

Your Eco-Cycle Times has evolved!

eco-cycle® GUIDE

Your Resource for Living an Eco-Lifestyle and Building a Sustainable Community in Boulder County

Recycling and
Composting
Guidelines on
pages 23 and 28

Eco-Cycle Guide
Issue 1, 2012

INSIDE

Part 1: How do we build sustainable cities? 2-10

A Zero Waste System for the 21st Century 2-3

On New Policies: The Gray Zone in our Green Future 4

A Single-Use Bag Fee in Boulder? 5

Local Zero Waste Business Leaders 7

Zero Waste Events Reach 90% Recovery 8

CU-Boulder: A National Leader 8

What new facilities will we need? 9

Our National Report on Microplastics in Compost 10

Part 2: Eco-Living Guide 12-35

EnergySmart Programs 14

Stop Junk Mail 15

Top 5 Trashiest Products to Avoid 16

Top 5 Products for an Eco-Lifestyle 17

Green Cleaning Recipes 18

Maps for Second-hand Shopping 21-22

Recycling Guidelines 23

Composting Guidelines 28

+ much more!

A Sustainable Zero Waste Boulder County How do we get there?



Follow us!

facebook.com/
ecocycle.zerowaste

@ecocycle

youtube.com/
ecocyclemedia

www.ecocycle.org • 303-444-6634

ZERO WASTE: The Choice for a

We can all do our part for the planet. But will that be enough?

Are you an Eco-Cycler? Here's how you can tell. Do you recycle and compost as much as you can? Do you say things like: "No thanks, I brought my own bag (or mug or water bottle)?" Have you ever rescued a recyclable out of the trash can and not cared who's looking?

If you answered yes to any or all of these, congrats—you're



an Eco-Cycler! Thank you for all you do to recover and protect our natural resources.

But is it enough? Are the collective efforts of all of us Eco-Cyclers enough to create a sustainable society?

The hard truth is, probably not. Here's why: Even as you do your best to reduce your waste and reuse, recycle and compost as much as possible, the waste you see in your trash can is only a fraction of the problem—1/87 to be exact.

For every can of garbage at the curb, there are 87 cans worth of materials that come from the extraction industries—such as timber, agricultural, mining and petroleum—that manufacture natural resources into finished products. *Source: World Resources Institute.*

So even if we could make everyone an Eco-Cycler like you, that doesn't address those 87 cans of waste that happened before we even see a product on the shelf.

It's not all up to you. We need to change the systems around us to prevent waste and protect our natural resources.

The Linear Production-Consumption-Disposal System: An Outdated 20th Century Approach



Currently, our production system goes one way—from the earth to the dump:

1 We extract natural resources like trees, precious metals and petroleum. 2 We manufacture them, often through polluting, toxic and wasteful practices, into products designed for the dump. 3 We distribute them, often shipping them long distances, from manufacturing to sale. 4 Here's where you come in, with few choices and opportunities to do the green thing. 5 After we buy and use them, we pitch our products into a hole in the ground (aka landfill) or an incinerator and destroy the value of those resources. *When we need new products, we just head back to the natural resources like they're in infinite supply.*

If everyone on the globe followed this system and consumed resources at the rate we do in the U.S., we'd need 5 planets to keep up.



You are here



and here are the other 6,999,999,999 people

This system is BROKEN, and here's why:

7+ Billion People (and untold numbers of other species): In the past 40 years, our population has *doubled* and it continues to grow. We're all dependent upon a limited number of natural resources for survival.

Climate Change: A rapidly changing climate will fundamentally affect the life of every global citizen (and species) including our water and food supplies, our health and beyond. The way we produce, consume and dispose of our

products and our food accounts for 42% of all U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.

Resource Wars: As quantities of resources like petroleum, minerals, even fresh water shrink, wars are being waged to grab control of the last of them.

Future Generations: The resources we're squandering don't belong to us. If we can't feed, clothe and house people peacefully today, how will future generations do so on far fewer resources?

Sustainable Community

Zero Waste System: Meeting the Needs of the 21st Century and Beyond

A **Zero Waste System** is cyclical, like in nature, and does **two fundamental things**: It redesigns our systems and resource use—from product design to disposal—to prevent wasteful and polluting practices that lead to those 87 cans of waste. It then captures discards and uses them, instead of natural resources, to make new products, creating far less pollution and feeding the local economy.

A Zero Waste System has:

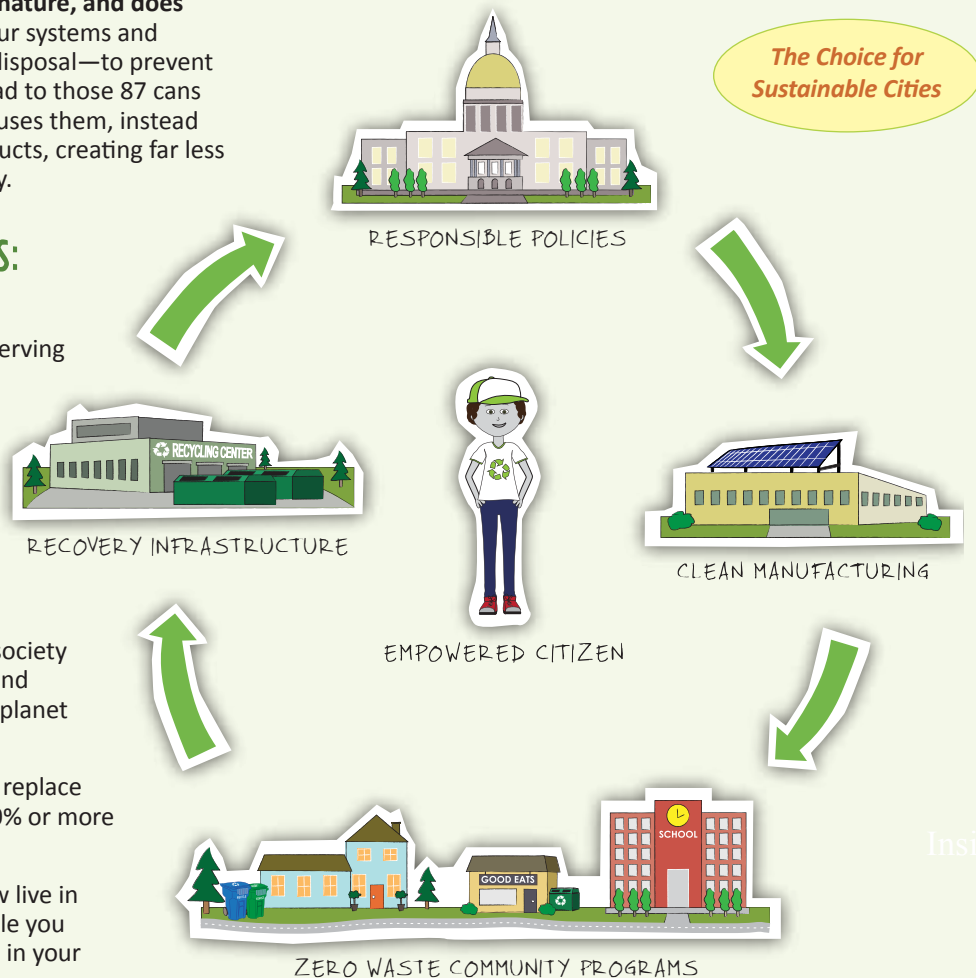
New rules and policies that take a responsible approach to using and conserving dwindling natural resources.

New manufacturing processes and smarter design where manufacturers are held responsible for the full lifecycle of their products, giving them the incentive to design for the environment, NOT the dump.

New programs in every sector of our society to shift our culture away from wasting and toward a sense of responsibility for our planet and its future.

Resource recovery infrastructure to replace landfills and incinerators and recover 90% or more of our discards.

Empowered citizens like you who now live in a system that supports your efforts, while you continue to call for Zero Waste progress in your community.



How does our community go for Zero Waste? With your help!

Zero Waste Systems are being created in bits and pieces all over the world. In fact, Eco-Cycle is creating a ten-year plan for communities locally, nationally and internationally to recover 90% or more of their waste. Our goal: Make Boulder County the global model. **The key is Eco-Cyclers like you.**

Use This Guide

In this two-part guide you'll learn more about how we can work together to redesign our local community and get some tips and tools for living sustainably within it.

How is Boulder County doing on the road to Zero Waste?

We're on our way! Two communities have created Zero Waste plans:



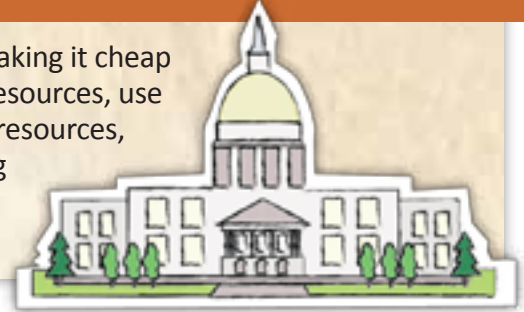
Boulder County's Zero Waste Action Plan is one of the first of its kind in the nation. It is a guide for all the municipalities in the county, particularly those that have no plan, to follow and use for collaboration.

The City of Boulder's Zero Waste Master Plan would help the City reach 85% recovery by 2017 and regain its role nationally as a community leading the way toward Zero Waste. In 2010 Boulder recycled and composted about 46% of its waste, so there's still quite a bit of work ahead. We'll tell you more about it inside this guide and how your voice as a community member is needed NOW.

Take Action! Tell your city council you support the Boulder or Boulder County Zero Waste Action Plan.

POLICIES FOR RESOURCE RECOVERY

Our policies and tax dollar subsidies favor waste and pollution by making it cheap and easy for both manufacturers and consumers to dig up natural resources, use 'em up and toss 'em out. But with growing populations and limited resources, that must change. Zero Waste policies shift the default from wasting to natural resource conservation and protect the rights of future generations to a healthy planet that can sustain them.



The Gray Zone in Our Green Future

We have lots of rules in our society to protect the common good. Shouldn't protecting resources for this and future generations be one of them?



By Eric Lombardi,
Eco-Cycle
Executive
Director

"Everyone has the same goal of making the stuff (trash) go away."

— Boulder City Council member in a council study session about the Boulder Zero Waste Master Plan

I heard this statement and thought, "No, we don't all have that goal. In fact, making it 'go away' is the wrong strategy to solve the wrong problem statement."

The real problem is that this stuff we call "waste" is actually small pieces of our precious earth—aluminum cans were once minerals, paper was once trees, plastic was once oil and so on—and we're destroying all of that when we bury or burn these resources at a time when

we desperately need to conserve them.

So instead of making waste disappear, we need to embrace it as the resource it is.

With our rapidly growing population, these are the resources future generations will need if they are to survive peacefully on the only planet we have. We need to get serious about conserving the future's resources, and to do that we need to move from voluntary action to mandatory participation.

It's time to look at community benefit and make sorting the law.

If conserving our resources becomes the goal, rather than making them go away, we'll need a different strategy to get there.

For more than 35 years Eco-Cycle has been preaching, teaching and encouraging our enlightened community of Boulder County to aggressively pursue resource conservation on a voluntary

basis. Together, we've done well, but alas, even the City of Boulder has still only achieved a 50% community recycling rate while other US communities are reaching rates of 60%, 70% and higher.

Those communities have achieved these rates by making sorting our discards the law. Is it our turn to do the same? We think so.

"But I don't like using the force of law to force people to make good decisions."

— Longmont City Council member, commenting on some recommendations in the new Boulder County Zero Waste Action Plan

This is the gray zone in the green future, isn't it? None of us wants to be forced to do anything, but think about it for a moment: Did you slow down in the school zone driving to work this morning, while you were wearing your seatbelt? There are thousands of laws out there that we don't think twice about obeying because we under-

stand sometimes community good outranks our personal freedoms. Our world is a better place thanks to the "rule of law" in society—that's the foundation of civilization. Now it is time the common good of future generations is also considered through some new rules related to the trashing of our planet.

Three New Policies for a Zero Waste City:

Other progressive communities reaching recycling rates well above 50% have several policies in common such as:

- A requirement to recycle in the commercial sector
- Bans and fees on non-recyclable, non-compostable materials for which there are better alternatives
- High fees and taxes on mixed waste that has not been sorted for recycling or composting.

If we're going to protect our resources for 7 billion people, it can't be a "right" to waste and pollute as much as we like.



Zero Waste Around the World



Nearly 100 communities have banned or taxed single-use checkout bags, including the countries of Ireland, Taiwan, Bangladesh, Israel, Rwanda, Ethiopia, China, France and Italy.

