

Earth Day – Not Just for Tree Huggers

April 22nd marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement which officially started in 1970 when 20 million Americans united from coast to coast to rally against the deterioration of our environment. Today, Earth Day is celebrated simultaneously around the world by people of all backgrounds and faiths participating in local activities to promote a cleaner and healthier environment.

Over the past year, Broomfield has stepped up its environmental commitment in response to Council's goals to "create a green Broomfield." One of the new green actions was the installation of recycling collection containers for aluminum cans, plastic and glass bottles in most public parks, shelters and ball fields, as well as inside city buildings, to increase public recycling. Planners for Broomfield Days also stepped up efforts to introduce Zero Waste Zones at the one-day event. Recyclable and compostable materials were used and collected, greatly reducing the amount of trash at the event. This year, Council left this "green" goal on its list of ongoing priorities and plans are already in motion to make the entire Broomfield Days a Zero Waste event.

More immediately, there will be many ways to get involved with and to celebrate Earth Day. Here are just a few of the events you can participate in:

On April 12th, Eco-Cycle is holding its annual Hard-to-Recycle Round Up at the Broomfield Recycling Center from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is your annual opportunity to recycle electronics, plastic bags, #6 block foam, books, porcelain toilets and other materials typically accepted only in Boulder. For a full list of materials that will be accepted and prices, go to <http://www.ecocycle.org/charm/roundups.cfm>.

On April 19th, Eco-Cycle and Volunteer Connection are partnering together to celebrate I Volunteer Day with a cleanup of the Broomfield Recycling Center and surrounding areas from 8 a.m. to noon. To join these efforts, go to www.volunteerconnection.net. After volunteering for a few hours with your kids, head over to the city of Broomfield's Earth Day program Just For Kids at the Broomfield Community Center from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Attendance is limited for the crafts and activities, so be sure to call 303-438-6329 for registration.

On April 20th, the Green Apple Festival is coming to Denver's City Park at 2404 E. Colfax Ave. This is your chance to take part in one of eight simultaneous events happening at landmark parks across the country in celebration of Earth Day! Starting at noon, there will be free live music, guest speakers and lots of educational activities and art displays. For more information, check out www.greenapplemusicfestival.com.

On Earth Day itself, April 22nd, Eco-Cycle will be honoring the many volunteers, schools, local governments, community event planners and businesses working with us toward Zero Waste at our Zero Waste Community & Business Awards Luncheon. Award nominees from Broomfield include businesses Gaiam and White Wave and volunteer Sallie Bolich. Join us at 10:30 a.m. at the St. Julien Hotel & Spa in Boulder for a tour of

the hotel's Zero Waste operations, followed by guest speakers, lunch and the awards presentation. For details on tickets and more information, go to www.ecocycle.org.

Extending efforts into May, the city of Broomfield will host its spring Household Hazardous Waste collection on May 17th. The event is free for residents but you need to make an appointment by calling 303-438-6336. For a detailed list of materials accepted, go to <http://www.bouldercounty.org/recycling/hhw/hhwhome.htm>.

After attending just one or some of these diverse activities, you'll catch the eco-spirit and Earth Day will be a reminder to all of us to work together to protect our planet every day.

Genevieve George is Eco-Cycle's Broomfield Outreach Coordinator. To learn more about recycling or the Eco-Cycle/Broomfield Recycling Center, call (303)404-2839 or email genevieve@ecocycle.org