

Rethink Waste Update

Todd Hanson - Solid Waste Section Director
Dylan Lenzen - Sustainability Specialist





Outline



1. Rethink Waste Plan
2. Solid Waste Fund update
3. Recession Plan impacts to programming
4. Recycling inspection efforts
5. Materials Recovery Facility research and planning
6. NAU composting partnership and future initiatives
7. Next steps



Rethink Waste Plan

Plan was adopted in September 2017

Purpose of the plan:

1. Institutionalize a materials management framework for decision making
2. Outline foundational programs and policies to implement in the near term
3. Identify long-term goals

Phased Implementation:

- **Phase 1 (CY 2017-20) - Implement foundational recycling and waste prevention strategies**
- Phase 2 (CY 2020-21) - Revisit long-term goals and develop a long-term strategic plan
- Phase 3 (CY 2021 and beyond) - Implement strategies identified in the strategic plan



Solid Waste Fund Update



Overall, currently the fund is healthy – Constant monitoring and adjustments will be necessary

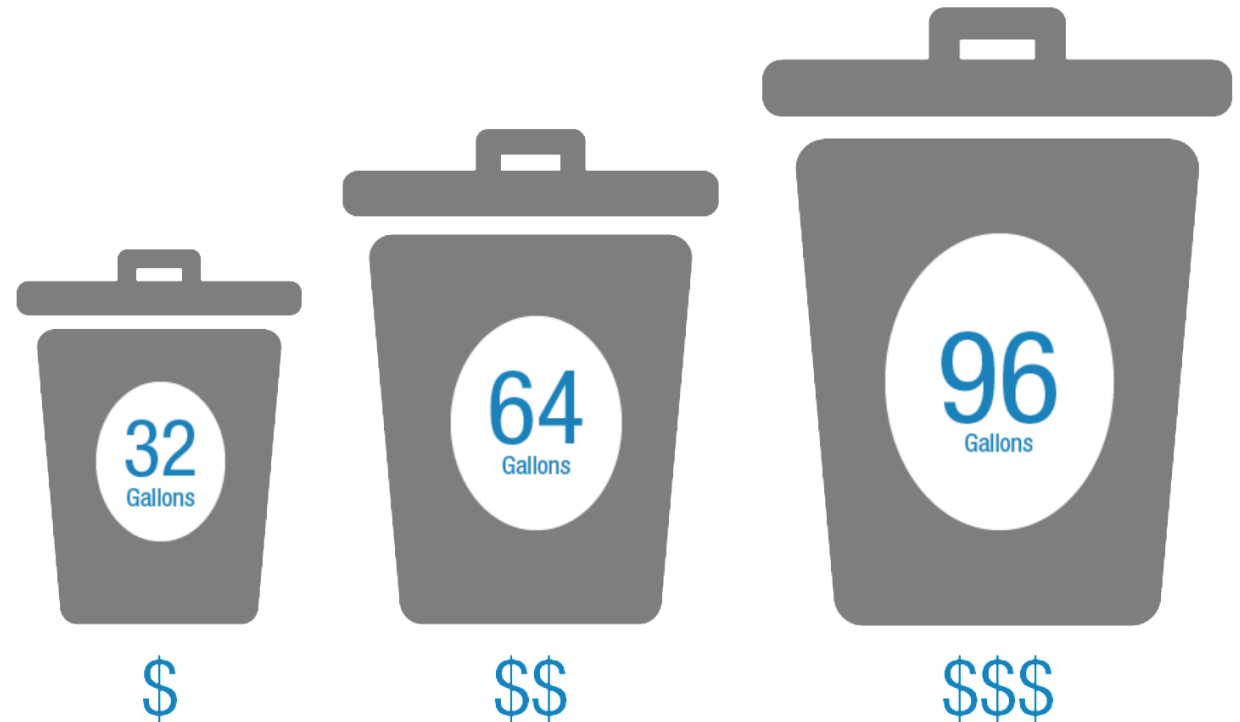
- COVID Revenue Impacts – Since February
 - Solid Waste Collections revenue is down \$22,000
 - Landfill revenue is up \$42,000
- Expenses
 - Operating expenses are trending below budget for the fiscal year
 - Over \$1 million in budgeted capital was deferred to next fiscal year
- COVID-related volume impacts
 - Highest recorded bulky trash volume since 2006
 - Commercial trash volume decreased 19% since the March proclamation
 - Residential volume increased 48% since the March proclamation



