

In This Issue

Zero Waste Farmers' Market1
Compost Tea1
Director's Corner, Goodbye to Bob Gibson2
Eco-Cycle Receives Three Awards2
Local Eco-Heroes3
Eco-Cycle's Zero Waste Services Awards4
ListenUp Partners with CHaRM4
Colorado's "F" in Recycling5
New Landfill Reports5
Boulder Schools Work Toward Zero Waste6
Crossroads Mall Demolition6
Zero Waste Around the World7
Support Eco-Cycle: Back Cover

Eco-Cycle's Center Pull-Out Recycling Guide

How do		
the curb	?	

	v sh					
my	recy	/cla	ble	s?.	 	

. B

What can be recycled and where?.....C

Map of Recycling Centers C

CHaRM Recycling Guidelines.....D

Mini Guide to Hard-to-Recycle Materials....D

Eco-Cycle's Mission:

Welcome to the Zero Waste Farmers' Market!

Picture this: it's a

can't finish. Head

for the trash can,

COMPOSTABLE!

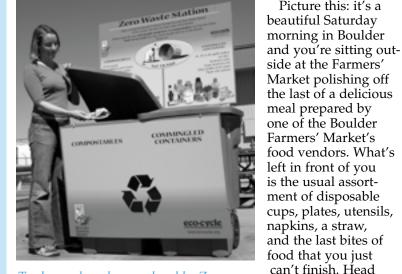
Boulder Farmers'

right? Nope, it's ALL

Eco-Cycle and the

Market are thrilled to

by Dan Matsch



Trash cans have been replaced by Zero Waste Stations at the Boulder Farmers' Market. That's because everything available for consumption at the Market is compostable or recyclable, even the bowls, forks and cups!

announce that our favorite Saturday morning and Wednesday after-work meeting and shopping place is now the first regu-

larly-scheduled Zero Waste event in the country. If you shopped at the Market last year, you may have noticed that toward the end of the summer we added a container for food waste next to the containers for recyclables and trash at the six recycling/trash stations spread throughout the Market. The Boulder Farmers' Market was then officially added to the growing list of local businesses who've been taking part in Eco-Cycle's food waste collection program. That was Step 1;

Compost Tea is Back!

If you are a regular reader of the *Eco-Cycle Times* or you shopped last year at the Boulder Farmers' Market, you may already be hip to the hottest new brew in town, Microbe Brew. Actually, it's a tea made from worm castings and it's to indulge your soil, not your self, but this season you can again find Microbe Brew at the Eco-Cycle tent at the Boulder Farmers' Market (13th Street, between Arapahoe and Canyon) every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. New this year is a moneysaving rebate on Microbe Brew, thanks to the City of Boulder Water Conservation Office. Because of the tea's ability to hold water in the soil and reduce evaporation, the Water Conservation Office is encouraging its use as a water-saving measure by offering a 50% rebate to City of Boulder residents who purchase Eco-Cycle's Microbe Brew. Please bring a utility bill as proof of residency. (Non-Boulder residents don't despair... bring the coupon on this page!)



What is compost tea?

If you're new to compost tea, Microbe Brew is a living liquid full of diverse beneficial soil microbes. When sprinkled onto your garden soil or lawn and then watered, these microbes consume organic matter and minerals in the soil and turn them into humus, a highly stable organic compound that is the only plant food found in nature. Microbe Brew is not a fertilizer—it's a sustainable alternative that balances and accelerates the natural process that is already taking place in your soil.

now it's time for Step 2: a demonstration of real live Źero Waste in action in a new partnership between Eco-Cycle and the Boulder Farmers' Market.

Over the winter, we met with each Market food vendor individually and found compostable alternatives for the items that previously generated trash at the Market, including plates, bowls, cups - even straws and lids. The preferred products are made from corn, wheat, sugarcane, or other natural starches as an alternative to the plastic or plastic-coated paper serviceware that has been filling our landfills for decades (and staying there for centuries!).

With 100% participation by the food vendors at the Market, one last important change was made to make the Market truly Zero Waste - we took out every last garbage container and replaced it with a Zero Waste Station for recycling and composting.

How will all of these changes impact you when you shop at the Market? You'll notice as you enter the Market that we have signs and banners declaring the area a "Zero Waste zone" that has no trash cans. As such, we request that you please hang on to any trash you may be bringing with you into the Market, just like the "pack it in, pack it out" practice that we all do whenever we visit the mountains or any open space. After you've enjoyed a meal or a snack at the Market, you'll sort out the recyclable Continued on page 6

the tea has no shelf life - it must be applied to the soil within 10-12 hours of leaving the brewer or the microbes will run out of oxygen and go dormant.

How is compost tea used?

Compost tea can help plants in any soil, including houseplants, turf, gardens, and perennial trees and shrubs. No preparation of the soil is necessary before applying the tea. It can be a great first step toward your '05 garden that you can do even if the soil is still wet (or even snow-covered). It can be especially effective in spring when your soil is just waking from the winter, during periods of heavy soil feeding such as the vigorous vegetative growth stage of early summer and the flowering/fruiting stage, and in times of stress such as hot spells or after mowing the lawn. Occasionally, you can get growth-spurt results if the soil is very depleted (as with most houseplants out there), but more often the results are steady growth unchecked by stress (a major advantage in the up-and-down climate of spring and summer in the Front Range) and more flowering and fruiting. Compost tea can also suppress disease, especially

We believe in individual and community action to transform society's throw-away ethic into environmentally responsible stewardship.

Our mission is to provide publicly-accountable recycling, conservation and education services, and to identify, explore and demonstrate the emerging frontiers of sustainable resource management.

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle

Applying compost tea to your lawn, garden or houseplants is easy – just sprinkle it on!

To make the tea, we start with worm castings (a.k.a.

worm poop), the most balanced compost in the world already teeming with soil microbes. Next, we "brew" them in a special tank that essentially acts as a Petri dish for beneficial microbes to reproduce at a very rapid pace for 24 hours. Then we bring the brewing tank right down to the Market on Saturday mornings and pour the resulting tea directly into gallon and quart containers as customers order it. Freshness is very important because

when applied to the leaves. Come see us at the Market for more details on application.

Microbe Brew sells for \$6/gallon or \$2.50/quart (plus an additional \$.50 refundable container deposit), covering roughly 200-400 square feet and 50-100 square feet respectively. In addition to the discounts mentioned above, we will again offer our "frequent buyer" card that gives you a free gallon for every five gallons purchased.

If Saturdays at the Boulder Farmers' Market don't fit with your schedule, you may also purchase the tea at the Eco-Cycle/City of Boulder Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials at 5030 "old" Pearl Street (see center pull-out section of this newsletter for a map) on Wednesdays between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. 🌍

_____ **Compost Tea Coupon**

50% off Eco-Cycle's Microbe Brew Water your soil with life!

Present this coupon when you visit us at the **Boulder Farmers' Market on Saturdays** or at the CHaRM (5030 "old" Pearl) on Wednesdays where we will be selling compost tea from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Eric Lombardi **Executive Director**

In our larger communities, the impacts of what we are doing to our environment are less obvious, and we can fairly effectively keep waste and our resource depletion "out of sight, out of mind." But in smaller, more isolated areas like islands and native communities, the devastation to both the environment and the human spirit is omnipresent, and they are clearly the canaries in the coal mine for the whole planet.