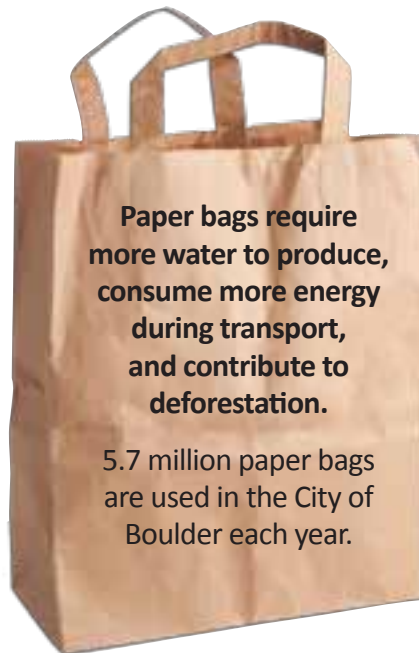
Here in the U.S., more than 55 cities and 12 counties have enacted fees or bans against single-use bags. In Washington D.C., a five-cent fee on disposable bags has reduced their use by 80% and the money raised helps to clean up the Anacostia River. In Colorado, the towns of Aspen, Carbondale and Telluride have banned plastic checkout bags and placed a fee on paper checkout bags.

Having trouble remembering to BYOB(ag)?

Check out our ChicoBag! It's made with 99% post-consumer recycled materials and stuffs into a little pouch with a carabiner, so you can keep it compact and handy in your purse or backpack. **Find it on our Eco-Store online at www.ecocycle.org/ecostore, or at the Eco-Cycle CHaRM (see p. 26).**



Paper or Plastic? How about neither!



Paper bags require more water to produce, consume more energy during transport, and contribute to deforestation.

5.7 million paper bags are used in the City of Boulder each year.



Plastic bags are made from non-renewable natural gas and petroleum, are more easily littered, will not biodegrade, and pose a threat to wildlife and ecosystems.

41 million plastic bags are used in the City of Boulder each year.

Thank you!

Do you already bring your own bag wherever you go?
You use 93% fewer resources and produce 67% fewer greenhouse gas emissions by not choosing disposable bags!

City of Boulder's Proposed New Zero Waste Policy:

The choice to use single-use bags comes at a price to the city in litter cleanup, pollution, and wasted energy and resources like natural gas, petroleum and trees. In accordance with the "polluter pays" principle, the price of choosing to pollute should be paid by the polluter, rather than by the community-at-large.

Several individuals and organizations, including Eco-Cycle, have recently been urging the Boulder City Council to join the movement gaining traction around the world to either ban or tax the use of wasteful, single-use plastic and paper bags.

Eco-Cycle strongly supports the idea of charging a small fee (10 cents) for single-use bags (both paper and plastic)

A Fee On Single-Use Bags

distributed at the cash register in grocery stores and other large food-related stores. This fee will help Boulder significantly cut down on the estimated 46 million single-use bags distributed locally each year, plus:

- It's a perfect example of "polluter pays," a concept promoted by the U.S. EPA, the European Union, and other national policy bodies that a "polluter" must pay more than a non-polluter.
- No one needs to ever pay the single-use bag fee if they don't want to. Instead, they can bring their own reusable bags. There is a choice!
- The fee approach protects individual freedoms to use a single-use bag if you want.

- Judging from successes in other communities, the fee approach will reduce checkout bag use by at least 50%.
- In the future, a ban on certain bags may be appropriate, but Eco-Cycle sees the "polluter fee" approach as the first step.

Learn more about the proposed fee in Boulder, the reason we're targeting paper and not just plastic, and the concept of "polluter pays" at www.ecocycle.org/ichoosetoreuse.



Let your city council members know you support a fee on single-use bags.

WHAT DOES A SUSTAINABLE, ZERO WASTE CITY NEED?

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN EVERY SECTOR

In a Zero Waste City, everyone participates, not just a handful of businesses, a few homes, or some schools and government offices. Everywhere you go, you'll find the omnipresent trash can is replaced by Zero Waste Stations for recycling and compost. Wasteful, disposable products and packaging are replaced by environmentally-responsible alternatives. Everyone is committed to the same goal: a sustainable, local community.



Future Zero Wasters

Green Star Schools Create Recycling and Composting Experts; Celebrate Five Years in Boulder County

31 Boulder County Eco-Cycle Green Star Schools are setting an example for the rest of the community.



Who needs trash cans? Go to any one of Boulder County's 31 Green Star Schools, and you'll see that with the right training and systems in place, trash cans are passé.



Students practice Zero Waste all day—in the lunchroom, classroom and restroom. Not only do they compost and recycle up to 2/3 of all their school's waste—they also practice waste reduction and reuse and are often the eco-champions in their homes.

"I can guarantee you that there are not many kids in America who are doing as much landfill diversion as our school kids are," said

Eco-Cycle's Executive Director Eric Lombardi. ***"And that is a little flame of hope for the future—for their future—which makes the Green Star Schools program one of the most important programs that Eco-Cycle has ever created."***

Check out our full list of 31 Green Star Schools online at www.ecocycle.org/schools.

Zero Waste Isn't Just for Public Schools

Interested in making your child's private school a Green Star School? Contact Nancy Dudek at 303-444-6634 ext. 175 to learn more about Zero Waste Certification for Private Schools.

Thank You to Our 5-Year Green Star Schools!

Congratulations to some of our early Green Star Schools—Mesa, Bear Creek, Creekside and Foothill Elementaries—celebrating their

5th anniversaries this year. The students, teachers, kitchen and custodial staff, and administrators at these schools have helped lead the way to expand and deliver the Green Star Schools program to now serve more than 15,000 students and staff throughout Boulder County. Thank you for your support and for bringing the future of sustainability to our kids today!



Congratulations, Cyndra!

Cyndra Dietz,
Eco-Cycle Schools
Recycling Coord-

inator since 1990, won the 2012 Pace Setters Award in the education category for her work in our local school districts. Over the past 21 years, she and her staff have given more than 20,000 classroom and field trip presentations, coordinated recycling collections of more than 18,000,000 pounds of materials and started the first Zero Waste schools program in America.

Thank you to all our Green Star School Sponsors. You are creating a generation of hopeful Zero Wasters.

What we still need for a Zero Waste community:

The Green Star Schools program is so successful there is now a four-year waiting list of schools wanting to implement the program! Eco-Cycle is seeking funds to increase staff and resources to meet the needs of these schools and their students. Please consider helping by becoming a Green Star School Sponsor. Learn more at www.ecocycle.org/sponsor.

Zero Waste Community Partners: Redefining Business as Usual

There are no rules in Boulder County requiring businesses to recycle, but some businesses are taking exception to those rules... or lack thereof.

If every business could be like the Zero Waste businesses that work with Eco-Cycle, our community would be well on its way to recovering 70% or more of the waste we generate. And more businesses would be realizing the financial advantages of going for Zero.



The Longmont Area Chamber of Commerce recycles and composts everything it can at its office and at its events. According to Tracy Taylor-Sea,

Event Marketing Director, "We want to use our leadership role to help educate businesses and community members about Zero Waste. I would say that it's the easiest thing to bring into your business. It's not difficult at all."



At the Boulder Outlook Hotel & Suites, every room not only has a recycling bin, but also a compost bag. Guests can borrow a reusable drinking bottle, as well as a bike. It's good for the environment, it's fun for

the guests, and it's also good for business. Dan King, the Managing Owner said, "We have already generated in excess of \$10,000 in revenues from new corporate customers and one-time guests who chose the hotel because of our commitment to Zero Waste with Eco-Cycle."



Shopping at REI, you've no doubt seen and used their recycling and compost bins throughout the store. Behind the scenes, REI staff make exceptional efforts to recycle "hard-to-recycle" materials like plastic film, scrap metal, textiles and shoes, bike tires and tubes, and white block foam. After REI implemented its Zero Waste program,

the store immediately cut its garbage by two-thirds. According to REI Shipping and Receiving Technical Specialist Tom Warner, "REI is all about the outdoors, and if you aren't going to do something to make a better impact on the planet, then I don't know if you can say you're all about the outdoors. It was important to us to lessen our impact."

What we still need for a Zero Waste Community:

Every single-family household in the City of Boulder has a recycling bin and a compost bin, and these households recover 57% of their discards. However, as a community, our recycling and composting rate is only 46%. Why? **The business sector lags behind by recycling only 30% of its discards.** Most communities reaching resource recovery rates of 70% and higher do so with the required participation of the business sector. **It's time for businesses to step up and meet the residential sector in our efforts to go for Zero.** Tell your city council members it's time businesses participated in recycling like the rest of us. And let your favorite business know you want them to go for Zero Waste.

Zero Waste
Around the World



Mandatory Recycling Makes a Difference:
Leading communities such as San Francisco, Portland, Seattle, San Diego and Fresno recover at least 60% of their waste and require businesses to recycle.

Businesses in our community need to step it up and make recycling (at least) the norm.



SUPPORT ZERO WASTE BUSINESSES!

View the full list of our Zero Waste Community Partners who work with Eco-Cycle to voluntarily reduce, reuse, recycle, compost and design their systems for Zero Waste at www.ecocycle.org/businesses. Or look for this decal in the window of participating businesses.



Welcome to the most recent businesses to join our network:

1825 Pearl Street, LLC	Juniper Books
Alfalfa's Market	Justice High School
Asher Brewing Company	LANX
Atkinson-Noland & Associates	McCryo
Boulder Housing Partners	Mountain Ridge Animal Hospital
Boxcar Coffee	Naked Pizza
Colorado Group	Native American Rights Fund
Convergence Solutions Inc.	Pellman's Automotive
Cured	Rally Software Development
Drop n Wash Laundry	ReSource
Family Learning Center	Select Energy Services
Fine Featherheads	SparkFun Electronics
Greens Point Catering	Two Spoons
Internachi	Udis Bakery
iSupportU	Vitamin Cottage
	Zach Transmissions

Join our business network of
Zero Waste Partners. Call today!
303-444-6634 ext. 2

Community events and institutions are mini Zero Waste villages modeling success.



Zero Waste Community Events Demonstrate 90% Recovery of Discards CAN Happen

Zero Waste Events are like mini Zero Waste communities: Event planners (like legislators on the macro level) set rules that require all vendors (businesses) to sell only reusable, recyclable or compostable materials. The infrastructure for “waste” (trash cans and landfills) is replaced with Zero Waste Stations for recycling and compost (resource recovery parks on the large scale), and the cooperative efforts of the whole event (community) result in recovering 90% or more of the discards.

Zero Waste Events Update:

Eco-Cycle has been providing Zero Waste Event services for 16 years, **but our 2011 Zero Waste Event season was the busiest and most successful yet. An average of 90% of all event discards were diverted from the landfill, and more than 23,000 lbs. of waste were composted and recycled. We’re hoping to break the record this next event season!**

Among the 40 mid-to-large-scale events we serviced this year were the **Lafayette Peach Festival**, the **Boulder Asian Festival**, the **Boulder Jewish Festival**, **Longmont’s Venus de Miles**, and the first ongoing Zero Waste Event in the country, the **Boulder Farmers’ Market!**

We want to give a big THANK YOU to all the dedicated event planners, vendors and volunteers who helped make our community festivals and events fun and sustainable.

See page 13 for how to make your party or event waste-free.



Liz Swanson, Zero Waste Events Coordinator, and Leigh Cushing, Community Campaigns Coordinator, at Boulder’s 2011 Fall Festival.



CU-Boulder: A National Zero Waste Leader

Photo by Casey A. Cass University of Colorado

It takes a village to build a Zero Waste community, and it helps a lot when the largest institution in that community is its own progressive, mini Zero Waste village and a national leader in sustainability. We’re talking about the University of Colorado at Boulder campus.

CU-Boulder is a model of sustainability for college campuses in several respects:

- CU’s Folsom Field is the first football stadium in the nation to require that vendors in the stadium offer only reusable, recyclable and compostable materials. As a result, they’re recovering an average of 80% of materials.
- The campus has its own recycling processing facility, which employs an average of 50 students each semester and processes up to 10,000 pounds of recyclables each day.
- CU is working with the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education to create unified Zero Waste standards and principles for campus communities throughout the country.
- The campus will soon launch a pilot program to replace on-the-go disposables with reusables in the dining halls. Instead of single-use food containers, students will use eco2go reusable food containers that they return to the cafeteria.
- The university’s new Sustainable Practices Program offers individual classes and a Professional Certificate for people interested in sustainability training.



For more about CU’s many environmental efforts and how to participate, visit <http://ecenter.colorado.edu>.

WHAT DOES A SUSTAINABLE, ZERO WASTE CITY NEED?

RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTERS

Zero Waste Cities don't invest taxpayer dollars to build landfills or incinerators that pollute, destroy natural resources and create a long-term, toxic liability problem. Instead, they build resource recovery centers that collect discards and put the revenues back into the local economy, creating 10 times more local jobs for a long-term local economic and job growth solution.



