

Take Action for Zero Waste!

In this issue of the *Eco-Cycle Times*, you'll find many ways to strive for Zero Waste at home, at work, at school and in your community:

- Make a stand against garbage as renewable energy: Buy carbon credits and renewable energy certificates from truly renewable sources and start composting your organic discards (p. 1)
- Recycle your toilet and other porcelain bathroom fixtures at the CHaRM (p. 3)
- Throw a waste-free party or business meeting with our Zero Waste Event Kit (p. 4)
- Keep your reusable goods out of the landfill through the Eco-Cycle Exchange (p. 6)
- Patronize one of the many businesses working toward Zero Waste with Eco-Cycle (p. 6)

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Garbage is Not Renewable Energy • Lafayette a Model for the Rockies • Zero Waste Around Your Town

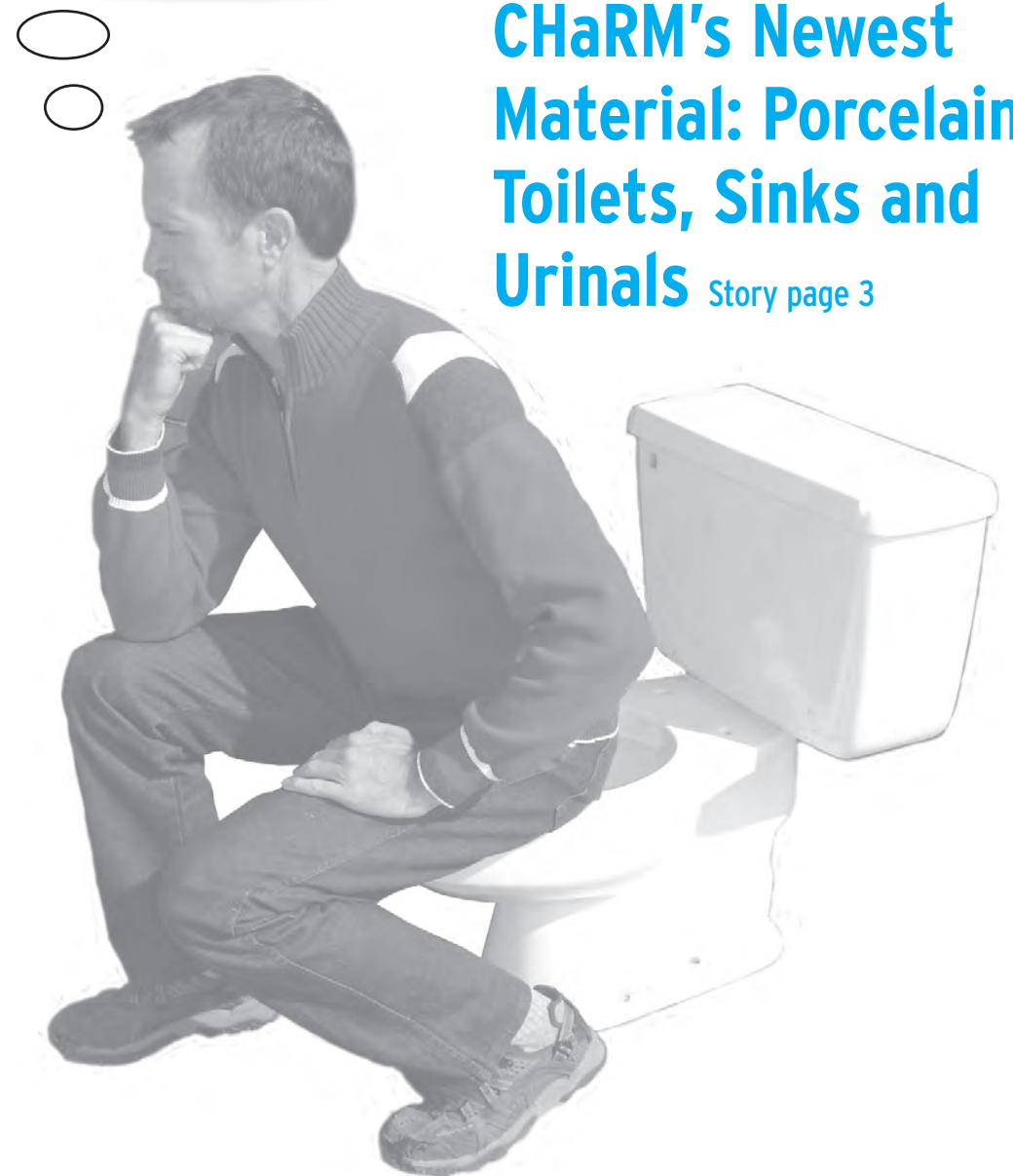
eco-cycle times

Volume 31, No. 2 | Fall 2007/Winter 2008

Working to Build Zero Waste Communities

I think...
therefore I recycle my toilet.

**CHaRM's Newest
Material: Porcelain
Toilets, Sinks and
Urinals** Story page 3



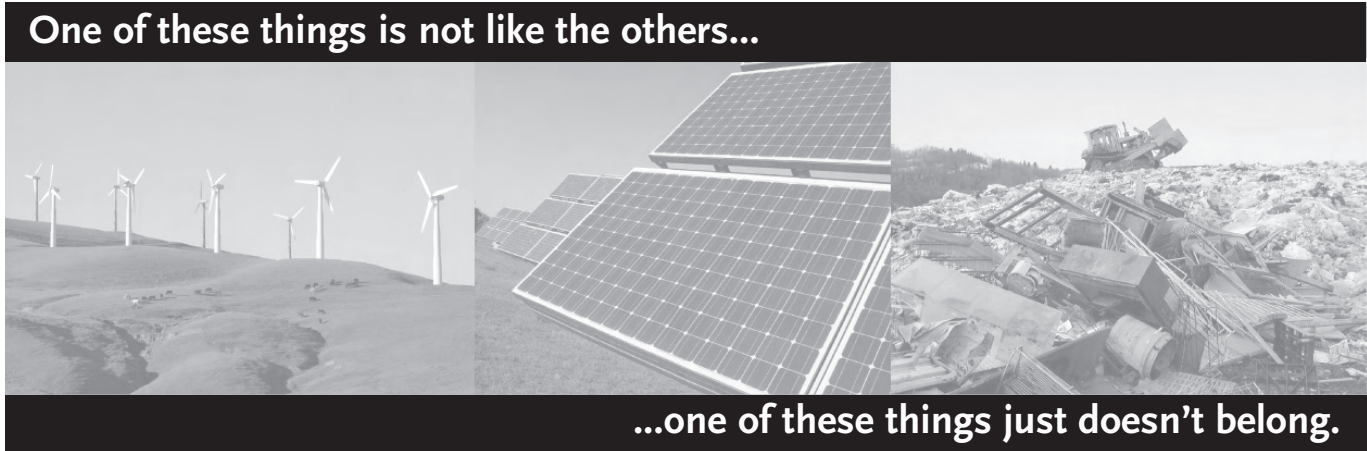
Recycling Guidelines Inside

Garbage is NOT Renewable Energy

The GrassRoots Recycling Network Launches New National Campaign

When you envision green energy, you likely picture turbines perpetually spinning in the wind or solar panels soaking in the unending rays of the sun—technologies developed to capture truly renewable resources. It isn't likely you picture a pile of garbage in a landfill, full of products and packaging made from precious, non-renewable resources and spewing methane, a greenhouse gas 23 times more potent than carbon dioxide. Clearly one of these things is not like the others, but not so to the current administration and the landfill and incineration industries that have successfully lobbied to have the greenhouse gas emissions from their facilities considered "green energy," worthy of tax credits similar to the ones given to solar and wind energy projects.

In fact, "garbage-to-energy" is now being legally classified in numerous states as a "renewable" energy source. This development is in direct opposition to the Zero Waste Movement, the goal of which is to eliminate waste, not enshrine it as a renewable resource. To counteract these subsidies and educate the public about this threat to progress on reducing climate change, the GrassRoots Recycling Network, a national network of Zero Waste advocates, founded in part by Eco-Cycle, has launched the "Garbage is NOT Renewable Energy" campaign.



Solar panels, wind turbines and landfills wouldn't seem to have anything in common, but unfortunately they do. They're all legally being considered "renewable" sources of energy, but one of these things is not like the others.

We Need to Create New Systems, Not Reward the Status Quo

At first blush, giving credits to landfills for capturing methane output may seem like a good thing, but giving tax credits and subsidies to the garbage industry competes against wind, solar and recycling projects and creates a financial reward for producing garbage and destroying natural resources. Capturing methane from these sources is important but should simply be considered a cost of doing business and a way to stem the damage created by these facilities.

It is counterproductive to the nation's efforts at reducing climate change to create incentives to build MORE of these facilities to destroy MORE resources and purposely create methane when these emissions can be avoided altogether.

In the battle against climate change, we need to act decisively against waste and greenhouse gas emissions by eliminating, not just reducing these sources, and giving priority to clean, carbon-free and truly renewable energy.

Solutions

There are two things we all can do through the GRRN campaign:

1. Buy carbon credits and renewable energy certificates from truly renewable sources.

When you purchase renewable energy certificates (RECs) and carbon credits to offset the impact of your personal travel, business, event, etc., know that all providers are not created equal: Numerous providers carry landfill gas and incineration projects in their energy mix as a way to lower their rates. Fortunately, there are plenty of new wind and solar projects for you to support, free of energy derived from waste.

Take action: Use your purchasing power to choose only REC and carbon offset providers who provide waste-free energy. View our list of garbage-free renewable energy retailers at www.grrn.org.

