIN ISSUE

1. The issues surrounding solid waste remain for every community.
2. As Pueblo's population grows, so will the amount of solid waste generated.
3. There are several private residential waste haulers that serve the City of Pueblo and Pueblo County.
4. The waste hauler routes overlap resulting in multiple trips over neighborhood streets, alleys and roads during the course of each week.
5. The City of Pueblo and Pueblo County pay for the maintenance of neighborhood streets and alleys, with reduced funding and increased workload, each year.
6. People will usually choose the most economical way to deal with solid waste.
7. A resident acting independently is not the most efficient and convenient way to handle solid waste collection and transport.
8. Many residents have grown to rely on the yearly neighborhood clean-ups events as their preferred waste disposal method, which is not an efficient way to handle waste.
9. Neighborhood clean-ups, while serving a valuable purpose in the short term, are an unevenly distributed use of Landfill User Fees.
10. Long periods between removal and proper disposal of solid waste increase the potential of diseases in the community.
11. The reproductive cycle of the common house fly is seven days.
12. Valuable materials in the waste stream, that could be reused or recycled, are being placed in a landfill every day.

There are FIVE (5) courses of action evaluated by EPAC during this effort. Refer to 'Concept Diagram A' in blue.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT OPTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS 2008
CONCEPT DIAGRAM A

**Residential Waste
Collection System
Options**



Course of Action #1 Status Quo-No changes to the current Open Competition System for licensed solid waste haulers in the residential, institutional and business sector.

DISCUSSION: The current situation in Pueblo and Pueblo County includes: inconsistencies in waste hauling services and fees, self-hauling, no comprehensive, centralized public recycling or hazardous waste collection, and increasing illegal dumping.

Advantages	Challenges
Easy, nobody had to do anything	Levels of service continue to shift and change by the private sector
No major capital improvements required	No centralized recycling program; does nothing to increase diversion
Existing private haulers protected	Difficult to accurately estimate Landfill User Fees revenues
	Greenhouse gas emissions increase, more trucks, more land filling
	Prices for residential collection services go unchecked, and are usually higher in an open competitive environment, than in either a contracted or municipal collection system
	Illegal dumping continues
	Streets and alleys damage due to heavy truck traffic continues
	Continued accumulation of waste in neighborhoods
	Heavy workload for City Code Enforcement and Health Dept.

Course of Action #2 Pass a MANDATORY WASTE COLLECTION ORDINANCE in an Open-Competition System with increased Licensing Requirements for waste haulers; i.e. requiring volume-based pricing for weekly curbside service. *(Please refer to Appendix 1: “Proposed Wording for Mandatory Waste Ordinance”)*

DISCUSSION: EPAC has prepared language for a city ordinance to require mandatory residential waste collection by licensed waste haulers, while still allowing the public to self-haul to the transfer station or landfill. A fundamental element of this ordinance is the collection and lawful disposal of waste every seven days. For effective vector control (flies, maggots, vermin, etc.) waste needs to be disposed of within the seven day reproductive cycle of the housefly. The City would encourage recycling by establishing a rate structure for volume-based pricing, which is also referred to as ‘variable rates system’ or the *Pay-as-You-Throw (PAYT)* concept. Implementing volume-based pricing

was listed as a long term goal in the **PUEBLO INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN (PIWMP)** adopted by PACOG in 2001. All households would be offered a small, medium or large waste receptacle based on the waste volumes they generate each week, and pay incrementally for collection and disposal. It is successfully implemented in the cities of Fort Collins, Lafayette, Boulder, Loveland, Aspen and Grand Junction.

Advantages	Challenges
Maintains the open-competition system with hauler interests protected	Does not reduce waste truck traffic on streets (street and alley maintenance estimated at \$250,000/year)
Customers would maintain their ability to select hauler	Resistance by some residents and haulers to move away from the status quo
Cleaner neighborhood properties, alleys, streets	Will be difficult to enforce due to staff and financial needs
Timely removal for vermin reduction; less illegal dump sites to mitigate	Resistance by individuals who are self-haulers, and temporary residents (college students, tourists, seasonal workers, etc.)
Allows fairness of pricing per household-residents only pay for the waste they produce	More City/County administrative time necessary
Easily applicable to the business and commercial sector in the future	Perception by residents that waste service is too expensive vs. self-hauling
Encourages and drives diversion of recyclables from waste stream	Increased administrative requirements on waste haulers to track households, size of container, seasonal changes
Fewer costly neighborhood clean-up events by government and non-profit groups	Expense of providing variable containers (32 gal, 64 gal, 96 gal.) by hauler or resident
Extends the life of the area landfills	
Traffic trips to the landfill are reduced, reduction in greenhouse gases	

