

eco-cycle GUIDE 2018

YOUR LOCAL
GUIDE TO
ZERO WASTE
SUSTAINABLE
LIVING!

KILOWATT
KID

ECO-ELF

GREEN STAR

CAPTAIN
ZERO WASTE

WONDER
WORMY

BECOME A
ZERO WASTE
HERO WITH THE

ZERO WASTE LEAGUE

DEAR ECO-CYCLERS AND OUR ENTIRE BOULDER COUNTY COMMUNITY,

Here's a fact for you: The way we produce, consume and dispose of our "stuff" and our food is responsible for 42% of U.S. climate pollution. That's a huge part of the climate problem we can address through Zero Waste. Clearly it is our collective role and responsibility to push the Zero Waste solution as far and as fast as we possibly can.

This Eco-Cycle Guide is intended to be a tool to help us do that. Inside you'll find everything you need to know to strive for Zero Waste whether you're at home, at school, at work, or out on the town. Boulder County has a goal of achieving Zero Waste (or darn near) by 2025. We can get there. In this guide, you'll learn about some of the progress we're making, such as:

NEW UPGRADES made at the Boulder County Recycling Center that will allow us all to recycle more types of plastics (see page 8).

NEW PARTNERSHIPS being forged between Eco-Cycle and other social enterprises to take hard-to-recycle materials and turn them into jobs for folks who may have a harder time finding jobs (see page 15).

NEW TOOLS and resources to help us all get to Zero Waste (see page 20).

Reaching Zero Waste is going to take ALL of us. Every day. Taking action. What we do together at the local level makes a difference—here at home and as a model for the nation!

Let's do this together!

Yours in sustainability,



Suzanne ("Zan") Jones
Executive Director
Eco-Cycle

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HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

LIVING IN A ZERO WASTE COMMUNITY MEANS SAYING NO TO TOSSING OUR RESOURCES IN A TRASHCAN AS THE DEFAULT. WE NEED TO CHANGE OUR CULTURE AND BEHAVIOR. EACH PAGE OF THIS GUIDE SHARES A CRITICAL STEP TOWARD ZERO WASTE AND INCLUDES TIPS, TOOLS, AND IDEAS. TAKE EACH STEP AND BY THE END OF THE GUIDE YOU'LL BE HELPING TO CREATE A ZERO WASTE COMMUNITY!

ECO-CYCLE'S MISSION IS TO IDENTIFY, EXPLORE, AND DEMONSTRATE THE EMERGING FRONTIERS OF SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE SOLUTIONS THROUGH THE CONCEPTS AND PRACTICES OF ZERO WASTE. WE BELIEVE IN INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY ACTION TO TRANSFORM SOCIETY'S THROW-AWAY ETHIC INTO ENVIRONMENTALLY-RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP.

ZERO WASTE: THE NEW NORMAL

If we are to overcome the greatest challenges ever faced by any human generation—climate change, resource depletion, plastics in the ocean, declining local economies and social injustices, to name a few— we must adopt Zero Waste as the New Normal, community by community, across the globe. “Zero Waste” means more than making recycling and composting commonplace. Zero Waste redesigns and replaces the entire production system that helped create these planetary challenges in the first place.

OUR CURRENT PRODUCTION SYSTEM GOES ONE DIRECTION, FROM THE EARTH TO THE DUMP.

We are perpetually “taking” from the planet—and from people and other species—without giving back.

We take natural resources such as trees, petroleum, and metal from the earth to make our stuff, we use it, then dump those resources in landfills or incinerators when we’re finished. Then we head back to the natural resources and continue to cut them down, drill or mine them like they’re in infinite supply. Pretending that we can continue with this system in perpetuity is unrealistic and shirks our responsibility to future generations.

A ZERO WASTE SYSTEM IS CYCLICAL – PRESERVING, RECYCLING, AND RECLAIMING RESOURCES.

Zero Waste is the easiest, most cost-effective way communities can immediately start to create the change we need.

With Zero Waste, products are designed to use fewer resources, to be non-toxic, and to be reused, recycled or composted. Discards are captured and used to make new products instead of using new natural resources. It’s a cyclical system, as in nature, and works sustainably within the limits of our one planet. It also has some beneficial side effects: richer soil, cleaner water and air, local economic growth and jobs creation, and healthier food.

**A ZERO WASTE
SYSTEM WORKS WITHIN
THE LIMITS OF OUR
PLANET’S RESOURCES
AND HELPS ALL SPECIES
THRIVE!**

LET’S GET
STARTED
WITH ZERO
WASTE!



YOU HAVE A ROLE IN CREATING A ZERO WASTE COMMUNITY!

In the absence of federal leadership on most issues related to the environment, the way forward with Zero Waste lies with local communities, states, and businesses. That’s where the momentum and hope is building. We need YOU if we’re to be successful locally. Here are the roles each of us can play:

BUSINESSES can step up to recycle, compost, and also review and redesign their production systems to reduce their waste in the first place.

INDIVIDUALS can recycle and compost correctly, use additional facilities and tools in our community to recycle more, and reduce, refuse, and reuse. And everyone can advocate for local Zero Waste policies.

STUDENTS can learn how to help their schools be successful Green Star Schools.

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS can create new rules to ensure we use our resources wisely.

VOLUNTEERS are needed to be Eco-Leaders, trained to help fellow community members learn how to recycle, compost and live sustainably.

Find out more about what you can do!

Contact us at 303-444-6634,
www.ecocycle.org/ecoleaders, or email
recycle@ecocycle.org.



REFUSE

As we go about our days, ordering take-out and making stops at coffee shops, it's easy to pick up unnecessary waste: straws that weren't needed, paper napkins and plastic utensils, bags for small purchases, packets of soy sauce, chopsticks, to-go coffee cups and the like. These may seem like innocent gestures of convenience, but each material has its own history of resource extraction, pollution creation, extensive water consumption, and carbon impact. REFUSING these single-use, wasteful products and REUSING real stuff instead is key to truly living a Zero Waste lifestyle.

Here's our start-up guide for what to avoid and which alternatives are healthiest.

SHOPPING BAGS

Paper bags contribute to deforestation; plastic bags decompose and can add toxins to soils, groundwater, rivers and oceans

BOTTLED WATER

Requires more than 17 million barrels of oil per year to produce; often just tap water sold at 10,000 times the price

PAPER TO-GO CUPS

Virgin paper (that means trees) can't be recycled; bleached with chlorine

FOAM CUPS AND CLAMSHELLS

Made with possible human carcinogens; leaches those chemicals into food and drinks

PLASTIC UTENSILS

40 BILLION used in the U.S. each year; made from petroleum, and are NOT recyclable

REUSE INSTEAD!

