

TOWN OF ERIE LANDFILL TASK FORCE
PROCESS UPDATE
JAN. 9, 2024

Background: There are two landfill sites in Erie south of Weld County Road 6 on the east and west side of Weld County Road 5. The one on the west side, Denver Regional Landfill (DRL), was closed at the end of 2021, the active landfill on the east side is Front Range Landfill (FRL). Waste Connections (WC) is the operator of both landfills and desires to expand FRL and extend the operational duration, as well as working through several other operational changes.

The landfill, the Town, and the Erie community are working together to create long-term community benefits such as recreational trails, expanding the renewable energy plant, developing a solar farm, and/or introducing pollinator species and establishing an Apiary.

Potential Landfill Initiatives:

- Establish a new primary customer access to the FRL on the NE portion of the site from WCR 6.
- Identify and implement preferred routes to the FRL that minimize transportation impacts to existing and future residents in the surrounding neighborhoods and implement means to deter customers from using alternate routes.
- Continue to set aside Landfill Fees for road and other improvements in the local area.
- Land exchange between the Town and WC to facilitate a truck maintenance and parking yard at the northeast corner of the Property.
- Annex into the Town of Erie property in Weld County located southeast of the current landfill property.
- Remove the existing water tanks to expand the landfill footprint by as much as 36-acres and construct new Town water tanks and distribution infrastructure on the annexed property.
- Realign and fill a small portion of the western slope of FRL.
- Revise the phasing of landfill development to minimize visual impacts to adjacent property owners and facilitate accelerated final capping on portions of the landfill.
- Explore converting portions of FRL and the DRL for public uses including recreational trails and one or more of the following sustainability initiatives:
 - Expanding the existing renewable energy plant at FRL and maximizing its utility.
 - Developing portions of DRL and FRL land for solar.
 - Introducing additional pollinator species on DRL (and FRL) and establishing an Apiary (already in process).
 - Establishing a building construction materials separation facility on site.
 - Establishing a local (Erie residents and businesses only) composting facility.
 - Considering forming a 501(c)(3) committee or similar entity funded in part by FRL to advance sustainability initiatives in the Town of Erie.
 - Other actions or amenities that could build support for the overall package.

Task Force:

- Four members representing neighborhoods immediately adjacent to the landfill (including one from the Ranch Eggs neighborhood). Three members representing the community at large.
- Membership criteria include:
 - Tour the Front Range Landfill prior to the first Task Force meeting.
 - Ability to participate in Task Force meetings until the Task Force makes a recommendation.

- Effectively solicit and communicate feedback from their respective communities.
- Ideally have related expertise relevant to the Task Force's scope of work.

Next Steps: The Town hired a consultant, Kearns & West, to help establish and facilitate a Landfill Task Force that would gather community input and guidance in service of a successful outcome for this process. This is a 6–9-month process. Between now and July 2024, Kearns & West will:

- Facilitate the selection of a seven-member Landfill Task Force for the Front Range Landfill to be appointed by the Town of Erie Town Council.
- Develop a procedure for engagement, reach out to the various stakeholder groups, create a methodology for the Town Council to use in evaluating each potential member and collect and provide the information from each potential member for the Town Council to review.
- Advise the Town on the time frame to complete the Task Force's work, including providing a proposed GANTT chart with milestones for key components for the implementation of the facilitation.
- Facilitate the Landfill Task Force by scheduling monthly meetings, primarily in-person with a virtual option and organize the recording of the meeting. Meetings may be held in various locations, including the Vista Ridge Community Center, FRL conference room, and Town of Erie meeting halls.
- Prepare meeting agendas and meeting minutes.
- Prepare a report with the findings and recommendations of the Landfill Task Force.

Timeline:

- **December:** Town and Kearns & West develop and finalize Task Force application, develop Task Force process and protocols, update Council and Town administration as needed.
- **Jan. 3 – 17:** Landfill Task Force applications open.
- **Jan. 22 – 24:** Kearns & West triages and organizes applications, makes recommendations for top 18-20 applications (number may vary).
- **Jan. 25 – 26:** Town staff review applications, remove or ask necessary questions. Finalize recommendation agenda item and resolution to appoint Task Force members.
- **Feb. 13:** Town Council meeting and resolution to appoint Task Force Members.
- **Feb. 14-16:** Notify selected task force members, share invitation to landfill site visit and schedule kick-off meeting.
- **Feb. 19 – 23:** Task Force Meeting #1 and Landfill Site Visit, schedule Task Force Meeting #2.
- **March 11 – 15:** Task Force Meeting #2, schedule Task Force Meeting #3.
- **April 8 – 12:** Task Force Meeting #3, schedule Task Force Meeting #4.
- **May 6 – 10:** Task Force Meeting #4, schedule Task Force Meeting #5.
- **June 3 – 7:** Task Force Meeting #5, schedule Task Force Meeting #6.
- **July 12 – 16:** Task Force Meeting #6, draft final findings and recommendations.
- **July 26:** Final recommendations submitted to Town Council.