



Working to Build Zero Waste Communities

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHaRM Now Accepting Bicycles and Bike Parts

Every year in celebration of Earth Month, the Eco-Cycle/City of Boulder Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials (better known as the CHaRM) adds yet another material to the list of unusual items accepted at the facility. When the program began in 2001, we started with electronics, and since then we've added materials like #2 and #4 plastic bags, textiles, books and manuals, white block foam...the list goes on...and this year it goes on to include bicycles and bike parts.

Thanks to a new partnership between Eco-Cycle and Community Cycles, there is now a convenient location to recycle your old bikes and parts for those in need of basic, earth-friendly transportation in our community. The CHaRM now accepts bicycles and bicycle parts in any condition. Bike parts are defined as any part that is integral to the bike such as seats, pedals, handlebars and wheels. Metal cargo racks and metal baskets are also accepted. Other bike accessories or sporting goods are not included in this program. If you have worn-out bike tires and/or bike tubes, the CHaRM accepts those separately, and there is a charge of 50 cents for each tire. (Beginning May 1, 2009, CHaRM will charge a vehicle fee, \$3 per visit or 5 visits for \$10, to all customers—except those on bike.)

Community Cycles will sort through all bikes and parts collected at the CHaRM. Most of the bikes and parts they can use will support the Earn-A-Bike program, where by volunteering 15 hours of service, anyone can put together their very own bike. Some bikes will be introduced

into bike fleets around town, while others will be donated to low-income families. Community Cycles occasionally sends bikes abroad to countries like Ghana and Namibia. Other bikes are refurbished, set up commuter-style with accessories like cargo racks and bells, and sold at fair market value. Refurbished bike sales make up 65% of Community Cycles' annual income. Items they cannot use will be recycled as scrap metal.

NOTE: Bicycles and bicycle parts are accepted ONLY through the CHaRM. These and other scrap metal items are NOT recyclable through any curbside program and are a major contaminant in a curbside recycling bin.

Boulder-based Community Cycles, founded in 2006 by bicycle enthusiasts, is a non-profit organization whose mission is to educate and advocate for the safe use of bicycles as an affordable, viable and sustainable means of transportation and personal enjoyment in our community. They provide refurbished bikes and a welcoming space to learn about bicycle repair, maintenance and operation through a variety of programs. The organization also offers regular bike maintenance classes, grants members access to their shop, tools, parts and expertise, and works with many other organizations to further bicycle advocacy. Learn more at www.communitycycles.org.

Eco-Cycle is a non-profit organization founded in 1976. Thirty-two years ago, Eco-Cycle made Boulder one of the first communities in the nation to implement curbside recycling. Now, Eco-Cycle has broadened its efforts—both locally and internationally—to pioneer the next revolution in resource conservation: Zero Waste. To learn more about Eco-Cycle, visit www.ecocycle.org or call 303-444-6634.

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