

## A Greener Broomfield

While my father always told me not to look back but instead to blaze forward, I can't help but take a few minutes to recap the many successes and the many people brought together at the Broomfield Recycling Center (managed by Eco-Cycle) during 2007.

Broomfielders recycled literally millions of pounds of commingled containers and mixed paper and cardboard in 2007. All in all, Broomfielders kept 3,245,820 pounds of valuable resources in productive use and out of the landfill, a 4% increase over 2006 levels. And these efforts paid off in real terms: recycling efforts in Broomfield saved 9,102,520 gallons of water, 6,558,208 kilowatt hours of energy, 22,106 trees, 17,455 cubic yards of landfill space, and prevented 80,381 pounds of air pollutants! In terms of greenhouse gas emissions, we saved the equivalent of removing 1,170 cars from the road for an entire year—way to go, Broomfield!

But what happens here at the recycling center is more than just collecting materials—we're building a community around a common vision of environmental stewardship. The Scout Second Saturday Service Project brought out 74 Girl, Boy and Cub Scouts who volunteered a collective total of 308 hours of their time helping recyclers unload their materials in the proper recycling bins. Wind, snow and blazing sun did not deter these dedicated scouts! Keep your eyes open for them every second Saturday of the month throughout 2008.

The 10th Annual Pumpkin Smash brought out an estimated 250 participants in just two hours to smash pumpkins and make new friends over apple cider and pumpkin pie. Over six weeks this fall, residents delivered 1240 cubic yards of leaves and pumpkins for composting. These materials were turned into valuable soil amendments on local farms, rather than ending up rotting in the landfill, and these efforts prevented 23,808 cubic feet of methane, a powerful greenhouse gas emitted by materials degrading in the landfill!

Eco-Cycle's seventh annual Hard-to-Recycle Roundup exceeded expectations with 300 cars and even a handful of bicycles participating. Residents recycled 20,000 pounds of electronics, 18 cubic yards of #6 white block foam, 350 pounds of plastic bags, 20 pounds of big durable #2 plastic, and 70 pounds of scrap metal. Mark your calendars for this year's roundup on Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and find more information online at [www.ecocycle.org/charm/roundups.cfm](http://www.ecocycle.org/charm/roundups.cfm).

This year's Broomfield Days gave residents a taste of the next evolution in recycling with Zero Waste Zones. Due to the hard work of the Lions Club and the planners of Broomfield Days, the Lions Club Zero Waste Pancake Breakfast recycled and composted 94% of their waste! The Broomfield Days event had designated Zero Waste Zones where 59% of the event material was captured and recycled or composted. These events demonstrate waste is just a result of poor planning and purchasing, and with a few simple steps, can be all but eliminated. We're looking forward to seeing more Zero Waste Zones this year.

15 volunteers joined our Eco-Leader volunteer network to advocate for recycling and Zero Waste efforts and education in Broomfield. Volunteers help deliver newsletters, answer questions at festival booths, assist with setting up and running Zero Waste events, reach out to their City Council representatives about Zero Waste, or help out in their own unique capacity and availability. Sound up your alley? To get started, attend a volunteer training—our next Eco-Leader training is right around the corner! Join us on January 16th from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Broomfield Recycling Center and become one of Eco-Cycle's 800 and growing volunteer network.

Looking to 2008 and the coming years, we've got a lot of work and greener trails to blaze, but glancing back has definitely fueled my excitement to jump right back into action. Hope to see you out there!

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