COAUTION

eco-cycle TIMES is published by Eco-Cycle, Inc., a Colorado non-profit corporation. Eco-Cycle is tax-exempt under IRS Code 501 (C) (3).

The *Eco-Cycle Times* is distributed primarily through the volunteer Eco-Leader program. If you wish to receive this publication at your home, call us to be placed on our mailing list. To help us get this information to all your neighbors, call us to become an Eco-Cycle volunteer Eco-Leader.

No part of this publication may be transmitted or reproduced in any form without the express permission of the publisher.

Contact:

Eco-Cycle, Inc. P.O. Box 19006 Boulder, CO 80308-9006 Phone: 303-444-6634 Fax: 303-444-6647

OR Eco-Cycle / Broomfield 225 Commerce Street, Broomfield, CO 80020 Phone: 303-404-2839 Fax: 303-404-2583

OR Eco-Cycle / Longmont 140 Martin, Longmont, CO 80501 Phone: 303-772-7300 Fax: 303-772-1688

E-mail: recycle@ecocycle.org Web site: http://www.ecocycle.org

eco-cycle is a member of the National Recycling Coalition, the Boulder, Erie, and Longmont Chambers of Commerce, the GrassRoots Recycling Network, Colorado

Director's Corner

A Slow Motion Assault on the Native Spirit

It is most often a joy and privilege to work in the recycling and Zero Waste world. I get to experience some amazing developments happening all around the world, communities slowly awakening to the problems of reckless resource use and of landfilling and incinerating. Sometimes, though, it can also be a very sad world. While we are making progress, the assault on Earth continues in many contexts, small and large scale, slowly and quickly. In our larger communities, the impacts of what we are doing to our environment are less obvious, and we can fairly effectively keep waste and our resource depletion "out of sight, out of mind." But in smaller, more isolated areas like islands and native communities, the devastation to both the environment and the human spirit is omnipresent, and they are clearly the canaries in the coal mine for the whole planet.

I have just returned from working with the leaders in the Alaskan recycling world, both native and non-native. Their physical environment is resource rich, stunning, and also encumbered by big and small environmental challenges. Living in isolation from systems to handle their discards, the people burn their trash on the edges of their villages and towns. Compared to ANWR that may seem like a small-scale issue, but as a result, their children are growing up with alarming rates of asthma and the run-off from the ash is polluting their drinking water. It is an immediate in-your-face environmental assault these native folks face daily.

A few years ago, I encountered a similar situation on the small Pacific island of Saipan. Their dumps were burning and leaching, killing the coastal lagoons which had traditionally been a primary source of food – a kind of "natural" food store most of us can only dream about. But here too the indigenous people were witnessing the slow relentless attack on their coastal waters and air quality, not to mention the widespread litter from windblown debris, especially plastic bags, that ends up in the ocean literally choking out the marine life.

In both places I had the honor to listen to the elders speak of things deeply rooted in both the human spirit and the earth. The slow and deliberate way that these elders spoke in public served as a sort of meditative pacing, allowing all of us to catch our breath and notice our thoughts. I now have a better understanding of why tribal councils took days to discuss matters. The elders from Alaska and Saipan each focused on illuminating the sacred link to the land. And yet, the younger people in each culture

seemed angry that even though the wisdom was old and well understood, little was changing for the better. From my perspective, they weren't just upset with the modern world, but also with their elders for not doing enough to prevent this crisis or to take charge of it now for the sake of future generations.

The one positive for these people is that at least they can see firsthand that our current approaches to resource use are fatally flawed, and because they can see the direct correlation to our health and future, they may have the motivation to change it. We on the larger islands and in the larger communities may not be able to see this as easily, but the same environmental onslaught and health impacts are affecting us too, and we as the elders, or generations in charge, need to get as connected to the problem, and on the fast track for a solution.



Thank you, Bob Gibson, *for all the support* you've shown Eco-Cycle over the years. We will all miss you.

Goodbye to Bob Gibson, **Eco-Cycle Grandfather** We are deeply saddened by the

recent parting of one of our finest and oldest Eco-Cycle friends and founders, Bob Gibson. My memories of Bob are of a man who had a no-nonsense approach to life. Back in our early years as a devoted board member, he took the charge to help bring Eco-Cycle into the world of business. Bob was a "man of Boulder," knowing everyone, and he linked the Eco-Cycle idealists with the local people and tools to help us as an organization negotiate the transition from adolescence into young adulthood. The single greatest contribution Bob gave to us in the early 90s was an end to our infamous muddy yard. There were days that the mud was a foot deep outside the office door,

and people lost shoes as they tried to walk through it. Once we had a semi-trailer load of newspaper tip and sink. Bob cut a deal with Public Service Company, and we cooked up a recipe of cement, fly ash from the power plant and the mud, and after we smoothed it out, we had a hard surface for the next three years until we could afford to lay down asphalt. It changed Eco-Cycle forever, just as Bob did. We all miss him. 🜍

Eco-Cycle Receives Three New Awards

Eco-Cycle is excited to share with Boulder County residents three awards received from prominent Colorado nonprofit conservation organizations. These distinctions would not be possible without strong participation in and commitment to Eco-Cycle's Zero Waste programs by you, our community members.

Colorado Recycles presented Eco-Cycle with the "Colorado Recycler of the Year Award for Most Unique Program," honoring our Zero Waste Event Program. Eco-Cycle was presented with the award at last year's Oktoberfest celebration in Longmont, just one of many Zero Waste events Eco-Cycle coordinates each year. The successful program turns local fairs and festivals into microcosms of a Zero Waste world

[irst Annua] Green Tie Gala Iundraiser 20

Friday, May 13, 2005 University of Colorado–UMC Room 235 Starts at 7 p.m. \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door

Tie on your best green tie or scarf (or best recycled green tie or scarf!) for Eco-Cycle's First Green Tie Gala auction and awards night.

Featuring:

- The Zero Waste Partner Awards
- Hors d'oeuvres & dessert bar with chocolate fountain
- Silent & live auctions with over 100 items available for bid
- Open bar featuring Avery beer and

Eco-Cycle's Zero Waste **Partner Awards**

Join us in honoring local businesses and individuals who are partnering with Eco-Cycle to develop Zero Waste Models in our community.

Schools: Horizons K-8, BCSIS/

Association for Recycling, Zero Waste International Alliance, P3 and Community Shares of Colorado.

Editors:

Erin English, Marti Matsch and Linda Smith

Contributing Editors:

Eric Lombardi and Kate Mangione

Contributing Writers: Erin English, Ed Green, Eric Lombardi, Matt Mader, Kate Mangione, Dan Matsch, Marti Matsch, Caroline Mitchell, Kate Nelson, Erin O'Leary, Linda Smith

Cover Design: Dave Reindel

Layout and Design: Matt McLaughlin

Eco-Cycle Board of Directors

Dan Benavidez, Mary Blue, Steve Bushong, Rob deKeiffer, Allyn Feinberg (President), David Miller (Treasurer), John Tayer, Mary Wolff (Secretary), Jim Zigarelli (Vice President)

where all products are non-toxic and reusable, recyclable or compostable.

