

# Bin Parity in Outdoor Zero Waste Stations

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# History

- Exposed aggregate trash cans through 2000
  - Maybe 50 campus wide
  - Subject to vandalism
- Previous attempts at dual collections or matching w/ recycling bins
- Conversion to black metal cans in 2001
  - Bolted to the ground
- Expanded as part of litter control program in 2001
  - \$250K funded for new trash cans only
  - No \$ for recycling



# Attempts to Catch Up

- Student funding for recycling cans
  - '04: 16 of 125 (13%)
  - '07: 45 of 205 (22%)
- Waste sort of outdoor trash & recycling
  - Majority in both was recyclable
- Sustainability Action Team (SAT) funding
  - Parity was stated goal
  - Color coded lids & labels



# Can Parity

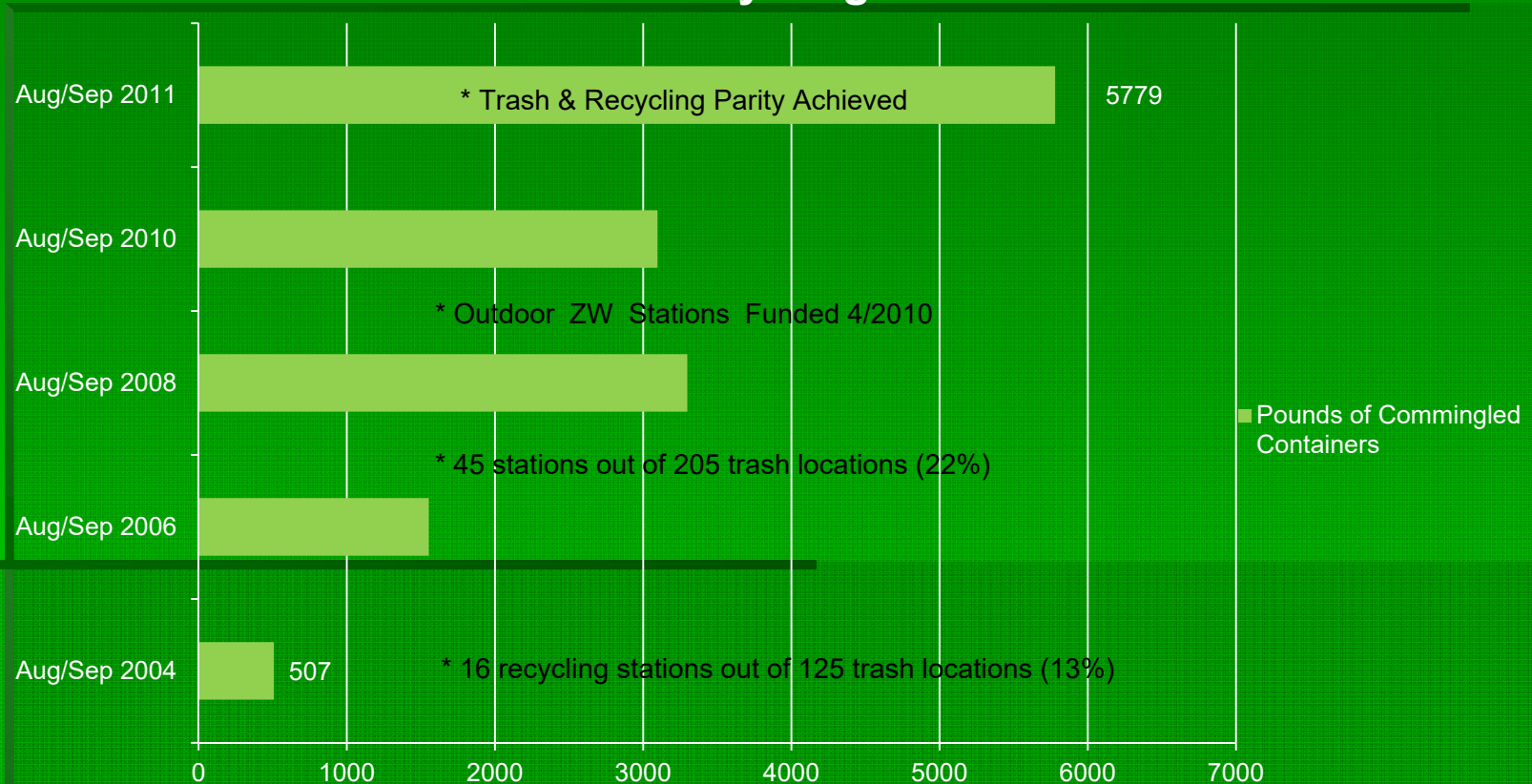