REUSABLE BAGS

Look for bags made with post-consumer recycled materials. Bags that fold into little pouches can be easily stored in purses, backpacks, bikes, and cars so you never have that “Darn it, I forgot my bag!!” moment.

REUSABLE WATER BOTTLE

Stainless steel is best. Plastics #2, #4, and #5 are the safest plastics.

ZERO WASTE LIFE HACK!

Leave mason jars in your car for spontaneous leftover opportunities — they can withstand the heat and the cold!

REUSABLE MUGS

Go with stainless steel or ceramic. Plastic mugs can leach harmful chemicals into your drink. So can aluminum, which can be lined with the hormone-disrupting chemical and plastic additive BPA.

REUSABLE FOOD CONTAINERS

Stackable “tiffin” lunch containers are a fun way to bring home leftovers from a restaurant, but basic plastic or glass containers work just as well!



SECOND STEP?
RECYCLE
IT
RIGHT!

RECYCLE



PAPER & CARDBOARD



PAPEL Y CARTÓN



flatten
cardboard
aplane los
cartones

CONTAINERS

EMPTY & RINSE, DO NOT FLATTEN



empty
vacíe



ENVASES

VACÍE Y ENJUAGUE, NO LOS APLANE



PLASTIC BOTTLES, TUBS, JUGS, JARS

EMPTY & RINSE, DO NOT FLATTEN



attach plastic screw-top caps
fijar las tapas plásticas de rosca

BOTELLAS, JARRAS, FRASCOS, RECIPIENTES PLÁSTICOS

VACÍE Y ENJUAGUE, NO LOS APLANE



only sturdy
#5 "souvenir
cups" are
recyclable
sólo los "vasos
de promoción"
#5 se pueden
reciclar

When in doubt, give us a shout! 303.444.6634 / recycle@ecocycle.org

Si tiene alguna duda, comuníquese con nosotros!



eco-cycle®
Building Zero Waste Communities



NEW

MORE PLASTICS CAN NOW BE RECYCLED!

PLASTIC ITEMS



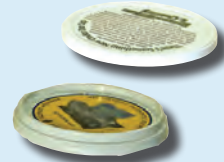
berry containers and other plastic clamshell containers
(no foam/polystyrene; remove liner)
recipientes de frutos rojos y otros recipientes
de plástico (celdas de almeja)
(no espuma; retire el revestimiento)



empty
vacío



take-out containers
recipientes para llevar
no food
no alimentos

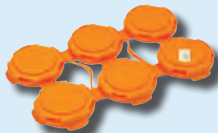


plastic tub lids
tapas de recipientes
plásticas

RIGID PLASTICS



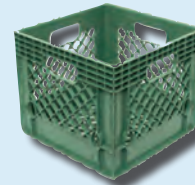
flower pots
macetas



hard plastic four-
and six-pack holders
porta bebidas de cuatro y
seis unidades de plástico
duro



plastic lawn toys
juguetes de plástico para el patio
remove metal axles,
all materials MUST fit inside cart
remover los ejes de metal, todo el
material DEBE caber dentro del carro



plastic crates
cajas plásticas



buckets, handles OK
baldes, se pueden dejar las
manijas

PLÁSTICOS RIGIDOS

NOT RECYCLABLE



food
comida



liquid
líquidos



foam / polystyrene
espuma / poliestireno



plastic cups
vasos plásticos



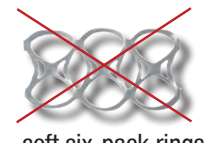
plastic-coated paper
papel recubierto de una película de
plástico



lotion / toothpaste tubes
tubos de crema / pasta dental



plastic bags / film
bolsas / protectores plásticos



soft six-pack rings
anillos de plástico suave de
seis unidades



frozen food boxes
cajas de comida congelada



latex gloves
guantes de látex



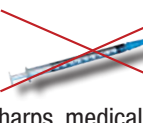
drinking glasses, ceramics
vasos de vidrio / cerámica



shredded paper
papel triturado



scrap metal
restos de metal



sharps, medical waste
objetos punzantes /
residuos médicos



explosive / hazardous materials
materiales explosivos / peligrosos

WHY DID

DID YOU NOTICE?
NEW MATERIALS
HAVE BEEN ADDED
TO THE RECYCLING
GUIDELINES!



GUIDELINES CHANGE?

FINALLY!! BERRY CONTAINERS AND OTHER PLASTIC CLAMSHELLS CAN NOW BE RECYCLED IN YOUR SINGLE STREAM RECYCLING! AND WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, YOU CAN LEGALLY TOSS IN THOSE TUB LIDS, ORANGE PRESCRIPTION BOTTLES, FLOWER POTS AND CLEAN PLASTIC TO-GO FOOD CONTAINERS (NO FOOD PLEASE!!).

WHY CAN WE RECYCLE
THESE MATERIALS NOW
WHEN YOU USED TO TELL
US TO KEEP THEM OUT?



THREE WORDS.

PLASTICS

OPTICAL

SORTER

BEFORE THE PLASTICS OPTICAL SORTER SYSTEM ...

Plastics used to be sorted by hand, a fairly lousy job where workers were tasked with identifying different types of plastic and sorting them into the correct bay to be sent to market. It was challenging to pick up smaller pieces (and thousands of them) from the conveyor belts and correctly sort them.

But the Boulder County Recycling Center, owned by Boulder County and operated by Eco-Cycle, got a MAJOR upgrade in October, 2017. The County installed a plastics optical sorter system. Here's what it does: As thousands of recyclables are moved on conveyor belts, a series of lasers can automatically discern the type of plastic polymer of each material, and then uses an air jet to shoot that material off the conveyor belt, into an air tube, and finally into the correct bin. As a result, we can take more types of plastic material than ever before, and they will be more efficiently sorted to earn more revenues for recycling.

IMPORTANT RECYCLING TIPS

DON'T MIX UP RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING.

Recycling goes to one facility (the Boulder County Recycling Center), and composting goes to another (a commercial compost facility outside the county). Food that ends up in the recycling is a HUGE contaminant, and recycling in the compost is a REALLY HUGE contaminant. Please carefully separate these two types of materials so they wind up at the correct facilities.

DO NOT PUT PLASTIC BAGS IN YOUR SINGLE STREAM RECYCLING.

They will bind up sorting equipment.