Our local recycling and reuse facilities give us the opportunity to responsibly recover our discards.



Recycling Center Milestones & Updates

Boulder County Recycling Center: 10 years and millions of dollars into recycling opportunities for the community

Every community working toward Zero Waste has a MRF (Materials Recovery Facility) to process traditional recyclables like paper, plastic, cans and glass. In our community, our MRF is the publicly-owned, Eco-Cycle-operated Boulder County Recycling Center.



In 2012, the facility will cross the milestone of 500,000 tons processed. It's a perfect example of how a relationship between a public entity (Boulder County) and a private entity (non-profit Eco-Cycle) can create a win/win situation for the community.

CHaRM: Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials

The CHaRM recently celebrated 10 YEARS as the first facility in the nation (and perhaps the world) created to recycle unusual materials from electronics to yoga mats. In its first ten years, the CHaRM helped 185,292 customers responsibly recycle 8,417,108 pounds of materials. The facility has expanded beyond its physical capacity, and Eco-Cycle and the City of Boulder are working together to find ways to move us to a new, larger location. Learn more about the CHaRM on p. 26-27.



New! Hazardous Materials Management (HMM) Facility

The new Boulder County HMM Facility was recently constructed to better collect toxic materials from households and small businesses. See page 31 for more information.



For a full list of resource recovery facilities in Boulder County sorted by city, see pages 31-32.

What We Still Need for a Zero Waste Community

To reach our Zero Waste goals, we need more infrastructure. We have some great facilities already in place—see a full list on pages 31-32—but **to get to 85% recovery and higher, and to reduce our climate impact, we need funding strategies for two more essential facilities:**

1. A facility for recycling construction and demolition materials.

2. A publicly-owned, commercial-scale compost facility. When organic materials such as food and yard debris go into the landfill, they create methane, a greenhouse gas 72 times more efficient at trapping heat than CO₂. Getting organic matter OUT of the landfills and into a compost facility is one of the fastest, easiest and least expensive ways a community can seriously reduce its climate impact. It also creates a healthy fertilizer to go back into local soils. But we don't have a public compost facility, and the privately-owned options are either too far away or not large enough to handle the volumes the commercial sector could generate.

Zero Waste Around the World



In Brazil, New Laws Create Local Jobs:

Nearly one million wastepickers earn a living in Brazil by scavenging recyclables out of mixed garbage. This group has been socially marginalized until now. New laws have been written to formally support their work and incorporate it into the country's recycling goals. This is a milestone win for wastepickers all over the world in recognizing their value-added and an about-face from the global status quo of rejecting wastepickers in favor of fancy trash trucks and substantially less recycling.

Read more examples of Zero Waste Around the World online at www.ecocycle.org/zerowaste/aroundtheworld.

WHAT DOES THE ZERO WASTE MOVEMENT NEED?

ECO-CYCLE INTERNATIONAL™

Eco-Cycle isn't just for Boulder County anymore: Our Eco-Cycle International™ staff work to take the best of what we've done here—our Zero Waste technology, model programs, trainings, policies, educational materials, research and reports—and share it with communities around the world. As we consult and network globally, we also take best practices from around the world to inform our programs here.

Our Latest National Report: Eco-Cycle's Research Exposes the Problem with Plastic-Coated Paper Products in Compost

In several Zero Waste programs across the country, plastic-coated paper products like milk cartons and coffee cups are accepted in compost bins. The assumption, it would seem, is that after the materials break down and become compost, the plastic disappears and is never seen again. But everything goes somewhere, right?

Eco-Cycle has always opposed including non-recyclable, plastic-coated paper materials in compost. We suspected that this plastic never actually goes away—and now we have proof. In partnership with the highly-respected Woods End® Laboratories in Maine and international composting expert Will Brinton, Eco-Cycle has funded research showing that these plastic coatings DON'T go away in the composting process.

In fact, the plastic breaks down into tiny micro-particles, not visible to the naked eye, that remain in the compost and eventually make their way into our soils and waterways, adding to the growing problem of plastic pollution in the environment. In addition, new research indicates that micro-plastics may be harmful to living organisms in many ecosystems.

We've taken this breakthrough research on the road to several national conferences to spread the word and urge other composting programs to keep plastic-coated paper products out of compost.

Read our report on micro-plastics in compost at www.ecocycle.org and visit page 30 for how to tell if your product is truly compostable and plastic-free.



This is a plastic-coated paper cup before and after incubating in an industrial compost pile for 180 days. The plastic inhibits the paper from breaking down and also releases plastic particles into the compost. Eco-Cycle is urging cities across the U.S. to adopt stricter composting guidelines to avoid making contaminated compost with plastic-coated products.

Four Policies to Keep Micro-Plastics Out of Compost

Unlike clean compost, which is invaluable for restoring the planet's soils, the production and use of compost that is contaminated with plastic or other materials becomes part of the problem, rather than the solution. That's why we're pressing hard with a four-part message to all composters and Zero Waste Community planners:

1. All U.S. compost facilities should have plastic-free guidelines to prevent compost from being a source of plastic pollution.
2. The packaging industry needs to help us solve the problem through clear, standardized labeling for truly compostable and plastic-free products.
3. Manufacturers of non-recyclable paper products coated with petroleum-based plastics should switch to compostable coatings so that these products may be composted properly.
4. Using durables instead of disposables or compostables is always the most environmental choice.



Eco-I Helps Bring Recycling to Tobago

We hear from people around the world wanting to know how to start a Zero Waste movement in their community. Now someone has come to Boulder to learn firsthand.

Essie Parks trained with Eco-Cycle in 2011 through a four-month fellowship funded through the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. She aspires to get her homeland, the island of Tobago, to become a Zero Waste model for the Caribbean.

With no recycling in Tobago, Essie will first figure out how much trash the island produces and what's in it, which will lay the groundwork to launch a recycling program and create a plan to reach Zero Waste.



Essie Parks of Tobago trained with Eco-Cycle for four months to bring recycling to her home country.

"The stellar work Eco-Cycle has done over the last 30+ years in advocating for Zero Waste and the skills I am honing here make me feel empowered to be a catalyst of change on my beautiful island of Tobago and throughout the world by extension," Essie said.

Thank you, Essie, for helping us create a training for other international Zero Waste leaders and entrepreneurs like you!

Now, green up your lifestyle with our

ECO-LIVING GUIDE

READ
OUR EXTENDED
ECO-LIVING GUIDE
ONLINE AT
[www.ecocycle.org/
ecoliving](http://www.ecocycle.org/ecoliving)



WHAT'S ONLINE AT ecocycle.org?

p. 12-13



REDUCE YOUR ENERGY USE AND WASTE FOOTPRINT

EnergySmart Programs for Boulder County	p. 14
How to Stop Junk Mail	p. 15
Top 5 Trashy Items to Always Avoid	p. 16
Top 5 Products to Green Your Lifestyle	p. 17
Planet- and People-Friendly Cleaning Recipes	p. 18-19



SUPPORT REUSE

Local Reuse Resources	p. 20
Donate Old Books to the CHaRM Book Reuse Project	p. 20
Secondhand Shopping with our Tour de Thrift Maps	p. 21-22



RECOVER YOUR DISCARDS

RECYCLING:

Recycling Guidelines for Boulder County	p. 23
Recycling Contaminants to Keep Out of Your Bin	p. 24
How to Start Curbside Recycling Service	p. 25
Recycling Drop-off Centers in Boulder County	p. 25
Recycling Unusual Materials at the CHaRM	p. 26-27



COMPOSTING:

Curbside Composting Guidelines for Boulder County	p. 28
Tips for Composting at the Curb	p. 29
Composting Programs in Boulder County	p. 30
Compost Drop-off Centers	p. 30
How do I know if my product is compostable?	p. 30



YARD WASTE, HAZARDOUS WASTE AND MORE:

Boulder County's Recovery Facilities	p. 31-32
--------------------------------------	----------



WHATEVER'S LEFT:

Landfill/Trash Guidelines for Boulder County	p. 33
--	-------



MORE GOODIES

FAQs	p. 34
Thank You to Our Donors	p. 35

EXPLORE YOUR ECO-PORTAL:

At ecocycle.org, you'll find everything you need to know to recycle, compost, reuse and live as sustainably as possible in Boulder County. We have many local resources, and you'll find them all here! Plus, our site now has a fresh new look, easier navigation, and more ways for you to take action for a healthier planet.



Here are our top 10 web tools for you!



1) A-Z Recycling Guide, Recycling Guidelines and Maps to Recycling Centers:

Scroll down our list of 160+ items for how to recycle just about anything in an eco-friendly way in Boulder County and beyond at www.ecocycle.org/a-zguide. And we still have all the great information you're used to getting from us, like recycling and composting guidelines, maps to recycling centers and other recovery facilities, and much more.



2) Eco-Cycle Eco-Store: Buy Truly Green Products for your Home or Business

With all the greenwashing out there, how can you be sure your "eco-friendly" products are the real deal? Cut through the false claims with products from our Eco-Store: We have 600 (and growing) people and planet-friendly products like non-toxic cleaners, Zero Waste Party Kits, compostable tableware, eco-friendly baby & kids products, and more. Best of all, a portion of every sale goes back to Eco-Cycle's Zero Waste programs in our community. Visit us at www.ecocycle.org/ecostore.



3) Eco-Cycle Free Exchange: Get Free Stuff and Unload Your Own

Our exchange is like a local Craigslist, except every item posted is free. You can also ask for items you want, seek and post garage sales, and view comprehensive lists of local thrift stores and other exchange sites. Check it out at www.ecocycleexchange.org.



4) Swap and Share Portal: Build Community, Save Cash and Share

On a single planet with seven billion people, we simply don't have the raw materials for everyone to own one of everything. Enter our Swap and Share Portal, a list of resources to do things like rent out space in your house, barter garden vegetables or odd jobs with your neighbors, borrow high-end jewelry for an evening out, or loan out your table saw. Find it all at www.ecocycle.org/share.



5) Eco-Living Guide: Our Online Zero Waste Living Portal

Whether you want to know how to green your pet, be an eco-parent, make a Zero Waste Home or bring your eco-ethic to every part of your life, our online Eco-Living Guide is your resource. Check it out at www.ecocycle.org/ecoliving.



Whether you're an eco-novice, eco-expert, parent, student, business owner, or just someone who wants to do your part for our planet, our website has something for you, so come visit us! And bookmark our site!



6) Stop Junk Mail for GOOD Service: Get Off Junk Mail for Free

Did you know every year 100 million trees are cut to make unsolicited mail? That's the equivalent of deforesting Rocky Mountain National Park every four months. Stop the destruction and unwanted clutter with a free stop junk mail account at www.ecocycle.org/junkmail. It's the best junk mail service available, and we've footed the bill to make it free for Boulder County residents and businesses.



7) Zero Waste Event Services: Throw a Waste-Free Party or Upscale Event

Planning an event? Eco-Cycle has all the tools you need to bring your environmental ethic to the party. Whether it's a large-scale community event or company gala, we have a service for you. Rent recycling bins for free, order a Zero Waste Party Kit or use our Zero Waste Event Services for events from 25 – 1000+ people. Check out all of our services at www.ecocycle.org/zero-waste-events.



8) Zero Waste Business Directory: Support Businesses that Share Your Values

Find out if your favorite business is working with us to recycle, compost and otherwise be green with our list of Zero Waste Businesses. You can also find business recycling, composting and trash guidelines, as well as how to sign up with our award-winning services at www.ecocycle.org/businesses.



9) Zero Waste School Directory: See Which Local Schools are Going Green

Are you a parent seeking schools with your environmental ethics in mind? Look no further than www.ecocycle.org/schools. Find a list of Green Star Schools going for Zero Waste with Eco-Cycle and learn about the environmental education our educators provide to all Boulder Valley and St. Vrain Valley public schools.



10) Get Connected with the Eco-Network

If you're eco-minded, you belong in our network of 3,000+ (and growing) Eco-Cyclers who help make our community a model of sustainability. Receive e-newsletters and eco-info to share, learn about local meet-ups and calls to action and share your ideas and visions with us. The more of us there are, the faster we'll move toward sustainability. Join us at ecocycle.org/eco-network.

Follow us for even more eco-goodies!



facebook.com/
ecocycle.zerowaste



@ecocycle



youtube.com/
ecocyclemedia

Don't forget to scroll through our A-Z Recycling Guide for how to recycle just about anything!



CITY OF BOULDER

Lend Your Voice to the Energy Action Plan

This is an exciting time for our community as it continues its commitment to lowering our carbon footprint!

As you may know, voters in the City of Boulder agreed in November 2011 to pursue the possibility of forming a city-owned and operated electric utility. Supporters of this approach believe it is the best way to help our community reach its goals of providing access to cleaner energy that is reliable and competitively priced, while increasing local decision-making and solidifying our Boulder economy.

