

## **A New Face and a Facelift at the Recycling Center**

"South of the tracks" conjures up less than positive connotations for most people. But here in the southwest corner of Broomfield, just south of the railroad tracks, you'll find an active recycling community buzzing around the Eco-Cycle/Broomfield Recycling Center. Have you been over yet? Stop by and meet Broomfield citizens who are "in the know," recycling everything from aluminum cans to phone books. I've been proud to work with these folks and help foster this caring community.

If it's been a while since you've been by, a much improved facility awaits your next visit. Last summer the Public Works Department laid down a fresh layer of asphalt, so you can now cruise right up to the bins to deposit your recyclables. They also rebuilt a snazzy little shed for our book, fabric and shoe recycling collection bins on the west side of the center. While you're here, come inside to say hi and check out the Education Center, which recently got a facelift including new carpet that was salvaged from the Mamie Doud Eisenhower Public Library renovation project. In other words, we're new, improved, and here to serve you.

It's great working in a community that not only supports recycling, but that also wants to actively participate! In the last half of 2005, Broomfield Eco-Cycle volunteers staffed a booth at Broomfield Days and local businesses sponsored recycling activities in addition to donating funds and products towards workshops and special collections. The Pumpkin Smash really was a smash event -- 200 people visited in a single day, and Broomfield residents composted 640 cubic yards of leaves and pumpkins in only a month's time! In December the Cub Scouts came out to help patrons unload recyclables and had a special opportunity to meet the Eco-Elf, who held a workshop giving tips for a low-waste holiday season.

Speaking of active participation, Broomfield residents recycled over 3.5 million pounds of valuable resources at the Center in 2005, up from the 3.1 million pounds from 2004 and up, up, up from the 384,000 pounds recycled in 1998, during the Eco-Cycle/Broomfield Recycling Center's first year of operation!

What will happen in 2006? You can help shape the outcome more than you imagine just by getting more involved in your community. Eco-Cycle will be hosting monthly community workshops at the Education Center. We'll have a natural skin care workshop on February 11th, an Eco-Cycle volunteer training March 15th, a plant-cuttings exchange with help from the Master Gardeners on April 8th, along with our annual Hard-to-Recycle Round-up on April 29th. If you haven't been by this year, grab your recyclables and head south of the railroad tracks to 225 Commerce St. Stop in to say hi, get involved and grab an upcoming events flyer. You can always call 303-404-2839 or visit [www.ecocycle.org](http://www.ecocycle.org) to keep up to date on activities of the Broomfield Recycling Center.

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