Course of Action #3 CITY-WIDE CONTRACT TO A SINGLE WASTE HAULER

(‘One district’) for all residential collection services...*in addition to the MANDATORY WASTE COLLECTION ORDINANCE...*; see *Course of Action #2*

DISCUSSION: In Colorado, a variety of waste collection and hauling arrangements are used in municipalities. Many cities provide municipal waste service directly to residents. In recent years, a number of local communities have moved towards greater regulation and districting of waste services. (*Please see Appendix B: an unofficial copy of the chart titled “Municipal Trash Service Policies and Practices: Neighboring and Regional Communities – December 2007”*) With this option the City will award a single contract

for the removal of residential waste. It will be necessary for the City or government entity to first determine which accounts are to be included such as Homeowners Associations (HOAs), apartments, and duplexes.

***Same advantages and challenges as Course of Action #2 above, with these additions:**

Advantages	Challenges
Greater volume of waste removed on a timely basis; illegal dumping reduced	City administration must develop Request for Proposals and award comprehensive contract
More efficient waste collection Potential for lowest possible rates due to economies of scale	May need a 'Solid Waste Utility' to assess a residential monthly fee to guarantee revenue stream
Cleaner neighborhoods due to less illegal dumping, less trash trucks	Awarding one contract would not protect the existing haulers market share or existence
Reduces collection trucks and passes to one day/street per week; reduces street and alley maintenance costs	Perception by residents that waste service will be more expensive than self-hauling
City has control of services, i.e. day of service, mandatory curbside recycling, yard waste, appliance and hazards	A single contractor may suspend service, creating health and safety concerns
	Administrative requirements would increase for city
	Residents would have no choice to select their hauler
	Balanced study and fair policy discussion

Course of Action #4 CITY-WIDE CONTRACT TO MULTIPLE WASTE HAULERS
in a districted collection system...*in addition to the MANDATORY WASTE COLLECTION ORDINANCE...*; see *Course of Action #2*

DISCUSSION: This option would divide the City into multiple districts or zones with the City awarding separate contracts for a multi-year period. To effectively district it will be necessary for the City to first determine which residential dwelling units are to be included (i.e. single- and multi-family units, HOAs). City must obtain information of residences by geographic regions.

****Same similar advantages and challenges as Course of Action #2 above, with these additions:***

Advantages	Challenges
Reduces overall collection impacts; less vehicle miles traveled and street damage	Active City administration; may require take over of billing to establish a uniform rate structure
Difficult for waste haulers to suspend service for higher fees	Multiple contracts to administer
City could specify very specific service requirements, i.e. day of service, mandatory curbside recycling, yard waste and appliance pick up	May not protect existing haulers' market share; no guarantee applicants would be awarded a district
Greater incentive for haulers to increase diversion/recycling	Residents would be required to use a contracted hauler or they would have to self-haul to a waste facility every 7 days
May provide lower rates due to greater collection efficiencies and a 'guaranteed' customer base	Balanced study and fair policy discussion
Easily applied to County urbanized areas and beyond as growth dictates	May be in conflict of Colorado Revised Statues 30-15-401 (4,5)
City can set performance standards to address noise, vehicle specs, neighborhood aesthetics, recycling goals	Residents would have no choice to select their hauler

Course of Action #5 CITY OWNED and OPERATED WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE

in addition to the MANDATORY WASTE ORDINANCE...; see Course of Action #2

DISCUSSION: In this option, the City, County or other government entity would own and operate residential waste collection, possibly through a newly established solid waste department, division, or Solid Waste Utility/ Enterprise.