2. Start composting and stop greenhouse gas production in the first place.

Rotting material in the landfill is the number one human-caused source of methane. This greenhouse gas production can be avoided by keeping biodegradable materials out of the landfill and diverting them instead to a local compost facility where organics are turned into a valuable soil nutrient. With only 2% of food waste recovered for composting in the U.S., there is a strong need to invest in compost facilities to capture these valuable resources.

Take action: Support the source-separation of biodegradable discards, such as food and yard waste, where you live and support the development of municipal composting programs in your area. Make a commitment to personally ban these materials from your own trash can by composting or vermicomposting these materials. Learn more about backyard composting and vermicomposting at www.ecocycle.org. Find more ways to take action and learn more at www.grrn.org.

Lafayette's New Curbside Recycling Program a Model for the Rockies

by Eric Lombardi

PROBLEM: The Rocky Mountain Region has the lowest recycling rate of the six regions in the U.S. as defined by the industry magazine *BIOCYCLE*.

WHY: Because this is the last place where the trash industry is still a private "free-for-all" industry with almost no government requirements to do any recycling.

SOLUTION: Follow the lead of our home-grown heroes in Lafayette!

Lafayette City Council and staff rocked the future of recycling in the Rockies in the past year. As of October 1, 2007, 50% of the homes in Lafayette are receiving a new curbside trash and full recycling service, with some homes paying as little as \$7 per month! Working in partnership with city staff and council, Boulder County, Eco-Cycle, and a local citizens group named Lafayette Recycles, the city implemented three elements that may finally awaken recycling in the Mountain West.

Lafayette's First Step to Success: A Single-Hauler Contract

The key to this victory was the city of Lafayette's ability to use its collective community buying power to bring citizens more services at a lower cost. The city acted as a large-scale "buyer" of trash/recycling collection services by offering up for bid a single contract to service over 5,000 homes. This city-led "contract-for-service" is the standard approach for thousands of

communities across the U.S. By servicing every household in a neighborhood, private sector haulers can achieve economies of scale and are able to bid their collection services at a lower rate. This "single hauler" approach was already working well in local homeowner associations (HOAs) where the other 50% of Lafayette's residents were receiving increased service at a lower rate, so the city just needed to get bids on non-HOA neighborhoods.

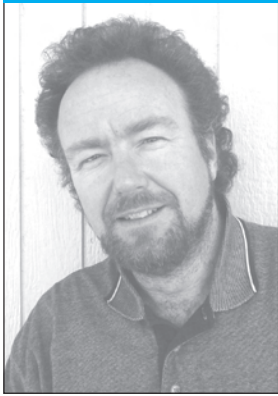
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Eric Lombardi
Executive Director

“I believe our current environmental, social and political conditions demand another evolution of the word pioneer—Actioneer.”

Are you an Actioneer?

We all have an idea of what a “pioneer” is, but for the sake of sharing the same working definition, here is what Wikipedia has to say about it: “A Pioneer (from Old French peon ‘foot soldier’) is one who has travelled from his or her homeland by choice to live in a ‘new’ land or colony, in particular referring to the American Old West. Modern usage of the term is to do something ‘new,’ to pioneer something as in to invent something, or take something in a fresh direction.”

Recently a new type of pioneer evolved from author, filmmaker and entrepreneur Kenny Ausubel who coined the term “Bioneer.” Here is what Wikipedia has to say about it: “Bioneer is a term that describes individuals and groups working in diverse disciplines who have crafted creative solutions to various environmental and socio-cultural problems rooted in shared core values, including whole systems, (anticipatory) thinking, a view of all life as interdependent, and sustainable mutual aid. According to Utne Reader, a bioneer is ‘a biological pioneer, an ecological inventor who’s got an elegant and often simple set of solutions for environmental conundrums.”

Well, I believe our current environmental, social and political conditions demand another evolution—“Actioneer.” Here is my definition (not yet found on Wikipedia): Actioneer (root: “action-oriented pioneer”) is a term that describes an individual or group that takes action with the intent of improving the community welfare through political organizing, media participation or personal lifestyle changes. An actioneer believes that after the requisite research, analysis,

debate and dialogue, then social change requires an “activist” phase that calls on people to actually do something about the issue that concerns them.

I think we all know that NOW is the time for action on so many fronts if we are to be responsible to future generations. But what action is the correct action? Of course there’s the “gateway” action to get us actioneers started protecting our environment, and that’s an obvious one: recycling. The next actions are building blocks of bigger visions like Zero Waste and Zero Emissions: composting and reducing your waste in the first place, riding your bike more and turning down the thermostat to save energy. But what else can we do being just one little person in this world?

Make yourself bigger! Taking a public action on behalf of your community will do that. A great way to begin is to sit down and write that letter to the editor you’ve had in your head for so long. Then, pick up the phone and dial your elected officials’ offices and tell them you’d like to give them a message, and that is “No new coal plants/Get out of Iraq/All Americans need health care” or whatever issue really fires you up. That is the key. We need people like you who are awake and paying attention to get fired up and then speak, act, write, argue, and then laugh. Be sure to laugh, because if you aren’t loving your enemy while you’re fighting, then it’s all just too heavy and depressing. . . and you’ll burn out. . . and you’ll stop being an actioneer. . . and we need more actioneers out there every day. ♻️

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Got Zero Waste questions? We’ve got answers!

www.ecocycle.org

Tools and Resources

- Detailed guidelines & maps
- Our Reuse Resource: Eco-Cycle Exchange
- Guide to Hard-to-Recycle Materials
- Do-it-yourself Zero Waste Kit

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You Ask, We Answer



Hello from Micki, Meg and Meri. We’re Eco-Cycle’s educators on the front lines, talking to all of you at the CHaRM window and on the phones. We get great recycling questions, so we thought we’d share the answers to some of those we hear the most often:

Q: Why can’t I recycle all plastics with the recycling symbol?

A: While it would stand to reason that a recycling symbol would indicate a product’s recyclability, you can’t always count on it. You’ll find the symbol appears on a variety of packaging and products—not just plastics—that are not accepted in our program or in any program in the U.S. There is no regulation of

the recycling symbol to ensure that it appears only on products accepted for recycling, so there is nothing illegal about a manufacturer putting the symbol on any item they please.

For a material to be recyclable, there has to be a demand for it and a market that will buy it, and that’s what determines what can and cannot be accepted. Current recycling markets limit our plastics recycling to the items listed on page C.

Q: Where should I take my compact fluorescent light bulbs?

A: All fluorescent light bulbs, including energy-saving CFLs, contain small amounts of the toxic metal mercury. Fortunately, these bulbs are recyclable at the Boulder County Household Hazardous Waste Program (see page D). By using CFLs instead of incandescent bulbs, you can greatly reduce your use of coal-fired electricity and the mercury emitted by these power plants. Because the amount of mercury you save by not using coal-powered electricity is much greater than the amount found in CFLs, these bulbs are a huge win for the environment.

Q: Where can I recycle a toaster/microwave/dishwasher/dryer?

A: Scrap metal, including appliances that DO NOT contain CFCs (Freon coolants), can be dropped off at the Boulder or Longmont Drop-off Centers. Small scrap metal items are

also accepted at the CHaRM. This includes most appliances, shelving and other mostly metal items with a few exceptions. Computers, TVs and other electronic equipment are not considered scrap metal but can be recycled at the CHaRM (see page D). Appliances containing Freon or CFCs, such as refrigerators, freezers, and air conditioners, are not accepted. Lastly, we cannot accept pressurized containers such as propane tanks. Check out the Hard-to-Recycle Guide on our website (www.ecocycle.org) for recycling options for these and other materials.

Q: Where can I recycle flashlight or alkaline batteries?

A: Unfortunately, there is no local option for properly recycling household alkaline batteries (AA, AAA, C, D, 9-volt, and 6-volt). There are a few national recyclers listed on our website who can recycle your batteries for a small charge. Otherwise, alkaline batteries can be safely discarded in the trash in small quantities, preferably wrapped in newspaper or enclosed in a plastic jar. To avoid the proliferation of batteries in your trash, invest in rechargeable batteries. These batteries will save you money, reduce waste, and can be recycled through the Boulder County Household Hazardous Waste Program (see page D).

All these answers and more are available to you, 24/7, on our website at www.ecocycle.org. ♻️

Recycling Has Gone to the Toilet—Literally!

Announcing CHaRM's Newest Material: Porcelain Toilets, Sinks and Urinals

by Dan Matsch

You may call it a john, a commode, the head, the baño. . . .As of November 15th, 2007, we call it recyclable. Every year we announce yet another new material to our lineup of unusual materials accepted at the Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials (CHaRM), and every year it seems to get a little more unusual. Moving into the realm of a little gross, this year we're opening our gates to porcelain toilets, sinks and urinals, giving these bulky items a chance to live again when their days as essential plumbing in your home or business are over.

The latest addition to the CHaRM's lineup will be sent to a company that grinds up old concrete into a material that can be used in place of gravel road base in road construction projects. Ground porcelain is similar enough in compaction qualities to ground concrete that area road material contractors have agreed to allow us to bring them your porcelain bathroom fixtures to be added to the mountains of old concrete that they process for road projects. So recycling your porcelain not only saves landfill space, but it also reduces the need for virgin gravel from area rock quarries.

We will only accept porcelain fixtures at the CHaRM; please do not leave them at any other drop-off center. See page D of the center pull-out section of this newsletter for CHaRM's location, hours of operation, and a complete list of materials accepted.



