



Pull-Out Guides

Recycle, Compost

Fight Climate Change

Easy Ways to Practice Zero Waste

5 Products to Always Refuse

And How to Choose Reuse Instead

Is it Compostable?

Products Guide

And much more...

All guides available
in printable form online
at www.ecocycle.org!

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.

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The **Eco-Cycle® Guide** is distributed primarily by volunteers in Eco-Cycle's Network. If you wish to receive this publication at your home, call or email us or subscribe online at ecocycle.org. To help us get this information to all your neighbors, call us to join the Eco-Network at 303.444.6634.

HELLO FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Hello, Eco-Cyclers and our Boulder County community!

Welcome to our second ever *Eco-Cycle Guide*, designed to give you the “what, where, why and how” of Zero Waste in Boulder County. We hope you enjoy it and find everything you need to connect you to the services, programs and facilities that will help you lead a Zero Waste lifestyle. As a community, I’m confident that we can reach our collective goal of reducing our impact on the climate and on the planet’s finite natural resources.

I am thrilled by the potential we have at Eco-Cycle and in our community to address some of the greatest problems facing humanity—climate change, resource depletion and social injustices resulting from resource scarcities.

In 2010, Newsweek magazine featured Eco-Cycle’s work and Zero Waste as the “#1 fix for the planet.” We’re continuing Eco-Cycle’s tradition of breaking new ground in this movement, both locally and globally, and doing it with the help of hundreds of volunteers and supporters and by collaborating with our many partners in businesses, schools, neighborhoods and local government.

Zero Waste is a culture shift that offers hope in these times of dwindling natural resources, booming population growth and climate change. Our work is the right work at the right time. Together, we can create a model to demonstrate how every sector in our society can thrive together and create a healthy, sustainable future.

Yours for sustainability,
Suzanne (“Zan”) Jones



eco-cycle®

P.O. Box 19006
Boulder, CO 80308
Phone: 303.444.6634
Fax: 303.444.6647
En Español: 303.243.5820

web: ecocycle.org
email: recycle@ecocycle.org
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WHY ZERO WASTE?

Refuse Reuse Compost Recycle Reduce Redesign

1 planet, 7 billion people,
billions of other species,
social justice, and...

The survival of seven billion people and untold numbers of other species is dependent upon this ONE planet and its finite resources. Yet we are consuming resources at a faster rate than ever—if everyone on the globe consumed resources at the rate we do in the U.S., we'd need five planets to keep up. Dwindling resources means lost habitat and social conflicts over what's left.



...the greatest challenge ever faced: climate change.

Our wasteful, polluting and consuming practices significantly contribute to climate change. The system of how we produce, ship, consume, and dispose of goods and food accounts for 42% of our greenhouse gas emissions. That's almost half the problem.

The good news

We have the choice to do something about it. We can prevent greenhouse gas emissions and resource depletion TODAY by refusing wasteful products, reducing, reusing, recycling, composting and practicing Zero Waste solutions. Creating a turning point in history for our future and that of our planet can begin with an act as simple as choosing a recycling bin over the trash can.

Around the world and here locally, our communities are striving to turn the tide on our resource use and its impacts by creating new rules, systems and programs to support Zero Waste. We've created this guide to make it easier for us all to make a difference.

A Zero Waste System is cyclical, like in nature

It redesigns our systems and resource use to be more sustainable and socially just and also does two fundamental things:

- Products are designed to use fewer resources, to be non-toxic, and ultimately to be reused, recycled or composted.
- Discards are captured and replace natural resources as the feedstock to make new products, creating far less pollution and feeding the local economy.

Zero Waste is one of the quickest and easiest ways to address climate change and build healthy communities.

USE this guide. Share this guide. Join our community-wide Zero Waste efforts to protect our climate, our air, our water, our health and our jobs.

Tools for you at ecocycle.org



"WHAT GOES WHERE?"

A-Z Recycling Guide:

Learn how and where to recycle more than 200 items in Boulder County.

Follow us for even more eco-goodies!

- facebook.com/ecocycle.zerowaste
- @ecocycle
- youtube.com/ecocyclemedia

REFUSE, REDUCE, REUSE

Before we recycle or compost, there's a lot we can do to minimize or even avoid our impact on the climate if we refuse wasteful products.