****Same similar advantages and challenges as Course of Action #2 above, with these additions:***

Advantages	Challenges
Reduces overall collection impacts; less vehicle miles traveled and street damage	Active City administration; may require take over of billing to establish a uniform rate structure
City has control, i.e. day of service, mandatory curbside recycling, yard waste and appliance pick up	Establish a Solid Waste Utility/Enterprise
May provide lower rates due to greater collection efficiencies and a 'guaranteed' customer base	Invest in capital equipment (toters, trucks, misc. equipment)
Easily applied to County urbanized areas and beyond as growth dictates	Waste haulers lose residential sector accounts
Easy to take other actions to address noise, vehicle specs, neighborhood aesthetics, set future recycling goals	Possible legal conflicts with private sector
Direct communication between citizens and government for disputes	

RECYCLING COLLECTION SYSTEM OPTIONS

MAIN ISSUE: To provide a comprehensive approach for the collection and processing of recyclable materials from residential areas in the City of Pueblo, with the goal of expansion to all of Pueblo County.

ASSUMPTIONS RELATED TO THE MAIN ISSUE:

1. Rising cost of fuel also raises solid waste disposal rates for residents.
2. Current landfill cells in Pueblo County are at or near capacity, which will drive up waste disposal rates.
3. It is in the best interest of the community if waste is dealt with in an organized and efficient manner with viable diversion opportunities.
4. Increased demand by the community to promote and support recycling.
5. Advances in technology increase efficient handling of recyclables.
6. One of the following Courses of Action must be paired with one or more Courses of Action from the Waste Collection System
7. Diversion of recyclables would be implemented in any mandatory solid waste management system.
8. Volume-based pricing a.k.a. variable rate pricing or Pay-As-You-Throw will be required of every residential solid waste collection and disposal company.

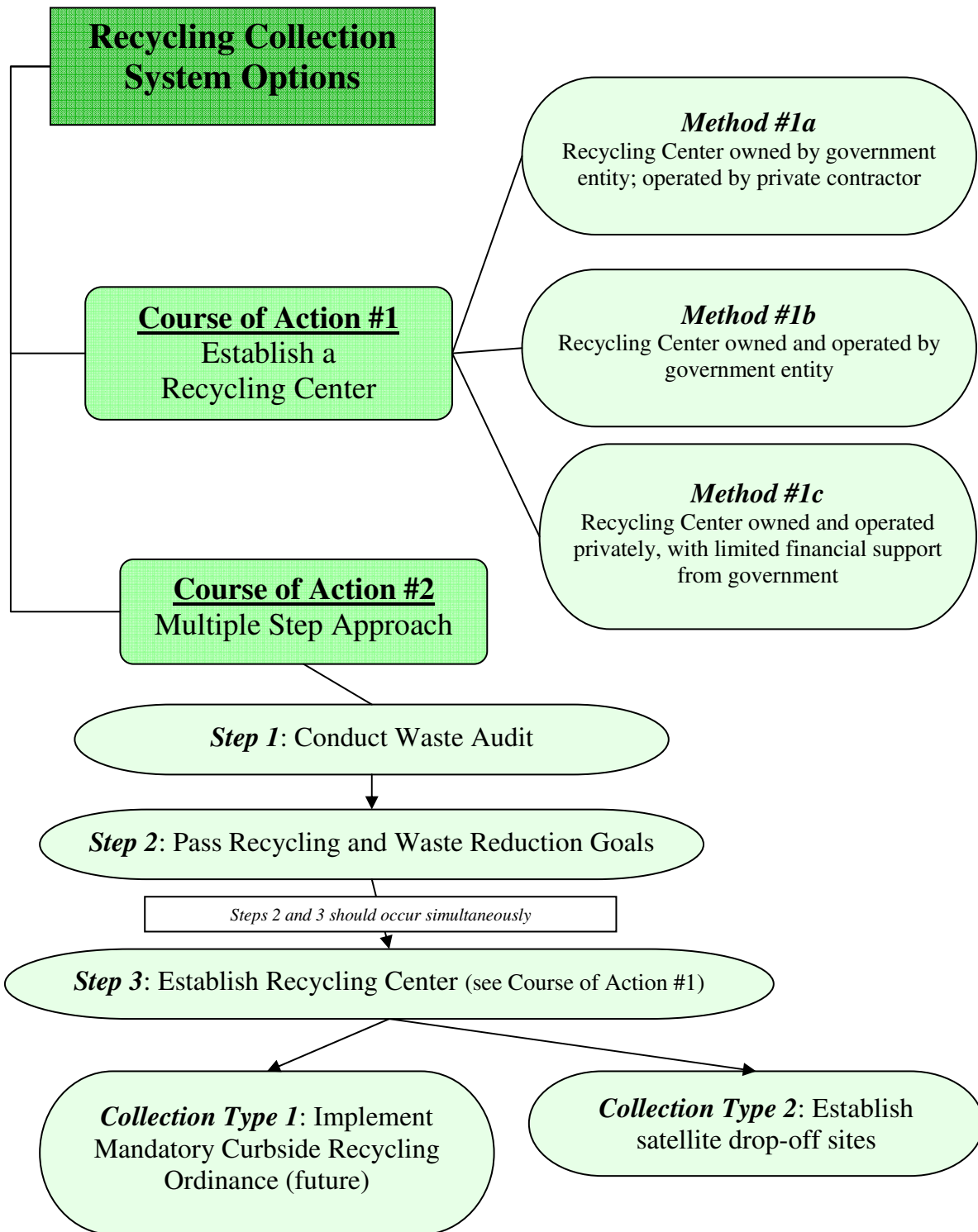
FACTS BEARING ON THE MAIN ISSUE:

1. There will always be solid waste disposal needs.
2. As Pueblo's population grows, so will the amount of solid waste generated.
3. There are several private waste haulers that serve the populace of City of Pueblo and Pueblo County.
4. Neither the City of Pueblo nor Pueblo County has a designated solid waste division, department, or utility to oversee this broad issue.
5. The City and County of Pueblo do not own the landfills or transfer stations, although the City and County jointly owns land for a potential landfill.
6. People will usually choose most economical and convenient way to deal with solid waste, including recyclables.
7. Recycling opportunities for basic household-generated commodities (aluminum, tin, glass containers, paper, newspaper and cardboard) does exist, but household plastic recycling is not present in Pueblo County.
8. The private and non-profit sectors offer limited recycling drop-off opportunities.
9. Recycling opportunities accept only one or two recyclable materials at one location, requiring residents to make separate trips around the area.
10. The public recycle drop-off bins managed by PCCHD since 2003 are funded only year to year at four sites in Pueblo County, which accepts aluminum and tin cans, glass bottles, and newspaper are accepted. These can only serve a small portion of total population.
11. All Recycling opportunities are equipped only to collect a small fraction of what is generated by the estimated 40,000 households in the City of Pueblo.

There are TWO (2) courses of action evaluated by EPAC during this effort. Refer to 'Concept Diagram B' in green.

Pueblo Area Council of Governments
Environmental Policy Advisory Committee

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT OPTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS 2008
CONCEPT DIAGRAM B



Course of Action #1 Establish a large-scale Recycling Processing Center in Pueblo – Three different approaches are dependent on which entity owns and operates the recycling center.

DISCUSSION: A local recycling center must be planned and opened to accept materials to drive diversion. A facility can be owned and operated in several different ways. Outlined below are three different approaches that the City or Pueblo, Pueblo County or private sector could take. A recycling center can collect many different items such as common household commodities (aluminum, tin, glass, plastic), household hazardous waste, and yard waste (organic debris from the natural landscapes), and add other items as the market allows.

1a) Recycling Processing Center Government Owned, Operated by Private

Contractor: The City and/or County would own the recycling processing facility (property, building, equipment, materials), but contract out daily operations to one private vendor.

Advantages	Challenges
Control over operations	Upfront costs of opening a recycling processing facility
Percentage of materials owned by City/County	Operational costs paid by City/County to vendor
Percentage of materials sales would go to City/County	More City/County administrative time needed

1b) Recycling Processing Center owned and operated by the City and/or

County: The City and/or County would own the recycling processing facility (property, building, equipment, materials) and operate it with paid staff.

Advantages	Challenges
Control over operations and revenue	Upfront costs of opening a recycling processing facility
All materials owned by City/County	Operational costs paid by City/County
All material sales revenue would go to City/County	Active City/County administration
No subsidizing to private entity	Fluctuating commodities market

1c) Recycling Processing Center privately owned and operated with financial

assistance from Pueblo City/County: The recycling processing facility (property, building, equipment, materials) would be owned and operated by a private business with local government financial support such as PEDCO money.

