



Colorado Association for Recycling
PO Box 11130
Denver, CO 80211-0130
Turning today's waste into tomorrow's resources

HB 1052 – Solano/Newell

Recycling Resource Economic Opportunity Fund Reauthorization

Repeals the sunset on the Recycling Resource Economic Opportunity program (RREO) in the Department of Public Health and Environment. Through this fund the Pollution Prevention Advisory Board distributes grants to local governments, for-profit and non-profit entities for recycling, waste diversion, and related sustainability programs.

The purposes of the RREO are to fund sustainable businesses and programs and to encourage economic development of discarded resources, including but not limited to:

- Develop/expand local economic and recycling infrastructure for the sustainable use of discarded materials;
- Provide local incentives to develop or expand markets for recycled products;
- Undertake sustainable resource education programs;
- Develop/implement sustainable resource or integrated waste management plans or programs;
- Create/expand programs for the economic use of organic matter, household hazardous waste, electronic scrap material, or other discarded materials; and
- Increase energy savings and greenhouse gas reduction as a result of diverting discarded resources from disposal.

Why is this bill important for Colorado?

Wide Distribution in CO

RREO successfully distributed grants of about \$2.6 Million in the last two years to local governments and businesses throughout Colorado to help develop our recycling infrastructure. Municipalities and counties benefiting from RREO grants and rebates include Arvada, Aurora, Boulder, Canon City, Centennial, Colorado Springs, Commerce City, Creede, Denver, Dillon, Dolores, Durango, Eaton, Fort Collins, Fruita, Golden, Grand Junction, Greeley, Henderson, Holyoke, Jamestown, Julesberg, Kiowa, Lakewood, Lyons, Milner, Sterling, Telluride, Thornton, and Westcliffe, Elbert County, Mesa County, Northeast multi-jurisdictional group, Phillips County, and Summit County.

Job Creation

In the first year of the program (FY 2009), sixty-three new permanent jobs were created. Another \$110,000 was paid out in wages to current employees. Nearly \$340,000 went back into the economy in the form of payments to contractors, engineers, consultants, and other service firms while \$886,000 has been used to purchase equipment and materials, much of that in Colorado.

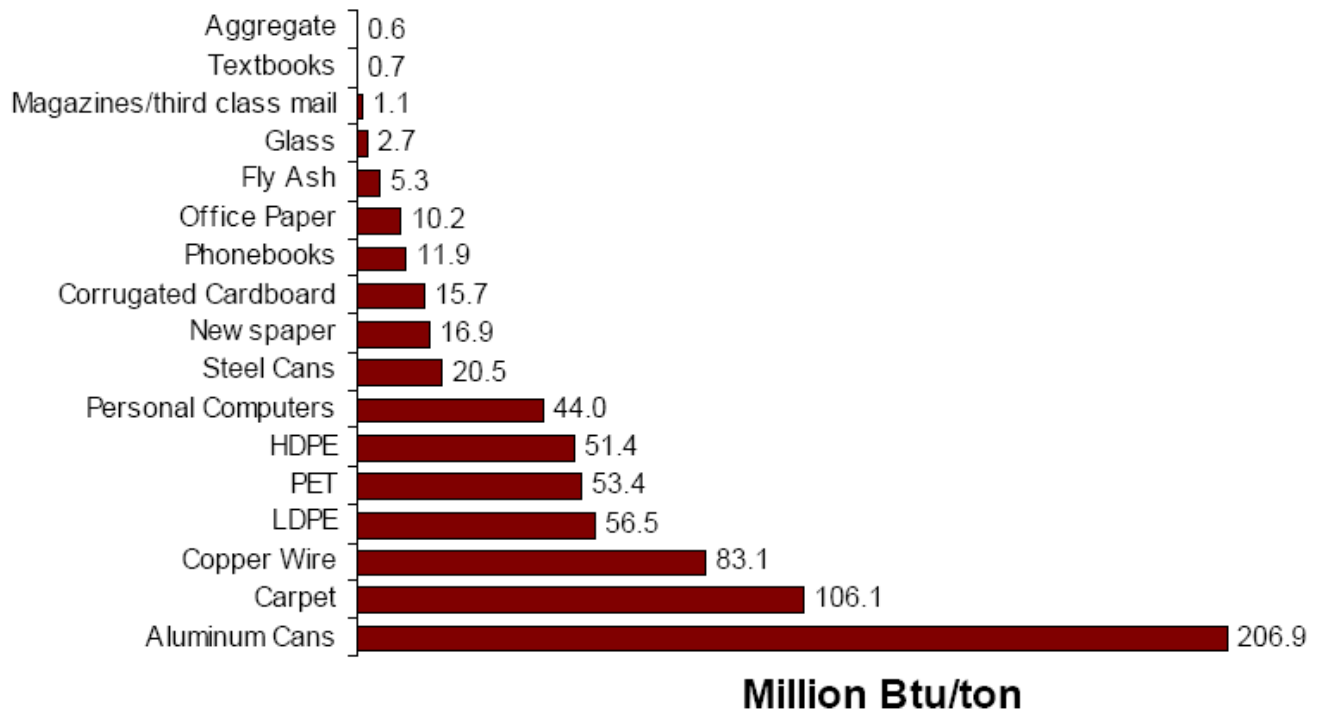
New Mining Opportunity

Colorado's discards are a wealth of untapped resources – much like a rich seam in a mine that has been ignored, and is not yielding its benefits for the state. We lag the nation in supporting the sustainable use of discarded resources. Colorado has one of the lowest landfill tipping fees in the country which encourages a throw-away attitude. There is no state agency that has responsibility to cultivate the economic development opportunity that discards offer. RREO helps to turn this around.

Environmental/Energy Benefits & Avoided Long-Term Costs

Recycling extends the life of landfills, saving the public from the costs associated with starting new landfills and the risks associated with potential landfill leakage. Recycling allows for reuse of materials and limits the use of finite resources, conserving these resources for future generations. Using discarded resources reduces greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. By recycling, a series of steps that adversely impact GHG emissions are avoided. Recycling discarded resources saves energy and reduces pollution by reducing the need to extract and transport previously untouched resources. Next page's chart shows energy savings per Ton recycled.

Exhibit 7-1 Energy Savings per Ton Recycled a ¹



Floor Amendments:

Amendment L002 changes the repeal date to 2017. It is important to revisit programs to ensure that they are working as intended. By 2017, there will be almost 10 years worth of data on recycling infrastructure, job creation and sustainability to review. This will help the program administrators and the legislature determine the ongoing need of this grant program. The date also coincides with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's review of the Solid Waste User's Tip Fee, the sister fee of the source of the RREO funds.

It adds a repeal of the waste tire disposal fee on July 1, 2011. This is to allow the tire disposal fee to be transferred back into the waste tire program in DOLA that currently funds tire recycling.

For more information please contact:

Marjorie Griek, Executive Director, Colorado Association for Recycling, 970-535-4053 or marjie@cafr.org
Annmarie Jensen, Lobbyist, Jensen Public Affairs, 720-999-4765, or aj@jensenpublicaffairs.com

¹ US EPA Solid Waste Management and Greenhouse Gases: An Assessment of Emissions and Sinks, 3rd Edition, 2006