Over the next several years, the city will be conducting legal and engineering work to determine if such an effort is feasible.

In the meantime, the city is working on several related initiatives. These efforts include creating an Energy Action Plan (EAP) and developing the framework for climate action in 2013 and beyond.

A community conversation around all phases of our Energy Future is crucial to ensure that efforts meet community goals. Your input is valuable and there are several opportunities for you to provide feedback:

- Walk-in Wednesdays – Group discussion with city staff about energy and climate issues; 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month, West Senior Center
- Environmental Advisory Board public meetings on climate action planning; 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month in Council Chambers
- City Council meetings, study sessions and roundtable events
- At the Energy Future table at the Boulder Farmers' Market every 4th Saturday of the month

Learn about these events and the entire project, sign up for the newsletter and provide feedback at

www.BoulderEnergyFuture.com.



CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR BOULDER COUNTY

Reduce Energy Use at Home and at Work

While the city works on items related to Boulder's Energy Future, there are numerous things you can do in your home and office today to help the entire community reduce its energy use.

If you're a homeowner, get a Home Energy Assessment. EnergySmart removes the guesswork and hassle from cutting energy waste and costs and increasing the comfort in your home. The heart of the EnergySmart services is the expert Energy Advisor who walks residents through the entire process to help prioritize energy upgrades, finds and collects bids from contractors, assists with rebates and financing options (up to \$1000/home while funds last), and installs free energy-saving items. More than 4,500 homes in Boulder County have already benefited from these services. Visit EnergySmartYES.com, or call 303-544-1000.

Are you a renter or property manager in Boulder? EnergySmart can also provide expert guidance on a cost-effective path to SmartRegs compliance for rental unit(s). In addition, limited-time rebates for up to \$500 are available, but you need to act soon. Find more information at EnergySmartYES.com/SmartRegs.

Join over 1,400 business and commercial property owners in Boulder

County already benefiting from limited-time rebates and expert Energy Advisors with EnergySmart. In addition to providing an Energy Advisor for FREE, EnergySmart can help your business discover profit-boosting, energy saving opportunities, optimize heating and cooling systems, and upgrade old or inefficient equipment with limited-time rebates and financing. Visit EnergySmartYES.com, or call 303-441-1300.



If you're a business in Boulder County, consider taking the 10 for Change challenge! Join over 110 Boulder County businesses committed to reducing energy use and waste. Sign up today to save money on utility bills and enjoy free energy resources, networking events, and recognition for your efforts to conserve energy and reduce waste. Visit 10forchange.net for more information and to register.

The City of Boulder's Climate Action Plan (CAP) tax supplements EnergySmart services within Boulder and fully funds 10 for Change. EnergySmart is funded by a grant from the Department of Energy and sponsored in partnership with Boulder County, the City of Boulder and the City of Longmont.

Content courtesy of the City of Boulder

REDUCE YOUR WASTE FOOTPRINT



Reducing waste isn't just about keeping stuff out of your trash can. It's about making smart choices as consumers to prevent the destruction of our natural resources—trees, water, petroleum and the like—that are used to make unnecessary, single-use or otherwise trashy products. The following five pages have simple ways you can have your products and a clean environment too.



A Zero Waste Program for You

Stop Junk Mail for GOOD

AND SAVE OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

Eco-Cycle has partnered with Catalog Choice—the best mail preference service in the nation—to stop unwanted waste in Boulder County and make this \$20/account service available to residents and businesses at no charge.

Getting rid of unwanted mail has become a daily ritual in our culture. Piles of flyers, coupons and even phone books show up on our doorsteps unannounced.

Sure, we can recycle it all and feel good about that. **But there is a much bigger environmental problem with junk mail that recycling can't solve: Much of it is made from trees that are clearcut at an alarming rate from the Boreal Forest of northern Canada.**

These trees are not only home to hundreds of species of animals and thousands of species of plants, but they are also essential to one million indigenous people who live in the forest.

Go beyond recycling for a Zero Waste solution

We need to prevent the destruction of these forests in the first place—enter our newest service: Stop Junk Mail for GOOD.

Sign Up Today at No Charge

The service, worth \$20/account, is available to you as a Boulder County resident or business at NO CHARGE. You can choose which pieces of mail you don't want and make your name and address "unlisted" to prevent marketers from sharing and selling your personal information in the future.

Go to www.ecocycle.org/junkmail:

1. Click the "sign up" link and then fill out the form to set up your free account.
2. Activate your account by checking for an email from Catalog Choice and clicking on the confirmation link. (It may be in your spam folder.)
3. Enter the names of catalogs, phone books and companies that send you mail you do not want.

Support Our Program with a Donation

Eco-Cycle is footing the bill to make this Zero Waste service available to all Boulder County businesses and residents free of charge. You can help us cover our costs by donating directly to this campaign. Donate \$10 or more online at www.ecocycle.org/junkmail.

THE PRODUCTION AND DISPOSAL OF JUNK MAIL CONSUMES MORE ENERGY THAN 3 MILLION CARS.



The Cost of Junk Mail

IT TAKES 100 MILLION TREES TO MAKE U.S. JUNK MAIL EACH YEAR.

Once You Get Off Junk Mail STAY Off with these 5 tips

Unless you adopt five important new habits, you may find yourself right back on those marketers' lists.



#1: Use the magic words "Please do not rent, sell or trade my name or address" EVERY TIME you give out your address, whether you're placing an order for a product, making a donation, or when a cashier at a store asks for your info.

#2: Prevent credit card and insurance offers – Reduce your junk mail and protect your identity by preventing "pre-screened" offers. Visit www.optoutprescreen.com or call 1-800-5-OPTOUT.

#3: Prevent charity solicitations – If you contribute once a year to a charitable organization, ask them to send you only one donation request per year, or ask if they can send you a paperless request via email.

#4: Watch out for warranties, contests and free offers – Their purpose is often to obtain your name for mailing lists or to sell you something. If you do sign up for one, be sure to use the magic words (see #1).

#5: 1-800-NO THANKS – When you receive a catalog or publication you don't want, take the 30 seconds it requires to nip it in the bud. Call the company's 1-800 number to have your name removed from their list.

Zero Waste Around the World



Seattle, WA is the first community in the country to require phone book manufacturers to fund an opt-out program so people can stop unwanted phone books, and to reimburse the city for its costs to collect and recycle old phone books every year. **San Francisco, CA** is running a three-year pilot program where residents do not receive phone books unless they opt in to receive a book.

SO WASTED: Top 5 Disposables to Avoid

They create pollution during production and disposal, are made of precious resources, and are downright unnecessary. In no particular order, here are our top 5 most wasteful single-use disposable items to always avoid.



Photos by Chris Kauns of Evolve Into



- 1. Paper Coffee Cups** – They're almost always made from trees and not recycled paper, are bleached white with chlorine (a process that releases dioxin, one of the most toxic chemicals on the planet), and emit methane (a greenhouse gas far more potent than carbon dioxide) when trashed and thrown in a landfill. They also do a shoddy job of keeping your drinks hot and can't be recycled. (Compostable coffee cups exist, but they're certainly not the norm.)



- 2. Polystyrene Foam (aka Styrofoam) To-Go Containers and Cups** – Polystyrene is bad for you, the planet and the people who produce it. Its basic component, styrene, is a possible human carcinogen, a hazardous air pollutant, and can cause nervous system impairments among industry workers. Styrene can leach from containers into your food. More than 530,000 tons of polystyrene containers and packaging are trashed every year. Polystyrene can't be recycled and never biodegrades; it only breaks down into tinier and tinier pieces, polluting the environment and harming the animals that mistake it for food.



- 3. Bottled Water** – This single-use item is a poster child for unnecessary waste. Only 60 – 70% of the water used by bottling plants ends up in the final product after manufacturing and filling bottles, filtering water and cleaning the facility. But water isn't the only resource wasted: It takes more than 17 million barrels of oil per year to produce the plastic for bottles. We're consuming half a billion bottles of water each week, and the final kicker: Only 20% of these bottles are recycled.



- 4. Plastic and Paper Shopping Bags** – Banning plastic bags is a hot topic these days (see page 5), but many don't realize paper bags can be just as bad—or worse—for the environment during production: Paper bags use more energy and create more water pollution during production, and are frequently made from old-growth trees. Plastic bags are made from non-renewable fossil fuels, fewer are recycled, and more are used. It's a lose-lose either way.



- 5. Plastic Utensils, Single-Use Chopsticks and Paper Napkins** – An estimated 40 BILLION non-recyclable, petroleum-based plastic forks, spoons and knives are used every year in the United States alone. Single-use paper napkins and wooden chopsticks put pressure on our forests and should be avoided.

JUST REUSE ME: Top 5 Products for a Planet-Friendly Life

These are our staples for a Zero Waste lifestyle. Experience tells us that as you get used to incorporating these products into your routine, they'll become habit and you'll never want to go back!



- 1. Reusable Coffee Mug** – We're most fond of stainless steel and porcelain mugs as they won't leach potentially harmful chemicals into your drinks. Check out Klean Kanteen's Wide Insulated Mug, a triple-purpose product that can also be used as a water bottle or food container!



- 2. Sturdy and Safe Food Containers** – These are critical for packing waste-free lunches and avoiding single-use to-go containers at restaurants. Any reusable container will do, but we love the roomy To-Go Ware stackable "tiffins," which can come with small "sidekick" containers for condiments or snacks and a bag to make your eco-choice more fashionable and discreet. Find this product and other safe containers on our Eco-Store at www.ecocycle.org/ecostore. Avoid any plastic containers with a #3 (PVC) or #6 (polystyrene) as these are toxic plastics.



- 3. Reusable Water Bottle** – Fill your own bottles with tap water to easily avoid loads of unnecessary waste. Stainless steel bottles are the best as they don't leach—check out our 27 oz. Eco-Cycle Klean Kanteen on our Eco-Store. If you're going for a lightweight plastic, make sure it's a "safe" plastic (#1, #2, #4 or #5) free of the hormone-disrupting chemical Bisphenol A (BPA). Be wary of aluminum bottles as their linings can leach and may contain BPA unless otherwise labeled.



- 4. Reusable Bag** – We like the ChicoBag (made from 99% recycled materials) so much, we put our name on it and sell it on our Eco-Store. You can stuff it into the attached sack for easy storing. Keep it in your pack/purse and you'll never forget to BYOB(ag) again.



- 5. Durable Utensils, Reusable Chopsticks and Cloth Napkins** – Keep a pair of reusable utensils wrapped in a reusable napkin in your bag or your glove box, and you'll be surprised at how many disposables you'll avoid when eating on-the-go. To-Go Ware offers beautiful bamboo utensils (chopsticks included!) and a utensil holder made from recycled plastic with a carabiner. These reusable to-go items are available at our Eco-Store at www.ecocycle.org/ecostore and through local health food stores and natural grocers.



Find all these materials and much more on our Eco-Store at ecocycle.org/ecostore.



Are you a reuse muse? Join our campaign to encourage reuse by individuals and businesses in Boulder County. Learn more at ecocycle.org/ichoosetoreuse.



EFFECTIVE PLANET-FRIENDLY CLEANING RECIPES

With just a few basic and inexpensive ingredients you may already have, you can scrub, scour, deodorize, disinfect and cleanse your entire home without the toxicity of conventional store-bought cleaners.

Ingredients for Disinfecting:

- **White Vinegar** – This wonder liquid is a natural disinfectant that cleans and deodorizes, among other things. *NOTE: Never use vinegar on marble as it will etch the surface.*

- **Hydrogen Peroxide** – A go-to in hospitals for disinfecting, hydrogen peroxide is also a mild whitener.

Important: Don't mix vinegar and hydrogen peroxide! It can create peracetic acid, which can cause irritation to the skin, eyes and respiratory system.



Ingredients for General Cleaning:

- **Baking Soda** – This cleaning staple is a naturally-occurring mineral. It cleans, deodorizes, softens water and is a good scouring powder.

- **Castile Soap** – Castile soap biodegrades safely, is non-toxic, and is available in grocery and health food stores. Be sure to look for plant-based castile soaps, NOT “liquid soaps” made from petroleum-based detergents.

- **Lemon Juice** – It cleans, cuts grease and freshens.

Why skip conventional cleaners?

Most cleaners on the market contain dangerous solvents, acids and other hazardous chemicals that have been proven to cause irritation to the nose, eyes and lungs. They can also cause asthma and be carcinogenic. These chemicals, often called Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), are released into the air as you clean and contribute to indoor air pollution, which can be 2-5 times worse than outdoor air pollution.

They're bad for the environment too: Synthetic chemicals and detergents in cleaners flushed down drains contribute to water pollution.

On the other hand, do-it-yourself cleaners are easy to make and will save you money, prevent plastic waste, and keep your family and home clean and healthy.