There will be a charge to offset the handling and transportation costs we will incur with this new material, but you can save yourself some money (and save Eco-Cycle some labor) by removing all non-porcelain pieces in advance. The charge for toilets will be \$4 per toilet for porcelain only (other materials removed) or \$10 each for whole toilets. Sinks and urinals will cost \$2 each for porcelain only (plumbing removed) or \$5 for whole units.

The removal of supply lines, toilet seats and lids, toilet valves and faucets is relatively easy and can be accomplished in a few minutes with a decent pair of pliers. Most toilets have a large brass ring and nut sticking out of the bottom of the tank which may prove to be a bit more challenging, unless you happen to have a large adjustable wrench or pliers that can open up to fit a 3" nut. But don't worry; if wrestling with the loo isn't your thing, we'll be happy to do the work for you.

With the recent closure of Boulder's venerable Rayback Plumbing Supply, there is no other reuse or recycling option for toilets and sinks available to Boulder and Broomfield County residents at this time. Several cities, including Boulder and Longmont, offer rebate programs to encourage residents and businesses to replace older toilets with new low-flow toilets that do not require as much water per flush, including the new dual-flush models;

GUIDELINES

YES All porcelain sinks, toilets, and urinals. An extra charge applies if non-porcelain pieces such as toilet seat, lid and plumbing fixtures have not been removed. Broken or cracked units are okay to include.

NO Cast iron sinks
Bathtubs (*Enamel-coated cast iron tubs can be recycled as scrap metal.*)
Sink cabinets or countertops
Dishes, cups, or other ceramics
Concrete
Biohazards

FEES Toilet, porcelain only (*all other materials removed*) \$4
Toilet, whole (*other materials still attached*) \$10
Sink or urinal, porcelain only \$2
Sink or urinal, plumbing attached \$5

check with your local government for details. Eco-Cycle will be working with area programs in the next few months to assure that you can get your rebate and get your toilet recycled as conveniently as possible. ♻️

Compost Worms Enjoy Off-the-Grid Living

Eco-Cycle's Flow-Through Worm Digester is Complete

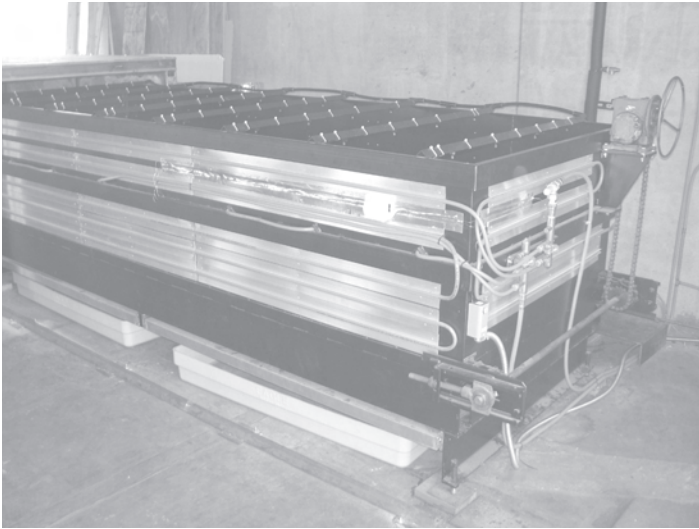
by Dan Matsch

Eco-Cycle recently completed its state-of-the-art, off-the-grid housing for our 100,000 compost worm residents. They are now enjoying luxurious, 100% solar-powered heating and cooling in a custom-made "flow-through worm digester."

With a grant from the Ludwick Family Foundation, Eco-Cycle designed and built—largely out of used materials—the sophisticated yet simple 4' x12' steel box to house our worm population. The worms are essential for producing our Microbe Brew compost tea, which is sold during the growing season at the Boulder Farmers' Market and at the CHaRM.

Our new worm digester and our compost tea will continue to raise awareness of the value of food waste as a critical resource for improving local soils when our food scraps are composted rather than sent to the landfill. When landfilled, food waste contributes to climate change by emitting the potent greenhouse gas methane. Food waste in the landfill also creates landfill leachate, which can pollute our groundwater. Eco-Cycle and many other environmental organizations around the world are working hard to ban all organics—food waste, yard waste and soiled paper not suitable for recycling—from landfills.

The digester is similar in concept to the worm bin you may have in your backyard or garage. Special compost worms feed on chopped vegetables and leaves at the top level of the container,



Solar radiant-floor technology keeps Eco-Cycle's new compost worm box warm in winter and photovoltaic panels power the moving parts.

super-insulated cover box made from old walk-in cooler panels rolls over the digester on rails to minimize the heating and cooling required.

Eco-Cycle would like to thank the generous contributions of labor and equipment made by local solar gurus Namaste Solar Electric and Automatic Solar. Thanks also to John Anderson, our local worm expert, for operational advice. ♻️

while castings (worm poop) accumulate below. If you've ever tried using compost worms (vermicomposting), you know the trickiest part of harvesting the castings for use in your garden is separating the castings from the undigested food and worms. This challenge is that much larger on a commercial scale, but our new digester allows us to harvest castings out of the bottom of the container without disturbing the worms simply by turning a wheel (hence "flow-through").

Compost worms prefer a relatively narrow temperature range between 65 and 75 degrees, and their production of castings drops off rapidly outside that range. When our digester requires supplemental heating, a solar thermal panel heats water and circulates it around and through the digester using the same technology as is used in radiant-heated floors in homes. To cool the digester in mid-summer, extra water percolates through the worm bed, drips into a reservoir below, and is then re-circulated to sprayers above the worms, cooling the surface through evaporation. Pumps for both systems are powered by a small photovoltaic panel. A

Green Star Schools Program Receives NOVA Award



Eco-Cycle's Green Star Schools program received two awards in 2007, the latest of which comes from the Boulder County Community Foundation. The 2007 NOVA Environment award was presented to Eco-Cycle in early September and included a plaque and \$1,000 in cash. The NOVA awards honor outstanding non-profit organizations in Boulder County in the categories of Arts, Civic, Education, Environment, and Health and Human Services, and particularly focus on innovation in programming and operational excellence.

The Green Star Schools program, which launched in spring 2005, now includes 14 Boulder County schools that are working toward Zero Waste through increased recycling, the implementation of composting, and special waste reduction activities. ♻️

ClimateSmart

Pledge online to lower your carbon footprint.

www.beClimateSmart.com

A city of Boulder initiative in partnership with Boulder County.



Zero Waste Around Your Town:

A Snapshot of New Local Zero Waste Community Programs

Lafayette Out in Front of the Single-Stream Movement

Lafayette residents are the first in Boulder County to enjoy the convenience of single-stream recycling,

thanks to the city’s new curbside recycling program (see page 1). Spacious new recycling carts owned by Boulder County were rolled out to city residents in non-HOA neighborhoods in October 2007, equipped with colorful bilingual guidelines instructing residents to combine all recyclables into one cart. Cardboard, milk jugs, glass bottles and newspapers quickly found themselves sharing space en route to the Boulder County Recycling Center where employees will hand sort the materials until the facility’s single-stream upgrade is complete (see below). Towns around Boulder County could see single stream coming to their neighborhood some time in mid-2008.

Boulder County Recycling Facility Invests in Single Stream for ‘08

Thanks to \$5.5 million in renovations and new equipment coming in 2008, the Boulder County Recycling Center will soon take a big leap forward toward the future of recycling and our



Starting mid-2008, the Boulder County Recycling Center will process recyclables all mixed together in a single-stream, helping our communities take a big leap forward toward Zero Waste.

will use a series of optical lasers, magnets, shakers, and other tricks of the trade to separate the materials for individual markets.

Going single stream is an important and necessary step toward our vision of a “three-bin world” where ALL houses and businesses will be part of a countywide system that will enable us to divert nearly 90% of our waste from the landfill! Once all recyclables are in one bin, it creates an opportunity to use a second bin for compostable waste like food and yard scraps, leaving one last (and likely small!) bin for garbage.

The county recycling center should be retrofitted for single stream by mid-2008, and we expect the amount of recyclables coming in to increase 5-10% during the first year because of the added convenience and efficiency. We’ll keep you posted on the progress of the single-stream upgrade. Ultimately, it will be up to your recycling provider to decide if and when you can mix all your recyclables together, so until you hear from them directly, keep following the guidelines as you do so well and keep ‘em separated.

Zero Waste Trial at the County Courthouse and Other Government Offices

While the usual legal and government proceedings continue down at the Boulder County Courthouse, a new kind of trial is taking place behind the scenes—a trial Zero Waste government office. Four downtown county buildings, including the courthouse, are participating in a pilot program that combines smart purchasing, reuse, recycling and composting to reduce and eliminate waste and create a model Zero Waste government. With a long-standing commitment to recycling and several

offices already composting, the county is taking the next step toward its goal of reaching Zero Waste by 2025 through the pilot program.



Boulder County employees use new Zero Waste stations at one of the four county offices’ Zero Waste pilot programs.

According to Boulder County Sustainability Coordinator Ann Livingston, “This pilot will help us structure and implement a Zero Waste program for all county buildings, as well as provide a model for local businesses to follow as they implement Zero Waste strategies.” The public will be able to participate as well with well-labeled composting and recycling bins in numerous public locations.

Recycling System in Broomfield Gets an Upgrade

Thanks to Broomfield City Council’s commitment to creating a greener, more ecologically friendly Broomfield, the city’s recycling program is receiving improvements. Residents will first notice the 50 new recycling containers rolling out to all publicly-owned facilities and high-traffic areas, including the recreation center, park shelters and ballfields. These containers



Fifty new public recycling containers in Broomfield are giving residents more opportunities to avoid the trash can.

diesel for cars and trucks, by taking their cooking oil to the Norman Smith Service Center at 3001 W. 124th Avenue every Tuesday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. or the first Saturday of each month (unless there is a holiday). Cooking oil should not be mixed with any other liquid and should be kept separate from used motor oil or it will not be accepted. For more information, call Broomfield’s Environmental Services Division at 303-438-6329.