Advantages	Challenges
City/County does not have to pay any upfront or operations costs to private vendor	Materials would not be controlled by City/County
Limited amount of staff time would be needed	Private business might choose to close or limited items accepted

Course of Action #2 Multiple Step Approach: This course has five necessary steps to completion.

DISCUSSION: EPAC suggests an approach to recycling in Pueblo that takes into account solid waste research and evaluation before implementing a program. This approach follows the INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN adopted in 2001 by PACOG. The first step is to conduct a **waste audit** for Pueblo County to evaluate the solid waste stream. The second step is to write and establish City and/or County recycling and **waste reduction goals** based on the waste audit results. The third step is to establish a **recycling processing center**. Collection types include (1) **satellite recycling drop-off sites** for multi-family dwellings and residents in urbanized rural areas (i.e. Pueblo West, Colorado City, and Avondale) and implementing a future mandatory (2) **curbside recycling ordinance** requiring waste haulers to *offer* curbside recycling to their customers at no separate fee. The steps are outlined to be followed in order using a possible timeline of 1-3 years.

Waste Audit	
Advantages	Challenges
Greater knowledge of solid waste and recycling needs specifically for Pueblo City and/or County.	Financial costs (for consultant or city staff)
Offers clear picture of the current solid waste situation; dispels waste myths	Possible resistance by private enterprise to divulge proprietary business information
Creates baseline data to gauge the success of any future diversion methods	High involvement of City/County staff with possible volunteers or community service works
Waste Reduction Goals	
Advantages	Challenges
Implemented as a way to achieve milestones	Political will and commitment may wane or drop-off
Holds government and citizens accountable for their actions	Elected officials are term limited and leave office frequently; successors may not follow through with resolutions
Advantageous when writing state and federal grant proposals	Private haulers may feel no commitment to the goals
Recycling Processing Center	
Advantages	Challenges
Greater control of recycling if government owned and/or operated a recycling center	Start-up costs for owning or operating a recycling processing facility are high
More convenient and less expensive for residents, subsequently increasing participation	More City/County administrative time needed
Provides local site for waste haulers to deposit recyclables	Elimination of neighborhood collection events by PCCHD

Provides a way to measure waste diversion and reduce landfill acreage	Risk of contamination in containers with waste or misplaced recyclables
Possible revenue production for city/county	
Creates jobs and promotes economic growth	
<i>Satellite Drop-off Sites</i>	
Advantages	Challenges
Reduces vehicle trips from rural areas to City of Pueblo	Containers must be managed by County or private entity
Easier to provide drop-off sites to multi-family dwellings, and residents in rural areas rather than curbside collection	Financial investment in containers
Containers might not need weekly pick-ups	Risk of contamination in containers with waste or misplaced recyclables
Extends life of area landfills	
<i>Curbside Recycling Ordinance</i>	
Advantages	Challenges
Recycling diversion rates increase when curbside recycling is established due to obvious convenience	Separate trucks specifically for recycling pick-up may add more traffic to streets and alleyways
Could be added to waste hauler license requirements; no regulations would be necessary	Possible resistance by private waste haulers to report actual volumes and revenues
Provides guaranteed stream of commodities for recycling processing center	Start-up costs for equipment (trucks, containers, education and outreach) are high
Extends life of area landfills	Education and outreach programs must be on-going

FUNDING STRATEGIES

MAIN ISSUE: To research and outline current options to secure funding for residential solid waste management in the City of Pueblo, with the goal of expansion/application to the urbanized rural areas in Pueblo County.

DISCUSSION: These common mechanisms were evaluated by EPAC in 2000, and specific explanations appeared in the **PUEBLO INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN, (pages 56-60)** resolution passed January 25, 2001. The advantages and challenges may have shifted or changed in the last 7 years.

EPAC has discussed the concept of establishing a solid waste authority/enterprise/utility within the City of Pueblo or county-wide, with dedicated funding and staff. This enterprise utility would function much like the current City of Pueblo Stormwater, and Wastewater Utilities. The enterprise would collect a solid waste/recycling fee from each residence, most likely added to the monthly water utility bill as a fee. The solid waste authority would solicit bids and award a single contract to collect and dispose of residential solid waste and/or recycling, on a year-to-year basis.