Cleaning Supplies:



Sponges



Empty tubs for mixing (old yogurt tubs work great)



Empty spray bottles



Rags



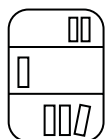
Scouring pads or brushes

Green Cleaning Keeps Kids Healthy

Kids are more vulnerable to the use of toxic cleaner and pesticides for many reasons. They can't detoxify or excrete toxins as well as adults because their nervous, respiratory, reproductive, and immune systems aren't fully developed yet. They have a faster metabolism, which speeds up their absorption of chemicals or contaminants. And they're closer to the floor, carpet or ground, so they get exposed to pollutants that adults don't. (The same goes for your pets.)

Thanks to the Eco-Cycle Schools Department for much of this information, taken from their program on household hazardous waste, designed to protect kids from these harmful effects.

Recipes:

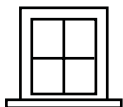
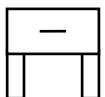


General Household Disinfectant and Cleaner

- **Option 1:** 1 part vinegar and 1 part water in a spray bottle. You can also add a few drops of essential oils like lavender or lemon to mask the scent.

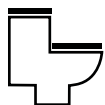
- **Option 2:** Mix 3 tbsp. liquid castile soap, a squeeze of lemon juice and 1 quart warm water

- **For scouring:** use coarse salt or baking soda and a scouring pad



Window Cleaner:

Mix 1 part vinegar, 2 parts water in a spray bottle.



Toilet Bowl:

Add 1/4 cup baking soda to bowl and drizzle with vinegar. Let sit for half an hour and then scrub



Sink, Tub and Tile:

Mix 1/2 cup baking soda and 2-3 tbsp. liquid castile soap.

Spot Removers



Here are alternatives to conventional pre-soaks and bleach for tough stains. Test each of the following remedies on a corner of your fabric first. Wash after application.

Blood: Soak in cold water or (for whites) in hydrogen peroxide, and rub with soap.

Ink: Rub with rubbing alcohol or hydrogen peroxide or soak in milk before washing.

Fruit and Wine: Immediately pour salt or hot water on the stain and soak in milk before washing.

Coffee: Mix egg yolk with lukewarm water and rub on stain.

Lipstick: Rub with shortening and wash with washing soda.

Mildew: Pour strong soap and salt on the spots and place in sunlight. Keep the spots moist, and repeat as often as necessary.

Grease: Pour boiling water on stains and follow with dry baking soda.



For more cleaning recipes and our blog series on eco-friendly cleaning, visit www.ecocycle.org/ecoliving.

Don't want to make your own cleaners? Check out our Eco-Store for truly planet-friendly cleaners at www.ecocycle.org/ecostore.

REUSE

Reusing means you're giving unwanted goods a new life, choosing secondhand products over new ones, and lessening our dependence on virgin resources to make new products. It can also mean major savings and freebies! Reference this section for all the best reuse resources available in Boulder County.

Reuse Programs in Our Community



These facilities offer secondhand goods and a way for you to donate your own.

Boulder County Hazardous Materials Management (HMM) Facility

1901 63rd St. Boulder
Wed - Sat, 8:30 - 4
720-564-2251

www.bouldercounty.org/sustain/zerowaste

The HMM facility has a free reuse shop where you can find auto and hobby products, garden and yard products, home maintenance and cleaning products, paint and more.

Eco-Cycle's "Tour de Thrift" Maps

See the next two pages for dozens of local second-hand stores!

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

5030 Pearl St. • Mon - Sat, 9 - 5 • 303-444-6634

www.ecocycle.org/charm

The CHaRM accepts books, yoga mats, cell phones, clothing and shoes for reuse. We also have a new scrap metal reuse program. Learn more about it on our website.

ReSource Tool Library

6400 Arapahoe Ave.
Mon - Sat, 9-5; Sun 11-4
303-419-8534

www.resourcetoollibrary.org

Borrow a specific tool for a day or a project. You can also donate unwanted tools. Some fees apply.

ReSource Yard

6400 Arapahoe Ave.
Mon-Sat 9-5, Sun 11-4
303-419-5418

www.resourcelyard.org

The ReSource Yard accepts reusable building materials and other household items for resale. Peruse current items on their website. More details on page 31.

Online Reuse Resources:

Eco-Cycle Free Exchange

www.ecocycleexchange.org

Find free, unwanted, reusable stuff or post your own. You can also post and find garage sales and view comprehensive lists of local thrift stores and other exchange and reuse sites.

Swap and Share Portal

www.ecocycle.org/share

Collaborative Consumption is a hot new eco-term for something we all learned to do a long time ago: Share. Rent out space in your house, barter garden vegetables or odd jobs with your neighbors, borrow high-end jewelry for an evening out, loan out your table saw—you can share almost everything you need.

We Need Your Books at the CHaRM

Help Us Collect 25,000 Books to Serve Children in Need

Can you imagine a child not having a single book in his or her home?

We can imagine it because we've met these kids. They live right here in Boulder County, and for the past seven years we've been working to get books into their homes by supplying local charities that serve them with books collected at Eco-Cycle's CHaRM (Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials).

Since January 2004, we've donated nearly 96,500 books to children who now get to enjoy the magic of reading.

But we have a problem: The demand for books is increasing, but the supply has dwindled. Please remember us the next time you're clearing your

bookshelves of unwanted books.

Books We'll Take at the CHaRM: From Dr. Seuss to Shakespeare,

paperback or hardback, we need books for all reading levels. (We will also take your non-reusable books, such as manuals and dated reference texts, for recycling.) *There is no fee to drop off books at the CHaRM.*



"Thank you for the books you donated. When I saw them I was jumping for joy. Everybody loved them. I was on top of the world!"

— 4th grade ESL student



Help Us Collect Books:

- Spread the word on the CHaRM book program to your friends and neighbors through your social networks.



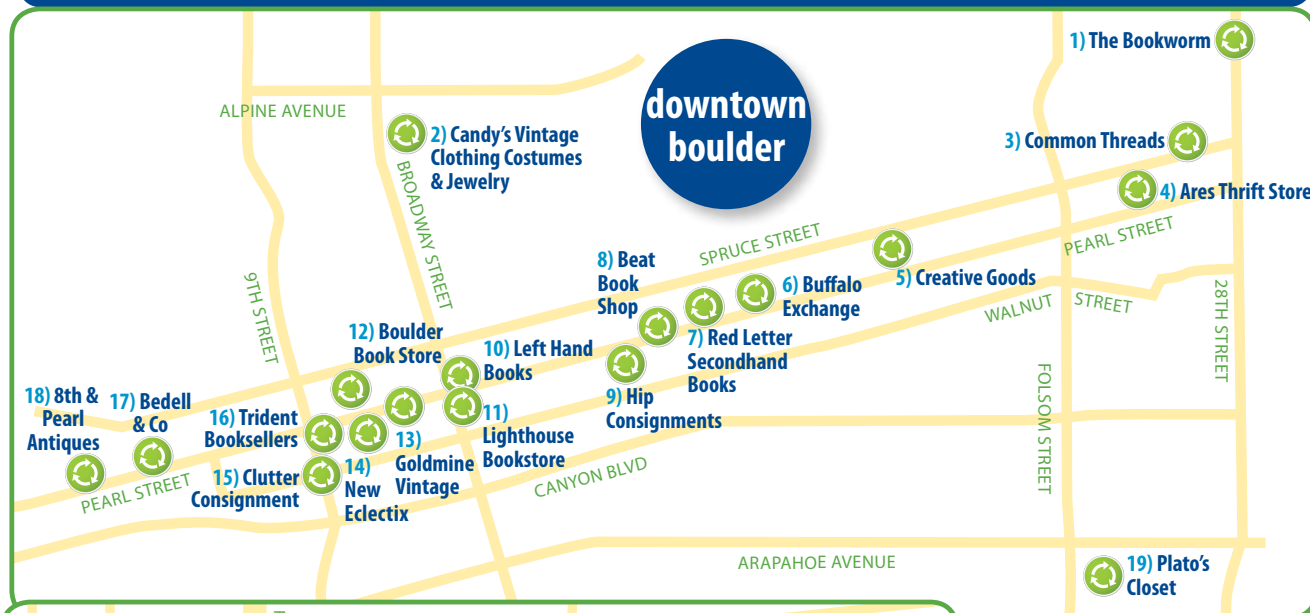
- Hold a book drive event at your workplace or on your block for your neighbors' books. (We'll pick them up.) Email volunteer@ecocycle.org for more info.
- Visit www.ecocycle.org and help us pay for this program by donating specifically to it.

Visit www.ecocycle.org/charm to learn how the book program supports more than 40 non-profits serving children and families, local schools, and a local, for-profit reuse company.



Tour de Thrift: Boulder

Shop green and save big with Eco-Cycle's Tour de Thrift – your guide to secondhand clothing, furniture, books and more!



downtown boulder

east boulder

north boulder

south boulder

addresses

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. 3175 28th St #2 | 19. 2510 Arapahoe |
| 2. 2512 Broadway St | 20. 3129 28th St |
| 3. 2707 Spruce St | 21. 2805 Wilderness Place # 1000 |
| 4. 2536 Spruce St | 22. 3183 Walnut St |
| 5. 2000 21st St | 23. 1701 33rd St |
| 6. 1813 Pearl St | 24. 3550 Arapahoe #7 |
| 7. 1737 Pearl St | 25. 3600 Arapahoe |
| 8. 1717 Pearl St | 26. 5320 Arapahoe |
| 9. 1468 Pearl St | 27. 5360 Arapahoe |
| 10. 1200 Pearl St #10 | 28. 5565 Arapahoe |
| 11. 1201 Pearl St | 29. 6400 Arapahoe |
| 12. 1107 Pearl St | 30. 4949 N Broadway St #113 |
| 13. 1123 Pearl St | 31. 4919 N Broadway |
| 14. 935 Pearl St | 32. 2486 Baseline Rd |
| 15. 1909 9th St #130 | 33. 653 S Broadway |
| 16. 940 Pearl St | 34. 695 S Broadway #B |
| 17. 767 Pearl St #A | |
| 18. 740 Pearl St | |

eco-cycle®
Working to Build Zero Waste Communities

www.ecocycle.org
303-444-6634

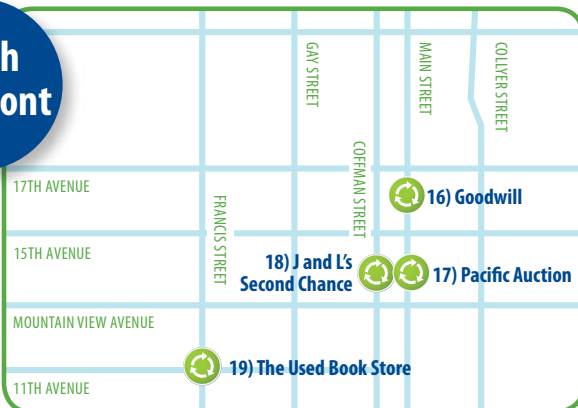
© Copyright 2012 Eco-Cycle, Inc. All Rights Reserved



Tour de Thrift: Longmont

Shop green and save big with Eco-Cycle's Tour de Thrift – your guide to secondhand clothing, furniture, books and more!

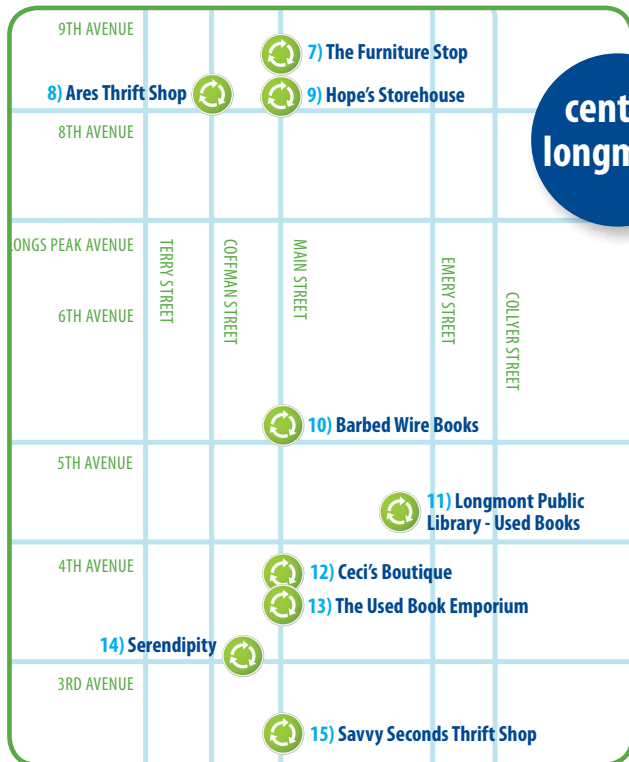
north longmont



addresses

1. Longmont Humane Society Thrift Store - 700 Ken Pratt Blvd #216
2. Tables to Teacups - 1420 Nelson Rd
3. ReStore - 1351 Sherman Dr
4. Once Upon a Child - 700 Ken Pratt Blvd
5. Play it Again Sports - 800 South Hover Rd
6. Front Range Mercantile - 1201 South Sunset St
7. The Furniture Stop - 813 Main St
8. Ares Thrift Shop - 818 Coffman St
9. Hope's Storehouse - 801 Main St
10. Barbed Wire Books - 504 Main St
11. Longmont Public Library - 409 4th Ave
12. Ceci's Boutique - 370 Main St
13. The Used Book Emporium - 346 Main St
14. Serendipity - 635 3rd Ave
15. Savvy Seconds Thrift Shop - 611 2nd Ave
16. Goodwill - 1750 Main St
17. Pacific Auction - 1330 Main St
18. J and L's Second Chance - 1333 Coffman St
19. The Used Book Store - 1126 Francis St

central longmont



eco-cycle®
Working to Build Zero Waste Communities

www.ecocycle.org
303-772-7300

southwest longmont



south longmont





SINGLE-STREAM RECYCLING



Save
&
Post!