Zero Waste Community Events Keep Growing!

Local Zero Waste festivals offer up a little bit of something for everyone—except the trash can. While the plethora of Zero Waste events in Broomfield and Boulder Counties in 2007 reached more than 206,000 attendees, several events deserve special congratulations: Longmont’s Rhythm on the River, Superior Days, Lafayette’s Peach Fest, Labor Day Fall Fest in Louisville, the 5430 Sports triathlon series, and the Boulder County Fair. Throughout the summer, the efforts of event

coordinators, countless volunteers, and attendees at all Zero Waste events saved more than 83 trees, 23,000 kWh of energy and 21,000 gallons of water, and kept 35 tons of compostable materials out of landfills.

This year the Boulder County Fair went entirely Zero Waste. As part of Boulder County’s Sustainability Initiative, the Resource Conservation Division, Parks and Open Space staff, and members from many other divisions in the county worked to make the ten-day event waste-free. The event was a success, diverting



More and more events, like this year’s Superior Days, are going Zero Waste.

106 tons of material from going to area landfills and saving 29 mature Douglas Fir Trees, 11,900 gallons of water, 8,222 kWh of energy, and preventing more than 27 tons of CO₂ emissions and 113 pounds of air pollution.

Zero Waste Events—Now it’s YOUR Turn!

“It isn’t a great event unless it’s a Zero Waste,” we like to say, and by that reckoning, there were more than 300 great birthdays, bat mitzvahs, weddings, meetings and other gatherings this summer! Eco-Cycle’s newest tool to help you achieve Zero Waste, our Zero Waste Event Kit (ZWEK), was created just in time for the party season and has been a tremendous hit. From backyard barbecues to business meetings and even a pack llama excursion to the mountains, an estimated 7,000 event goers used ZWEKs to recycle all their containers and compost more than 13 tons of food scraps at the Eco-Cycle/City of Boulder Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials.

Look for more Zero Waste events throughout our community and learn how to use compostable tableware for your own celebrations at www.ecocycle.org.

It isn't a great event unless it's Zero Waste!

Make your next event Zero Waste with Eco-Cycle's Zero Waste Event Kit

- Business functions and meetings
- Birthday parties
- Weddings
- Family reunions
- Block parties

Your customizable kit includes compostable tableware, a compost collection container, guidelines and educational signage.

For more information, or to order a kit, visit www.ecocycle.org

Working to Build Zero Waste Communities

eco-cycle recycling guide

Fall 2007/Winter 2008

Page A

Your complete guide to recycling in Boulder and Broomfield Counties.

Guidelines also available online at www.ecocycle.org.

For information about recycling at your business,
call Eco-Cycle at 303-444-6634.

at the curb

In Boulder

How Do I Start Service?

Curbside recycling in Boulder is collected by your trash hauler. The city of Boulder requires haulers to provide unlimited recycling services for each trash customer at no additional cost.

The following haulers all provide service in the city of Boulder for curbside trash and recycling. Prices and types of recycling containers vary. Call to begin service and to determine your recycling day: BFI 303-287-8043 • One Way Trash 303-823-0556 • Western Disposal Services 303-444-2037.

What Can I Recycle at the Curb?

All haulers are providing a two-sort system, and are required by the city of Boulder to collect the following items (see page C for detailed guidelines on recycling materials):

COMMINGLED CONTAINERS

- Glass bottles and jars of any color—please avoid breaking glass



- Aluminum cans—do not crush or flatten cans

- Aluminum pie pans and aluminum foil—ball all aluminum foil together into one large ball or flatten pieces; no small balled-up foil please

- Steel (tin) cans

- Metal jar lids—remove from containers and recycle loose

- Metal bottle caps

- Aerosol cans—no caps, must be empty

- Paper milk/juice cartons and drink boxes—no drink pouches or foil-lined drink boxes

- Plastic bottles and jugs with a #1, #2 or #5 on the bottom—throw away lids

- Plastic screw-top jars with a #1 on the bottom—no lids

PAPER

- Newspapers and newspaper inserts

- Corrugated cardboard and brown paper bags

- Magazines and catalogs

- Phone books

- Office paper/Opened mail—no neon or fluorescent-colored papers

- Larger paperboard boxes—such as cereal boxes, shoe boxes, paper egg cartons, 6-pack and 12-pack carton/boxes, and large gift boxes. Smaller items and low-grade paper products are accepted at designated drop-off centers only. See page B for details.



NO

- Plastics other than those listed
- Plastic bags, foam packaging/products or small paperboard items
- Plastic lids

Missed pick-ups? Call your hauler.

In Longmont

How Do I Start Service?

Curbside recycling in Longmont is provided by the city. Longmont residents are automatically on the recycling schedule. Recycling is collected twice monthly on alternate weeks, same day as trash. Set carts out by 7 a.m. Call 303-651-8416 for schedule information and recycling carts.

What Can I Recycle at the Curb?

COMMINGLED CONTAINERS SIDE

- Glass bottles and jars of any color—please avoid breaking glass

- Aluminum cans—do not crush or flatten cans

- Aluminum pie pans and aluminum foil—ball all aluminum foil together into one large ball or flatten pieces; no small balled-up foil please

- Steel (tin) cans

- Metal jar lids—remove from containers and recycle loose

- Metal bottle caps

- Aerosol cans—no caps, must be empty

- Paper milk/juice cartons and drink boxes

- Plastic bottles and jugs with a #1, #2 or #5 on the bottom

- Plastic screw-top jars with a #1 on the bottom

- Plastic tubs and cups with a #2 or #5 on the bottom



PAPER SIDE



- Newspapers and newspaper inserts

- Magazines and catalogs

- Office paper/Opened mail—no neon or fluorescent-colored papers

NO

- Plastics other than those listed
- Plastic bags, cardboard, paperboard, brown paper bags, foam packaging/products or yard waste
- Motor oil or car batteries—Motor oil collection can be scheduled with the city; call 303-651-8416.

In Lafayette

Residents in Lafayette served by the city's new single-stream recycling program (with new purple-lidded carts) should call Western Disposal at 303-444-2037 for guidelines.

Other Communities

For residents of communities not served by city-sponsored programs, call your local trash hauler for curbside recycling service and guidelines. For information on materials accepted at your community's drop-off center, see page B.

Questions? Call Eco-Cycle at 303-444-6634, 303-772-7300 in Longmont, or 303-404-2839 in Broomfield, or visit www.ecocycle.org.