Additionally, the Colorado Association for Recycling presented Eco-Cycle with the "Outstanding Colorado Recycling Program Award" recognizing the Eco-Cycle/City of Boulder Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials (CHaRM). The CHaRM, now in its fourth year of operation, accepts everything from used electronics to textiles, and has added at least one new material each year to the list of difficult items it reuses and recycles.

Most recently, Boulder's Center for ReSource Conservation presented Eco-Cycle with the 2005 Waste Reduction ReWard for "advancing the diversion of waste from landfills through innovations in reuse, recycling and composting programs."

Eco-Cycle is thrilled to have been recognized by these organizations and hopes that the distinctions will increase awareness of Zero Waste efforts in our community. 🚺

Fetzer wines - both companies are working toward Zero Waste in their operations!

Come mingle with the eco-crowd, bid on fabulous trips, treats and treasures, and enjoy an open bar and divine desserts.

> Eco-Cycle thanks the following sponsors: Roche Colorado, Boulder Community Hospital, Fetzer Vineyards, Avery Brewing Co., Ball Corp., Ecofutures, Jared Po Building, Jared Polis Foundation, Mido Printing, Aspen/Snowmass

High Peaks Elementary, Douglass Elementary

- Composting: Whole Foods Market
- Zero Waste Business: **Boulder Community Hospital**
- Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials: Jared Polis Foundation
- Partners for Responsible Recycling: Daily Camera
- Zero Waste Community: The City of Boulder
- Eco-Cycle International: Free Speech TV

Tickets may be purchased by calling 303-444-6634x123, by going online to www.ecocycle.org, or by visiting us at either the Eco-Cycle/City of Boulder Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials (CHaRM), or the Longmont Recycling Drop-off Center.

Page 2

303-444-6634 • www.ecocycle.org

Eco-Cycle Times

Local Eco-Heroes Working Toward Zero Waste by Linda Smith, Caroline Mitchell, Erin O'Leary, Matt Mader, and Ed Green

Eco-Cycle's mission is to help make our community a model for Zero Waste. The only way we'll make it happen is by working together. There are many individuals, groups, and municipalities throughout our area who are demonstrating the commitment, leadership, and inspiration we'll need to get there, and we thank them for the work they're doing.

Eric and Katharina Booth Lead Opposition to "Mt. Erie" Expansion Already known as "Mt. Erie" among locals, the

Front Range Landfill has applied to the Town of Erie to triple in size and double in height. Erie residents Eric and Katharina Booth have been instrumental in organizing residents of adjacent Vista Ridge, developers, and other Erie residents to oppose the expansion. The idea that the Front Range Landfill would grow another 122 acres didn't mesh with residents' vision for developing a healthy and sustainable community.



All too often, expanding landfills is the first resort in addressing the problem of ever-increasing amounts of solid waste produced throughout Colorado's Front Range. Erie residents would rather see the waste currently imported from neighboring communities diverted from the landfill through recycling and composting programs.

Eco-Heroes such as the Booths are taking a stand for their environment and their community. The fact that the landfill owner, Republic Services, has offered Erie one million dollars in advance fees once the landfill expansion is approved, and that Colorado law doesn't encourage alternative waste management approaches, makes the residents of Erie the underdogs in this fight and our Eco-Heroes all the more courageous.



City Council Member Brosz Out Front on Growing Recycling in Broomfield

Broomfield City Council member Gary Brosz has traveled throughout Europe and Japan and has been inspired by the recycling and composting programs he's seen there. This inspiration has made him a driving force on Broomfield's Solid Waste Task Force in the effort to provide Broomfield residents with a low-cost citywide curbside collection program. Council member Brosz estimates that Broomfield is currently recycling about 5 percent of its waste, yet

a recent City survey suggests that a large majority of residents support a recycling goal of 30 percent or higher. In order to reach that goal, Council member Brosz states that Broomfield will need to "stop throwing its trash over the fence into other communities," and start diverting its waste away from landfills. Broomfield is on the right path as no other community in Colorado has reached a 30 percent diversion rate without first implementing a citysponsored curbside recycling program.

City Manager Pedrow Moves Longmont Drop-off Center Into the 21st Century

If you thought the Eco-Cycle Longmont Drop-off Center was popular before, you should see it now! And the thanks for this new facility goes to Eco-Hero Gordon Pedrow. Since Pedrow became City Manager in 1993, Eco-Cycle and the City of Longmont have continued to improve and expand their public/private partnership that began over 20 years ago,

and the new Drop-off Center is just one result of this successful partnership. Pedrow is "proud of the fact that we moved from an inferior recycling facility to an outstanding facility for the use of the responsible recyclers of Longmont."

This new facility is a community gem, and is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Residents are enjoying the expanded hours along with the new layout that increases safety, cleanliness, and mud-free recycling. In addition to handling traditional recyclables, the Center is now holding special collection events four times a year. At these events, hard-to-recycle items such as electronics, plastic bags, books, clothing, and shoes are collected. Additionally, Eco-Cycle and the City have partnered to monitor the Tree Limb Diversion Center, thereby minimizing contamination in the mulch, making this recycled product a viable and valuable resource for residents.



sure to thank them for their efforts to make Lafayette a model of resource conservation. You can even join them in striving for a Zero Waste future. This energetic bunch of heroes has set its sights on bringing citywide curbside recycling to their community. With this kind of energy and commitment, the sky is the limit in Lafayette!



Boulder Planning Big Steps Forward

Kara Mertz, Environmental Analyst for the City of Boulder's Office of Environmental Affairs, is currently at the helm of a group of regional experts working to formulate a vision for waste reduction in the City of Boulder. The group is composed of professionals in the public, private and nonprofit sectors of recycling, composting and trash hauling. They are brainstorming ideas for potential programs and partnerships to further decrease the waste that businesses and residents send to the landfill. Each viable idea is

being analyzed for its cost and landfill diversion potential, and then a roadmap will be created to bring it to fruition. In the end, the team will create a toolbox full of waste reduction ideas for the City Council to use to continue building a community on the cutting edge of Zero Waste.

Ideas being considered include expanding the Eco-Cycle/City of Boulder Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials (CHaRM), providing incentives for food waste collection from businesses, creating point-of-purchase recycling centers for packaging, and turning Boulder's special events into Zero Waste events. "Community members and staff have jumped in feet first and it's been an exciting process," Mertz said. Such enthusiasm, commitment, and visionary planning by local Eco-Heroes are essential to create a cohesive recycling and composting strategy.

Three Cheers for Karen Imbierowicz and the Town of Superior

The Town of Superior recently approved an ordinance which requires that all trash haulers provide their residential customers with curbside recycling services. This effort was led by Eco-Hero and Town Trustee Karen Imbierowicz, who serves with other volunteers on Superior's Waste Diversion Advisory Committee.

According to Imbierowicz, there are three important aspects of the ordinance. First, it guarantees curbside

recycling to residents who live outside the Rock Creek Homeowners Association, which already contracts for curbside pickup of trash and recycling. Second, the ordinance tackles a problem that has plagued other communities in Boulder County – requiring that trash haulers provide recycling to multi-family housing developments. Third, it mandates that haulers report the tonnage of garbage and recycling collected on an annual basis. This data will be reported to the County and will help the Town of Superior determine its waste diversion rates and progress toward Zero Waste.