At your home or business in Boulder County • These materials all go together in one bin!

PAPER & CARDBOARD



flatten cardboard

COMMINGLED CONTAINERS (EMPTY & RINSE, DO NOT FLATTEN)



EMPTY

no caps



balled aluminum foil
2" or larger



PLASTIC BOTTLES, TUBS, JUGS & JARS (EMPTY & RINSE, DO NOT FLATTEN)



attached plastic
caps OK!



no lids



#2 & #5 souvenir
cups no lids

NO



* COMPOSTABLE * CHARM MATERIAL (SEE P. 26)



Want more detailed guidelines?
Scan this code with your smartphone!

PLEASE

- EMPTY AND RINSE CONTAINERS.
- PLACE RECYCLABLES LOOSE AND UNBAGGED IN YOUR CURBSIDE CART.
- KEEP CONTAINERS 3-DIMENSIONAL, DO NOT FLATTEN.
- PAPER CLIPS, STAPLES, SPIRAL BINDINGS, ETC. OK.

Recycling saves water and energy, combats climate change, and creates 10 times more jobs than a landfill.



eco-cycle®

Working to Build Zero Waste Communities

When in doubt, keep it out. QUESTIONS? Call or visit 303.444.6634 • www.ecocycle.org



RECYCLING CONTAMINANTS

These items cause problems at the Boulder County Recycling Center. Please keep them out of your single-stream recycling bin!

Help us keep our recyclables clean.



PLASTIC “CLAMSHELL” CONTAINERS for BERRIES, etc.:

There are two big reasons not to recycle these items: (1) There are no good American markets that want to buy this material. (2) Plastic clamshell containers like to-go boxes and berry boxes are so flimsy they flatten under the weight of other materials when loaded into the recycling collection truck. This is a problem because when automated sorting systems like ours “see” flattened plastic items on the conveyer belt, they sort them with the other flat items on the line, like paper, which creates a significant contamination problem with our paper.

FLATTENED CANS, CARTONS AND CONTAINERS:

These are a problem for the same reason “clamshell” containers are a problem: When flattened, they end up on the paper line. Please don’t flatten or crush your cans, paper cartons or plastic containers.



Watch videos about the recycling process and how these contaminants cause problems on our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/ecocyclemedia.

DIRTY DOZEN: TOP MATERIALS TO KEEP OUT OF YOUR RECYCLING BIN



* COMPOSTABLE * CHARM MATERIAL (SEE P. 26)

* HAZARDOUS WASTE (SEE P. 31)

1) NO Plastic Bags

They bind up sorting equipment. **INSTEAD:** Take clean, dry and empty plastic bags to the CHARM or participating grocery stores.

2) NO Materials in Plastic Bags

3) NO Flattened Containers

Automated sorting equipment separates 2-dimensional or “flat” materials (paper) from 3-dimensional or “round” materials (containers). The equipment will accidentally sort flattened containers as paper.

4) NO Shredded Paper

Shredded paper is too small to sort — the pieces gum up sorting equipment. **INSTEAD:** Compost shredded paper or recycle it in the paperboard bin at the Boulder County Recycling Center or in the bin marked “Shredded Paper” at the Longmont Waste Diversion Center.

5) NO Caps or Lids on Glass Bottles or Jars

Metal or plastic lids left on glass create impurities in the new glass bottles. **INSTEAD:** Recycle metal caps and lids loose.

6) NO Non-Recyclable Plastics like Styrofoam, Plastic Cups, Clamshell Containers, or #1 Berry Containers

No stable markets exist for these materials.

7) NO Ceramics, Drinking Glasses, Light Bulbs or Other Non-Recyclable Glass

8) NO Hazardous Waste such as Motor Oil or Solvents

9) NO Frozen Food Boxes or Ice-Cream Containers

10) NO Liquids Left in Aerosol Cans or Containers

11) NO Scrap Metal

12) NO Syringes, Needles, Sharps or any other kind of medical waste

RECYCLING

At the Curb: How do I start service?



In Boulder and Unincorporated Boulder County

Trash haulers are required to provide recycling and composting services for each single family residence trash customer at no additional cost. Mountain residents are exempt.

Allied Waste Services

303.286.1200

www.disposal.com/denver

Green Girl Recycling Services

303.442.7535

www.greengirlrecycling.com

One Way Trash

303.823.0556

www.onewaytrash.com

Western Disposal

303.444.2037

www.westerndisposal.com

In Longmont

Curbside single-stream recycling is provided by the city. Longmont residents are automatically on the recycling schedule. Call 303.651.8416 for schedule information and recycling carts. www.ci.longmont.co.us/solidwaste/recycle

In Lafayette

Curbside single-stream recycling is provided through a city contract with Western Disposal. Residents outside of HOAs should call 303.444.2037 to begin service. www.cityoflafayette.com

In Louisville

Curbside single-stream recycling and composting is provided through a city contract with Western Disposal. Residents outside of HOAs should call 303.444.2037 to begin service. www.louisvilleco.gov

Other Communities

For residents not served by community-sponsored programs, call your local trash hauler for curbside recycling service and guidelines. See the grid at right for materials accepted at your community's drop-off center.

Recycling Drop-off Centers in Boulder County for traditional materials

KEY TO GRID	CONTAINERS						PAPER						
	Aluminum Cans & Foil	Steel Cans & Metal Jar Lids	Glass Bottles & Jars	Milk Cartons/Drink Boxes	Plastic Bottles (#1, #2 & #5)	Plastic Screw-Top Jars (#1)	Plastic Tubs & Cups (#2 & #5)	Cardboard & Brown Paper Bags	Office Paper / Opened Mail	Magazines, Catalogs, Newspaper	Phone Books	Large Paperboard Items	Small, Low-Grade Paper Items
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Will accept this material													
<div></div> Clusters of shaded check marks indicate these items are commingled (mixed) together.													
ALLENSPARK Transfer Station: State Hwy. 7 & County Road 84 • 303.747.2107 • Call 303.747.2107 for hours.		✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
BOULDER Boulder County Recycling Center • Open 24 hours 1901 63rd St. btw Arapahoe & Valmont 303.444.6634 or 720.564.2220	now accepts #1–#7 plastic bottles, tubs, jugs & jars												
	✓				✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
BOULDER* Eco–Cycle CHaRM • Mon – Sat, 9 – 4 • 5030 Pearl St. • See p. 26	now accepts #1–#7 plastic bottles, tubs, jugs & jars												
	✓				✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
CU-BOULDER CU Recycling’s Intermediate Processing Facility • 2290 Stadium Dr. • Drop-off open 24 hours • 303.492.8307	now accepts #1–#7 plastic bottles, tubs, jugs & jars												
	✓				✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ERIE 1000 Briggs St. (next to Public Works Shop) Open 24 hours • 303.926.2880	✓							✓		✓	✓	✓	
JAMESTOWN Behind the post office • 303.444.6634 2nd Saturday of each month, 12 – 2pm	✓				✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
LONGMONT* Open 24 hours Longmont Recycling Center 303.772.7300 • 140 Martin St.	now accepts #1–#7 plastic bottles, tubs, jugs & jars												
	✓				✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
LYONS 426 Railroad Ave. (E. of library) • 303.444.6634 or 720.564.2220 • Open dawn to dusk	✓				✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
NEDERLAND* Nederland Transfer Station 286 Ridge Road (E. of Peak to Peak Hwy.) 303.258.7878 • Open 8am – 4pm; Closed Wednesdays and holidays.	✓				✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
NIWOT Open dawn to dusk. At Trailhead (N. of Hwy. 52 on N. 79 St.) 303.444.6634 or 720.564.2220	✓				✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
WARD Near the old Catholic church • 303.444.6634 2nd Sat. of the month, 9am – 11am	✓				✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	

***Scrap metal accepted at these locations and in Louisville.** See page 26 for scrap metal guidelines and page 32 for more about Louisville's program.

For a map of all the centers, visit www.ecocycle.org.

CHaRM FACILITY

Eco-Cycle/City of Boulder Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials
5030 "Old" Pearl St, Boulder · OPEN: Mon– Sat, 9am–4pm
www.ecocycle.org/charm · 303-444-6634



What we accept:

Funded in part by City of Boulder Trash Tax Dollars.



****Not all prices are listed. Please visit www.ecocycle.org/charm for full prices and guidelines.****

NOTE: There is a \$3 facility fee for every vehicle visiting the CHaRM to recycle hard-to-recycle materials. Bicyclists are not charged a facility fee.

ELECTRONICS:

Samsung Electronics

\$3 facility fee only! See page 27 for more info.

Audio Equipment

Prices vary, \$4 and up.
Includes home and car stereo components.
NO wooden speakers

Computers & Computer Equipment

Prices vary, \$4 and up.
Includes monitors, towers/ CPUs, printers/scanners, laptops, Uninterruptable Power Supply (UPS), keyboards, mice & cables.



Copiers & Fax Machines

Prices vary, \$8 and up.

Phones

Cell phones: no charge
Home & office phones: \$2 - \$4



Printer Cartridges

Small Electronic Items

Includes PDAs, Gameboys, iPods, video game systems & cameras. Prices vary, \$2 - \$8.

TVs & VCRs/DVD Players

Includes TVs, consoles, VCRs, DVD players & satellite boxes. Prices vary, \$8 and up.

HARD-TO-RECYCLE PLASTICS:

#6 White Block Foam

Businesses: \$6 per cubic yard

NO packing "peanuts," foam cups or "to-go" boxes



Big Durable #2 Plastics

Large plastics marked with a #2 such as plastic toys like plastic play structures, plastic lawn furniture, plastic watering cans, clean #2 plastic buckets (no residue layer; metal handle OK), clean plastic barrels, crates, rigid backyard kiddie pools and plastic trash containers 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.



NEW! Plastic Bags & Plastic Bubble Wrap

Includes plastic shopping & newspaper bags, ziplock bags & bubble wrap.

Must be clean, dry and empty.

NO moisture, receipts, food waste inside bags, black trash bags, biodegradable plastic, tape, packing peanuts or foam wrap



OTHER:

NEW! Scrap Metal

Items that are at least 50% metal, including appliances

NOTE: There is no facility fee to drop off scrap metal.

Items without Freon®: no charge

Items WITH Freon® (air conditioners, refrigerators, freezers): \$15

NO single-strand or barbed-wire fencing, oil or fuel in motors, batteries, or propane canisters



Bicycles & Bike Parts

Includes integral parts such as seats, pedals, handlebars, wheels, etc. & metal accessories such as baskets
NO other accessories or sporting goods



Bike Tires & Inner Tubes

Tires: 50¢; Tubes: no charge

Books & Manuals

There is no \$3 facility fee for books. See page 20 for info about our book reuse program



Cooking Oil

NO motor oil or any oil used for purposes other than cooking



Fire Extinguishers

Boulder residents with ID: no charge
Non-Boulder residents: \$4

Porcelain Toilets, Sinks & Urinals

Prices vary, \$2 - \$10. Porcelain must be as clean as possible.
NO BIO-HAZARDS



Textiles & Reusable Shoes

NO cleats, underwear, socks or swimsuits



Yoga Mats

\$1 per mat

NO badly soiled or smelly mats, Tatami mats or other grass mats



Don't see the item you want to recycle? Check our A-Z Recycling Guide at www.ecocycle.org/a-zguide

Not all electronics recyclers
are created equal.



Eco-Cycle Recycles Electronics Responsibly

We've partnered with a Certified e-Stewards Recycler to process and recycle all electronics dropped off at the CHaRM. This means we

will not work with processors who export hazardous electronic scrap to developing countries, an irresponsible practice behind many "free" electronics recycling programs. e-Stewards is the world's most rigorous environmental and social justice criteria for recycling e-waste. **Learn more at** www.ecocycle.org/charm or www.e-stewards.org.

