

SOLUTIONS

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# State of Recycling in Colorado Nov 2019

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**Alicia Archibald**

A<sup>2</sup> Solutions, LLC

[alicia.archibald@gmail.com](mailto:alicia.archibald@gmail.com)

Why  
Recycle?

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“recycling is the #1  
action that humans can  
take to improve our  
existence on this Planet”

--Mitch Hedlund

Recycle Across America

## Agenda

Why do we have waste

What is recyclable

Process for collection

Economic Impacts

Contamination Issues

Current State Conditions

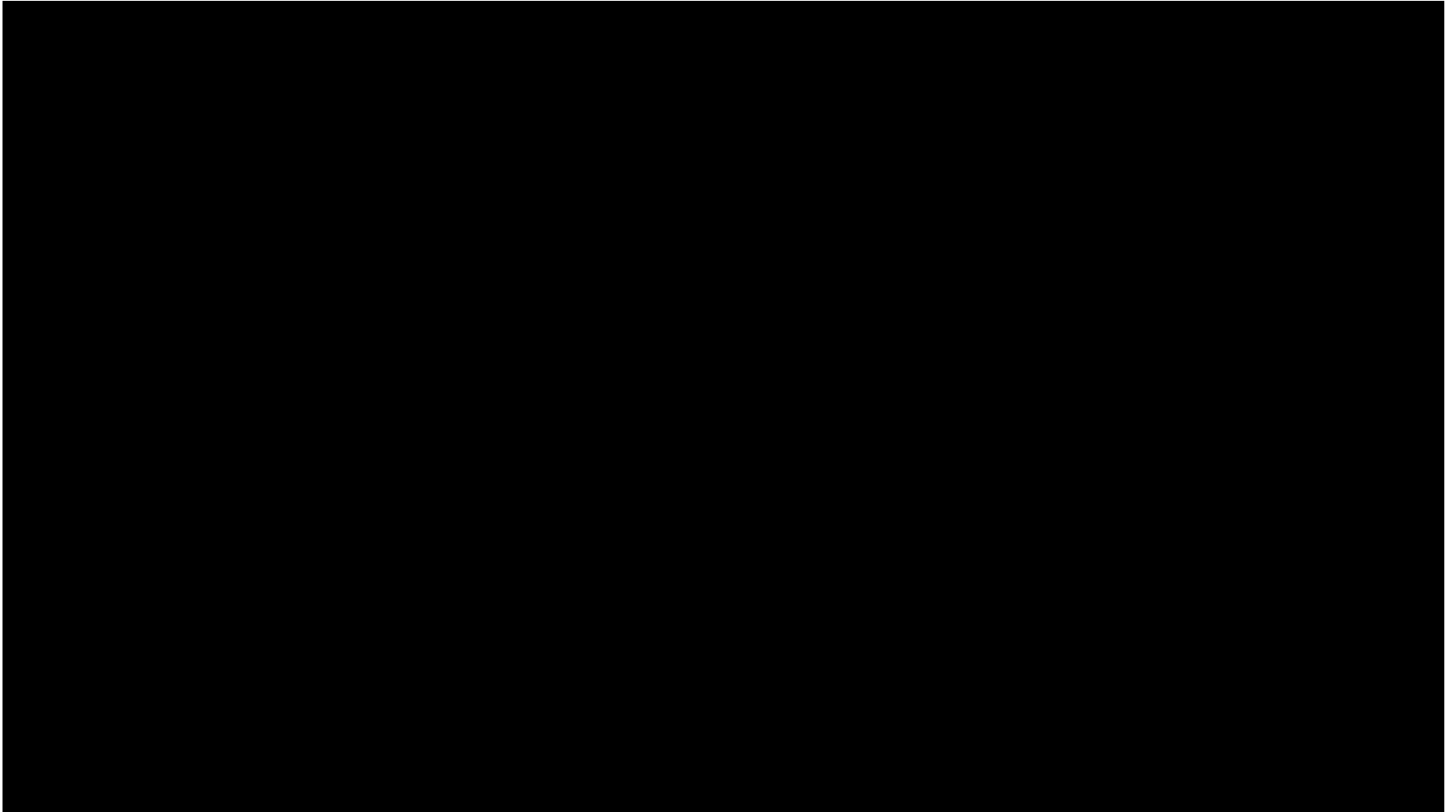
Obstacles

Opportunities

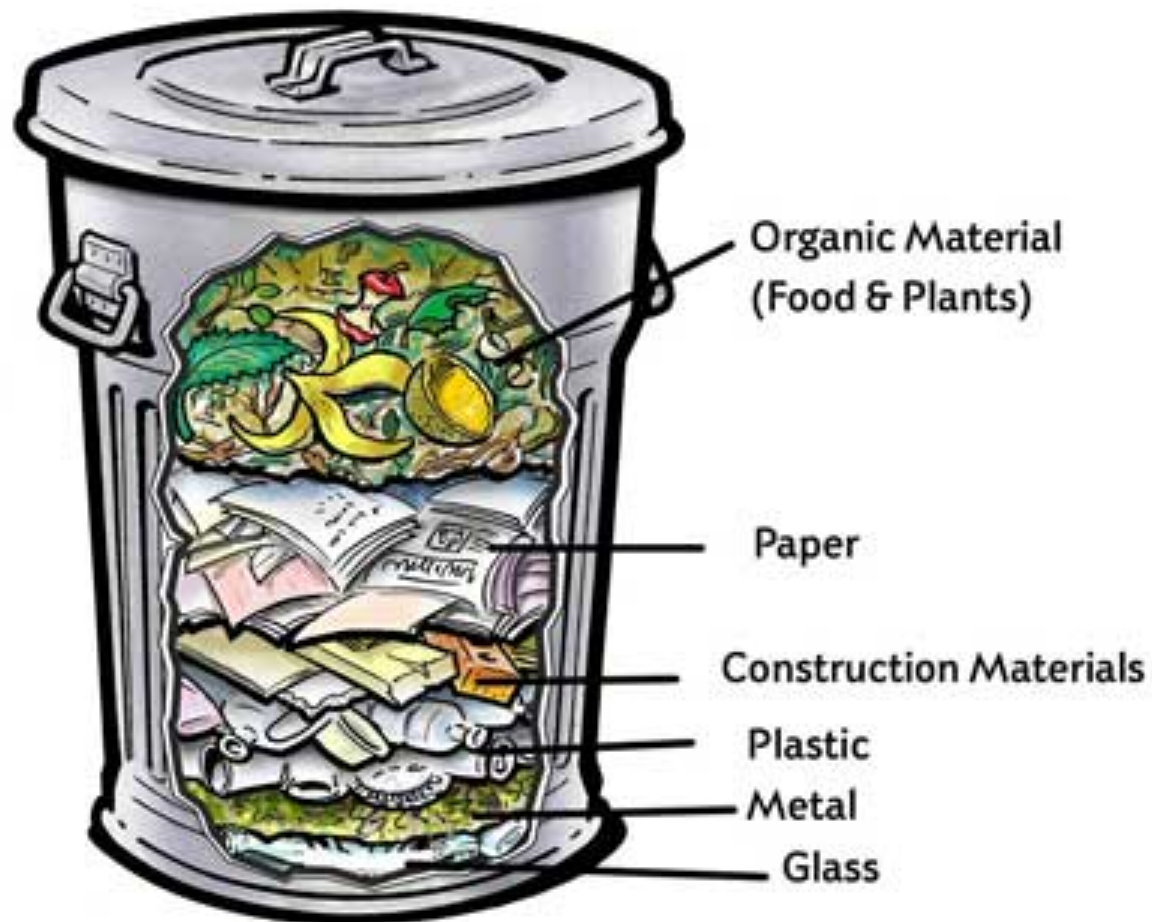
Education

# What is Waste?

Video by CC students



# What is in our waste?



# Single Stream Recycling



## Single-Stream Recycling



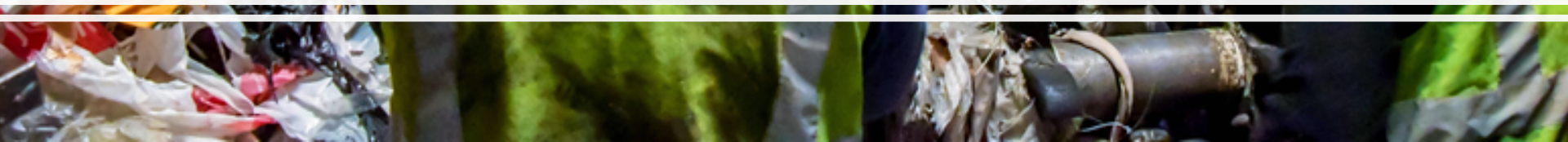


**NOT Single Stream Recycling**





Bags in Screen





# Economic Impacts of MRF



More jobs – 1-10 ratio to landfill – and higher paying



Commodity Sales



Multiplier effect (money gets spent in local community – rent, groceries, etc.)

