



Current State of Denver Recycling Programs

JONATHAN GRIFFIN, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

DENVER CITY COUNCIL

Current Recycling Structure

- ▶ City provides recycling for “authorized residences.”
 - ▶ Defined as SFUs, MFUs with 7 or less units, and townhomes or row homes that are no more than two stories and have exclusive entrances for each unit
- ▶ Does not provide recycling services for commercial businesses or MFUs with more than 7 units
- ▶ Bins are provided to every authorized residence, but prior to 2018, an authorized residence had to sign up for recycling service



2016 Report on Denver Recycling

Selected Front Range Cities

City	Diversion Rate
Boulder	54%
Louisville	48%
Fort Collins	32%
Longmont	31%
Golden	30%
Denver	18%
Thornton	14%

Peer Cities

City	Recycling Rate
Fresno, CA	71%
Seattle, WA	64%
Austin, TX	42%
Salt Lake City, UT	38%
Washington, D.C.	26%
Phoenix, AZ	20%
Denver	18%

2016 Report on Denver Recycling

- ▶ Published by Colorado Public Interest Research Group and Eco-Cycle
- ▶ Denver was one of the lowest recyclers in the front range at 18%
- ▶ Also below Seattle, Austin, and Salt Lake City
- ▶ Report noted three main reasons for low recycling rate:
 - ▶ No MFU Recycling
 - ▶ No Business Recycling
 - ▶ Trash Rate System Encourages People to Not Recycle

Peer Cities



Seattle

2011 Law Requires SFUs, MFUs, and Commercial Businesses to Recycle

Allowed a 3-year phase-in to educate affected



Boulder

Uses money generated from Trash Tax to provide for Recycling Services

2015 Law Requires SFUs, MFUs, and Commercial Businesses to Recycle and Compost



San Francisco

2009 Law Requires All San Franciscans to Recycle and Compost

Incentivizes Recycling and Composting to Lower Trash Bill



Questions?