



## WASTE DIVERSION ON THE FRONT RANGE

### REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS #SF011224 - APPLICATION CRITERIA

#### BACKGROUND

The Front Range Waste Diversion Enterprise (FRWD) was established by the Colorado State Legislature in 2019 to drive sustainable waste diversion efforts across the Front Range region. This collaborative effort, led by the FRWD board of directors and the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE) staff, provides grants and technical support to Front Range communities. The ultimate aim is to achieve waste diversion targets of 39% by 2026 and 51% by 2036 along the Front Range of Colorado.

The FRWD enterprise fund is sustained by an increase in user fees at Front Range landfills, which have been in effect since January 2020. This funding source is projected to contribute approximately \$15 million annually for CDPHE administration.

The FRWD program harmonizes with broader initiatives focused on advancing Colorado's waste diversion goals. This includes the establishment of the Circular Economy Development Center and the Producer Responsibility program, both enacted in 2022.

The FRWD Enterprise is a crucial element in the transformation to a circular economy in the Front Range. This entails extending landfill life, creating local jobs, supporting businesses, diversifying end markets, reducing food waste, and lowering greenhouse gas emissions. Achieving these waste diversion goals requires active participation from every Front Range community, resident, and business. The FRWD Enterprise collaborates closely with local entities, aligning efforts for increased capacity, access, innovation, and return on investment (ROI).

#### RFA FOCUS

This Request for Application (RFA) focuses on advancing waste diversion through the following means:

- Construction and demolition (C&D) waste diversion and reduction, including infrastructure development for feasible and cost-effective methods such as manual separation at the source of generation (demolition projects, construction sites) or at another point the process, or mechanical separation processes.
- Organic waste projects to include infrastructure to increase collection and processing of organic waste.
- Recycling infrastructure and collections projects.

#### ELIGIBILITY

##### TONNAGE ELIGIBILITY:

- Applicants must show reuse, reduction, or diversion of a minimum of 1,000 additional tons per year. For the purpose of this RFA “additional tons” is defined as tons of materials, not currently being diverted from landfills, annually upon implementation of the project. Applicants will be required to explain where the new or additional tons are coming from and demonstrate how the new or additional tons were previously being landfilled.

- In order to encourage projects located in or providing services in Teller, Pueblo, and Elbert Counties, these counties are not subject to the minimum tonnage requirements.
- *NOTE:* If lightweight materials are being diverted and tonnage is not an appropriate metric, the applicant should include volume. Volume should be measured by using the volume-to-weight conversion factors prepared by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), referenced on this [website](#).

**LOCATION ELIGIBILITY:**

- To be eligible, projects must serve one or more the following counties: Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, Elbert, El Paso, Jefferson, Larimer, Pueblo, Teller or Weld. It is assumed applications from the above counties serve the FRWD service area. All other applicants must document how the project benefits the counties in the FRWD service area.

**SHOVEL-READINESS ELIGIBILITY:**

- Applicants must be shovel-ready, which for the purposes of this RFA is defined as a project proposal that has reached an advanced stage of planning and engineering, enabling it to commence promptly upon contract execution, given adequate funding. This includes having secured a designated site with a lease if place if necessary, a comprehensive understanding of all required permits at both the local and state levels, and the financial capability to initiate the project upfront. It is important to note that while projects must be sufficiently advanced to start work immediately upon the issuance of a fully executed contract or purchase order, FRWD funding cannot reimburse for partial or down payments, or for items or resources possessed prior to the execution of the contract.

**FUNDING**

In this funding cycle, there is approximately \$5,000,000.00 available to support multiple projects, and applicants may request a maximum of \$5,000,000.00 in funding.

**ANTICIPATED UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES**

The FRWD program plans to publish a Contribution Grants RFA in early 2024 tailored to projects that fall below the minimum tonnage requirements outlined in this offering. It is anticipated that this initiative will support smaller projects with funding requests ranging from \$25,000.00 to \$150,000.00.