

## News and Updates from the Recycling Center

The Xeriscape garden in front of the Broomfield Recycling Center was recently pruned and preened—thanks to a handful of Eco-Cycle volunteers—in preparation for a busy summer of events and workshops. There is an impressive new assortment of Xeriscape grasses and plants and even a few budding flowers. I hope you will stop by the center over the next few months to check out the garden, learn something new, meet fellow community members and participate in the growing number of environmental opportunities in the Broomfield community. Please note: All of the following workshops are free of charge and will take place at the Broomfield Recycling Center (except Broomfield Days). Please R.S.V.P. to 303-404-2839 to reserve your spot. Attendance is limited.

Roll up your sleeves and become a part of Eco-Cycle's 800-plus Eco-Leader volunteer network! Join us on June 12<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. for a volunteer training where you will learn all about Eco-Cycle's history, the specifics of our Zero Waste mission and walk away a recycling expert!

Did you know that a variety of materials (food, yard waste, soiled tissues/napkins, etc.) can be composted at home? Composting is simple to do and prevents the production of methane and leachate in landfills. Methane is now understood to be 72 times more potent than carbon dioxide over a 20-year period, which means our landfills are emitting greenhouse gases equivalent to 20 percent of U.S. coal-fired power plants every year. Interested in learning how to reduce your greenhouse emission in your own home? Boulder Compost will explain how to get started and how to produce a valuable soil amendment for your plants and garden on June 19<sup>th</sup> from noon – 1:30 p.m.

As the sun shines bright throughout the summer, why not harness this invaluable source of energy to power your home or office? Solar photovoltaic (PV) systems provide renewable energy and do not lead to any harmful emissions during operation. Real Goods Solar will present "The Solar Investment" on July 29<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. We'll learn about the components of a solar electric system and local Xcel rebates and federal tax credits. We'll also discuss the costs and investment value of a PV system currently installed in the metro Denver area.

In August, we'll delve deeper into Zero Waste with the workshop "Electronics in a Zero Waste World" on the 18<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Zero Waste is an alternative way of looking at our waste stream, where discards are seen as valuable resources and toxic substances are eliminated or handled properly. Electronics contain lead and a host of other toxic substances such as cadmium, mercury and arsenic which could contaminate groundwater when thrown in a landfill. In this workshop, we'll discuss how 80 percent of the world's electronic and computer waste collected for recycling is actually exported to underdeveloped countries where they are disposed of improperly. We'll also discuss how you can ensure your electronic waste is being recycled responsibly and about our local efforts to institute a Zero Waste system for electronics that also includes manufacturers taking responsibility for their products

Attend a Zero Waste event this summer right in your own backyard! Broomfield Days marks its first year as a full-fledged Zero Waste event, starting with the Lions Club pancake breakfast and ending with Nacho Men's performance on the Main Stage. Eco-Cycle is working with the event planners, city staff, volunteers and vendors to ensure all materials at the event will be composted and recycled. Look for Zero Waste Stations placed throughout the event and say hello to our volunteers. Have a few hours to help out this September 20<sup>th</sup>? Call 303-404-2839 for available shifts and volunteer opportunities.

We've planned a great summer with lots of opportunities to get involved in our growing Zero Waste community. This will be my last column as Eco-Cycle's Community Outreach Coordinator for the Broomfield Recycling Center as I will be moving on to a new venture. Thank you for the strong community support over the last three years. It feels good to have made an impact and inspired you to get involved, to make conscientious changes and have you join in on the Zero Waste crusade!

*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 [recycle@ecocycle.org](mailto:recycle@ecocycle.org)*