DO NOT PUT YOUR RECYCLABLE MATERIALS IN A PLASTIC BAG.



ASK ECO-ELF!



DEAR ECO-ELF,

HOW CLEAN DO MY RECYCLABLES NEED TO BE? WHY DO YOU LIST FOOD AS ONE OF YOUR BIGGEST CONTAMINANTS IN THE RECYCLING BIN? IS IT THAT BIG A DEAL?

THANKS,
DAVID

Dear David,

Food in your recycling bin = a big deal. Your recyclables go to the Boulder County Recycling Center where people, as well as automatic sorting systems like the new plastics optical sorter, separate materials to send them to their respective markets. Those people will be up close and personal with your recyclables. Food residue on recyclables puts our workers' health and safety at risk because of mold, pests like rodents and stinging insects, and unpleasant smells in the facility. Also, food and liquids will destroy the value of recyclable paper, and can affect the value of containers that have food residue inside. So how clean is clean? Before recycling, be sure to empty your containers by scraping out all food (into your compost bin), or pouring liquids out. Give each container a quick shot of water, shake it up to loosen any food remaining, and then recycle it.

DEAR ECO-ELF,

WHY CAN'T YOU RECYCLE RECEIPTS? IS IT BECAUSE THEY'RE TOO SMALL? IF I CAN'T RECYCLE THEM, CAN I COMPOST THEM?

SINCERELY,
S J M

Dear SJM,

One would think that receipts, like the kind you get at the grocery store, could go in the recycling or composting, but they CANNOT. The problem is, in most cases, receipt paper is coated with BPA or BPS, which are known endocrine disrupters. For that reason, they need to stay out of recycling AND compost, and go to the landfill instead. Or even better, "Skip the Slip" and avoid having your receipt printed. Green America has a new Skip the Slip campaign aimed at getting companies to avoid printing receipts if the customer doesn't want one, and at adopting new receipt technologies and practices. Learn more at GreenAmerica.org. If your company uses receipt tape, purchase tape that doesn't have a BPA coating so that it could be recycled or composted.

1, 2, 3: RECYCLING ON THE GO!

If you're out and about in a place with a three-bin system (that would of course be recycling, compost, and landfill), please:

- 1 Scrape all food off your recyclable products into the compost bin, along with paper napkins and any certified compostable products.
- 2 Put clean recyclables in the recycling.
- 3 Put any remaining trash in the bin marked "landfill."

TURN
THE PAGE TO
FIND OUT THE
#1 MATERIAL
PEOPLE DON'T
KNOW IS
RECYCLABLE!



ARE CARTONS RECYCLABLE?

Cartons are the #1 material most folks don't realize CAN be recycled in their single-stream recycling bin. Cartons are also a great packaging choice since they use less energy.

COOL CARTON FACTS:

- **RECYCLING THE PAPER FIBER IN CARTONS RESULTS IN 74% LESS AIR POLLUTION AND 35% LESS WATER POLLUTION THAN PRODUCING PAPER FROM VIRGIN FIBERS.**
- **THE COMPANY REWALL RECYCLES CARTONS INTO CEILING TILES, WALL PANELS AND OTHER MATERIALS USING NO GLUE, CHEMICAL, OR WATER. EACH TRUCKLOAD OF REWALL BUILDING PRODUCTS REPRESENTS ABOUT 300,000 RECYCLED CARTONS.**
- **CARTONS THAT CONTAIN A LAYER OF ALUMINUM ARE SHELF STABLE, MEANING THE FOOD OR DRINK INSIDE DOESN'T NEED TO BE REFRIGERATED, SAVING ENERGY DURING THE TRANSPORT AND STORAGE OF THE PRODUCT.**

Recyclable cartons include:



Non-dairy milk and soup broth cartons



Single-serving juice boxes



Milk, orange juice, and other beverage cartons

These are NOT recyclable:



their coating renders them non-recyclable

Ice cream containers

Cartons are made from layers of paper, plastic and sometimes aluminum. At the Boulder County Recycling Center, cartons are sorted by hand by our staffers and sent to factories in North America to become new products, including paper towels, plastic plant pots, tissues, office paper, and building products.

DO

MAKE SURE CARTONS ARE EMPTY
RINSE CARTONS BEFORE
PUTTING IN BIN

DON'T

FLATTEN CARTONS

Our automatic sorting equipment does an initial sorting to separate containers (3-D items) from paper (2-D items). While cartons are partially made from paper, they are considered a container and are marketed as such. Please keep your cartons 3-D so they will be identified as containers.



NOT ONLY
ARE CARTONS
RECYCLABLE. THEY
USE LESS ENERGY
TO PRODUCE!





RECYCLING BIN'S DIRTY DOZEN

CONTAMINATION IN RECYCLING BINS IS A HUGE PROBLEM. DO YOUR
PART BY RECYCLING RIGHT!

BELOW ARE 13 (BAKER'S DOZEN) ITEMS TO KEEP OUT OF YOUR
RECYCLING BIN – AND HOW TO PROPERLY DISPOSE OF THEM.

INCORRECTLY PREPPED MATERIALS



FLATTENED CANS AND
CONTAINERS
(difficult to separate from paper)



LIQUIDS LEFT
IN BOTTLES OR
CONTAINERS
(liquids attract rodents
and stinging insects to
the recycling plant;
ruins paper)

**INSTEAD: DON'T FLATTEN CONTAINERS, AND EMPTY
LIQUIDS BEFORE RECYCLING CONTAINERS IN YOUR BIN**

FOOD



INSTEAD: COMPOST YOUR FOOD SCRAPS
SEE FULL COMPOSTING GUIDELINES ON PAGE 12

HARD-TO-RECYCLE MATERIALS



scrap metal
damages sorting equipment



white block foam and
bubble wrap



shredded paper
(too small to sort)



plastic bags
bind up sorting equipment

INSTEAD: BRING THEM TO THE CHaRM TO BE RECYCLED!
FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE CENTER FOR HARD-TO-RECYCLE MATERIALS ON PAGE 16

AMMUNITION OR EXPLOSIVE MATERIALS



**INSTEAD: CONTACT
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS



motor oil and solvents, syringes, needles,
sharps, medical waste

**INSTEAD: TAKE TO THE HAZARDOUS
MATERIALS MANAGEMENT FACILITY**

LANDFILL ITEMS



non-recyclable plastics
(no stable markets exist for
these items)



ceramics, drinking glasses
(not the same melting
temperature as recyclable glass)



frozen food boxes or ice cream
containers (their plastic coatings
render them non-recyclable)

INSTEAD: THESE ITEMS MUST BE LANDFILLED
SEE LANDFILL GUIDELINES ON PAGE 21

NEXT STEP?
COMPOST YOUR
FOOD AND
YARD
WASTE!