Now that every residence in Superior has access to curbside recycling, Imbierowicz looks forward to tackling yard waste. Congratulations, Karen Imbierowicz and the Town of Superior!

Boulder Trash Tax Paying Off

Kudos to Boulder City Council members Mark Ruzzin and Crystal Gray (pictured below) and former City Council







Lafayette Sets Boulder County Zero Waste Event Record at Oatmeal Fest

One bag of trash. Just 35 pounds of garbage. That's all that was sent to the landfill at the end of this year's Lafayette Oatmeal Fest. The 3,700 folks who ate oatmeal breakfasts, attended the health fair, and ran the Quicker Quaker 5K race recycled and composted a whopping 98 percent of their discards, making this the most successful Zero Waste event in the county to date.

The Lafavette Waste Reduction Advisory

Committee has been working hard to make their City's events waste-free, and it's paying off. Co-chairs and Eco-Heroes Kathy DiCenzo and Sara Tucker work side-by-side with Public Works Director Doug Short (pictured above), City Council member Jeff Monica and citizen volunteers Shelly Barnard, Kurt Buss, Shelly Colwell, Jean Kingston, Melissa Klausing, Elissa Roselyn, Maureen Van Camp, and Brenda Vornstar.

This entire Committee deserves the commendation and title of Eco-Hero. When you see them at local events – in their trademark bright green shirts – be



member Will Toor (pictured at left) for their recent leadership to increase waste diversion services through the City of Boulder's Trash Tax.

The Trash Tax currently co-funds popular programs such as the Eco-Cycle/City of Boulder Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials (CHaRM), yard and wood waste drop-off facilities, recycling bins in public spaces and more.

The recent increase

will fund further waste diversion programs as well as provide temporary start-up funding for greenhouse gas reduction programs. One exciting new program with Trash Tax funding is a pilot collection of yard and food waste which began in two Boulder neighborhoods in April 2005. The pilot mimics San Francisco's Fantastic Three collection program, which serves as a model for the nation. Toor sees great potential in these programs: "I believe there is much support in our community for moving toward a much lower waste society, both in terms of solid waste and the use of



energy. Trash Tax funding helps us achieve both these goals." 🖏

Spring-Summer, 2005

303-444-6634 www.ecocycle.org



Eco-Cycle Congratulates the Winners of our 2005 Zero Waste Services Awards

by Marti Matsch



Chuck Holcomb, general manager for Old Chicago, accepts the "Going Beyond Recycling by Composting Award." By composting its food waste, Holcomb says his restaurant has been able to cut its trash collection from four days per week down to one!

In the past two years, Eco-Cycle has been offering more than just recycling services to our 800 business clients. Our commercial customers don't just recycle anymore, they "eco-cycle" with Zero Waste Services, the most comprehensive program available. With Zero Waste Services, businesses can recycle their traditional recyclables, as well as compost their biodegradable materials such as food and landscaping waste; recycle their hard-torecycle materials such as computers, pallet wrap and books; and utilize our educational tools and programs to help reduce waste in the first place. Once we've done everything to keep materials out of the trash, we'll provide hauling for "whatever's left," continually working with companies to get to Zero Waste, or darn near.

At a business appreciation event this spring, Eco-Cycle recognized some of the best of the best of our Boulder and

Broomfield County clients, companies who have partnered with us to use various elements of the Zero Waste Services program and are seeing great results for their trash can, for the environment, and for the company's bottom line.

Our winner in the "Going Beyond Recycling by Composting" category was **Boulder's Old Chicago**. By composting its food waste, general manager Chuck Holcomb says his restaurant has been able to cut its trash collection from four days per week down to one.

According to Dale Hobbs at the **Boulder Valley School District (BVSD)**, our winner in the "Going Beyond Recycling with CHaRM on the Road" category, pressure from the students in BVSD inspired teachers and administrators to reduce waste and recycle. Instead of landfilling over one hundred pallet loads of outdated computers, BVSD now safely recycles these items at the Eco-Cycle/City of Boulder Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials (CHaRM).

Boulder Community Hospital (BCH), our big "Going for Zero Waste... or darn near" award winner, has set a new national standard in the hospital industry for environmental stewardship. In addition to collecting traditional recyclables at their ten locations throughout Boulder, electronics are recycled at the CHaRM, food waste is composted, linens no longer suitable for use are recycled, and disposable blue wrap used for sterilization has been replaced with durable, reusable containers. According to BCH Environmental Coordinator Kai Abelkis, in 2003 BCH generated 22 tons of blue wrap waste; in 2004 they achieved a net savings of \$111,000 by no longer purchasing blue wrap and by reducing their trash hauling expense!

Congratulations and many thanks to our award winners, nominees, and to all the 800 businesses partnering with Eco-Cycle to go beyond recycling to Zero Waste.

This spring, Eco-Cycle recognized several businesses at varying stages on the road to Zero Waste. The categories and nominees are below with the awardees highlighted.

Going for Zero Waste... or darn near! Boulder Community Hospital Corporate Express Miltope Corporation Whole Foods Market

Going Beyond Recycling by Composting:

3rd Street Chai Boulder Blooms Boulder Co-op Market Boulder Dushanbe Teahouse Corporate Express – North

American Headquarters Dot's Diner Flagstaff House Restaurant Mataam Fez Naropa University National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) Old Chicago - Boulder Sunflower Organic Cuisine University of Colorado

Going Beyond Recycling with 100% Collection:

Briar Rose Bed & Breakfast Camp Bow Wow Ephub, Inc. Garth Braun & Associates Skyetek Tech-X Corporation

Going Beyond Recycling with CHaRM On The Road (collection of hard-to-

recycle materials): Boulder Valley School District (computers & athletic shoes)

Cemex (wood waste)

Left Hand Brewing Company (stretch wrap)

- McKesson (computers) St. Vrain Valley School District
- (Styrofoam) Valley Lab (computers)

Outstanding Recycling Programs:

Small business category Bradley Hotel Colt Reproduction Center Doc Store Meals on Wheels – Longmont Moore & Bishton Architects Penny Lane Coffeehouse Trident Booksellers

Medium business category Cisco Systems Community Food Share Millennium Harvest House Hotel Morrell Graphics Pharmaca Integrative Pharmacy Special Transit WhiteWave Foods



Boulder Community Hospital won the "Going for Zero Waste... or darn near" award. According to BCH's Kai Abelkis (pictured), in 2004 the hospital achieved a net savings of \$111,000 by no longer purchasing blue wrap and by reducing their trash hauling expense.

Large business category

Amgen Avista PorterCare Hospital Level (3) Communications Longmont United Hospital Maxtor Roche Colorado Corporation Spectra Logic

Thanks to Our Partners

in Responsible Recycling: Eco-Cycle thanks these two companies for partnering with us to create a recycling solution for the products they distribute by supporting the Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials (CHaRM).

- Daily Camera for supporting the plastic bag/newspaper sleeve recycling program.
- *ListenUp* for supporting our electronics recycling program.

Thanks to Our Partners Who Make Our Programs Possible:

These businesses make our Zero Waste Services possible by providing the infrastructure for processing, reuse or collection of materials from businesses.

