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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fryers Rejoice! Cooking Oil Recycling Program Now Flowing Full-Time at the CHaRM

Boulder, CO (March 13)— If you're turning out leftover cooking oils in your kitchen on a regular basis, we have good news for you: you don't have to pour it down the drain or send it to the landfill. Instead, it can become an eco-friendly fuel! After running a successful six-week pilot during the past holiday season, Eco-Cycle has decided to accept used cooking oil on a full-time basis – effective immediately – at the Eco-Cycle/City of Boulder Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials (CHaRM). The oil collected will be sent to a local refiner to produce biodiesel, an environmentally-friendly alternative to diesel in cars and trucks.

What will be accepted?

We will accept any kind of oil used in cooking, such as vegetable, canola, sesame, sunflower and olive oils. Oil from food production, such as grease from cooking meat, is also accepted. A barrel is set up for recyclers to transfer oil from their containers into Eco-Cycle's. We ask that large solids be strained out (anything that won't easily fit down a funnel – solids can go into our compostables container, also at the CHaRM). We cannot recycle or dispose of used oil containers and ask that containers be rinsed and then either reused or recycled at home. Motor oil or any type of oil that is used for purposes other than cooking will not be accepted. Check the Guide to Hard-to-Recycle Materials on www.ecocycle.org for a list of locations that accept used motor oil. There is no charge to residents or businesses to recycle cooking oil.

"We often run pilot programs to test the viability of taking a new material at this center and to see if the public will give us precisely what we asked for, with few contaminants," said Dan Matsch, Eco-Cycle's CHaRM Manager. "Boulder County residents proved once again they are careful recyclers and that this program will work, so we're pleased to be adding it to our list of materials taken year-round."

As with other CHaRM materials, cooking oil will be accepted ONLY at our CHaRM location, 5030 "old" Pearl St., in Boulder. The Center is open Monday – Saturday from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. For information about other materials accepted for recycling at the CHaRM or for a map to the facility, please visit www.ecocycle.org. The service is open to both residents and businesses at no charge, though businesses that regularly generate large quantities are encouraged to call Rocky Mountain Sustainable Enterprises at 303-544-1500 for information about setting up a pickup schedule.

Why is it important to keep cooking oil from going into the landfill or down the drain?

- **Landfilling cooking oil pollutes our groundwater.** All liquids are a bad thing when buried in a landfill; they pick up leached toxins and eventually ooze through the landfill liner and into our groundwater, carrying the toxins with them.
- **Landfilling oil and other organic materials emits greenhouse gases.** Liquids contribute to anaerobic decomposition within a landfill, which generates methane and releases it to the atmosphere. Methane is a greenhouse gas 23 times more powerful than carbon dioxide.
- **Pouring oil down the drain is no better.** Grease and oil clog pipes and must be removed by hand from wastewater treatment plants.
- **Cooking oil is a resource.** Biodiesel made from cooking oil reduces our dependence on foreign oil and is much cleaner than petroleum-based diesel – both for your engine and for the environment.

What is biodiesel?

Biodiesel has received considerable attention recently as a renewable fuel that can reduce our dependence on foreign oil. Biodiesel is non-toxic and, when burned as fuel, produces no sulfur emissions, less carbon monoxide and fewer particulates and hydrocarbons than traditional, petroleum-based diesel. The production and use of biodiesel is also considered carbon-neutral, meaning it does not produce a net increase in carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and therefore does not contribute to climate change.

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