COMPOST



COMPOSTABLE PAPER

PAPEL COMPOSTABLE



dark & bright-colored paper
*papel de colores oscuros
y brillantes*



coffee grounds & filter
residuos del café



napkins
servilletas



paper towels
papel toallas



greasy or waxed cardboard
cartón con grasa o cera

FOODS & PLANTS

ALIMENTOS Y PLANTAS



plant trimmings
plantas cortadas

CERTIFIED COMPOSTABLE PRODUCTS

PRODUCTOS COMPOSTABLES CERTIFICADOS



paper only, no plastic coating
sólo papel sin recubrimiento plástico

Trust this
compostable product
label:

*Estas etiquetas indican
que el producto se
puede compostar:*



PLEASE NO

POR FAVOR NO



No plastic-coated
paper; Place these
items in trash »

No papel con recubrimiento
plástico; Por favor coloca
estos artículos en la basura »



When in doubt, give us a shout! 303.444.6634 / recycle@ecocycle.org

*Si tiene alguna duda,
comuníquese con nosotros!*

eco-cycle®
Building Zero Waste Communities

IS IT COMPOSTABLE?

Here's how to know which **PRODUCTS** are truly compostable in your curbside bin.

✓ YES, IF IT'S A PAPER PRODUCT NOT LINED WITH PLASTIC.

Many foodservice paper products are lined with petroleum-based plastics that contaminate our soils when composted.



These paper products are free of plastic and can be safely composted.



These paper products are plastic-coated and go in the **TRASH**.



✓ YES, IF IT'S A CERTIFIED COMPOSTABLE "PLASTIC."

If it looks like it contains plastic, it must be a certified "bio-plastic" to be safe for soils.



Products that appear to contain plastic must be certified compostable by BPI.



These labels also mean certified compostable:

ASTM D6400 ASTM D6868



These labels **DO NOT** mean compostable.

MADE FROM PLANTS
MADE FROM PLANT STARCH
BIODEGRADABLE
OXO-DEGRADABLE
BIO
ECO-FRIENDLY
EARTH-FRIENDLY
MADE WITH RECYCLED CONTENT
GREEN



Find and purchase compostable products with our time-saving tools at www.ecocycle.org/compost

IMPORTANT TIPS TO KEEP IN MIND WHEN COMPOSTING AT THE CURB:

IT REALLY MATTERS IF YOU MIX UP COMPOSTING AND RECYCLING.

Compost goes to one facility (a commercial compost facility outside our county), and recycling goes to another (the Boulder County Recycling Center). Recycling or garbage in the compost is a HUGE contaminant that is very difficult—and in some cases impossible—to remove. Please carefully separate these two types of materials so they wind up at the correct facilities.

KEEP PLASTICS OUT!

Do NOT put compost in plastic bags or put any type of plastic product in your compost. Plastic will break down into tiny pieces, sometimes even microscopic, but not fully degrade. Those tiny pieces can end up in the soil, water and eventually animals' bodies, including humans.

DON'T COMPOST PLASTIC-COATED PRODUCTS.

Be sure that any product you place in the bin truly IS compostable, and not coated with plastic. See guidelines on page 13 to be sure the products you purchase meet accepted standards for composting.

PLEASE DO COMPOST THESE: MEAT, BONES, EGGSHELLS, DAIRY, PAPER TOWELS AND NAPKINS. IF IT WAS ALIVE IN YOUR LIFETIME, IT CAN BE COMPOSTED.

**LONGMONT
RESIDENTS:
YOU CAN SIGN UP
TO COMPOST AT
YOUR HOME!**

The City of Longmont has an "opt in" curbside compost program. Sign up today! Call 303-641-8416 or visit www.LongmontColorado.gov/solidwaste. Compostables are also accepted at the 140 Martin Street Waste Diversion Center during staffed hours.

ASK WONDER WORMY!

DEAR WORMY,
DOESN'T FOOD JUST BIODEGRADE IN THE
LANDFILL? WHY BOTHER COMPOSTING?
YOUR FRIEND,
JANE

Dear Jane,

If you really are my friend, please give your food waste to ME, not the landfill. Here's why: Landfills are designed to prevent water, oxygen and sunlight from entering, so while biodegradable things like food and paper do break down, they do so VERY slowly and without oxygen. In the absence of oxygen, methane is produced, which is a potent greenhouse gas that has 84 times more heat-trapping power than CO₂. So putting food in the landfill actually contributes to climate change!

Give ME your food waste (and paper towels, and yard scraps), and I'll turn it into healthy soil that actually pulls carbon down out of the atmosphere and counteracts climate change. THAT's why they call me WONDER WORMY!!!

Your friend, WW

**THROWING
FOOD IN THE TRASH
RELEASES METHANE.
COMPOST
INSTEAD!**

THE CHARM

CREATING A RIPPLE EFFECT OF COMMUNITY GOOD

You've recycled your cans, bottles, glass and paper, but what about your electronic items, busted appliances, big block foam (aka Styrofoam), cooking oil, plastic bags or that old mattress? Those are items for the Eco-Cycle/City of Boulder CHaRM (Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials). This model Zero Waste facility, the first of its kind in the nation, accepts 24 categories (and counting!) of hard-to-recycle materials (see the full guidelines on page 16).

GO BEYOND
CURBSIDE BINS.
THERE'S
MORE TO
RECYCLE!

THE CHARM
DOESN'T JUST KEEP
MATERIALS OUT OF A
LANDFILL. THERE IS
A **RIPPLE EFFECT**
BEHIND ALMOST EVERY
MATERIAL WE ACCEPT!

THE KEY TO CREATING A SUCCESSFUL CHARM? SYNERGISTIC LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS.

Most of the materials we collect become the feedstock for fellow non-profit social enterprise organizations to fulfill their missions. Here's a snapshot of just three of the materials we accept and what it empowers a local partner to do.

BLUE STAR RECYCLERS: RECYCLING ELECTRONICS. EMPOWERING PEOPLE

Our partnership with Blue Star Recyclers helps address two challenges: less than 20% of electronic waste is recycled and more than 80% of people with disabilities are unemployed. Blue Star Recyclers employs adults with disabilities such as autism. Its workers have a particular ability for electronics recycling, including an aptitude and attitude for careful, detailed, repetitive work. Their work is the best in the industry. Blue Star Recyclers is now on site at the CHaRM. By working together, we are responsibly recycling more electronics in Boulder County and creating six good jobs for adults along the autistic spectrum.