The CHaRM is your one-stop drop for recycling and composting! We Also Accept:

Single-Stream Recycling:

There is no fee to recycle traditional materials like cans, bottles, paper and cardboard at the CHaRM. See page 23 for full guidelines.



Compostable Materials:

Includes kitchen scraps (including meat, bone and dairy), small plant clippings and low-grade paper.



No yard or forest waste

- under 5 gallons: \$1 (\$3 facility fee is waived)
- 5 – 32 gallons (or half a toter): \$5 plus \$3 facility fee
- 32 – 64 gallons: \$10 plus \$3 facility fee
- 1 cubic yard: \$30 plus \$3 facility fee
- See pages 28 for full composting guidelines.

Businesses: Recycle Unusual Materials with

CHaRM on the Road

We'll provide collection of hard-to-recycle materials such as electronics, white block foam, pallet wrap and much more at your business, as well as easy-to-store recycling collection containers, CHaRM guidelines and free training for employees. **Sign up today!**

303.444.6634 ext. 2 • www.ecocycle.org/businesses



RECYCLING UNUSUAL MATERIALS

CHaRM-ing News:

New CHaRM Materials: Bubble Wrap and Ziplock bags!

Bubble wrap and ziplock bags (with the zip) are now accepted with our plastic bag recycling! Materials must be clean, dry and empty. Visit www.ecocycle.org/charm for photos of what we do and don't take.



Scrap Metal Recycling in Boulder Has Moved to the CHaRM

In summer 2011, scrap metal recycling moved from the Boulder County Recycling Center to the CHaRM. This change came in an effort to improve scrap metal service to our community by providing a secure, staffed location to drop off scrap metal and to increase scrap metal recycling and reuse opportunities. For more information, including how to apply to reuse scrap metal items that come to the CHaRM, visit www.ecocycle.org/charm.



Recycle Any Samsung Electronics for Only \$3

Bring in any Samsung electronics and pay only the \$3 facility fee! (This offer does not apply to businesses with large quantities.) Why the bargain? Samsung has made the CHaRM an official partner in its voluntary manufacturer takeback program by paying the recycling costs of Samsung consumer electronic products. This is an example of a principle called Extended Producer Responsibility, which has been adopted in dozens of states and countries around the world. Learn more at www.electronicstakeback.com.



Electronics Recycling in Downtown Boulder

Eco-Cycle and iSupportU — Boulder's fastest-growing IT support company — have joined forces to provide a downtown drop-off location for recycling computers. For a fee, Boulder residents and businesses can now bring obsolete or unwanted computers to iSupportU's downtown Boulder location at 1825a Pearl St. For more information, visit www.ecocycle.org/charm.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the CHaRM!

CHaRM recently celebrated 10 years as the first facility of its kind in the nation (and perhaps the world). In its first ten years, CHaRM helped 185,292 customers responsibly recycle 8,417,108 pounds of materials.



Save
&
Post!



COMPOST GUIDELINES

FOR CURBSIDE PICKUP AT YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS IN BOULDER COUNTY



COMPOSTABLE PAPER



NAPKINS



TISSUES



FOODS & PLANTS



YARD TRIMMINGS

SPECIALY-DESIGNED COMPOSTABLE PRODUCTS

PLA: MADE
FROM CORN



PLA-COATED
PAPER CUPS



PLA: MADE
FROM CORN



UNCOATED
PAPER FIBER
ONLY, OR
BAGASSE



NO PLASTIC

NO PLASTIC-
COATED
PAPER



* CHARM MATERIAL
(SEE P. 26)

See detailed
compostable
products guidelines
on page 30.

eco-cycle

Working to Build Zero Waste Communities

Composting combats climate change by preventing organics from entering a landfill, where they decompose and release methane, a potent greenhouse gas.



When in doubt, keep it out. QUESTIONS? Call or visit 303.444.6634 • www.ecocycle.org

CURBSIDE COMPOSTING TIPS



These tips will help make curbside composting easy and eliminate the "yuck" factor.

Having the right INDOOR container to collect your kitchen scraps is essential to making composting a habit and not a chore.

We recommend a ceramic or steel container with a tight-fitting lid. You can also use a reusable plastic bucket like a large margarine or potato salad tub. Or try using a compostable box/container, such as a:

- Cereal box without the inside liner bag
- Compostable PLA from take-out food or boxed lettuce, etc.
- Bagasse container from take-out food (make sure you are NOT using a container that is plastic-coated; avoid a shiny take-out box).
- Cardboard box, waxed ok
- Paper bag

How to minimize flies and pests from your OUTDOOR curbside compost cart:

Mix it: Layer your food scraps with your yard debris to absorb odors and moisture.

Cool it: Keep your bin inside the garage or at least out of the sun.

Close it: Make sure the lid is clicked shut. Keep a cinder block or other weight on top to deter smaller animals. Or hook a bungee cord across the top of the lid.

Rinse it: Give your bin a good rinse from time to time and let the water seep into your yard.



If you're finding that warm weather is making your INDOOR compost collection container stinky or a fly attractant, try these tips:

Empty it: Empty your indoor compost bin daily or every other day.

Line it: Place a small amount of shredded paper, newspaper or a paper towel on the bottom of the container to absorb moisture. Or use a paper bag or compostable plastic bag to line your bin.



Wrap it: Wrap meat or fish scraps in their original butcher paper or newspaper before placing them in the bin. Wrap vegetable scraps in used newspaper or paper towels.

Clean it: Rinse off any visible mold or stuck-on food scraps after emptying. Clean your bin with dish soap once a week. Sprinkle in some baking soda to absorb odors.

Chill it: Refrigerate or freeze food scraps until your collection day, especially meat or fish scraps.

Protect it: Fruit flies love citrus and melon scraps and banana peels. Empty these from your bin daily. Rub vinegar on the rim of your bin to guard against fruit flies. If they've already arrived, create a simple trap—find instructions at www.ecocycle.org/compost.

Skip it: For the really moldy, unknown container from the back of your refrigerator, empty it directly into your outdoor bin or use your garbage disposal.

Need more composting?

Tell your city or county officials, and your hauler, that you'd prefer to have weekly compost collection and every other week trash collection.



COMPOSTING



Curbside Composting Programs in Boulder County

In the City of Boulder, unincorporated Boulder County and the City of Louisville, trash haulers are required to provide curbside compost services at no addition charge. Mountain towns and HOAs are exempt. For a pick-up schedule and more information, call your hauler.

Compost Drop-off Centers

For composting guidelines, see page 28.

Boulder: CHaRM facility (Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials) – See page 26 for location and fees. **Longmont:** Longmont Waste Diversion Center – See page 31 for location and details.



How do I know if my product is compostable?

With all the greenwashing out there and no standardized labeling, it's hard to know which products claiming to be compostable are truly safe for composting. Look for the word "compostable" on the package, or these labels, to make sure. *Learn more about why this issue is so important on page 10.*

Compostable labels you can trust:



ASTM D6400

Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) has created a certification program for compostable products. If it has either of these logos, you can trust it's compostable. Learn more at www.bpiworld.org.



#7 PLA: In the world of plastics, #7 is actually a catch-all category for all plastics that are not a #1, #2, #3, #4, #5 or #6. However, when you find a #7 with the letters PLA next to it (which stand for Poly-Lactic Acid), it means the item is made from corn, not petroleum, and can be composted safely.



NatureWorks LLC manufactures 100% compostable products, often under the brand name **Ingeo**.



Check out our photo album of compostable product labels on Facebook.

eco-cycle[®] Microbe Brew Compost Tea



Made from worm castings (aka poop), it's the best natural soil amendment on the planet!



Find it at the Boulder Farmers' Market and the CHaRM this spring and summer.

Learn more at www.ecocycle.org/microbe-brew

Want to know...

- ▶ How to compost in your backyard
- ▶ Backyard composting tips for the Colorado climate
- ▶ Winter composting tips
- ▶ How to compost with worms
- ▶ How to compost in an apartment
- ▶ How to compost in bear country?

Visit www.ecocycle.org or scan this QR code with your smartphone.



BOULDER COUNTY RECOVERY FACILITIES

Whether it's yard waste, household hazardous waste or items you want to donate for reuse, our community has a plethora of facilities to help you keep even more items out of the landfill. Find the recovery facilities in your town listed below. For recycling drop-off centers in Boulder County and details on what they accept, see page 25. Call 303-444-6634 with questions or visit www.ecocycle.org to search by community or facility.

Boulder County



Boulder County Recycling Center – See page 25.



Boulder County/ City of Boulder Yard Waste and Wood Waste Drop-Off Center

Items accepted: Grass clippings, leaves, weeds, flowers, wood waste up to 6" in diameter, sawdust. Free to City of Boulder residents. Contractors and residents in unincorporated Boulder County: Call for special drop-off rates.

Location: Western Disposal, 5880 Butte Mill Rd., Boulder
Hours vary.

Contact: 303-444-2037, www.bouldercounty.org/sustain/zerowaste



Boulder County Hazardous Materials Management (HMM) Facility

Items accepted: Paint and hobby products, automotive products, pesticides, cleaners, rechargeable batteries, solvents, garden products.

Reusable products: Free reusable products are available during open hours, including auto and hobby products, garden and yard products, home maintenance and cleaning products, latex paint, oil-based paint.

Location: 1901 63rd St., Boulder (enter at Boulder County Recycling Center – follow signs to HMM facility)
Hours for Residential Drop-off: Wed-Sat, 8:30 am-4 pm

Closed: Sun-Tues
Contact: 720-564-2251, www.bouldercounty.org/sustain/zerowaste

Business Waste: Businesses must submit an application in advance and set up an appointment to drop off wastes.

Residential Waste: The HMM facility is open for drop-off from all residents of Boulder County, City and County of Broomfield, and the Town of Erie. Proof of residency is required. Some communities hold annual collections for residents. Call your city for more information.

Cost to residents: No charge.

Allenspark



Allenspark Transfer Station and Recycling Drop-Off – See page 25.



Allenspark Area Community Forestry Sort Yard

Items accepted: Slash (tree limbs and branches) includes trees with no diameter limit, although prefer logs to be cut.

Note: Items not accepted year-round. See Nederland listing for more information.

Location: Hwy 7, north of Meeker Park on Larimer/ Boulder county line

City of Boulder



Boulder County Recycling Center – See page 25.



Eco-Cycle/City of Boulder CHaRM (Center for Hard-to-



Recycle Materials)

Items accepted: Computers, TVs, plastic bags, bubble wrap, white block foam, books and much more. See page 26 for a full list.

Note: This is the only facility in Boulder that accepts scrap metal

for recycling.

Location: 5030 "Old" Pearl St.

Hours: Mon-Sat, 9 am-4 pm

Contact: 303-444-6634, www.ecocycle.org/charm



ReSource Yard

Items accepted and sold: Construction, demolition and other household materials in good condition.

Location: 6400 Arapahoe Ave.

Hours: Mon-Sat 9-5, Sun 11-4

Contact: 303-419-5418, www.resourceyard.org

ReSource Tool Library

Note: Tool rentals require membership and small fees. Unwanted tools from the public are accepted for reuse.
Location: 6400 Arapahoe Ave.

Hours: Mon-Sat 9-5, Sun 11-4.

Contact: 303-419-5418, www.resourcetoollibrary.org

Erie



Town of Erie Recycling Center – See page 25.

Jamestown



Recycling Drop-off Center – See page 25.

Lafayette



The City of Lafayette has a yard waste pickup program in the spring. Visit

www.cityoflafayette.com for a schedule or call 303-665-5588.

Longmont

Longmont Waste Diversion Center

Location: 140 Martin St.

Hours vary. See below.

Contact: 303-651-8416 or 303-772-7300

www.ci.longmont.co.us/solidwaste or

www.ecocycle.org/yourcommunity/longmont

Preguntas?

Llame a 303-243-5820.

Items Accepted 24/7:



SINGLE-STREAM RECYCLING: See page 25 for guidelines.

Items accepted with limited hours:

The following materials can be dropped off Mon-Wed, 8:30-4:30. Thurs-Saturday 8:30-5:45. Closed Sundays. Also closed New Year's Day, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Please check in at the window and bring a current utility bill indicating the Waste Management fee.



AUTOMOTIVE AND RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES:

Includes motorcycle and boat batteries. Alkaline batteries are not accepted.

Cont'd on next page

BOULDER COUNTY RECOVERY FACILITIES

Longmont cont'd from previous page



COOKING OIL: Must be in see-through plastic containers (gallon milk jugs or the original plastic containers or box your cooking oil comes in).



