



2024: A Year in Review

2024 was our first year under the direction of our Director of Operations, Tim Oliver. This represented a significant transition for us. Upon joining the team in January, Tim had to quickly become familiar with our operations and procedures. He also had to come to understand the vision and priorities of our ownership. Once he got his bearings, Tim began to look for opportunities to improve our operations, incorporating some of the best practices he had picked up over the course of his 26 years in the industry. The result was a year in which many of our existing practices were modified. Over the course of the year, we made several significant changes to our downstream network, we revamped our hauling fees, developed a new stormwater management plan, changed many of our safety programs, and restructured how we approach employee compensation.

“A pessimist is somebody who complains about the noise when opportunity knocks.”

-Oscar Wilde



2024 Highlights

- ❖ Named the 2024 Social Impact Business of the Year by the Better Business Bureau!
- ❖ Published a new Stormwater Management Plan.
- ❖ We hosted 25 facility tours for school groups, civic clubs, customers, and other stakeholders.

Environmental Impact

Recycled Material

- Recycled 44,472,917 lbs. of ferrous metal
- Recycled 5,352,786 lbs. of nonferrous metal
- Recycled 254,186 lbs. of batteries
- Recycled 709,580 lbs. of cardboard
- Recycled 82,720 lbs. of glass
- Recycled 492,140 lbs. of wood
- Recycled 33,090 gal. of used automotive fluids
- Recycled 260 lbs. of refrigerant gas
- Recycled 307,060 lbs. of tires
- Recycled 40,000 gallons of water

Utility Usage

- Reduced Electricity usage per ton collected by 11.5%
- Reduced natural gas usage per ton collected by 24.5%
- Reduced water usage per ton collected by 20.3%
- Reduced fuel usage per ton collected by 6.8%
- Propane usage per ton collected increased by 115%

Mining of virgin materials is a very carbon intensive activity. Consequently, recycling has a very substantial impact on greenhouse gas emissions. The material recycled by Colorado Industrial Recycling in 2024 resulted in avoidance of 35,022.88 metric tons of CO₂e emissions. It is the equivalent of removing 8,411 cars from the road!



Operational Highlights

Operational Statistics

- Semi trucks travelled 95,471 miles
- Roll-off and hook trucks travelled 136,231 miles

Maintenance and Weld Shop

- We invested in a new fleet of forklifts
- We refurbished and sold a number of vehicles, pieces of heavy mobile equipment, and other structural items
- We refurbished over 360 roll-off containers

Employment

- 27.5% of our current staff have barriers to employment
- We saw a 21% decrease in preventable incidents.
- Qualified ten new forklift operators
- Qualified four new skid steer operators
- Qualified two new wheel loader operators
- Qualified two new mini excavator operators
- Qualified two new large excavator operators

Community Involvement

- We were named the Social Impact Business of the Year by the Better Business Bureau, the most prestigious recognition for social enterprises in the Pikes Peak area!
- We provided twenty-five facility tours for school groups, civic clubs, customer groups, and other interested stakeholders.
- We provided mentorship to a fellow Colorado Green Business Network company on initiating an employee driven sustainability program.



Upcoming Goals and Projects

Find a beneficial use for our granulated wire jacketing

- Up to this point, we have not found an avenue to recycle the insulation and jacketing coming from the wire recycled through our Wire Processing Plant. The insulation and jacketing found in most types of wire is very heterogeneous; it consists of a hodge podge of different plastics, rubber, paper, and other low-grade materials. There has not historically been a market for this low-grade material. That said, there are some companies that have been experimenting with using this product to produce different types of building aggregates. We will investigate these emerging solutions to find a viable and safe outlet for this hard-to-recycle material.

Timeline: Early 2026

Revamp our stormwater swale system

- When we bought our north yard, we installed a swale system to capture and filter our stormwater. Unfortunately, this system lacks the capacity to handle some of the larger storm events. We will be overhauling the swale system to substantially increase its capacity to capture stormwater. This project will involve expanding the catchment areas within the system, installing three retention tanks, and adding a rock base to help capture suspended solids in the water. The new system should substantially reduce the likelihood that stormwater will leave our facility. **Timeline: May 2025**

Establish an employee conservation program

- Sustainability requires that we all become more mindful of how our day-to-day routines impact the environment. To help our team to start cultivating good habits, we will be establishing an employee-driven conservation program. We hope to create a fun and engaging competition that will reward staff for finding ways to reduce their personal impacts. **Timeline: 2026**

Partner with local schools to hold community recycling events

- We have always found kids and young adults to be some of the most fervent advocates for recycling. We want to help this younger generation channel this passion into action. Our goal is to partner with schools and youth groups in the Pikes Peak area to hold community recycling events. These events will be a fun avenue to educate kids about recycling, while also providing a service to the community. **Timeline: Fall 2025**

Establish an Innovation Contest

- We recognize that the best organizations are built from the bottom up. It is often those at the ground level that have the most insight into how an operation is flowing. This perspective can help us find new and better ways to do things. We have a talented team and want to empower everyone to think outside the box and explore new ways to make our operations better. To encourage people to come forward with their ideas, we plan to establish an annual cash prize award for the employee that comes up with the most innovative and impactful project. **Timeline: 2026**

Develop a Recycling Referral Program

- Recycling requires education. It can be difficult for people in the Pikes Peak area to find recycling providers. Moreover, not all recyclers in our community maintain the environmental and ethical standards our community deserves. While we can be a responsible solution for customers looking to recycle scrap vehicles and metal, we do not have the capacity to recycle many other types of recyclables. When we cannot support a customer directly, we would like to be able to point them in the right direction. With this in mind, we would like to develop a list of vetted vendors we feel confident can help. **Timeline: End of 2025**