SPRING BACK COLORADO TRANSFORMING LIVES BY RECYCLING MATTRESSES

Our mattress recycling partner is Spring Back Colorado. They recycle mattresses and also provide redemptive employment and a chance to rebuild lives for people facing barriers to employment. Between 20-40 million mattresses end up in landfills each year in the U.S. Through Spring Back, mattresses and box springs are broken down into individual components, of which 90% are recycled or repurposed.

BOOK REUSE & RECYCLING:

PROMOTING LITERACY EFFORTS THROUGH THE CHILDREN'S USED BOOK PARTNERSHIP.

Eco-Cycle donates books to children in need who now get to enjoy the magic of reading and story. Eco-Cycle partners with more than 40 local charities that serve Boulder County families and promote literacy efforts, such as Attention Homes, Boulder County Head Start Program, Casa de la Esperanza, People's Clinic, Emergency Family Assistance Association in Boulder, and SCOPE International, which provides books to children in Africa. Books are also donated to Boulder County preschools and 47 local schools that participate in Eco-Cycle's Green Star Schools program.

RECYCLE AT THE CHaRM



eco·cycle®

City of Boulder

CENTER FOR HARD-TO-RECYCLE MATERIALS

6400 Arapahoe Rd. Boulder, co-located with ReSource—see Recycle Row map on p. 19
Open Mon – Sat: 9 am – 5 pm ; Closed Sundays • www.ecocycle.org • 303.444.6634

These materials are accepted at the CHaRM only. (Fees apply)
Please do not put them in your curbside recycling bin.

*Funded in part by
City of Boulder trash
tax dollars.*



Computers & Electronics



TVs & Monitors



Copy Machines, Printers &
Fax Machines



Printer Cartridges



Mattresses & Box Springs



Mobile Phones, Office Phones,
Tablets & Cameras



Scrap Metal



White Block Foam Packaging with
a #6 (AKA Styrofoam®)



Cooking Oil



Bubble Wrap & Foam
Packing Sheets



Plastic Bags



Big #2 Plastics



Large Appliances



Small Appliances



Plate Glass Windows



Paired Reusable Shoes
& Textiles



Porcelain Sinks &
Toilets



Books & Manuals



Bikes & Bike Parts



Yoga Mats

We can pick these materials up from your business too!
303.444.6634 • businessrecycling@ecocycle.org
www.ecocycle.org/charm

**See fees and
guidelines on
next page**

RECYCLE AT THE CHaRM



GUIDELINES AND FEES FOR MATERIALS ON PAGE 16

There is a \$3 FACILITY FEE for every vehicle visiting the CHaRM to recycle materials. Exceptions are noted.*

ELECTRONICS

Prices subject to change.
Check website for current rates.

Audio Equipment

- Home Stereo Parts
- Car Stereos
- NO** speakers with wood or particle board

Computers & Equipment

- Monitors
- Towers/CPU's
- Printers/scanners
- Laptops
- Tablets
- Uninterruptable Power Supply (UPS)
- Large misc. computer equipment (more than 40 lbs)
- Keyboards, mice, cables

Printer Cartridges

- Ink jet and laser jet printer cartridges

Copiers & Fax Machines

- Fax Machines
- Desktop Copiers
- Large Copiers (over 40 lbs)

Phones

- Mobile Phones
- Office Phones
- Home Phones

Small Electronic Items

- Tablets, iPads, iPods
- Digital Cameras
- Video Game Systems

TVs, VCRs & DVD Players

- TVs 19" or smaller
- TVs 20" to 34"
- Consoles, TVs larger than 34"
- VCRs/DVD Players
- Satellite Boxes

SMALL PLASTIC APPLIANCES

Prices subject to change.
Check our website for current rates.

- Must have cords or batteries
- Includes handheld/small (rice cooker size), medium (vacuum size), large (carpet steamer size), and extra large (20 lbs.+)
- plastic appliances
- NO** vacuum bags, glass (coffee pots, blender carafes, etc.), or food/liquid residue
- Have metal appliances? See Scrap Metal listing*

HARD-TO-RECYCLE PLASTICS

Plastic Bags, Plastic Bubble Wrap, Thin, Bendable Foam Packing Sheets

- Includes plastic shopping bags, newspaper bags & ziplock bags
- Must be clean, dry and empty
- NO** moisture, receipts, food waste in bags, biodegradable plastic, tape, or packing peanuts

Big Durable #2 Plastics

- Large plastics marked with a #2 such as plastic play structures, plastic lawn furniture, plastic watering cans, clean #2 plastic buckets (no residue), clean plastic barrels, crates, rigid backyard kiddie pools and plastic trash containers with a #2
- Please remove** non-plastic parts (metal handles on buckets OK)
- 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.

#6 White Block Foam

***No facility fee for residential quantities**

- Packaging and rigid foam insulation only
- Businesses: \$6/cubic yard
- NO** packing peanuts, polystyrene (Styrofoam®) cups/to-go boxes, moisture or tape

MISCELLANEOUS

Bicycles & Bike Parts

- Any condition
- Includes integral parts such as seats, pedals, etc., and metal accessories such as baskets and pannier racks
- NO** other accessories or sporting goods

Bicycle Tires & Inner Tubes

- Tires: \$0.50 each

Books & Manuals

***No facility fee**

- Computer & office manuals
- Hard-bound books and paperbacks

Concrete

- Accepted in small quantities: less than small pickup truck bed size: \$.07/lb
- NO** metal or rocks; must be clean and free of aggregate

Cooking Oil

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

Fire Extinguishers

- City of Boulder residents with ID: no charge for this item
- Non-Boulder residents: \$7

Mattresses & Box Springs

- Standard spring or futon mattress, any size: \$17.50
- Box spring, any size: \$17.50
- Memory foam mattress, any size: \$24

- Mechanical bed: \$36.50
- 100% foam mattress toppers: \$8.75
- Bed bug-infested mattress or box spring: \$32.50*
- *Bed bug-infested items **MUST** be sealed in plastic and taped closed prior to delivery
- **NO** mattresses or box springs with mold

