Recycling During COVID
State of Recycling in COVID Times

- Nationwide: 15-25% increase in residential
- General decline in commercial recycling & waste
- Locally: increase in recycling contamination
  - Home renovations, clean-ups
Remember...

**Zero Waste Hierarchy**

- **Best use**
  - Reduce and conserve materials
    - Refuse - Return - Reduce toxics
    - Design out waste - Reduce consumption and packaging
  - Encourage cyclical use of resources and shift incentives to stop wasting
  - Manufactures design products for sustainability and take-back
  - Reuse
    - Retain value & function
  - Recycle
    - Inorganics / Organics
  - Regulate disposal

- **Worst use**
Shelf-Stable Items

- Cans (drinks, soup, beans, tuna...)
- Cartons (milk, juice, soup, coconut water...)
- Pasta boxes
- Jars (pasta sauce...)
  - Lids separately, please!
- Bags for pasta, etc.
- Wrappers (bars, packaging)
- Bread bags
  - HTR
- Pouches (rice, granola)
- Oatmeal/coffee canisters
Frozen Food Packages

- Ice cream cartons
- Frozen food boxes
- Frozen treat wrapper
- Frozen berry/vegetable bag
  - Stretchy: HTR
To-Go Containers

- Hard plastic takeout containers
- Hard plastic clamshells
- Cardboard pizza boxes
  - Not soiled
- Paper bags
- Aluminum

- Styrofoam containers
- Condiment cups
- Plastic cutlery
- Plastic to-go bags
- Plastic-coated paper
- Plastic cups
- Straws
PPE: No thank you!
Yes, if it's a paper product *not* lined with plastic.

Many foodservice paper products are lined with petroleum-based plastics that contaminate our soils when composted.

- These paper products are free of plastic and can be safely composted.
  - Bagasse
  - Paper only, no plastic coating
  - Greasy pizza boxes
  - Wax paper & wax paper cups (wax will scrape off with your fingernail)

- These paper products are plastic-coated and go in the TRASH.
  - Plastic-lined butcher or deli paper
  - Cardboard cartons
  - Plastic-lined dishes

Yes, if it's a *certified* compostable "plastic."

If it looks like it contains plastic, it must be a certified "bio-plastic" to be safe for soils.

- Products that appear to contain plastic must be certified compostable by BPI.
  
- These labels DO NOT mean compostable.
  
These labels also mean certified compostable:

- ASTM D6400
- ASTM D6868
- PLA
- Made from plants
- Made from plant starch
- Biodegradable
- Oxo-degradable
- Bio
- Eco-friendly
- Earth-friendly
- Made with recycled content
Other resources

- **Hard-to-Recycle Materials**
  - Eco-Cycle CHaRM (Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials) at 6400 Arapahoe, Boulder
  - Longmont Waste Diversion Center at 140 Martin St, Longmont

- **Eco-Cycle A-Z App**
  - Download it anywhere you get apps!
  - Or call us at 303-444-6634 or email [rosie@ecocycle.org](mailto:rosie@ecocycle.org) with any Zero Waste questions