# Vertical Labels Critical



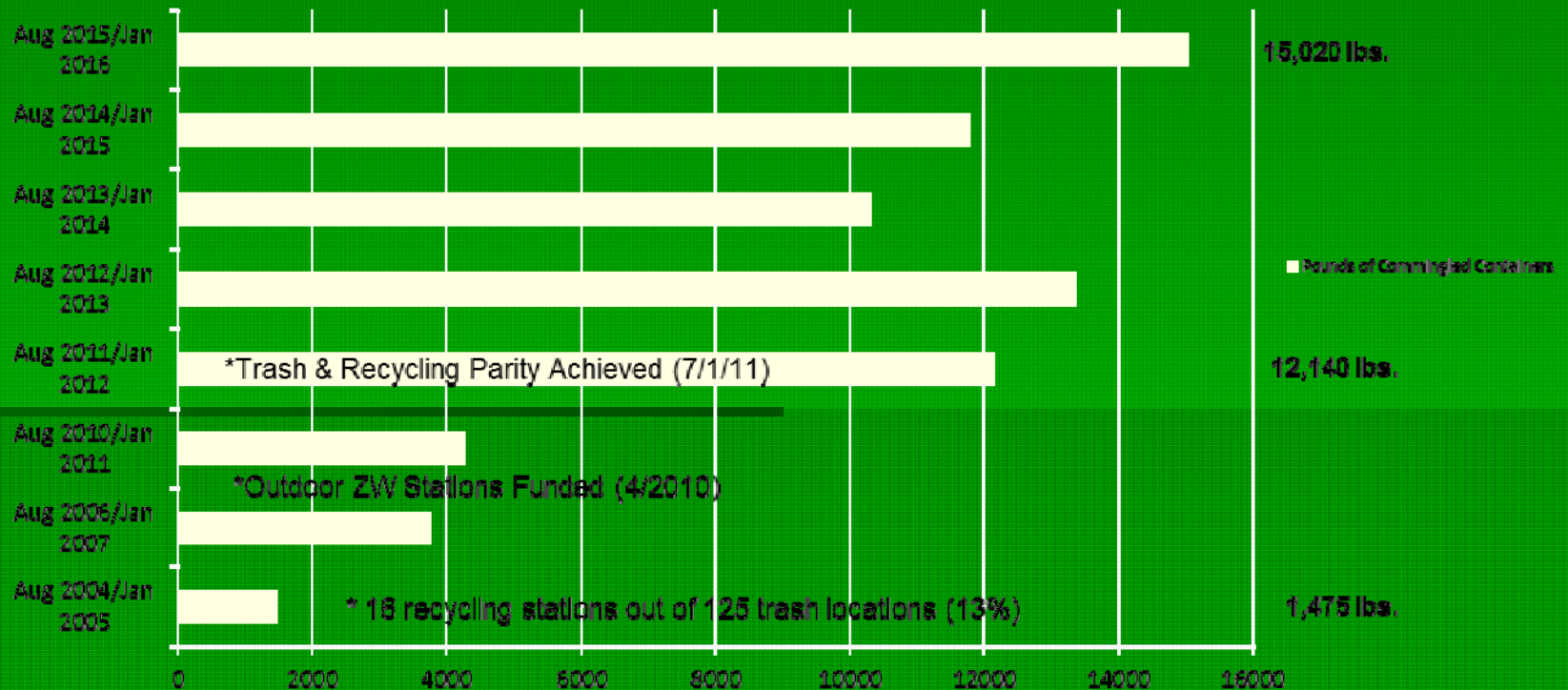
# Results (2 months)

## University of Colorado @ Boulder Outdoor Recycling Stations



# Results (6 months)

## University of Colorado @ Boulder Outdoor Recycling Stations



# Final Results

## Glass, Plastic, Aluminum

- FY11: 8,210 lbs.
- FY13: 25,052 lbs.

205% increase

Aug & Sept of '15:  
5854 lbs.  
(new high)

## Papers

- FY11: 1,187 lbs.
- FY13: 1,931 lbs.

63% increase

Aug. '15 - Jan. '16:  
15,020 lbs.  
(new high)



# Conclusions

- Eliminate stand alone trash cans
  - Reduce total # of stations
- Grade(s) of materials almost irrelevant to diversion rate.
- Low diversion rate not due to grading decisions...it's due to 10:1 ratio of trash to recycling bins.
- Clear, obvious signage also critical.





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