MOTOR OIL & ANTIFREEZE: Must be in separate see-through one-gallon containers (gallon milk jugs work best). Must also be securely capped and cannot be contaminated with other fluids.



PLASTIC BAGS: Includes plastic shopping and newspaper bags. Must be clean, dry and empty. **NO** moisture, receipts, or food waste inside bags, black trash bags, biodegradable plastic, tape, packing peanuts or foam wrap.



SCRAP METAL: All types of scrap metal. **NO** fencing, pressurized containers, electronics, appliances containing Freon®.



YARD WASTE: Tree limbs, branches, bushes and unbagged leaves. **NO** sod, dirt, rock or split rail fence material will be accepted. Free to Longmont residents with a recent utility bill and ID. Non-residents and contractors will be charged a fee.



COMPOST DROP-OFF: The facility now accepts kitchen scraps for composting. For compost guidelines, see page 28.

For information about the City of Longmont's paper

shredding events, hard-to-recycle collection events for CHaRM items (see page 26 for materials collected), large bulky items collection as well as Household Hazardous Chemical drop-off days and more events, call the phone numbers or visit the websites listed above.



Habitat for Humanity of the St. Vrain Valley ReStore

Items accepted and sold: Overstocked, new, used, discontinued and salvageable building materials.

Location: 1351 Sherman Dr., Longmont

Hours: Tues – Sat, 10 am – 6 pm; Donations: Mon – Sat, 10 am – 5 pm.

Contact: 303-776-3334, www.longmontrestore.webs.com

Louisville



City of Louisville Scrap Metal Recycling Drop-off Center (pilot program)

Items accepted: Scrap metal items with the exception of refrigerators, propane tanks, and other sealed containers, cable, wire, batteries, or any hazardous waste materials. **Location:** 1600 Empire Rd. **Hours:** Mon – Fri, 7 am – 3:30 pm, excluding city holidays.

Contact: 303-335-4769



Louisville Green Waste Collection Program

Items accepted: Leaves and grass clippings. Louisville residents only.

Location: Louisville Wastewater Plant, 1601 Empire Road

Hours: Mon-Sun, 7 am - 3:30 pm

Contact: 303-335-4783, www.louisvilleco.gov



Louisville Tree Branch Recycle Site

Items accepted:

Woody plant material such as tree and shrub debris. No grass or leaves (see above). Proof of residency required.

Location: Just north of the Louisville Cemetery on Empire Road.

Hours vary.

Contact: 303-335-4733, www.louisvilleco.gov

Lyons



Lyons Recycling Drop-Off Center – See page 25.



Lyons Tree Branch Service

Pick-up from homes available. Call 303-823-6622 for more information.

Nederland



Nederland Recycling Drop-off Center – See page 25.



Nederland Area Community Forestry Sort Yard

Location: 286 Ridge Rd. (north of Nederland, east of Hwy. 72)

Items accepted: Logs larger than 6" in diameter, branches, etc.

Details: Boulder County has established two community forestry sort yards to collect wood and slash from county

residents (only one generally operates at a time). The location alternates one time each year between Allenspark and Nederland. There is no charge to drop off trees and slash from private lands at these sites.

The dates and hours of operation for these two forest waste sites vary. Call 303-678-6368 or visit www.bouldercounty.org/sustain/zerowaste for more information.

Niwot



Recycling Drop-off Center – See page 25.

Superior



Town of Superior Yard Waste Recycling Facility

Items Accepted: Grass clippings, small branches (6" in diameter or less), leaves and other yard material. Superior residents only.

Location: 2125 Honey Creek Lane, next to the Wastewater Treatment Plant between Saddle Brooke and the Horizons

Hours vary.

Contact: 303-499-3675, www.townofsuperior.com

Ward



Recycling Drop-off Center – See page 25.

For packing peanuts, batteries, CFLs and MANY other materials not listed in this Guide: Visit our A - Z Recycling Guide with more than 160 items at www.ecocycle.org/a-zguide.



LANDFILL

These items have no recycling markets, can't be composted and, unfortunately, have to be landfilled. See our Reduce section (p. 16) for how to avoid items like these in the first place.

PLASTIC-COATED PAPER



NON-RECYCLABLE PLASTICS



WRAPPERS & FROZEN FOOD PACKAGING



WHY KEEP MATERIALS OUT OF THE LANDFILL?

The most common answer, "Because landfills are filling up," is really the least of the problems. The real reasons are because landfills:

- 1. Bury resources, money and jobs.** Reaching 75% recycling by 2030 would create 2.3 million new jobs in the U.S.
- 2. Create pollution problems for future taxpayers.** All landfill liners will break and leak toxic leachate. How much does it cost to fix a leak under 100 million tons of garbage?
- 3. Contribute to climate change.** Methane from landfills traps 72 times more heat in our atmosphere than CO₂ over the short term.
- 4. Destroy resources for future generations.** In the past 50 years, humans consumed more resources than were consumed in all previous history. There's simply more demand than supply for 7 billion people, and when materials that could go back into the production cycle go to a landfill instead, we put more pressure on the environment to make the goods we need.



P.S. Incinerators that burn waste are BAD news too (we don't have any in CO). Learn why at www.ecocycle.org/specialreports.

FAQs

Every year, we answer thousands of calls and emails about recycling and other Zero Waste topics. Here are the answers to some of the most common questions.

► How do I recycle batteries?

While alkaline batteries no longer contain mercury and are allowed in the trash, some local retail stores recycle alkaline batteries at no cost. Visit our A-Z Recycling Guide at www.ecocycle.org/a-zguide for the most up-to-date information on how to recycle these and other types of batteries. And here's a tip: Avoid disposable batteries in the first place by choosing rechargeable ones. It will save you money in the long run!

► This plastic has a recycling symbol on it – can I recycle it?

Because it's not thoroughly regulated, you can't count on the recycling symbol to let you know whether an item is recyclable. Plus, different communities have different guidelines. Here's our litmus test for knowing whether your plastic is recyclable in Boulder County: If your plastic container is in the shape of a bottle, tub, jug or jar, no matter what the number is, it can be recycled in your single-stream recycling bin. We can't accept foam cups or containers (a.k.a. Styrofoam), plastic bags (though these can be recycled at the CHaRM or participating grocery stores), flimsy #1 cups, or #7 PLA cups and containers, which are made from corn and are compostable. Flat lids, such as margarine or yogurt lids, are not recyclable either. See pages 23 and 33 for full guidelines.

► Why can't I recycle all plastics?

Just as with different types of paper, all plastics could be recycled if there were a market, i.e. a manufacturer who would use them to make a new product. There are some problems with plastics recycling that limit the market for some types.

► How do I dispose of paint?

Unwanted paint and other liquid hobby products can be taken to the Boulder County Hazardous Materials Management (HMM) Facility. See page 31 for details. Empty metal paint cans (no need to rinse) can be recycled as scrap metal at the Eco-Cycle CHaRM (Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials) – see page 26.

► Where can I recycle old computers and other electronics or “e-waste”?

Electronics contain a host of toxic substances including cadmium, lead, mercury and arsenic that can leak into groundwater when thrown in a landfill. Recycle old electronics responsibly at the CHaRM in Boulder, which works with Certified E-Stewards who recycle e-waste responsibly. Some fees apply to cover the costs of safely handling and dismantling the materials for recycling. Learn more about the importance of recycling electronics responsibly at www.e-stewards.org.

► What do I do with old medications?

One thing you never want to do is flush your old or leftover pharmaceuticals down the drain. Wastewater treatment plants are not designed to remove these chemicals and compounds, so flushing drugs can have harmful effects on our waterways and ecosystems. Visit www.bouldercountywater.org and click on “Pharmaceutical Disposal” to learn how to safely dispose of pharmaceuticals at a local drop-off event, or follow these tips from Boulder County Public Health:

- Pour liquid medications over cat litter or other absorbent material and seal it in a plastic bag before placing it in the trash.
- Fill pill containers with household glue, remove all personal information from the container, and place it in the trash after the glue has dried.

► How do I recycle compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs)?

CFLs are far better than incandescent light bulbs, but because they contain trace amounts of mercury they should not be disposed of in the trash. Check your local hardware store for free CFL recycling programs or find the most up-to-date info on our A-Z Recycling Guide. You can also recycle CFLs at the Boulder County HMM Facility (see page 31).

Have a question? Contact us!

Eco-Cycle HOTLINE: 303-444-6634

En Español: 303-243-5820

On our site: www.ecocycle.org

Email us: recycle@ecocycle.org



For how to recycle 160+ items, check out our A-Z Recycling Guide at www.ecocycle.org/a-zguide!



Thank You

Eco-Cycle would like to thank all of the donors who contributed to the organization in 2011. Below are 2011 donors who contributed to special projects and programs or belong to Eco-Cycle donor groups. Thanks for your generous support!



The *Eco-Cycle®* Guide is printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper (no trees!) with non-VOC soybean-based inks.



It is printed using a commercial cold-web press, which is less energy- and ink-intensive than the processes used to print glossy magazines.

© Copyright 2012 Eco-Cycle, Inc. All Rights Reserved
No part of this publication may be transmitted or reproduced in any form without the express permission of the publisher.

The *Eco-Cycle®* Guide is published by Eco-Cycle, Inc. to provide educational services, programs and materials in support of the environment, natural resource conservation, recycling and sustainable resource management through the concepts and practices of Zero Waste. Eco-Cycle is a Colorado non-profit organization and is tax-exempt under IRS Code 501 (c) (3).

The *Eco-Cycle®* Guide is distributed primarily by volunteers in Eco-Cycle's Eco-Network. If you wish to receive this publication at your home, call or email us to be placed on our mailing list or subscribe online at www.ecocycle.org/ecocycleguide. To help us get this information to all your neighbors, call us to join the Eco-Network.

Eco-Cycle®
P.O. Box 19006
Boulder, CO 80308
Phone: 303-444-6634
Fax: 303-444-6647
En Español: 303-243-5820
www.ecocycle.org
email: recycle@ecocycle.org

Editors
Iris Sela Horowitz, Marti Matsch

Contributing Editors
Kate Bailey, Eric Lombardi

Copy Editor
Anne Mudgett

Additional editing by Marty Crigler, Dan Matsch, Jeff Medlen and Matt Patrick

Graphic Design by *Evolve Into*

Community Outreach

Boulder County
Community Outreach
Program

Eco-Cycle International

The Friendship Fund
WhiteWave Foods
Calvert Social Investment

2011 Sustainability Summit

City of Boulder Local
Environmental Action
Division (LEAD)

Re-Use Book Project

Temple Hoyne Buell
Foundation

2011 Holiday Recycling Guide

City of Boulder Local
Environmental Action
Division (LEAD)

Green Star Schools

Anonymous Donor
Anonymous Family
Foundation
Boulder County
Community Outreach
Program
Elevations Foundation

Red Empress Foundation
Google Community Grants
Fund of the Tides
Foundation
WhiteWave Foods
Jared Polis Foundation
The Lawrence Foundation
Patagonia, Boulder
New Belgium Brewing
Company
Longmont Community
Foundation
Community Trust -
Community Foundation
Serving Boulder County
Walmart, Lafayette store
Boulder Valley Credit
Union
Madhava Natural
Sweeteners
Star Industrial Supplies/
Red Apple Recycling

General Funding

Campbell Family
Foundation

In-Kind Donors

A Spice of Life Catering
Services and Event
Center
Whole Foods Market

Founders' Society

**Members of this group
have committed to an
annual gift of \$1,000 or
more.**

Cindy Carlisle & Baine Kerr
Colorado Pediatric
Orthotics & Prosthetics
June S. Ewing
Richard Matsch
Sara Michl
Allison "Pete" & Pat
Palmer
Sally Parsons

Special Thanks

Thanks to The Organic
Dish for supplying us with
high-quality kitchen scraps
for our worm farm, which
produces Eco-Cycle's
Microbe Brew Compost
Tea.

Thanks to local businesses
Alfalfa's and Ozo Coffee
Co. for lending their stores
for photos in our
Eco-Living Guide.

Support Eco-Cycle

For more information about how to make a donation, sponsor an Eco-Cycle program, become a Founders' Society member, join the Zero Waste Champions with a recurring gift or support the organization in other ways, please visit www.ecocycle.org/support.



Working to Build Zero Waste Communities

P.O. Box 19006
Boulder, CO 80308

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage

PAID

Permit No. 229
Boulder, CO

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper, not trees!

Was this *Eco-Cycle Guide* delivered to your door? If so, it came from one of the volunteers in our Eco-Network who is helping to provide Zero Waste resources and information in your neighborhood.

Join us!

If you're eco-minded, you belong in the network of 800 (and growing) Eco-Cycle volunteers who are helping to create sustainable communities locally and globally.



The more of us there are, the faster we'll move toward sustainability.

Sign up today at

www.ecocycle.org/eco-network

or call us at 303-444-6634.