- A1 Organics our composting processor
- Jared Polis Foundation providing reuse alternatives for working electronics collected at the CHaRM
- One Way Disposal our partner in Zero Waste Services, providing disposal of the few materials left in the garbage container
- Weyerhaeuser providing markets for paper recyclables

ListenUp Joins the CHaRM as a Partner for Responsible Recycling Our First Electronics Retailer Partner Helps Make Electronics Recycling Possible by Caroline Mitchell and Marti Matsch

If you lived in the European Union and you had an obsolete computer or broken electronic product, you could take it back to the manufacturer for recycling because E.U. "Take-Back" laws require the manufacturer to do so. Here in the U.S., we have no similar federal legislation, and as a result, our landfills are bulging with electronics. In lieu of federal Take-Back regulation, Eco-Cycle has been working to create a model electronics recycling program built on partnerships.

hear that ListenUp is working with Eco-Cycle and that we're making headway in the inclusion of all responsible parties in electronics recycling," said CHaRM Manager Dan Matsch.

Innovative approaches such as this program are necessary to handle our growing electronic waste problem. An estimated 315 to 600 million computers will soon become obsolete in the U.S., according to the Computer TakeBack Campaign, a coalition working to encourage electronics producers to responsibly recycle end-of-life electronics. If piled up from sea level, this quantity of computers could cover six acres and reach the altitude of Denver, Colorado.

The Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials (CHaRM) opened in 2001 as a partnership between the City of Boulder, Eco-Cycle and you, the recycler—all helping to financially support the program. Missing from this equation were the electronics manufacturers and retailers, and their share of the responsibility for recycling the products they sell. They've been missing, until now. Eco-Cycle is excited to announce that ListenUp, a local electronics store, has become our first electronics Partner for Responsible Recycling.

As a partner, ListenUp provides educational information in their store about the CHaRM program. Customers who purchase new electronics at ListenUp receive a coupon for recycling an electronic item at no charge. Back at the CHaRM, visitors who recycle electronics receive a coupon for a discount at ListenUp.

The partnership has proved successful for both parties. Many of the more than 550 coupons distributed since December to CHaRM customers have been redeemed at ListenUp, increasing their sales volume. Additionally, Boulder ListenUp Store Manager Bob Murphy noted that "many customers are pleased to see us partnering with Eco-Cycle and working for the responsible handling of electronic scrap."

We're getting the same feedback on our end. "CHaRM visitors are excited to

Not only is this waste abundant, but its toxic nature makes electronics recycling a matter of public health. Electronics contain significant amounts of lead, mercury, cadmium and other heavy metals that will eventually contaminate our groundwater if landfilled. In fact, the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition, which works to call attention to and improve the environmental health practices of the high tech industry, reports that 70% of the heavy metals currently found in landfills are from electronics.

Recycling electronics is expensive due to the complex mixture of materials composing them and the technology required to safely disassemble them. Therefore, the combined efforts of all interested parties – manufacturers and retailers, consumers, governments and nonprofits – are crucial to the responsible recycling of these materials. "We are encouraged and excited that ListenUp was the first retailer in the community to

step up and be part of the solution for electronics waste," stated Matsch. "Eco-Cycle's goal is to engage other manufacturers and retailers in the partnership and provide a model for other communities in the United States."



303-444-6634 • www.ecocycle.org

Eco-Cycle Times



Colorado Scores an "F" in Recycling What will it take just to get a score of average? by Marti Matsch

If all the states in the Union were rated for their environmental beauty, Colorado would no doubt be near the top. Unfortunately, the same could not be said for the score we would receive for our state's efforts to take care of our beautiful environment. In a recent study conducted by recycling and composting industry magazine *BioCycle*, which rated 47 of the 50 U.S. states on recycling and landfill diversion, Colorado appears almost at the bottom with a landfill diversion rate of merely 3%—far below the national average of 30% diversion. States you may not think of first for environmental advocacy handily outpace us: Nebraska is at 15% landfill diversion, Iowa at 42%, and Ohio at 24%. The highest scores were Maine and Oregon at 49% and Minnesota at 46%.

There are some bright spots in the state, of course. Boulder County's landfill diversion rate is estimated at 23%, with the City of Boulder estimating a rate of near 58% for residential recycling and composting. Our Loveland neighbors are also breaking records with 58% for their residential diversion rate. When you consider that these communities' higher numbers are factored into Colorado's overall average, you get a sense of the dismal state of recycling in the rest of our communities. Why is Colorado lagging so far behind our fellow states? We asked some of our colleagues in the Colorado recycling field for their assessments.



"Colorado's recycling rate is soooooo pitiful because there is no leadership or support from our state government for recycling. In Colorado, our local communities are left to manage waste streams entirely on their own, without any guidance or incentives from the state. Local communities usually see disposal in landfills as the cheapest and easiest option for handling our waste resources because of the faulty economics that create unrealistically low landfill tip fees and the false assumption that burying waste carries little to no liability."

- Carly Wier, Executive Director Summit Recycling Project



"While some may point to cheap disposal as the culprit [of Colorado's low recycling rate], I think the real problem lies with the lack of leadership from the state."

- Bruce Philbrick, Superintendent City of Loveland Solid Waste Management Division





"The fees at our landfills are some of the lowest in the nation, and there is virtually no state support for recycling: there is no agency charged with overseeing recycling, there are very limited funds for recycling and there are no directives requiring or even encouraging recycling."

- Marjie Griek, Executive Director Colorado Association for Recycling

"Putting trash into a hole and covering it up with dirt is big business in Colorado. Profit margins are high and our arid climate means we're technically a great place to site landfills (there is less risk of groundwater contamination). Not only are we bucking a system run by a strongly established, powerful landfill industry, but the economics of recycling are hard to balance when it only costs \$15-20 per ton to dump trash in Colorado (compared to \$50-70 or more in many other parts of the country)."



- Susie Gordon, Senior Environmental Planner City of Fort Collins Natural Resources Department

Now's Our Chance! Two Recycling Bills on Capitol Hill

by Linda Smith

Our day has come! For the first time in decades, recycling legislation has made it out of committee to be voted on by the Colorado House and Senate.

Eco-Cycle has been working hard with our colleagues at the Colorado Association for Recycling to draft solid legislation, find sponsors, meet with stakeholders, testify in committee hearings, and generate support for two bills that will make it possible for Colorado to reach mainstream American recycling rates.

The Colorado Waste Reduction and Recycling Act (HB 1256) would set a statewide recycling goal of 30% (the current national average) by 2011 and 50% by 2016. To help us get there, the legislation would increase the fee to dump materials at landfills to create funding for recycling and composting infrastructure and education. At press time, the bill has made it out of committee and is headed for a vote on the House floor. Contact your Representative today to urge a vote in support of this bill. Don't know who your Representative is? Now's the time to learn! Go to www.votesmart.org and enter your ZIP code. It will give you all the contact information you need. Already know who your Representative is? The easiest way to find contact information is to use the Legislative Directory at www.leg.state.co.us.

The second bill making its way into history, SB 141, would make it illegal to landfill used oil, lead-acid batteries and whole tires. At press time, it has been voted out of the Senate (35-0!) and is headed to the House for a final vote. Make sure it's on your Senator's radar screen. Colorado has perfectly viable recycling and reuse industries for these resources, so let's keep them out of landfills.

