

Dear Clean Valley Recycling Member,

March, 2023

The board of Clean Valley Recycling (CVR) likes to provide a status update for our members each year. 2022 was another successful year with a record amount of materials diverted from the landfill.

CVR provides biweekly residential pickup for just \$7 per month in La Junta, North La Junta, Rocky Ford and Swink. In 2022, the number of residential curbside pickup accounts grew from 403 to 425. In addition, CVR picks up bulk recyclables from commercial accounts on a regular schedule. Our commercial accounts are businesses and institutions from towns around the valley including Fowler, Manzanola, Rocky Ford, Ordway, La Junta, Cheraw, Las Animas and Lamar. In 2022, the number of commercial accounts grew to 98. This growth meant we collected 809 tons of recycled material; a record high. That's about 40 semi loads of recyclables that didn't end up in the landfill!

Trinidad, Colorado has a recycling organization called Future Generation Recycling (FGR). CVR is paid by FGR to haul material they collect to our recycling center in Swink. We then sort, process, and market those materials for recycling. Tribune, Kansas brings CVR semi-trailer loads of sorted recyclables to us throughout the year. We process and ship those recyclables with our own.

The table below summarizes tonnage diverted from the landfill.

Year	Tons diverted	Year	Tons diverted
2014	313 tons	2019	642 tons
2015	393 tons	2020	583 tons
2016	512tons	2021	710 tons
2017	522 tons	2022	809 tons!
2018	595 tons		

Even though our tonnage increased, the amount we get paid for our materials was significantly less this year due to low market prices. This makes the support of members like you very important.

We replaced our worn-out horizontal baler with a new baler. This was a major achievement. We want to thank the members and supporters who helped with its purchase. It has been working well and is busy almost every day, baling the cardboard, plastics, paper, and aluminum materials we sell. Come see it.

Here are the highlights of our marketing and educational activities in 2022:

- We gave seven school tours to students from Manzanola, Rocky Ford, Swink, and Las Animas schools. We love to give tours to educate and inform folks about our recycling programs.
- We held a successful Open House and Talent Show last June. We hope to continue this event this year. Let us know if you have a talent you would like to share!
- We participated in the La Junta Early Settler's Day parade and manned a booth in the park. Our game wheel was a fun addition for folks to play an educational game and enter a drawing for a refurbished laptop.
- We improved our education displays at the Swink recycle center.
- We developed a new and improved website. Check it out at cleanvalleyrecycling.org
- We added a Spanish version of our informational brochure, also available on our website.

Other ongoing Clean Valley Recycling activities:

- Reclaimed Building Materials program. This Reuse program accepts used or surplus building materials and sells them to the public at very reasonable prices. This keeps these items out of the landfill and puts them back into the use stream. We accept cabinets, doors, windows, shelving, paint, and just about any building material which is reusable. We also provide a pick-up service where we will come to your house and pick up your donations. (There may be a small fee depending on the value of your donations). Adjacent to the Reclaimed Building Materials section is a huge library of all types of “rescued” books for all ages, priced at \$1 for hardbacks and 25 cents for soft back books.
- “Adopt a Highway” for Colorado Dept of Transportation. Every four months, CVR members and community volunteers don safety vests and gloves and head out to Hwy 50 to pick up trash. Keeping our communities beautiful is another way that we give back to our community. Give us a call if you or a friend might be interested in helping with this project.
- Agricultural PVC recycling program. This is a great service to our local farmers who have no practical way to dispose of old, broken pipe. Pipe sections need to be cut to four-foot lengths and have gate valves removed. We compact the pipe and ship it to Denver to be recycled.
- Milk Jug Project. This is a project where recyclers who bring us 50 milk jugs are entered in a drawing for \$50. After collecting a ton of milk jugs from the entrants, a winner is drawn. Last year, we gave \$50 to three winners in the Milk Jug Project drawings. Inquire to participate.

All of this keeps us busy collecting, sorting, and baling! We are proud of our great staff – 5.5 full-time equivalent employees and many great volunteers!

We encourage you to make a formal commitment to CVR by signing the enclosed Membership Form and becoming a member. When you become a member, we are encouraged by your support, and your membership allows you to vote in the election of board members at our annual meeting. Please look over the different levels of membership and choose a commitment level which works for you and your family. Clean Valley Recycling is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, charitable organization and all donations are tax-exempt. We have several board vacancies. Contact Dee for details if you are interested in serving.

You are invited to our annual meeting, March 15 at 6:00 pm at the Baggage Room at the Rocky Ford Depot. Food and drink will be provided. Please RSVP at 719 468-0254 or email us at cleanvalleyrecycling@gmail.com

Thank you for your support,
Clean Valley Recycling Board of Directors

Clean Valley Recycling. PO Box 1053, La Junta, CO 81050. 719-468-0254
cleanvalleyrecycling@gmail.com cleanvalleyrecycling.org