recycling guide

Page B: Drop-off Center Recycling

Page C: Preparing your Recyclables

Page D: CHaRM Guidelines / Hard-to-Recycle Items

drop-off centers

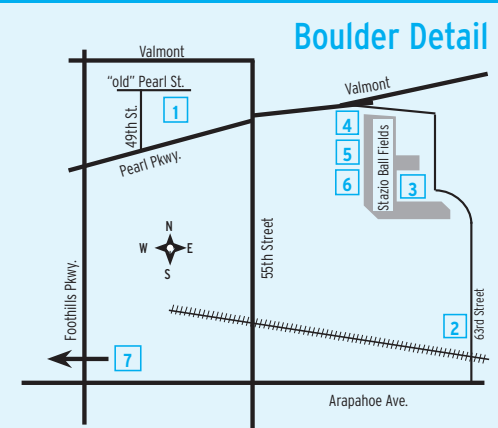
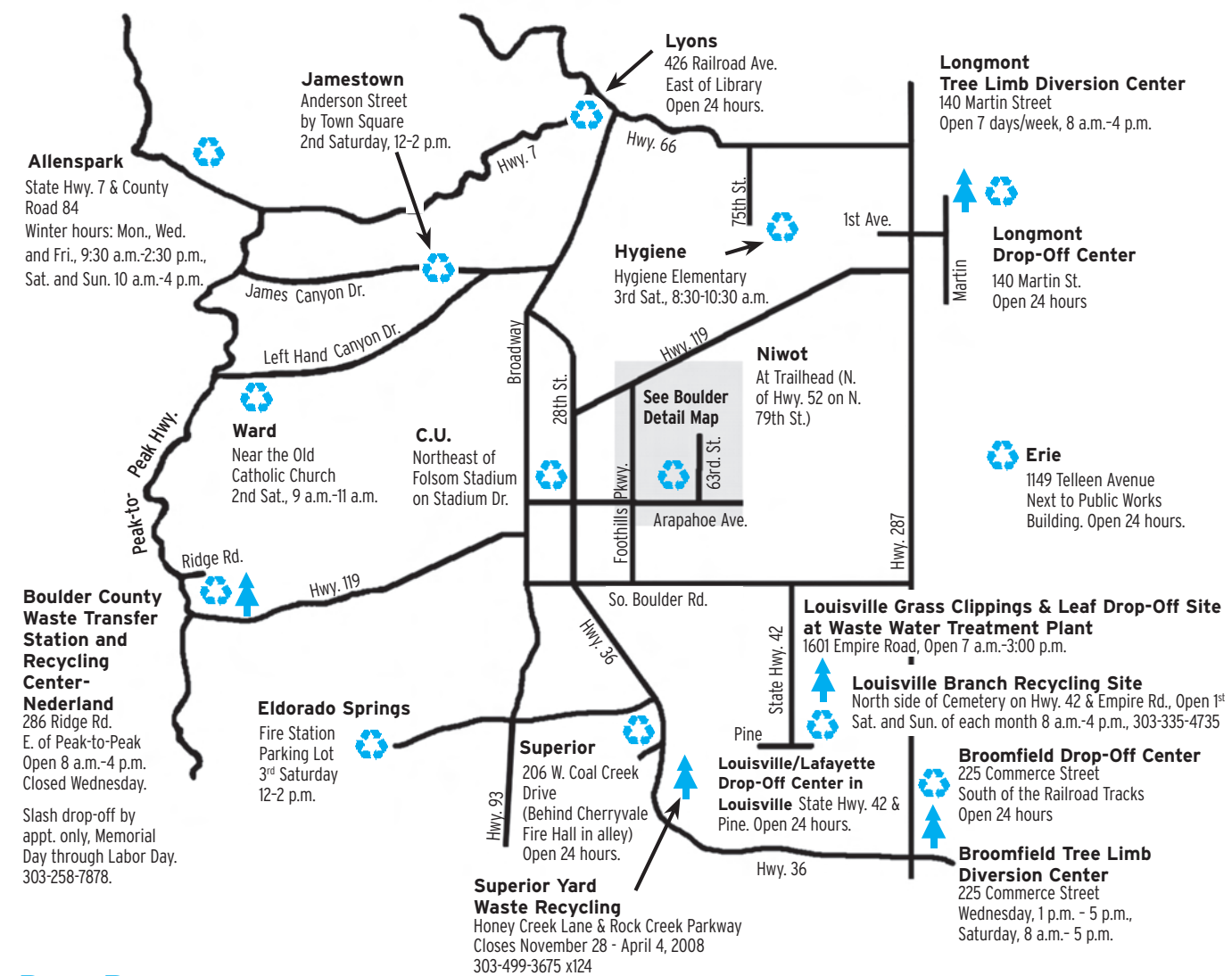
KEY TO GRID	CONTAINERS							PAPER						
	Aluminum Cans and Foil	Steel Cans & Metal Jar Lids	Glass Bottles & Jars	Milk Cartons / Drink Boxes	Plastic Bottles (#1, #2 or #5)	Plastic Screw-Top Jars (#1)	Plastic Tubs & Cups (#2 & #5)	Cardboard & Brown Paper Bags	Magazines / Catalogs	Office Paper / Opened Mail	Newspaper	Phone Books	Large Paperboard Items	Small, Low-Grade Paper Items
<div>☑</div> Will accept this material														
<div></div> Clusters of shaded check marks indicate these items are comingled (mixed) together.														
ALLENSPARK State Hwy. 7 & County Road 84 • 303-747-2107 Winter hours: Mon., Wed. and Fri., 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Sat. and Sun. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	
BOULDER Boulder County Recycling Center 1901 63rd Street between Arapahoe and Valmont 303-444-6634 or 720-564-2220 • Open 24 hours	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
BROOMFIELD City of Broomfield Recycling Center (managed by Eco-Cycle) 225 Commerce Street • 303-404-2839 Open 24 hours	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
ELDORADO SPGS Parking lot of Fire Station • 303-444-6634 3rd Saturday of each month, 12-2 p.m.	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	
ERIE 1149 Telleen Ave. (next to Public Works building) Open 24 hours • 303-926-2731	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
HYGIENE Hygiene Elementary School 303-444-6634 3rd Saturday of each month, 8:30 a.m. -10:30 a.m.	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	
JAMESTOWN Anderson Street (by town square) 303-444-6634 2nd Saturday of each month, 12-2 p.m.	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	

	CONTAINERS							PAPER						
	Aluminum Cans and Foil	Steel Cans & Metal Jar Lids	Glass Bottles & Jars	Milk Cartons / Drink Boxes	Plastic Bottles (#1, #2 or #5)	Plastic Screw-Top Jars (#1)	Plastic Tubs & Cups (#2 & #5)	Cardboard & Brown Paper Bags	Magazines / Catalogs	Office Paper / Opened Mail	Newspaper	Phone Books	Large Paperboard Items	Small, Low-Grade Paper Items
<div>☠</div> Hazardous Waste For disposal of paint, solvents, non-alkaline batteries and other household hazardous waste, call the Boulder County Household Hazardous Waste Hotline at 303-441-4800.														
LAFAYETTE Lafayette/Louisville • 303-444-6634 St. Hwy. 42 & Pine Street, Louisville • Open 24 hours	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
LONGMONT Eco-Cycle/Longmont Recycling Center 303-772-7300 • 140 Martin Street • Open 24 hours	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
LOUISVILLE Louisville/Lafayette • 303-444-6634 St. Hwy. 42 & Pine Street, Louisville • Open 24 hours	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
LYONS 426 Railroad Avenue (E. of Library) • Open 24 hours 303-444-6634 or 720-564-2220	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	
NEDERLAND 286 Ridge Road (E. of Peak to Peak Hwy.) 303-258-7878 Open 8 a.m.–4 p.m., Closed Wednesday.	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	
NIWOT At Trailhead (N. of Hwy. 52 on N. 79th St.) 303-444-6634 or 720-564-2220 Open 24 hours	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	
SUPERIOR 206 W. Coal Creek Dr. (behind Cherryvale Fire Hall in alley) 303-444-6634 • Open 24 hours	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑				☑	☑			
WARD Near the old Catholic church • 303-444-6634 2nd Saturday of month, 9 a.m.–11 a.m.	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	

For residents without a municipal curbside program, subscription curbside recycling is available in most areas throughout the county. For more information, call your local trash haulers.

Scrap Metal is accepted at the Boulder and Longmont Drop-off Centers. Note: In both locations, small scrap metal items are accepted 24 hrs/day. Large scrap metal items must be dropped off in Boulder Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and in Longmont between 8 a.m-4 p.m. (seven days a week). Call 303-444-6634 or 720-564-2235 for more information in Boulder or 303-772-7300 in Longmont..

Maps to Recycling Centers



- Key:**
- Eco-Cycle Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials**, located at 5030 "old" Pearl St. (Turn N. on 49th from Pearl Pkwy., right on "old" Pearl, turn right at the Eco-Cycle sign.) Accepts electronics, books, block foam and more. Some fees apply. See page D for details. Open Monday–Saturday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Call 303-444-6634.
 - Boulder County Recycling Center and Boulder Drop-off Center**, located at 1901 63rd St. Open 24 hours. Call Eco-Cycle at 303-444-6634 or Boulder County Resource Conservation at 720-564-2220.
 - ReSource**, accepts and sells construction and demolition materials in good shape. Hours of operation vary in the winter months. Check www.resourceyard.org or call 303-419-5418 for updated information.
 - City of Boulder/Boulder County Yard Waste Drop-off Center**, located at Western Disposal, 5880 Butte Mill Road. Open Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.–5 p.m.; Saturday, 7 a.m.–2 p.m. Free for Boulder residents. Call the Recycle Boulder Hotline at 303-441-4234. County residents pay a discounted rate. Call Boulder County Resource Conservation at 720-564-2220.
 - Boulder County Household Hazardous Waste Facility**, located at Western Disposal, 5880 Butte Mill Road. Open Wednesday, 8 a.m.–3:30 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 8 a.m.–noon. Call the HHW Hotline at 303-441-4800 or Boulder County Resource Conservation at 720-564-2220. Closed in bad weather.
 - City of Boulder/Boulder County Clean Wood Waste Drop-off**, located at Western Disposal, 5880 Butte Mill Road. Open Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.–5 p.m., Sat. 7 a.m.–2 p.m. Free for Boulder residents. Call the Recycle Boulder Hotline at 303-441-4234. County residents pay a discounted rate. Call Boulder County Resource Conservation at 720-564-2220.
 - CU Recycling's Intermediate Processing Facility**, located northeast of Folsom Stadium on Stadium Drive. Office open Monday–Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Drop-off open 24 hours. Call 303-492-8307.

Preparing Recyclables

Please follow these guidelines carefully to help make recycling a success. Refer to the facing page of this recycling guide for drop-off center locations throughout Boulder and Broomfield Counties. Refer to page A for information on what is accepted for curbside collection. Thanks for recycling!

Commingled Containers

Commingled Containers include all of the following containers and are accepted mixed together at drop-off centers throughout Boulder and Broomfield Counties.

Glass bottles & jars of all colors

- Please avoid breaking glass
- Labels OK • Please rinse
- Remove metal lids/caps from glass containers and recycle them loose.

NO vases, dishes, mirrors, light bulbs, window glass, or drinking glasses



Aluminum cans, pie pans & clean aluminum foil

- Do not crush or flatten cans
- Please rinse.

NO small, balled-up foil. Please ball aluminum foil together into one large ball, or flatten pieces.



Steel (tin) cans & empty aerosol cans

- Please rinse • Labels OK
- Metal jar lids, metal bottle caps OK
- Pinch the open end of cans closed

NO plastic lids/caps



Plastic bottles & jugs with a #1, #2 or #5 on the bottom

- Includes milk jugs, soda bottles, most shampoo bottles, etc.
- Please rinse • Remove and throw away lids

NO plastic bags or cups
plastic vitamin or prescription bottles
motor oil, antifreeze or brake fluid bottles

Plastic screw-top jars with a #1 on the bottom

- Please rinse

NO plastic lids/caps



Paper Milk and Juice Cartons, Juice Boxes and Drink Boxes

- Please rinse • Remove and throw away straws and plastic caps • No need to remove plastic spouts

NO drink pouches or foil-lined drink boxes

NOTE: Please do NOT include any plastics other than those listed. Including non-recyclable plastics jeopardizes the entire plastic recycling program!