Landfills: Broken, Dangerous, Expensive

Landfills are no longer inert mounds of decomposition and wasted resourcesthey're perpetual community liabilities whose troubles could outlast the next seven generations. Disturbing new reports by groundwater specialist Dr. Fred Lee and economist Dr. Peter Anderson confirm the long-term perils of landfills and reaffirm that the waste management decisions of today will impact our communities for decades, centuries, and perhaps beyond. Anderson and Lee roll back the thin layer of plastic lining on the modern landfill to uncover fundamental design and operational flaws, toxic threats to our air and water, monitoring systems with highly suspect long-term reliability, and as the final nail in the coffin, wildly inadequate financial guarantees for future liabilities. The groundwater cleanup costs in the future could make the savings and loan bailout in the 1980s look like petty cash. While landfill technology has certainly advanced over the last 50 years, modern landfills will ultimately fail to protect human and environmental health. These reports show landfills for what they truly are-sources of greenhouse gases and contaminated groundwater, failed containment systems, and a financial nightmare for the future.

Modern leachate that escapes through the liner will seep deep into the earth and contaminate groundwater supplies.

Containment Will



Hardly a Mound of Dirt— A Threat for Global Warming and Polluted Groundwater

If decomposition of organic material is natural, why fear it in the landfill? Under the oxygen-devoid conditions of the landfill, decomposition releases methane, a greenhouse gas 21 times more potent than carbon dioxide, and numerous hazardous air pollutants such as mercury, benzene, toluene, and chloroform. Landfill decomposition also produces a soupy mixture known as leachate. As the leachate flows over the heavy metals, household chemicals, and other hazardous materials increasingly buried in our landfills, it becomes toxic.

Ultimately Fail

Landfills are designed to capture and contain leachate and to mitigate hazardous air emissions. However, EPA staff and consultants expressed concerns about the safety of modern landfills years before the regulations were adopted: "Even the best liner and leachate collection system will ultimately fail due to natural deterioration" (EPA, 1988 as cited

by Anderson and Lee). The plastic sheeting will tear and decay from installation, stress cracks, holes from the waste placement, and organic solvents, such as those readily purchased for household use.

How Much Does "Perpetual Liability" Cost?

To protect the surrounding community and environment from any air or water contamination, the landfill operator must put aside funding to maintain the monitoring system for at least 30 years. This may seem a reasonable time frame until you consider that Roman Empire landfills are still actively generating leachate! *Continued on page 6*

Spring-Summer, 2005

303-444-6634 • www.ecocycle.org



Four Boulder Schools Move Toward Zero Waste

Four Boulder schools are taking a bold new approach to trash – they're trying not to make any! The Boulder Community School of Integrated Studies, High Peaks Elementary, Douglass Elementary and Horizons K-8 are going for Zero Waste by adopting a comprehensive waste reduction strategy. The Green Star Schools pilot program builds on the successful 18-year-old Boulder Valley School

District/Eco-Cycle recycling partnership by adding two important new elements: waste reduction projects and school-wide composting. The schools are driven by the fact that they'll be among the first in the United States to take such dramatic steps toward making less trash.

The program began with an audit of kitchen, cafeteria, classroom and restroom waste to identify what was in the schools' trash in the first place. With the help of Eco-Cycle employees, sponsor classes at each school spent an afternoon dumping and digging through one day's worth of garbage. The kids were surprised by what they found – paper that could have been recycled, unopened milk cartons, piles of plastic bags, and lots and lots of food waste.

"About 25 percent of our waste stream is compostable," said Cyndra Dietz, Eco-Cycle's School Recycling and Environmental Education Program Coordinator. "Adding compost collection to a school's recycling program will greatly reduce the amount of garbage it produces, thereby also reducing the amount of trash the school district has hauled to the landfill."

Green bins for compost now stand beside drink container recycling barrels and trash cans in the

cafeteria. Compost and drink container collection buckets complement the paper recycling done in classrooms. Bathrooms have been stocked with compost bins to collect used paper towels, and kitchen staff has been trained to deposit food waste in their new compost containers. In addition to food waste, students and staff can also compost non-recyclable paper like tissue paper and construction paper.

All of the schools' compostable materials are consolidated in a designated dumpster behind each school, which Eco-Cycle empties twice a week. The material is then hauled to A1 Organics in Golden, where it is turned into nutrient-rich compost. At the end of the school year, Eco-Cycle will deliver a pile of compost to each school so that the students can grow their own gardens and houseplants in the soil they helped create.

Adding compost collection reduces a school's waste stream, but to truly strive for Zero Waste, something must be done with all of those pudding cups, potato

chip bags and other food wrappers that can't be recycled or composted.

"Reducing the amount of excess packaging that kids are bringing to school in the first place is critical to making Green Star Schools a success," said Dietz. "We hope to accomplish this by encouraging parents and kids with some easy tips for packing a lunch that is waste-free."

The first four participating schools have already shown that they can do it. Thanks to extra efforts from parents and students, these schools each reduced their lunchtime garbage in previous years by 40-80% as part of Eco-Cycle's annual Waste-Free Lunch contest week. The real challenge will be to maintain wastereducing efforts not just for a week, but for the whole school year.

Already, the Green Star Schools are seeing positive results—all four are producing less trash. "Horizons K-8 decided to have one of our three trash dumpsters removed after just one week in the program," said Rocky Kehn, Head Custodian at the school. "We will be removing a second dumpster soon – which will reduce the trash we send to the landfill by two-thirds." This early

success is good news for Eco-Cycle's School Recycling Program staff, who hope to see Green Star Schools expand to other Boulder County schools in the future.

"I'm very excited about being part of the Green Star Schools program," said David Mohseni, a 4th grade teacher at the Boulder Community School of Integrated Studies. Linda McCarthy, 4th grade teacher at Douglass Elementary, agrees: "It is an opportunity for our kids to make a tremendous difference for the environment, and for the future. I know we can do it."

Landfills cont'd from page 5

Simply extending this care period merely postpones the inevitable decomposition. And to boot, there is no reliable way to determine when the liner will fail, when decomposition will start, or when the landfill will cease to be a threat—we're planning for 30 years into the future when we should be planning for centuries or millennia!

Then there's the cost of future maintenance and contamination clean up, likely to fall on future generations and state and local governments, long after the landfill operator has come and gone. These are not paltry sums: Anderson estimates that California's landfills may eventually cost taxpayers around \$26.4 billion, while the amount of assurances used to protect against such costs may reach little more than \$1 billion.

Can Colorado Escape the Landfill Curse?

The Anderson and Lee reports forecast a dismal future of perpetual liabilities and toxic threats, but only if we choose this destiny. Colorado's 3% recycling rate (see article p. 5) leaves abundant room for improvement compared to the 30-, 40-, and near 50-percent rates posted by other states. Viable alternatives like recycling, composting, and the full package of Zero Waste offer a low-risk investment in jobs and resources in contrast to the perpetual liability of landfills. Landfills are a shortterm solution with a long-range outlook for trouble. So Colorado, it's your decision-will you invest in your future or be haunted by your past?

Zero Waste.

For the complete details of landfills' dangerous defects, read Lee's "Flawed Technology of Subtitle D Landfilling of Municipal Solid Waste" available at www.gfredlee.com. Zero Waste Farmers' Market

containers as you have always done, but rather than putting what's left in a bin marked "trash," you'll put it in a bin marked "compostables."