Plate Glass Windows

- Includes windows, patio doors, shower doors, picture frame glass, glass tabletops, glass block, tempered glass, insulated glass
- Cracked and broken panes are OK
- Window without jamb: \$3.00/unit
- Window with jamb: \$8.00/unit
- Door without jamb: \$12.00/unit
- Door with jamb: \$20.00/unit
- NO** glassware (drinking glass, dishes, etc.), mirrors, Pyrex (food containers, microwave dishes, measuring cups), canning jars, or bottles and jars

Porcelain Toilets, Sinks & Urinals

- Toilet, all non-porcelain materials removed: \$6.75/unit
- Toilet with non-porcelain materials attached: \$12.75/unit
- Sink or urinal: \$3.50/unit; with plumbing attached: \$6.50/unit
- Ceramics by weight: \$0.07/lb
- Porcelain must be clean.
- NO** biohazards

Reusable Shoes & Textiles

- Paired, reusable shoes (no mud)
- Clothing, sheets, blankets, towels and fabrics

Items may be stained or ripped, but must be clean. Must be 12" square or larger

NO bathing suits, socks, underwear, rugs, carpet, curtains or pillows

Yoga Mats

- Plastic foam, rubber foam and jute yoga mats: \$1
- Mats must be clean
- NO** badly soiled, stained or smelly mats, tatami or grass mats, or rugs or carpet

PAPER SHREDDING SERVICE

- Paper materials only
- \$10 per file box (banker box) full of paper

SCRAP METAL

***No facility fee**

ITEMS THAT ARE AT LEAST 50% METAL, including appliances

- Items without Freon®: **NO CHARGE**
- Items WITH Freon® (air conditioners, refrigerators, freezers, dehumidifiers): \$15
- NO** propane tanks or canisters of any kind
- REMOVE** fuel caps and lids
- DRAIN** all liquids
- Have a tank or cylinder? Visit our website for details.*

OTHER MATERIALS ACCEPTED AT THE CHaRM

Single-Stream Recycling

***No facility fee**

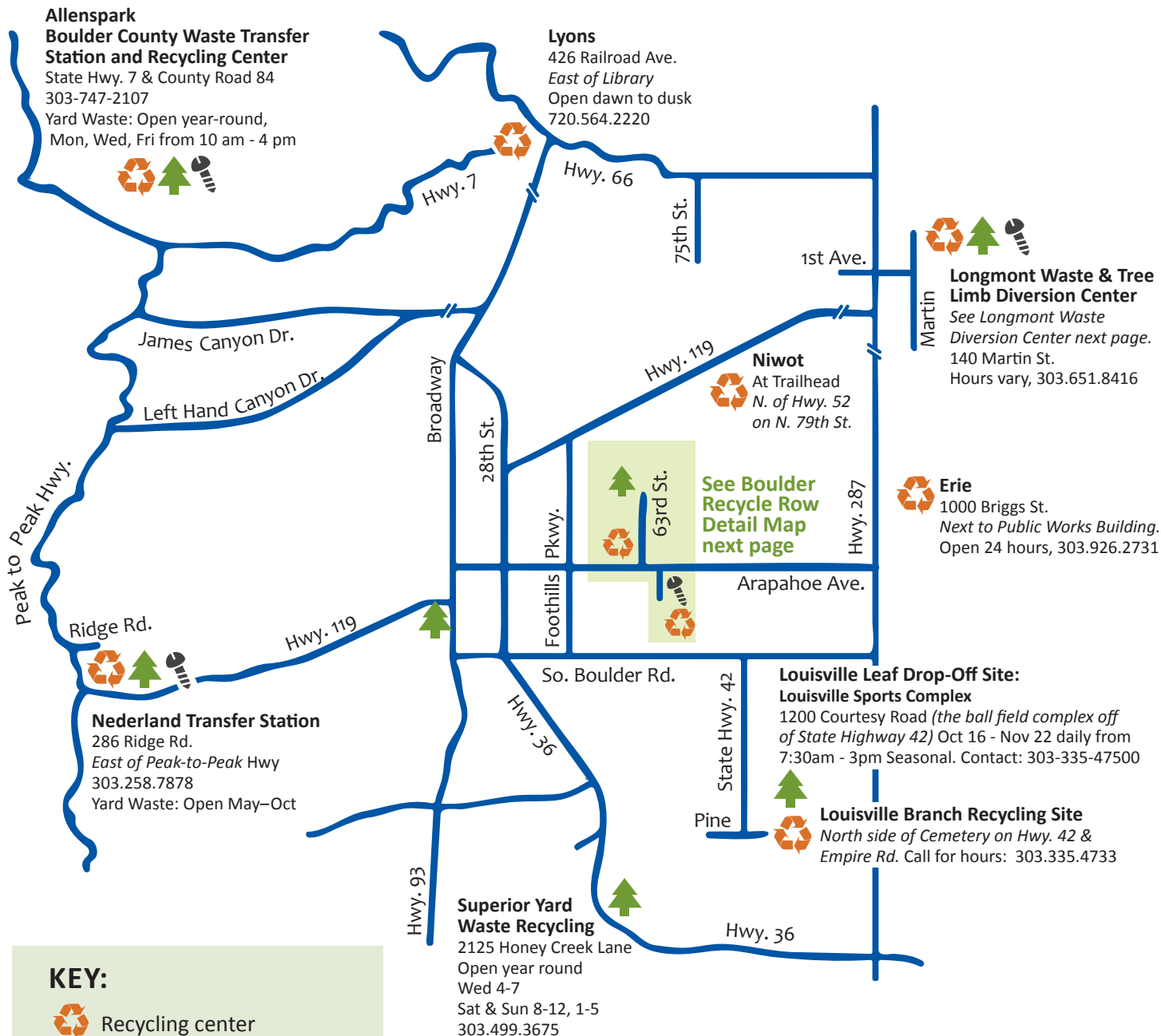
See guidelines on page 6

Compostables

See guidelines on page 12 and visit www.ecocycle.org/charm for fees

**MORE FACILITIES
THAT WILL HELP
YOU GO FOR
ZERO
WASTE!**

BOULDER COUNTY RECYCLING AND RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITIES



RECYCLE ROW IN BOULDER

Facilities to help you practice Zero Waste

The City of Boulder is going for Zero Waste!
Visit zerowasteboulder.com for more info.



