

August 6, 2025

Subject: ESB Supports the South Metro Waste Diversion Plan

The Environmental Stewardship Board (ESB) expresses strong support for the South Metro Waste Diversion Plan (SMWDP). The City of Littleton (Littleton) partnered with the Cities of Centennial, Englewood, and Sheridan (South Metro) to provide the first comprehensive analysis of waste services provided to the approximate 194,000 residents in the region.

Working together for over a year, South Metro has finalized a regional plan based on months of research, including a baseline assessment, waste generation modeling, a waste characterization study, a regional waste summit, and engagement with haulers and the communities. SMWDP results are a data-driven assessment of waste and recycling, including an action plan of strategic initiatives to improve individual cities' and the region's waste diversion rates.

By adopting SMWDP, Littleton will benefit in numerous ways:

- **Align and Complete Key Goals in ESB's Environmental Stewardship Action Plan:** In June 2024, Littleton City Council supported and endorsed the Horizon 2027 Strategic Plan, which includes implementing ESB's Environmental Stewardship Action Plan. SMWDP takes a significant step to accomplish most of Section 3.0, "Consumption and Waste Diversion."
- **Promote Community Collaboration in Littleton and the region:** SMWDP encourages community engagement and awareness of sustainability practices, which would foster a culture of environmental stewardship. SMWDP outlines how the region can continue to collaborate, cultivating connections regionally and championing waste diversion.
- **Leverage Colorado's Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Recycling Programs:** HB22-1355 was signed into law on June 3, 2022. This law requires covered producers to join a Producer Responsibility Organization, and through it, fund and manage end-of-life for packaging, including collection, processing, and recycling or composting. To fully and promptly access the financial benefits of EPR, it is recommended that the city consider adopting key elements of the plan.
- **Implement Contracted Collection (Single Hauler):** By reducing waste and the number of trucks on the road, Littleton can protect the ecosystem, lower greenhouse gas emissions, minimize landfill use, cut down on noise pollution and odors, support Streets Littleton, and preserve our small town charm. Additionally, this plan provides greater and more equitable access to key services such as recycling and composting, which residents may not have had previously.

Aligning with state and regional goals will unlock funding opportunities, expanding resources for waste management improvements. SMWDP outlines high-level goals and suggestions for the next ten years for Littleton to focus on, granting the city flexibility in how specific goals are implemented. Ultimately, SMWDP establishes a common-sense path toward increasing waste diversion, which we have collectively agreed should be a top priority. We urge your favorable consideration to adopt SMWDP.

Sincerely,

Gretel Pavao, chair, on behalf of ESB