We'll have signs at each food vendor's booth assuring you that everything's compostable, and a similar sign at each compost container. We'll also have two staff people at the Eco-Cycle compost tea stand (Saturdays only) ready to answer your Zero Waste questions.

Please note that this program aims to eliminate trash generated AT THE EVENT. In other words, we're only eliminating trash that you would have left at the Market, not the plastic bag wrapping the loaf of bread you buy to take home with you. That's because we're trying to keep it simple, but stay tuned... we are planning a major campaign to distribute reusable shopping bags to Market customers to minimize your take-home trash as well (but we always encourage you to bring your own reusable bags). By the way, we're looking for sponsors for this idea – call us at 303-444-6634 if your company or organization is interested. (And don't forget, you can always bring your clean and dry plastic bags to the Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials – see the center pull-out section of this newsletter for complete details.)

For more information on Eco-Cycle's food waste collection program and Zero Waste at the Farmers' Market, log on to our website at www.ecocycle.org and look for the recent cover story on our programs that appeared in *BioCycle*, the national trade magazine for composting and organics recycling.

What to do with an old mall? Re-use it, of course.

Cruising along 28th Street in Boulder, you've no doubt seen the hole in the sky where the Crossroads Mall once stood. The mall has been demolished and cleared, to be replaced with the new Twenty Ninth Street open-air shopping, dining and entertainment destination. Leading up to the deconstruction, residents expressed concern to City of Boulder officials about a large demolition in the middle of town and the associated building waste. In response, the City collaborated with site owner Westcor and the nonprofit community to develop a colossal 80 percent landfill diversion plan. From the start, Westcor embraced the challenge of "doing it the Boulder way" and committed to an environmentally-sound demolition. As the buildings came down, Westcor recycled an amazing 2,000 tons of steel. Concrete and asphalt were ground up and used to bring the south end of the site above the floodplain. Miscellaneous metals such as copper were recycled, as well as the refrigerant from rooftop HVAC units. Boulder's Center for ReSource Conservation played a key role by spending two months salvaging all the reusable materials from the Mall – a service the nonprofit organization provides for all demolition projects. An astonishing number of doors, cabinets, handrails, lights, benches, flooring, furniture and tons of building material were given another life and saved from the landfill. A two-day "yard sale" was held on the Crossroads grounds where ninety percent of the items were sold. Sculptures and artwork were also donated to local nonprofit organizations. Trees deemed suitable for transplanting by the City of Boulder Forestry Department were given to city parks and municipal facilities. Diseased trees were turned into mulch. Those involved with the project have deemed it a success. "We accomplished our goal of recycling and reusing 80 percent of the former Crossroads Mall with the

Boulder community as the chief beneficiary," said Lain Adams, Senior Property Manager for Twenty Ninth Street. "And we feel Westcor understood and exceeded the public's environmental values."





Douglass Elementary 4th graders separate compostables

and recyclables from trash to help their school get to

Seth Portner, Operations Director at the Center for ReSource Conservation, agrees with Adams. "From a diversion point of view, the Crossroads Mall demolition project has been a success and we are particularly gratified by the amount of materials that were reused," Portner stated.

An impressive 80 percent of the material resulting from the Crossroads Mall demolition has since been reused or recycled, thanks to a collaboration between the City of Boulder, Westcor, and the nonprofit community.

Westcor plans to expand its environmental commitment into the building and operation of Twenty Ninth Street. Adams and Eco-Cycle's Executive Director Eric Lombardi have been engaged in detailed discussions on how to create a cut-ting-edge recycling and composting system for the retail district. The two hope to design a plan that gives Boulder citizens an environmentally-conscious shopping experience that the community can be proud of. As Boulder progresses toward Zero Waste, this example of eco-leadership and environmental planning raises the bar for other construction projects.

Page 6

303-444-6634 • www.ecocycle.org

Eco-Cycle Times

Zero Waste Around the World

by Kate Mangione

Zero Waste Strategy Pads Nova Scotia's Wallet

Nova Scotia is widely known as a national and international leader in waste diversion—and it's paying fantastic dividends. A full cost accounting analysis of Nova Scotia's Solid Waste-Resource Management Strategy revealed net

savings of between \$31.2 and \$167.7 million for one year alone (the broad range related to price estimates for greenhouse gases). The Canadian province achieved 50 percent diversion through disposal bans, beverage container deposits, "Take-Back" programs for difficult materials, and by providing curbside recycling and organics services to 99 percent and 76 percent of its population, respectively. And the news keeps getting better—the report identified several additional areas where Nova Scotia could save money and resources.

Cashing in on Organics Diversion

Under a new waste credit trading system in the United Kingdom, landfills diverting increasing quantities of organic materials may make millions selling their credits to other landfills. The U.K. implemented the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS) to meet the

E.U. landfill directive, which requires a 65 percent reduction in landfilled biodegradable waste by 2020. LATS caps the amount of organics that each local authority can send to the landfill, and those who landfill less than their allocation can sell the rest of their credits at market price. This flexible, market-based system rewards local authorities that cost-effectively divert organics and allows other regions to temporarily pay out of the mandate until their programs are up and running, all while LATS decreases the total quantity of landfilled organics. As the U.S. favors market-driven solutions, this should be a great program to watch.

Makers of Fat Tire Slim Down Their Footprint

Full on taste but light on environmental impact is the beer at Fort Collins' New Belgium Brewery. From motion sensor lights, daylighting, and sun tubes to radiant floor heating and swamp cooling systems to citrus-based cleaners, biodiesel, and offices decked out with recycled and recyclable materials, New Belgium's environmental commitment is as refreshing as any of their ales. Their on-site wastewater treatment facility fuels a co-generator that provides 60 percent of the Brewery's power while wind energy provides the rest. The treated wastewater serves evaporative cooling, cleaning, and landscaping needs, and the nutrient-rich sludge is sold for composting. Through recirculating heating and cooling systems

and world-renowned brewing efficiency, the Brewery has nearly halved the average industry ratio of barrels of water to barrels of beer. The brewery pulls in cool winter air to chill its beer, sells spent grain as cattle feed, and of course, recycles dozens of materials. A toast to New Belgium!

Nothing Slips by in Norway

To more accurately reflect the environmental impacts of incineration, Norway has taxed fourteen pollutants emanating from incinerator stacks. Ranging from \$3.17 (U.S.) per gram for hydrogen fluoride to a whopping \$366,000 per gram for dioxin, the tax averages \$76 per metric ton incinerated. Other costly pollutants include dust, hydrogen chloride, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, mercury, cadmium, lead, chromium, copper, manganese, arsenic, and nickel. Carbon dioxide emissions cost about \$6 per metric ton. Waste management taxes are nothing new in Norway where they're used to promote waste prevention and recov-

ery. Landfills aren't off the hook either—landfilling organic or mixed waste carries a tax of \$60-80 per metric ton.