1 ReSource

Accepts and sells new and used building materials in good shape.
6400 Arapahoe Rd. (co-located with Eco-Cycle CHaRM)
Mon–Sat 9–5; Closed Sundays | www.conservancycenter.org/resource | 303.419.5418

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

Accepts hard-to-recycle materials and scrap metal for recycling. See p. 8–9 for details.
6400 Arapahoe Rd. (co-located with ReSource)
Mon–Sat 9–5; Closed Sundays | www.ecocycle.org/charm | 303.444.6634

3 Boulder County Recycling Center & Boulder Drop-off Center

See page 6 for materials accepted. Shredded paper also accepted separately.
1901 63rd St. | Drop-off open 24 hours. | 720.564.2220 • 303.444.6634

4 Boulder County Hazardous Materials Management Facility

Drop-off and reuse for hazardous materials such as paint and solvents.
1901 63rd St., west of (behind) Boulder County Recycling Center.
Wed–Sat, 8:30–4 | www.bouldercounty.org | 720.564.2220

5 Western Organics Transfer Site

www.westerndisposal.com | 303.444.2037

6 Boulder County/City of Boulder Yard & Wood Waste Drop-off Center at Western Disposal

City of Boulder residents can drop off yard waste at no charge.
5880 Butte Mill Rd.
Mon–Fri, 7–5, Sat 7–2 | www.westerndisposal.com | 303.444.2037

LONGMONT WASTE DIVERSION CENTER

140 Martin St. 303.651.8416 | www.longmontcolorado.gov | Preguntas? Llame a 303.243.5820

Hours vary. Visit website for details. **Please check in at the window and bring a current utility bill indicating the Waste Management Fee.**



Single-stream recycling—accepted 24/7. See pages 6–7 for guidelines.

ACCEPTED DURING STAFFED HOURS ONLY:

Automotive and Rechargeable Batteries: Includes motorcycle and boat batteries. **NO** alkaline batteries.

Compostables Drop-Off: See page 12 for guidelines.

Cooking Oil: Must be in see-through plastic containers (gallon milk jugs or the original plastic containers or box 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. **Other chemicals (paint, solvents, etc.) are not accepted at this site.**

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

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

Shredded Paper: See bin marked “shredded paper.” **NO** bagged material.

#6 White Block Foam: #6 White block foam packaging and rigid foam insulation only. **NO** packing peanuts, Styro-foam® cups or “to-go” boxes, moisture or tape.

Yard Waste: Tree limbs, branches, bushes and un-bagged leaves. Non-residents

and contractors will be charged a fee.

NO trash, plastic bags, lumber, sod, dirt, rock or split rail fence material will be accepted.

Free self-service mulch is also available at the Longmont Waste Diversion Center.

Call for more information about the City of Longmont’s:

- Paper shredding events
- Hard-to-recycle collection events for CHaRM items
- Large bulky items collection
- Household Hazardous Chemical drop-off days and yard waste collection events

LOCAL ZERO WASTE RESOURCES

SEE WEBSITES FOR FULL DETAILS INCLUDING HOURS OF OPERATION, LOCATIONS AND FEES.

REDUCE, REUSE & REPAIR

U-FIX-IT CLINICS, SPONSORED BY ECO-CYCLE

Free hands-on repair clinics for electronics, toys, appliances
www.ecocycle.org/ufixit

BOULDER COUNTY HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT FACILITY (HMMF)

Free gently-used home products
www.bouldercounty.org

ECO-CYCLE/CITY OF BOULDER CHaRM: CENTER FOR HARD-TO-RECYCLE MATERIALS

Donate textiles, books
www.ecocycle.org

ReSource & TOOL LIBRARY

Reclaimed building materials
www.conservationcenter.org/resource

ART PARTS CREATIVE REUSE CENTER

Gently-used art supplies
www.artpartsboulder.org

BUSINESS RESOURCES

PACE: PARTNERS FOR A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT

Extensive free energy and water conservation tools and services
www.pacepartners.com

For residential energy and water conservation services
www.energysmartyes.com

CENTER FOR ReSOURCE CONSERVATION

Consultations, tools and services for water and energy conservation; includes resources for residents
www.conservationcenter.org

ECO-CYCLE CHaRM ON THE ROAD SERVICE

Commercial hauling for hard-to-recycle items (see pages 16-17 for a list)
www.ecocycle.org

CITY OF BOULDER'S "ZERO WASTE BOULDER" WEBSITE

Extensive Universal Zero Waste Ordinance toolkits and resources
www.ZeroWasteBoulder.com

OTHER RESOURCES

ECO-CYCLE A-Z RECYCLING GUIDE

Learn how and where to recycle 200+ items in Boulder County and the Denver metro area
www.ecocycle.org

CU-BOULDER ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

Wide range of sustainability services and ways to get involved
www.colorado.edu/ecenter

CITY OF BOULDER RESIDENTS:

SEE A BUSINESS THAT NEEDS HELP GETTING GOING WITH THE UNIVERSAL ZERO WASTE ORDINANCE?

Report businesses, homes, HOAs, apartment and condo complexes without recycling, compost, or trash service through Inquire Boulder
www.bouldercolorado.gov/zero-waste/zero-waste-report

A FEW OF OUR PARTNERS IN SUSTAINABILITY & ZERO WASTE (LISTED ABOVE)



AVOID THESE
MATERIALS.
THEY
MUST BE
TRASHED!

LANDFILL

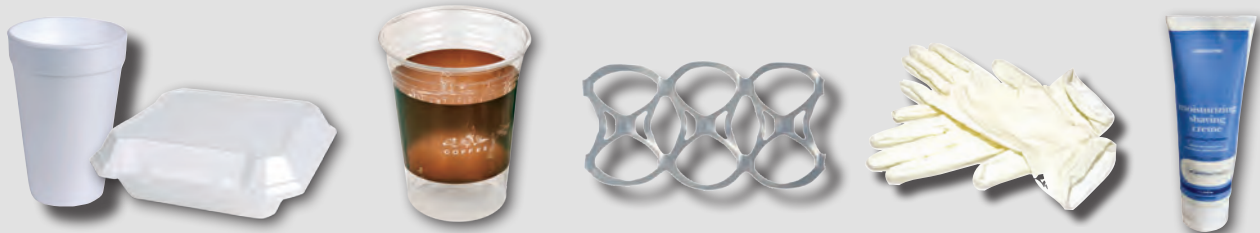
PLASTIC-COATED PAPER

PRODUCTOS DE PAPEL CON RECUBRIMIENTO PLASTICO



NON-RECYCLABLE PLASTICS

PLÁSTICOS QUE NO SON RECICLABLES



WRAPPERS & FROZEN FOOD PACKAGING

ENVOLTURAS Y EMPAQUES DE COMIDA CONGELADA



PLEASE ALSO TRASH: FEMININE PRODUCTS, DIAPERS, ANIMAL WASTE & OTHER BIOHAZARDS
POR FAVOR COLOQUE TAMBIEN EN LA BASURA: PRODUCTOS DE HIGIENE FEMENINA, PAÑALES, EXCREMENTO
ANIMAL Y OTRAS SUSTANCIAS CON RIESGO BIOLÓGICO

When in doubt, give us a shout! 303.444.6634 / recycle@ecocycle.org

*Si tiene alguna duda,
comuníquese con nosotros!*

eco-cycle®
Building Zero Waste Communities

WHY ZERO WASTE?