#2 and #5 Plastic Tubs & Cups

Includes margarine, yogurt, other dairy tubs and some deli tubs. Plastic tubs and cups with a #2 or #5 are accepted with Commingled Containers in the Longmont curbside program and at the Boulder and Longmont

Drop-off Centers ONLY. Due to very shaky markets for this material, tubs will not be added to other programs at this time. • Please rinse.

NO lids, bags, other types of cups, clamshell “to go” containers or other types of plastics

Scrap Metal

Appliances without Freon®, dishwashers, microwaves, hot water heaters, metal pipe, etc.

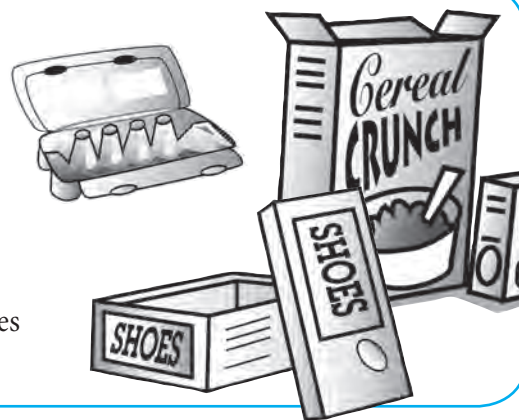
NO oil, tires, pressurized containers such as propane canisters, air conditioners, refrigerators or freezers, car batteries, computers or other electronic equipment (see page D)



Larger Paperboard Items

Larger single-layer items such as:

- Cereal boxes (throw away the inside bag)
- Gift/shirt boxes
- Paper egg cartons
- Shoe boxes
- 6-pack & 12-pack cartons/boxes
- Hanging file folders



Smaller, Low-grade Paper Products

Smaller, low-grade paper items such as:

- Cracker boxes (throw away the inside bag)
- Soap boxes and facial tissue boxes
- Paper shopping bags (brown bags go with corrugated cardboard)
- Paper tubes (e.g. paper towel tubes, toilet paper tubes, etc.)
- Shredded paper



Only accepted with “Paperboard” at designated drop-off centers (see page B).
Not accepted through any curbside program.

Office Paper & Opened Mail

- Adding machine tape
- Blueprints
- Brochures
- Computer printouts
- Copy & typing paper
- Fax paper
- File folders (manila or pastel-colored only)
- Greeting cards
- Index cards
- Letterhead
- Loose leaf paper
- Pamphlets
- Pastel-colored legal pad paper
- Slick/glossy ads & brochures
- Stationery & letters
- White ream wrappers
- White & pastel-colored paper
- White & pastel-colored envelopes (windowed envelopes OK)



No need to remove these: paper clips • stamps and address labels on envelopes • staples • metal fasteners • rubber bands • Post-It® sticky notes (no neon colors) • tape • wire or plastic spiral bindings • plastic tabs • windows in envelopes



Newspapers & Newspaper Inserts

NO other papers, boxes, plastic bags or string

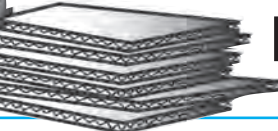
Magazines & Catalogs

- Larger catalogs are OK



Corrugated Cardboard & Brown Paper Bags

- Please flatten • Glossy boxes OK



NO paperboard boxes or low-grade paper products (see above)

Phone Books



The following items are NOT recyclable in ANY category:

- Kraft (orange/brownish) envelopes*
- Neon, fluorescent, golden-rod & dark-colored paper*
- Wrapping and tissue paper*
- Paper towels & paper plates/cups*
- Facial tissues & napkins*
- Waxed paper & waxed cardboard*
- Carbon paper
- Frozen food, ice cream & paper frozen juice containers
- Photographs
- Pet food/charcoal/fertilizer bags
- Tyvek® envelopes
- Sheets of address labels
- Stickers

*These items are compostable where available.

Please empty and rinse all containers. NO plastic bags.

CHaRM Guidelines

Eco-Cycle/City of Boulder Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials

The CHaRM is a unique center designed to accept those unusual, more difficult items to recycle. This is not the regular drop-off center (see map for location). Please do not leave any of these materials at any location other than the CHaRM.

Why Is It Important to Recycle Electronics?

Televisions and computer monitors each contain 3-8 pounds of lead. These and other electronics also contain a host of other toxic substances such as mercury, arsenic and cadmium, which can contaminate the groundwater when landfilled.

Fees: There is a fee for recycling electronics and some other items to help offset the cost of collecting, processing and shipping these materials. Prices subject to change.

Materials Accepted

Big Durable #2 Plastics: NO CHARGE

- #2 large plastics such as plastic toys like big wheels and plastic play structures, plastic lawn furniture, plastic watering cans, laundry baskets, clean #2 plastic buckets (no residue), crates, rigid backyard kiddie pools and plastic trash containers with a #2, flower pots with a #2.
 - Please remove non-plastic parts.
 - NO flower pots without a #2, inflatable pools or other inflatable plastics, water beds, chew toys, CD jewel cases, small toys such as action figures, etc.
- For more detailed guidelines visit www.ecocycle.org/CHaRM

Audio Equipment

- Home stereo components: \$8
- Car stereos: \$4
- No wooden speakers

Books & Manuals: NO CHARGE

- Computer and office manuals
- Hard-bound books and paperbacks
- Also accepted at the Broomfield Drop-off Center.

Computers & Computer Equipment

- Computer monitors 19" or smaller: \$10
- Computer monitors 20" to 34": \$15
- Computer towers/CPU's: \$8
- Printers/scanners: \$8
- Laptops: \$4
- Universal power supply (UPS): \$8
- Keyboards, mice, cables: NO CHARGE
- Large misc. computer equip.: 30¢/lb.

Cooking Oil: NO CHARGE

- Cooking oil (such as canola, corn, vegetable, olive and sesame oils)
- NO motor oil or any oil used for purposes other than cooking
- We cannot recycle or dispose of your oil container.

Copiers & Fax Machines

- Fax machines: \$8
- Desktop copiers: \$8
- Large copiers (over 40 lbs.): 30¢/lb.

Fire Extinguishers

- Boulder residents with ID: NO CHARGE
- Non-Boulder residents: \$4

Phones

- Cell phones: NO CHARGE
- Office phones: \$4
- Home phones: \$2

Plastic Bags: NO CHARGE

- #2 and #4 ONLY (newspaper bags, grocery bags, dry cleaner bags, etc.)
- MUST be clean, DRY, and empty of all food, receipts, etc. with tape and stickers removed
- NO garbage bags, sandwich bags, plastic food wrap or black bags

Printer Cartridges: NO CHARGE

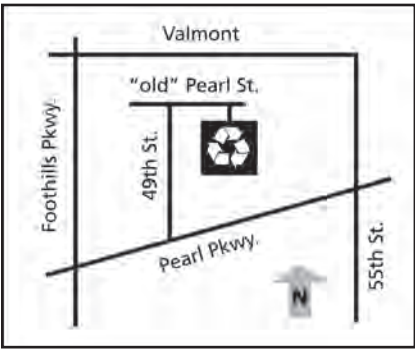
- Ink jet and laser jet printer cartridges

Shoes

- Reusable paired shoes (all types) should be tied together or rubber-banded and placed in the Paired Shoes and Accessories bin.
- Athletic shoes should be placed unbound in the Athletic Shoes bin (no cleats, metal parts, zippers, mud or Keds-type sneakers).

Small Electronic Items

- PDAs/Gameboys/iPods: \$2
- Video game systems: \$4-\$8 (depending on size)



Textiles: NO CHARGE

- Clothing, bedding, towels and fabrics
- Items may be stained or ripped, but they must be clean. Must be 12" square or larger.
- NO underwear or socks

NEW! Toilets, Sinks and Urinals

See article on page 3 for details.

TVs & VCRs/DVD Players

- TVs 19" or smaller: \$10
- Mid-Size TVs 20" to 34": \$15
- Consoles and TVs larger than 34": \$30
- VCRs/DVD players: \$8
- Satellite boxes: \$8

White Block Foam Packaging

- #6 white block foam packaging and rigid foam insulation only
- Residents: NO CHARGE
- Businesses: \$6 per cubic yard
- NO packing "peanuts," Styrofoam cups, foam coolers or "to-go" boxes

Call 303-444-6634 or visit www.ecocycle.org for more information.



Funded in part by City of Boulder Trash Tax Dollars.

The CHaRM is funded by the City of Boulder, Eco-Cycle, YOU and our Partners for Responsible Recycling:

Camera

YOUR PAPER. YOUR NEWS.

funding for our plastic bag recycling program

ListenUp®

funding for our electronics recycling program

Abbreviated Guide to Hard-to-Recycle Items

Appliances with Freon®

(refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, etc.)

Non-reusable appliances containing Freon® must, by state law, have it removed by a company licensed to do so before disposal or recycling. Freon® contains chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) which contribute to ozone depletion in the atmosphere. In most cases, there will be a fee for CFC removal. Eco-Cycle does NOT accept appliances containing Freon®.

Bizzy B's Recycling

10 S. Main Street, Longmont • 303-682-2454
Removes and recycles Freon® free of charge from freezers, air conditioners and refrigerators. There is a charge for pickup.

Unwanted Appliances

303-430-7142 • www.unwanted.com
Provides pickup and Freon removal of all major appliances.

Appliances without Freon®

(washers, dryers, microwaves, dishwashers, etc.)

Metal appliances that do not contain Freon® can be recycled as scrap metal at:

Boulder County Recycling Center

1901 63rd St., Boulder
303-444-6634 or 720-564-2235
Hours for large scrap metal items:
Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
Small scrap metal items can be recycled 24 hours/day. See map on page B.