Recession Plan Impacts to Programming

Volumetric Pricing

- Often referred to as "Pay-As-You-Throw"
- Creates smaller trash cart size options for a lower price
- Implementation was planned for this summer
 - Staff recommends delaying
- As soon as budget situation is clearer and funding is available, staff will proceed as planned
- Staff will continue with planned outreach efforts





Recycling Inspection Efforts

Staff piloted recycling cart inspections last summer (2019)

- Over 6 weeks, staff conducted 1,200 inspections
- Proportion of "Oops" tags to "Looking Good" tags decreased 1.8 to 0.8
- Received only 4 calls from residents
 - 3 concerned or confused
 - 1 expressed gratitude for feedback

OOPS!
Recycling improperly increases costs and contaminates other materials.

Next time, please leave these items out :

-  **Glass**
Sign up for glass recycling service for only \$3.55/mo. Call (928) 213-2110
-  **Non-recyclable plastics**
Only bottles, jugs, and jars can be recycled. All other plastics go in the garbage.
-  **Paper cartons & cups**
Buy milk/juice in a plastic jug. Try a reusable mug!
-  **Food and liquids**
Empty all containers.
-  **Plastic bags**
Recycle bags at local stores and please don't bag your recyclables.

LOOKING Good!

Thanks for recycling the right stuff.

We're committed to conserving our natural resources and appreciate that you are too. Thank you for helping to keep Flagstaff resourceful.

NEW RESOURCES AT YOUR SERVICE:

NEW Interactive Recycling Guide
Test drive our new guide to discover drop-off locations for those tricky to recycle items and hazardous stuff too.

NEW Pick Up Reminders
Get a digital reminder so you never miss a collection or bulky item pick up.



Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)

Contract with Norton Environmental expires in 2023

- Completed an analysis in May 2020 of options, including:
 1. City operation of MRF facility
 2. Procurement of a new private MRF operator
 3. Develop a regional hub-and-spoke-model of processing
 4. Send recyclables to MRF in another community (Phoenix)
 5. Suspend collection of recyclables
- Longer discussion is needed
 - Staff will return in the fall for a more in-depth discussion





Composting Efforts



City and NAU composting partnership

- September 2019 one-year IGA approved by City Council and NAU
 - Pilot of the collection and processing of City organic waste at NAU's composting operation
 - Officially began in October 2019
 - Explore the collection and processing of organic waste streams in Flagstaff
 - IGA term is one year, with option to renew for one additional year



Flagstaff Sustainability Program



**NORTHERN
ARIZONA
UNIVERSITY**

Office of
Sustainability

NAU NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

NAU & CITY OF FLAGSTAFF | COMPOST BACKGROUND

- NAU has the largest Compost facility in Northern Arizona
- Started in in 2012
- Lead by Howard Coldwell, NAU Heavy Machinery Operator (shown in photo here)



NAU & CITY OF FLAGSTAFF | COMPOST BACKGROUND

- Approx. 300,000lbs of material processed a year
- Prevents 250 metric tons of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere
- Reuse green waste from landscaping and food waste from dining halls.



NAU & CITY OF FLAGSTAFF | COMPOST COLLABORATION

- NAU & COF collaboration
- Official Pilot IGA signed October, 2019
- Pilot period is for 1 year
- City Parks and Recreation grass clippings and pine needles
- Exploring other waste streams;
 - City pre-consumer food waste

NAU & CITY OF FLAGSTAFF | COMPOST COLLABORATION

Impact:

- 699 yards or ~200,000lbs of material diverted from landfill (running total)
- Cost/Savings:
 - NAU
 - COF



NAU & CITY OF FLAGSTAFF | COMPOST COLLABORATION

We would like to keep experimenting with waste streams:

- Pre/post consumer food waste
- Dog food from Purina

Recommend extending Pilot IGA agreement 1 year





Next Steps



- Staff will continue with NAU on the composting pilot
 - Return in September 2020 to renew existing agreement for an additional one-year
- Staff are pursuing grant funding to pilot the collection of new organic waste streams
 - Commercial food scraps
 - Residential yard waste
- Future Council discussion of options for the expiring MRF contract

Discussion and Feedback