In the realm of environmental work, we are so frequently fighting AGAINST something—pollution, the destruction of habitat, the decline of a species, etc. Often it is controversial and there is an entity to fight against. But redesigning our society and communities for Zero Waste gives us a chance to engage FOR something—a solution that not only prevents problems, but works toward a better system that truly benefits ALL in many ways.

BELOW IS JUST A SAMPLING OF WHAT WE GET WHEN WE WORK FOR ZERO WASTE.

WE CREATE MORE JOBS:

- Recycling and reuse activities in the United States account for 757,000 jobs, \$36.6 billion in wages and \$6.7 billion in tax revenues every year.
- By recycling 75% of our discards by 2030, the U.S. could create 1.1 million new jobs.
- Zero Waste activities—recycling, composting, reuse, etc.—create an average of ten times more jobs than landfills.

WE BUILD LOCAL ECONOMIES:

Increased recycling means more money returned to the economy. In Colorado, we throw away \$265 million worth of recyclable materials—aluminum, metals, cardboard, paper and plastics—every year. These materials are valuable commodities, which could be sold for profit instead of buried in the ground. Additionally, programs like the CHaRM help support local businesses and jobs. See more on page 15.

WE CONSERVE ENERGY:

Every year recycling and composting in the U.S. save enough energy to power over 25 million U.S. homes for a year.

WE CREATE A MORE BALANCED CLIMATE:

- Zero Waste is one of the fastest, most cost-effective strategies for reducing climate pollution. Zero Waste practices can be implemented almost immediately, allowing us to address 42% of U.S. climate pollution.
- In 2014, the U.S. reduced more than 181 million metric tons of carbon pollution by recycling and composting, the equivalent of taking over 38 million passenger cars off the road for a year.
- Widespread use of compost on grazed lands and other landscapes is proving to be a powerful tool to draw down excess carbon in the atmosphere and store it in soils.

WE CONSERVE NATURAL RESOURCES:

- For every can of garbage you produce, there are 87 cans worth of waste that come from industries that make your products and packaging, including timber, agricultural, mining and petroleum.
- Recycling one ton of aluminum reduces 2.7 tons of solid waste related to mining, extraction and virgin material manufacturing.

WE KEEP OUR OCEANS CLEAN:

- One-third of plastic pollution in the ocean is beverage bottles that could have been recycled. This waste could be prevented in the first place by not buying bottled beverages.
- Globally, only 14% of plastics are recycled. By radically improving recycling, we could recycle 50% of plastics, and an additional 20% of plastics could be reused. The remaining 30% needs to be fundamentally redesigned to be recyclable.



ZERO WASTE IS ABOUT MORE THAN JUST KEEPING STUFF OUT OF LANDFILLS.

**ECO-CYCLE IS A
NON-PROFIT, MISSION-BASED SOCIAL ENTERPRISE
THAT USES REVENUES TO BUILD ZERO WASTE COMMUNITIES.**



A SOCIAL ENTERPRISE
USES BUSINESS STRATEGIES
AND PRINCIPLES TO MEET A
SOCIAL OR ENVIRONMENTAL
MISSION.

Eco-Cycle fills a community need for Zero Waste services and programs using mission-based business activities, including hauling recyclable and compostable materials from businesses and innovating and operating Zero Waste facilities such as the Boulder County Recycling Center (BCRC) and the Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials (CHaRM). We then use revenues from these activities to fund our Zero Waste operations, education, outreach and advocacy work in the community.

Our mission-driven approach has led to many “firsts” for Boulder County.

Using the social enterprise approach, Eco-Cycle pioneers and invests in creative new ways to serve the community. As Boulder County’s non-profit recycling processor, marketer and educator, Eco-Cycle has chosen to use revenues to help Boulder County become a Zero Waste leader.

THIS HAS ENABLED US TO LEAD THE WAY WITH MANY “FIRSTS.” JUST A FEW EXAMPLES INCLUDE:

FIRST IN THE STATE to accept materials such as paperboard, milk/juice containers, many plastics, block foam, yoga mats, big durable plastics, etc.

ONE OF THE ONLY communities in the nation to continuously accept glass.

FIRST TO CREATE THE “BLOCK LEADER PROGRAM,” now called the “Eco-Leader Program,” a network of trained volunteers who change the recycling and composting behavior of the community through peer-to-peer education.

FIRST TO HOST ELECTRONIC RECYCLING COLLECTIONS in the state.

FIRST COMPREHENSIVE ZERO WASTE SCHOOLS PROGRAM IN THE U.S.
Eco-Cycle’s Green Star Schools program

FIRST FACILITY OF ITS KIND IN THE NATION, the Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials accepts more types of materials than any other.

FIRST COMPREHENSIVE “A-Z RECYCLING GUIDE” listing more than 200 materials and where they can be recycled, whether through Eco-Cycle or other programs; this guide is now emulated throughout the nation.

FIRST HAULER TO COLLECT COMPOSTABLES from businesses, making ours the first community to provide such a service to businesses and sparking more haulers to follow suit.



P.O. Box 19006
Boulder, CO 80308

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 229
Boulder, CO

CHANGE OF SERVICE REQUESTED

Printed on 30% post-consumer recycled paper.

HELP US SPREAD THIS INFORMATION!

BECOME A VOLUNTEER ECO-LEADER. THE GREATEST ZERO WASTE HERO OF ALL!

IF YOU CAN'T STAND TO SEE RESOURCES GO TO WASTE, WE NEED YOU. WE'LL TRAIN YOU, GIVE YOU RESOURCES AND TOOLS TO HELP YOU SPREAD THE ZERO WASTE WORD. THEN YOU JUST GO BE YOU...IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD, SCHOOL, BUSINESS, BOOK CLUB, ETC. AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE.

LEARN MORE AT WWW.ECOCYCLE.ORG OR EMAIL ECOLEADER@ECOCYCLE.ORG.



**SUPPORT FOR PRINTING THIS
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CITY OF BOULDER TRASH TAX
DOLLARS**