# Confusion = Contamination

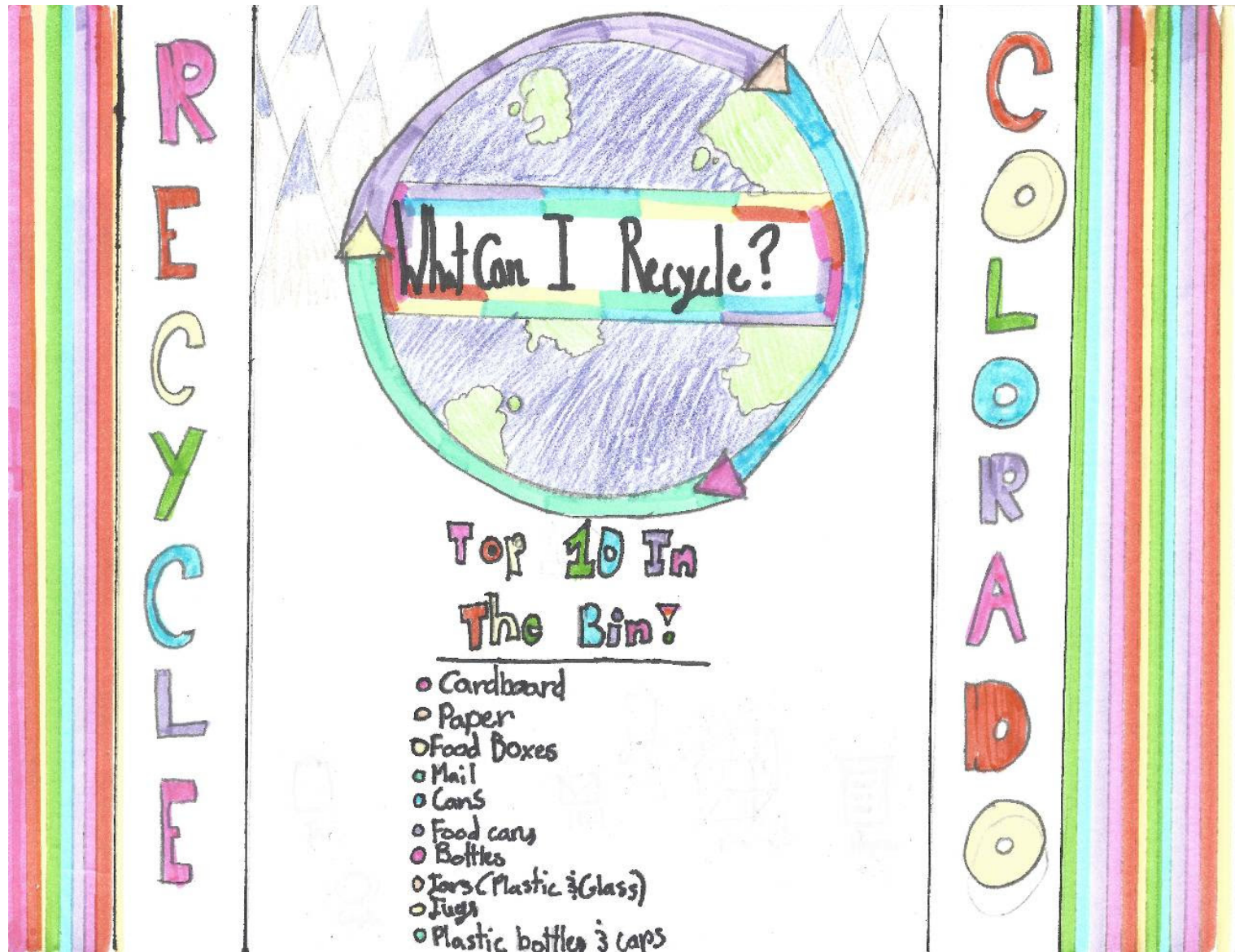


# Standardized Labels

colors, images, verbiage



# Top Ten In The Bin - Artwork by Sydney Biagiotti





# Current Conditions in Colorado

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Latest Legislation – SB19-192 Front Range Waste Diversion Enterprise Grant

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Cost - Investment – needed to clean up contamination in recycling, and provide curbside collection

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End Market Development – Zero Waste and Recycling Interim Study Committee – Comprised of State Legislators

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Landfill bans –

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/prohibited-landfill-disposal>

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Recycle Colorado Network [www.recyclecolorado.org](http://www.recyclecolorado.org)

# Obstacles

- Transient communities – high tourism
- Freedom of choice – every community is different - Eco-Cycle and COPIRG State of Colorado Recycling Report  
[http://ecocycle.org/files/pdfs/Campaigns/zero-waste-colorado/2019\\_State\\_of\\_Recycling\\_in\\_Colorado\\_Eco-Cycle\\_CoPIRG\\_web.pdf](http://ecocycle.org/files/pdfs/Campaigns/zero-waste-colorado/2019_State_of_Recycling_in_Colorado_Eco-Cycle_CoPIRG_web.pdf)
