



**Media Contacts:** Cyndra Dietz  
School Recycling Program and Environmental Education Manager  
303-444-6634 x 122

Michele Melio  
Green Star Schools Coordinator  
303-444-6634 x 118

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### PHOTO OP BELOW

### **Boulder Valley Schools Celebrate Five Years' in Eco-Cycle's First-in-the-Nation Zero Waste Schools Program**

Boulder, CO (Oct. 12) — Students and staff at four Boulder Valley schools have reached new heights in environmental protection by completing their fifth year in Eco-Cycle's Green Star Schools program. To celebrate this and their help in launching the first-in-the-nation program five years ago, Eco-Cycle is having week-long Zero Waste festivities at the schools starting Monday, Oct. 15, including an arts and crafts activity where students will make reusable napkins from cloth scraps. (SEE PHOTO OP BELOW)

Mesa Elementary, Bear Creek Elementary, Creekside Elementary and Foothill Elementary will kick off the week with an award presentation by Boulder Valley School District's Superintendent Dr. Bruce Messinger and Boulder County Commissioners Cindy Domenico, Ben Pearlman or Will Toor. The week's festivities include classroom presentations, pop-in visits to quiz students and a unique playground activity. Staff from Eco-Cycle will also help students to make their own reusable cloth napkins from scraps of used clothing, towels and sheets.

"We think it's important to honor these Green Star Schools and the efforts of staff and students over the last five years," said Michele Melio, Eco-Cycle's Green Star Schools Coordinator. "The school communities of Mesa, Bear Creek, Creekside and Foothill have helped lead the way to expand and deliver the Green Star Schools program to serve 29 schools and over 11,825 students and teachers throughout Boulder County."

It's not just the minimal lunchtime waste that's impressive at these schools – it's the commitment students, teachers, kitchen and custodial staff, and administrators have made to reduce waste at their schools all day long. Throughout the halls and classrooms, you'll see things done differently. Recycling and composting bins—not trash cans—are ubiquitous. Even in the washrooms, students are reminded they are part of a very special program: compost collection containers have replaced trash cans for used paper towels and tissues.

"A Green Star School diverts more than two-thirds of its waste through school-wide recycling and composting, creating a unique model that has drawn both national and international attention," Melio adds.

"Boulder County kids are great recyclers, and have been for over 20 years, thanks to the local partnership between Eco-Cycle, Boulder County, Boulder Valley School District, St. Vrain Valley School District, the City of Boulder, Broomfield County and the Town of Superior," said Eric Lombardi, Executive Director of Eco-Cycle. "Now, thanks to the five-year-old Green Star Schools Program, the children are composting! I can guarantee you that there are not many kids in America who are doing as much landfill diversion as our school kids are, and that is a little flame of hope for the future... for their future... which makes it one of the most important programs that Eco-Cycle has ever created."



Working to Build Zero Waste Communities

Eco-Cycle is a non-profit organization founded in 1976. It 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. Eco-Cycle is partnering with businesses, government, schools, local community groups and individuals to create a Zero Waste community and model for the rest of the world. To learn more about Eco-Cycle and the Green Star Schools program, visit [www.ecocycle.org](http://www.ecocycle.org) or call 303-444-6634.

**PHOTO OP**

**Green Star Schools 5-year anniversary assemblies and homemade napkin making with students and Eco-Cycle staff.**

**SCHOOL**

**CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY**

**HOMEMADE-NAPKIN MAKING**

Foothill Elementary, Boulder

Monday, October 17  
2:15 – 2:45 p.m.

recesses throughout the day  
Tuesday, October 18 – Wednesday, October 19

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