Eco-Cycle/Longmont Recycling Center

140 Martin St. • 303-772-7300
Open 24 hours. Hours for large scrap metal:
8 a.m.–4 p.m. See map on page B.

Unwanted Appliances

303-430-7142 • www.unwanted.com
Picks up and removes Freon for all major appliances.

Car Batteries

Most major auto repair retailers accept car batteries for recycling. Some smaller shops—even your local mechanic—may accept batteries as well. Also accepted at the Boulder County Household Hazardous Waste Facility. See next entry.

Household Hazardous Waste

Boulder County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility

Located at Western Disposal
5880 Butte Mill Rd., Boulder • 303-441-4800
Hours: Wed., 8 a.m.–3:30 p.m.; Fri. and Sat., 8 a.m.–noon. Closed for winter holidays and inclement weather.

See map on page B. Accepts batteries (except non-rechargeable alkalines), paints, solvents, automotive products and other household hazardous items from residents of Boulder County, Broomfield County and Erie. In addition, the County sponsors a reusable products giveaway at the facility during regular collection hours. Get paint and other useful home-care products for free!

Motor Oil

Motor oil is accepted at most car repair shops for a small fee. Call Eco-Cycle or visit our website for information on a garage near you.

Boulder County HHW Facility

See previous listing.

City of Longmont Public Works

375 Airport Rd., Longmont • 303-651-8416
Accepts motor oil during daylight hours, seven days a week. Longmont residents only. Must be in see-through containers. Call for curbside pickup of five gallons or less.

Packing "Peanuts" and Bubble Wrap

Foam packing "peanuts" are generally accepted at local mail service centers for reuse. Some stores also accept bubble wrap. Visit our website or call your local store for information.

Reusable Building Materials (windows, doors, lumber, etc.)

ReSource

2665 N. 63rd Street, Boulder
303-419-5418 • www.resourceyard.com
Hours of operation vary in the winter months. Check www.resourceyard.org or call 303-419-5418 for updated information. Materials in good shape are accepted. Materials are also available for purchase. See map on page B.

Habitat for Humanity ReStore

755 Weaver Park Road, Longmont
303-776-3334 • www.stvrainhfh.org
Accepts building materials and some household items in good shape. Materials also available for purchase.

Wood Waste

City of Boulder/Boulder County Clean Wood Waste Drop-off

(located at Western Disposal)
5880 Butte Mill Road, Boulder • 303-444-5794
Winter hours: Mon.–Fri., 7 a.m.–5 p.m., Sat. 7 a.m.–2 p.m.

Clean, unpainted and untreated dimensional lumber, pallets and other cut-offs left over from construction or demolition projects are accepted. No charge for city of Boulder residents. Boulder businesses will be charged 50% less than the landfill tipping fee, Boulder County residents will be charged 40% less than the landfill fee. No painted or chemically treated wood. See map on page B.

From Appliances to Yard Waste...

See Eco-Cycle's full Guide to Hard-to-Recycle Materials at www.ecocycle.org.

Questions? Call 303-444-6634.

Zero Waste Around the World

by Kate Mangione

Your Trash Can Really Be Treasure

Dedicated recyclers know there's value in those piles of discarded newspaper, aluminum cans and cardboard boxes, but the new RecycleBank program is the first to really take that message to the people. Currently serving select residents in six Eastern states, RecycleBank is a curb-side recycling program that rewards residents for recycling with coupons to 250 local, national and online retailers, from book-stores to grocers. Recycling carts are scanned and weighed on pickup, and the amount recycled is translated into RecycleBank Dollars. Residents can earn up to \$35 per month, and they log on to the RecycleBank website and choose how to spend their rewards. Of course, getting people to recycle by offering them more "stuff" as a reward isn't a Zero Waste message (unless the goods are essentials items like groceries), but participation and recycling rates in the program areas are way up. RecycleBank is capturing people's interest, and that's a step in the right direction.

Proper Electronics Recycling Catching Up to the Digital Age

It's been said computer power doubles every two years, and we're happy to report that environmental initiatives aimed at electronics are finally matching this pace. Here's a look at the new recycling legislation and energy saving proposals in the world of electronics:

- Fort Collins, Colorado is the first city in the Rocky Mountain West to ban electronics from the landfill—a huge step toward Zero Waste at the municipal level.
- Oregon, Texas, North Carolina, Minnesota and Connecticut each adopted legislation in 2007 aimed at involving electronics producers with the recycling of their outdated equipment. Nine states in all have adopted electronics legislation but still no federal action.
- Television giant Sony has teamed up with Waste Management to recycle any Sony product free of charge at select locations. This is a huge commitment in the U.S. market, although information is still scarce about whether toxic materials will be responsibly recycled in the U.S. or exported to developing countries.
- Intel will reduce the use of toxic materials in its products with its new 100% lead-free processor, available in computers in late 2007.
- The Green Electronics Council's new buying guide, the Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT), has manufacturers competing to design and produce more efficient, less resource-intensive computers. Make EPEAT a part of your next computer purchase at www.epeat.net.

Green Cleaning Gets an A+ at School

More than 20% of the U.S. population spends their days inside elementary and secondary schools, yet the U.S. Government Accountability Office reports more than half of U.S. schools have problems

linked to poor indoor air quality. In addition to asbestos, lead paint and deteriorating buildings, these schools also contain asthma stimulants, hormone disruptors, volatile organic compounds and skin irritants from common industrial and household cleaners. In 2006, in the first statewide effort to protect children and custodial workers from potentially toxic cleaning compounds, the state of New York mandated the use of green cleaning products in all schools and state agencies. Illinois followed suit a year later. According to the EPA, improving air quality in schools can reduce absenteeism, improve student and staff concentration, improve student productivity and performance, decrease health risks from exposure to indoor pollutants, reduce environmental triggers of asthma, and reduce respiratory illness. Sounds like a good plan for household air as well.

You Are What You Eat, and What You Do With Your Leftovers, Too

Because cattle emit vast quantities of the potent greenhouse gas methane into our atmosphere, choosing a vegetarian diet or cutting back on your meat intake will decrease your personal contribution to climate change. What you choose to do with your food scraps, meat and otherwise, also has a huge impact. According to the EPA's 2007 greenhouse gas inventory report, the largest source of human-caused methane emissions in the U.S. is not cattle, it's landfills. And it's the biodegradable portion of the landfill—everything from grass clippings, leftover food and wood scraps—that's the problem. While many states and municipalities have banned yard waste from the landfill for more than a decade (Colorado is unfortunately not one of them), the city of Seattle has taken the next step forward and will require residents to separate food scraps for composting from the rest of their discards as of 2009. More than 60% of single-family King County, Washington residents already have curbside compost collection. In the province of Nova Scotia, more than 75% of residents have curbside compost collection, while San Francisco has achieved its remarkable 67% diversion rate in part thanks to its curbside compost collection program. Boulder could pioneer a similar program in the next few years, further reducing our climate footprint.

International Zero Waste Headlines:

- The Scottish Nationalist Party, now the largest party in Scotland's Parliament, announced its goal of a Zero Waste Scotland, although details of the party's plan have yet to emerge.
- The east African country of Uganda now prohibits companies from producing, importing or using plastic bags. Linked to widespread littering, the spread of germs, flooding and contaminated water supplies, plastic bags are being rejected in favor of traditional banana leaves for carrying goods. Kenya and Tanzania have passed similar measures, following the lead of Rwanda in 2005.
- Major retailers, suppliers and brand owners in the U.K. have pledged to reduce packaging under the Courtauld Commitment. Goals include stopping the upward trend in volumes of packaging going to waste by 2008, delivering absolute reductions in packaging waste by 2010, and identifying ways to tackle the problem of food waste. Signers include brands with prominent U.S. market shares, such as H.J. Heinz, Nestlé, Unilever, Coca-Cola, Mars and Cadbury-Schweppes. ♻️

Lafayette's New Program cont'd from page 1

Steps Two and Three: Recycling Revenue Goes to the City and Public Ownership of the Recycling Bins

Next, the city took two cutting-edge approaches to the contract that will be a model for other local towns like Louisville, Erie, Broomfield and Superior. First, the revenues from the sale of recyclables belong to the city, not the hauler. This guarantees, for the first time, that Lafayette will have a dedicated revenue source to support the growth of its recycling program. Second, the city signed a lease-purchase agreement for the new recycling bins. Boulder County covered the upfront purchase, and the city agreed to pay the County back over time. This innovative approach to public ownership of the recycling bins allows Lafayette to control the recycling program for its residents, brand the program with community pride, and ensure that the recyclable materials are processed at the local public recycling facility which Lafayette residents helped pay to build.

To understand why this Lafayette program and its three key points (single hauler contract, recycling revenue to the city, and public ownership of the recycling bins) are so important, it is necessary to understand the economics of trash hauling. Since the city asked the hauling companies to bid only on the one activity they do best—running trucks—their risk was very low. By not asking the haulers to speculate on



Lafayette Public Works Director Doug Short stands with the city's new recycling carts ready to be wheeled out for its new residential curbside recycling program that is serving as a model throughout the Rocky Mountain region.

the future value of the recyclables or require them to borrow large amounts of money to buy 5,000 new recycling carts (at over \$60 each), the city was able to have haulers compete in a bidding process that resulted in the lowest collection price in Boulder County, offered by the local company Western Disposal of Boulder.