- Public perception
  - “doing the right thing should be free”
  - “since China isn’t buying, it isn’t getting recycled – why do it?”
- Lack of ownership – personal responsibility
- Commodity Values – domestic markets??
- Logistics – transporting commodities

# Opportunities

- Standardized labels on bins and carts
  - <https://www.recycleacrossamerica.org/>
- Purchase gently used [www.recirclecolorado.com](http://www.recirclecolorado.com)
- Reduce consumption - purchase recycled content/buy bulk [www.consciouslivingshop.com](http://www.consciouslivingshop.com)
- Automation – what's coming?  
<https://www.amrobotics.com/>
- Be a member of Recycle Colorado!!!
- Get Involved locally – BYOC Movement, Environment Colorado, Sierra Club, Soil Cycle, CM Zoo Conservation Programs, local policy development

# Education - Sustainable Shopping





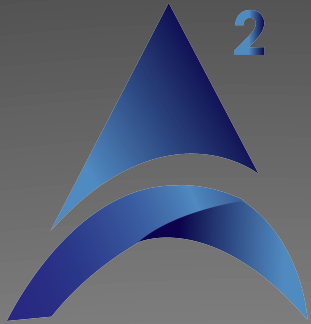
# UpCycle before you ReCycle!



# Consumption - The story of the Lorax



**“Unless someone  
like you cares a  
whole awful lot,  
Nothing is going  
to get better. It's  
not.”**



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**Alicia Archibald**

(719) 322-6279

[alicia.archibald@gmail.com](mailto:alicia.archibald@gmail.com)

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A<sup>2</sup> Solutions, LLC

Creating solutions for people  
and the planet