Ubiquitous Bag No More in San Francisco

The City of San Francisco is willing to bet that a new tax will make shoppers think twice about using disposable supermarket bags, and evidence from around the world implies that it's a safe wager. The City is in the final stages of approving a 17-cent tax on disposable supermarket checkout bags. The 50 million bags used annually in San Francisco financially burden the City through disposal and street cleaning costs, contamination at recycling and composting facilities, and future landfill liabilities—collectively to the tune of 17 cents per bag. Around the world, regions of Bangladesh, Taiwan, Ireland, South Africa, Somalia, India, Australia, and Alaska tax or ban disposable bags because they wreak havoc on the environment and epitomize waste and convenience. And so the age-old question of "paper or plastic" has been answered: "No thanks, I brought my own."

Support the Rebuilding of Human Lives and the Environment

The devastation wrought by the tsunami in Asia has been great, and the need for international funds continues. It is at this time, when immediate needs have passed and the story is no longer headlined by the press, that donations are critical



for the clean-up and restoration work still to be done. Employees of one of our sister organizations, Global Anti-Incinerator Alliance (GAIA), are working in the affected countries to promote Zero Waste systems in the rebuilding of their communities. With your support, GAIA will help local organizations to set up recycling and composting programs in the temporary camps and rebuilt communities; encourage choices of safe, non-PVC materials for new construction; and

demand alternatives to incineration to treat the mounds of debris and waste created during and since the tsunami.

Please consider donating to a fund set up by GAIA to show these communi-

ties that we're with them in the long struggle to rebuild healthy and sustainable communities. GAIA is a trustworthy and effective nonprofit that Eco-Cycle has long supported. They are an international coalition with members in 75 countries working to promote Zero Waste and other safe, sustainable alternatives to waste incineration. The funds will be re-granted to organizations in each of the four hardest-hit countries where GAIA has active members currently engaged in relief and rebuilding programs: Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

To make a tax-deductible contribution to this fund, please write a check or money order to The Ecology Center-GAIA/Tsunami Fund, and mail it to GAIA, 1442A Walnut Street #20, Berkeley, CA 94709. To donate securely online, or for more information, please visit GAIA's website at www.no-burn.org. If you have additional questions, please contact our friend and colleague on the GAIA Steering Committee, Ann Leonard, at aleonard@no-burn.org or call 510-883-9490 x1.

Thank you for your generosity. 🖏

Eco-Cycle Wishes to Gratefully Thank:

Corporate Supporters IBM: Sponsorship of the "I Care About Clean Air" program

Micro Motion: General support of Eco-Cycle

McStain Enterprises:

Longmont Community Foundation: Educational kiosk at the Longmont Drop-off Center

We thank the following Eco-Cycle members for their recent financial contributions to Eco-Cycle: Fetzer Vineyards Jared Polis Foundation Mido Printing Roche Colorado Corporation

Auction Contributors 1stenvirosafety Annie's Naturals Aroma Naturals Earth Friendly Products Eco-Artware Eco-Bags Products, Inc. Eldorado Natural Spring Water Endangered Species Chocolate English Retreads Fetzer Vinevards Front Range Community College Gaiam Global Exchange Good Use Green Glass Inc. Honest Tea Hunter Douglas Jayne's Barkery Kate's Caring Gifts KGNU Left Hand/Tabernash Brewing Company Longmont Dairy Madhava Honey Mother Earth Coffee Company Mother Earth News Natural Home and Gardening New Belgium Brewery The Niwot Inn

Paloma Pottery Paporganics Sustainable Stationery Peet's Coffee Pharmaca Integrative Pharmacy Planet Bluegrass Planet Natural Planetary Solutions Pure Water Colorado RallySport **Redstone Cyclery Rocky Mountain PBS** RTD Save the Bottles Savitri's Serenity House B&B Seventh Generation Shadowcliff Resort SOLAR TODAY magazine Splaff Flops Stan Miller & Associates Nick Stellino Sun Dog Hemp John & Molly Tayer Vivaterra Way Out Wax Willow Creek Glass



A quick glance across the globe reveals promising

new commitments to Zero Waste and model

programs for our community to emulate.

and Styrofoam collections in Louisville & Longmont

Roche Colorado Corp.: Sponsorship of the "I Care About Clean Air" program

Shapins Associates: General Support of Eco-Cycle

Your Perceptions, Inc.: General Support of Eco-Cycle

Foundations Broomfield Community Foundation: Educational display at Broomfield Drop-off Center

Community Foundation Serving Boulder County, The Rollie and Josie Heath Gift Fund: General Support **Founders' Society** Cindy Carlisle & Baine Kerr Dr. Sally Parsons

Director's Circle Debbie Crowell Allyn Feinberg Richard Matsch

Patron Level Kat Bennett Carolyn Benoit William C. Bradley Steve Bushong Jim & Brownie Leach Julianne Snider & John Keltner

Green Tie Gala Sponsors Aspen/Snowmass

Avery Brewing Company Ball Corporation Boulder Community Hospital Ecofutures Building Aspen/Snowmass Avery Brewing Co. **Back Country Excursions** Kerrie Badertscher Barking Dog Café **Rick Bayless** Bean Products Blue Poppy **Body Botanicals** Boulder Creek Winery Camp Bow Wow Boulder Regina Campbell Carol Baum Carol Canigliaro, LAC Chelsea Green Publishing Clif Bar Alissa Cohen Colorado Shakespeare Festival Dagoba Organic Chocolate derma e skincare *E* - *The Environmental Magazine*

Spring-Summer, 2005

303-444-6634 • www.ecocycle.org





Why do we support Eco-Cycle? — Members Baine Kerr and Cindy Carlisle

Because you're either on the bus or you're not on the bus." "Because it's as American as apple pie and as Boulder as tofu.

community a model for Zero Waste! oin Eco-Cycle in making our

Yes! I want to support Eco-Cycle's Zero Waste Future Fund.

		_				_				_		
Please accept my donation in honor/memPlease send me additional information about	Please accept my donation in honor/memory of				Payment Method: 🗆 Visa 🗆 MasterCard 🗆 Amex	All memberships include a subscription to the Eco-Cycle Times.				membership gift of:	Enclosed is my	NEW way to contribute
nal information abou	onation in honor/me	Signature	Card #	Check enclosed (ma	Visa 🛛 MasterCa	de a subscription to t	\$240	\$120	3 75	4 0	3 20	- secure, paperless, a
ut	mory of		Expiration Date	Check enclosed (made payable to Eco-Cycle)	ard 🗆 Amex	the Eco-Cycle Times.		□ Other \$	Society at www.ecocycle.org/support/founderssociety	□ \$1,000 (Founders' Society) – Find out more about the <i>Founders'</i>	G \$500	NEW way to contribute - secure, paperless, and easy. Donate your support online at www.ecocycle.org.

- Including Eco-Cycle in my will. Please call/email me
 Giving a gift of appreciated stock to Eco-Cycle
- \square Becoming an Eco-Cycle volunteer at a Drop-off Center or as a Eco-Leader for my neighborhood
- Eco-Cycle's Business Recycling Program

Name_

Phone (dav)	City	Address
	State	
(evening)	Zip	

Email \Box Save paper and check here if you would like us to email your thank you.

ment. To this end, Eco-Cycle will not trade, rent, or sell member names, phone numbers, addresses, or emails to any individual or organization. Thank you for your support. Eco-Cycle aims to be as responsible when it comes to your privacy rights as we are when it comes to the environ-



Community Based Recycling P.O. Box 19006 (5030 Pearl Street) Boulder, CO 80308

change service requested





Tea is Back • Zero Waste Services Awards