The success of Lafayette proves that if city councils step up on behalf of their communities and change the rules of the local trash game, the citizens of the Mountain West can finally start to receive the progressive resource management services that others in the U.S. are already enjoying. Other communities in Boulder and Broomfield Counties should be the first to take note, and, in fact, the staff members in Lafayette have received numerous phone calls from other communities along the Front Range. Thanks Lafayette for leading the charge! ♻️

CU Update: Recycling and Zero Waste Improvements

by Daniel Baril with the Environmental Center, University of Colorado at Boulder

The 2007-08 academic year at CU is in full swing, and CU Recycling is equipped with a motivated staff of students to make recycling happen on the CU campus. With many new initiatives and improvements underway, CU Recycling hopes to increase the campus recycling diversion rate and help pave the way for higher standards in campus recycling practices across the nation.

In summer 2007, new outdoor recycling bins were placed in 28 locations, making it easier to recycle as you walk through campus. Also, 20 new recycling cabinets have been installed in classroom buildings, making it easy for students to recycle as they come and go from class.

Ever since "Global Jam," the welcome picnic for first year students, was transformed into a Zero Waste event, there has been an increase in requests for other campus events to be Zero Waste. CU Dining Services has immediate plans to hold all their on-campus catered events as Zero Waste events. UMC Catering, another large caterer on campus, has also started to make the transition to Zero Waste for their events.

The Zero Waste practice of composting is taking hold in other areas on campus besides the dining halls. In August, the

University Memorial Center (UMC) established a compostables collection system. Since the UMC is the hub of student activity on campus, the amount of food scraps being collected is significant. The scraps will become high-quality compost that can be used in campus landscaping.

In other news, the National Recycling Coalition made a recent visit to Denver for its annual Congress and Expo. In conjunction with the conference, CU Recycling held tours and conducted a series of workshops. The tours included a working demonstration of the campus recycling facility, a behind-the-scenes look at recycling operations at residence halls and around campus, demonstrations of equipment, and an inside peek at special event recycling operations for the home football games.

The Recycling Art and Products Extravaganza was also held on campus recently. This event, which promotes local business and artists who create their products/work with recycled materials, shows the practical applications of recycled content and encourages students to make purchases that "Close the Loop."

We will CU Recycling on campus soon! ♻️

Zero Waste Businesses on the Rise

by Erin Makowsky

Every day we hear from businesses wanting to join as Zero Waste Community Partners, using Eco-Cycle’s Zero Waste Services to do their part in helping our community reach its Zero Waste goals. We’re proud of all our partners, including these four companies that are demonstrating how to do business in a cleaner, greener way:

HospiceCare & Share Thrift Shop

Location: 5290 Arapahoe, Boulder
Number of employees: 4 employees, 100 volunteers

Program: Thrift stores are critical to the success of Zero Waste because they provide an effective way for people to share gently-used clothing, furniture and household items that might otherwise be discarded. HospiceCare & Share Thrift Shop, a local non-profit that



Lynne Foley with HospiceCare & Share Thrift Shop sorts through non-saleable materials that the thrift shop is now recycling through Eco-Cycle’s “hard-to-recycle” collection program for businesses.

specializes in the resale of used goods, has set a new standard for thrift stores in our community.

In the process of accepting reusable materials, HospiceCare accumulates large quantities of non-saleable materials, which were previously being trashed. In November 2006, this organization stopped sending all its discards to the landfill and instead took the Zero Waste plunge by implementing collection systems for traditional and hard-to-recycle materials. The store’s new textile recycling program currently diverts 3,250 lbs. of textiles from the landfill each month. Additionally, HospiceCare recycles mixed paper and cardboard, commingled

containers and hard-to-recycle items such as electronic waste and scrap metal. This community-driven non-profit raises the bar for reuse and recycling and takes as much responsibility



Employees at Phil’s Fresh Foods compost food waste on the burrito line.

for what comes in the front door as they do for what heads out the back.

Phil’s Fresh Foods

Location: 1845 Range Street, Boulder
Number of employees: 20

Program: Phil’s Fresh Foods is a Boulder-based business that creates and distributes fresh organic prepared foods. Phil’s Fresh Foods goes beyond traditional recycling by composting leftover food scraps as well as recycling hard-to-recycle materials. Owner and operator Phil uses suppliers that deliver ingredients in reusable or recyclable packaging, such as recyclable #2 and #4 plastic bags. He also makes purchasing local and organic ingredients a top priority. Employees are trained to properly separate compostables, plastic film and traditional recyclables into clearly labeled containers. In August alone, Phil’s Fresh Foods diverted 1,795 lbs. of its waste stream from the landfill, of which 1,200 lbs. (66.8%) was composted. With 9,500 lbs. of compostables collected so far this year and a new stretch wrap recycling program off to a great start, Phil’s continues to add a fresh new twist to Zero Waste.

GoLite Headquarters

Location: 6325 Gunpark Drive, Boulder
Number of employees: 22

Program: GoLite in Boulder is a leading manufacturer of lightweight outdoor clothing and equipment. GoLite makes apparel out of recycled polyester and avoids the use of toxic PVC plastic in all its products. GoLite became a Zero Waste Community Partner in January 2007, and Tiffanie Beal, chairperson of the “GoLite on the Planet” sustainability task force, promptly requested a waste audit two months after the program launched. During the audit,



GoLite employees performed a waste audit to learn where they could be using Zero Waste purchasing practices to avoid waste in the first place.

GoLite and Eco-Cycle staff sorted GoLite’s trash and recyclable materials in order to analyze strengths and weaknesses within their Zero Waste Services program. GoLite has since improved its existing recycling program and has added the collection of hard-to-recycle materials.

According to Beal, “[During the waste audit] we discovered that the packaging of microwaveable lunches is not recyclable, as the cardboard boxes are lined with plastic to preserve them in the freezer section. Not only did we learn that these items are trash, but we can also take that knowledge to the grocery store next time we’re making a purchase so we can be conscious consumers and not purchase the same packaging again.”

GoLite purchases the majority of its office products from Eco-Products and partners with

other retailers that carry compostable bags and cutlery, non-toxic cleaning products, and recycled paper. GoLite is continuing to analyze the impacts of the materials it brings to the market and is striving to keep as much as it can out of the landfill.

Gaiam

Location: Broomfield
Number of employees: 175

Program: Founded in 1988, Broomfield-based Gaiam is an online retailer of products and services that emphasize natural health, sustainable commerce and ecological lifestyles. Gaiam is committed to working with vendors and manufacturers to encourage sustainable product design and development. The company launched its Zero Waste initiative in April 2007 and added compost service to an already successful recycling program. To promote reuse among staff, Gaiam periodically offers



Desiree Galvez (L) and Jessica Harville (R) of Gaiam wash reusable tableware the company uses instead of disposables.

collection drives for materials such as clothes, food, and cell phones that are redistributed throughout the community. Gaiam announced its Zero Waste commitment by producing a video to introduce customers to its Zero Waste practices. Link to the video at www.ecocycle.org/press. Gaiam’s website also features a myriad of articles, forums and videos featuring various ways to reuse and recycle. Gaiam has successfully integrated Zero Waste into the company’s business practices and is paving the way for producers, as well as consumers, to follow in its footsteps. ♻️

Stop! Don’t throw it away!

Post your usable, unwanted items on

Eco-Cycle Exchange

at www.ecocycle.org

Eco-Cycle Exchange is your free online reuse resource.

It’s free to post, free to browse and free to exchange!

A black and white photograph showing a person in a dark shirt and light pants throwing a large electric fan into a black trash can. Another person is visible in the background, also appearing to be part of the disposal process.

Eco-Cycle Welcomes New Zero Waste Businesses

You’ll know them by the Eco-Cycle Zero Waste Community Partners sticker on their front door or window—they’re the hundreds of businesses in Boulder and Broomfield Counties that have joined the Zero Waste movement by partnering with Eco-Cycle to responsibly handle 100% of their discards including recyclables, compostables, hard-to-recycle materials (computers, #6 white block foam, wood scraps, stretch wrap, books and more) and “whatever’s left.” Eco-Cycle welcomes our newest Zero Waste Services customers and applauds existing businesses that have made significant progress toward Zero Waste. We encourage our community to patronize these businesses and to tell other businesses to get on board with Zero Waste!

Zero Waste Businesses: 100% Collection Services and Waste Reduction Strategies

The Academy
Jared Polis for Congress
Lumos Solar
St. Julien Hotel & Spa
Vickerey

Working Toward Zero Waste: Composting & Recycling

Alaya Yoga Spa
Google
Longmont United Hospital

Working Toward Zero Waste: Composting

A Spice of Life Sales Office
AIM House
Burnt Toast
IBM Corporation
Moxie Sozo Design + Advertising
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Rocky Mountain Presence
SWCA Environmental Consultants ♻️

Only Natural Pet Store

PV Measurements
SmartWool
Starbucks on Pearl
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The Stone Cup
University of Colorado
Memorial Center

The logo features the text "eco-cycle" in a stylized font, with a graphic of a dog sitting next to a recycling symbol. Below this, it says "ZERO WASTE COMMUNITY PARTNER" and includes the website "www.ecocycle.org".

A black and white recycling symbol (three chasing arrows) followed by the text "WE RECYCLE".

A black and white graphic of a recycling symbol with a plant growing out of it, followed by the text "WE COMPOST".

A black and white graphic of a recycling symbol with a dollar sign inside, followed by the text "WE USE ZERO WASTE PURCHASING PRACTICES".

A black and white graphic of a recycling symbol with a computer monitor and keyboard inside, followed by the text "WE RECYCLE HARD-TO-RECYCLE MATERIALS".

Thank you to the following donors who contributed to Eco-Cycle from April 1, 2007 – October 3, 2007.

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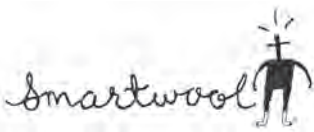
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