- (increase) User surcharges
- Public/private donations and grants
- General Fund monies
- Unit-based pricing ("Pay-As-You-Throw")
- Utility or enterprise funds

EPAC Solid Waste Sub Committee also considers these viable options for funding comprehensive waste collection and recycling programs:

- State and federal grants with PACOG matching funds
- ½ cent sales tax
- Property taxes
- Bond issue

EPAC FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS with DISCUSSION

While all members were in favor of a mandatory residential waste collection ordinance in conjunction with additional regulation of haulers, there were strong opinions on which residential waste collection system would be legal and best for all involved. All EPAC members were in agreement that at a minimum, the residential waste collection ordinance in concert with the establishment of a local recycling center we necessary components of any proposed recycling program.

Three (3) EPAC members out of 8 voting were in favor of the of Residential Waste Collection System in which the City of Pueblo contract all residential waste collection to a single private hauler with detailed service requirements. Two (2) EPAC members felt that "Course of Action #2" should be set in motion alone, with any subsequent courses regarding collection contracting to be determined in the future, based on market factors and community input. Two (2) members were in favor of dividing the residential areas into 'districts' or 'zones' with the City awarding separate contracts to multiple haulers. The opinion was that this would support small, local business and still provide healthy, open competition. More analysis need to be done to provide greater understanding of what will happen if the City or County of Pueblo were to award residential trash hauling contracts for specified geographic districts. Contrary to input provided by the Pueblo City Attorney, districting a municipality is a viable legal option as witnessed by the work being done this year in Fort Collins, Colorado after an extensive study by private consultants. Only one (1) EPAC member felt that a City-owned and operated waste collection system, by establishing a new department/division/enterprise, would provide the maximum control for collection and rates, and felt a multiple hauler environment could be overlaid somehow.

All members agreed that the establishment of a large-scale RECYCLE CENTER is crucial to begin any waste diversion program of significance. Residents and haulers will see the economic benefit of diverting valuable recyclables from their waste stream, if, and only if, a centrally located facility for drop-off and processing exists. Trucking recyclables out of Pueblo County has a negative impact on many fronts. Members were split on the method of operating the RECYCLE CENTER. Most recommend that the land, building, and recyclables be 'owned' by the City or County, with the daily operation and management of the recycling center be done by private contractor for a specific time period. Majority of profit from commodity sales should be retained by the City or County, and be used to fund future recycling program needs.

All EPAC members agreed that elected officials must move reasonably fast after staging public and private input sessions in the next months. Stakeholders from many arenas must be polled and offered time to comment in the process. Professional consultants may be needed to provide elaborate data and answer technical questions. Whatever path of action is taken, it is paramount that a timeline stating tasks and formal completion dates be outlined and followed. Elected officials hold the trust of all in our community - citizens, public agencies, private businesses, and other institutions - and therefore, must be the ones to seek public input, make the ultimate decisions, implement the plan and administer the contracts.

APPENDIX 1

PROPOSED WORDING FOR MANDATORY WASTE COLLECTION ORDINANCE

“The occupant and owner of any premises wherein any garbage, litter, refuse or rubbish is produced or accumulated shall be jointly and severally responsible to provide for collection and removal within 7 days or less to the degree of service necessary to maintain the premises in a clean and orderly condition. They shall not contract or arrange for such collection and removal service except by a commercial trash hauler licensed by the City of Pueblo, Colorado under §9-10-91. An individual may dispose of his/her own garbage, litter, refuse or rubbish that is generated in excess of weekly commercial trash hauler service allowances, provided that all garbage, litter, refuse or rubbish is properly disposed of at a duly designated solid waste disposal facility which is approved by the State, in conformity with all city and county regulations. Following each collection, refuse receptacles shall be returned to a storage area the same day. Receptacles shall not at any time be placed or stored in the public right-of-way (i.e.; on sidewalk, in alley or street) in such a manner as to impair or obstruct pedestrian, bicycle or vehicle traffic.”

*Drafted by EPAC/ Solid Waste Subcommittee
Consensus reached at monthly meeting held February 5, 2008*