TOP 5 THINGS TO REFUSE AND REDUCE:

Paper Coffee Cups

They're almost always made from trees, bleached with chlorine, and emit greenhouse gases when thrown in a landfill. They also can't be recycled!



Paper Coffee Cups

Polystyrene (aka Styrofoam) To-Go Containers and Cups

Their basic component, styrene, is a possible human carcinogen that can leach from containers into your food. It can't be recycled and never biodegrades.



Styrofoam To-Go Containers and Cups

Bottled Water

Plastic water bottles are recyclable, but they are extremely resource intensive to make. In the U.S., we consume half a BILLION bottles of water each week, requiring more than 17 million barrels of oil per year to produce them.



Bottled Water



INSTEAD, REUSE WITH OUR TOP 5 "MUST HAVES:"

Reusable Coffee Mugs

Stainless steel and porcelain mugs won't leach potentially harmful chemicals into your drinks.



Reusable Coffee Mugs

Sturdy and Safe Food Containers

Take them with you for lunch or to restaurants. Avoid any plastic containers with a #3 (PVC) or #6 (polystyrene) as these are toxic plastics.



Sturdy and Safe Food Containers

Reusable Water Bottles

Fill your own bottles with tap water (filtered if you prefer) to easily avoid loads of unnecessary waste. Look for labeling to ensure your reusable bottle is free of the hormone-disrupting chemical Bisphenol A (BPA).



Reusable Water Bottles

1

2

3

REFUSE, REDUCE, REUSE

When we reuse, we don't have to destroy natural resources or create greenhouse gas emissions to make new stuff.

TOP 5 THINGS TO REFUSE AND REDUCE:



Plastic and Paper Shopping Bags

Yes, they're recyclable, but wasteful. Paper bags contribute to deforestation and use more energy and create more water pollution during production than plastic bags. Plastic bags are made from non-renewable fossil fuels, they don't decompose, and they pose a threat to wildlife and ecosystems.



Plastic and Paper Shopping Bags

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 U.S. alone. Single-use paper napkins and wooden chopsticks deplete our forests.



Plastic Utensils, Single-Use Chopsticks and Paper Napkins



INSTEAD, REUSE WITH OUR TOP 5 "MUST HAVES:"

Reusable Bags

We recommend bags that can be collapsed and stored in their own tiny stuff sack. Keep them in your pack/purse and you'll never forget to BYOB(ag) again. You can purchase our favorite (with Eco-Cycle on it) at ecocycle.org/ecostore.



Reusable Bags

Durable Utensils and Cloth Napkins

Keep a pair of reusable utensils (and chopsticks) wrapped in a reusable napkin in your bag or your glove box. You'll be surprised at how many disposables you'll avoid when eating on-the-go.



Durable Utensils and Cloth Napkins

MORE GREAT WAYS TO REFUSE AND REDUCE BEFORE YOU RECYCLE OR COMPOST.

1. Stop Junk Mail, don't just recycle it: ecocycle.org/junkmail
2. Clean without the toxins: ecocycle.org/ecoliving
3. Pack a waste-free lunch: ecocycle.org/ecoliving

MORE GREAT WAYS TO REUSE BEFORE YOU RECYCLE OR COMPOST.

1. Tour de Thrift; Maps to Boulder's and Longmont's dozens of thrift stores for clothing, furniture, books and more: ecocycle.org/reuse
2. ReSource: Center for ReSource Conservation's architectural salvage and reclaimed building materials and tool library: conservationcenter.org/resource
3. Swap and Share: ecocycle.org/share

Save
&
Post!

RECYCLE



PAPER & CARDBOARD



PAPEL Y CARTÓN



flatten
cardboard
aplane los
cartones

CONTAINERS

EMPTY & RINSE
DO NOT FLATTEN



ENVASES

VACÍE Y ENJUAGUE
NO LOS APLANE



PLASTIC BOTTLES, TUBS, JUGS, JARS

EMPTY & RINSE
DO NOT FLATTEN



BOTELLAS, JARRAS, FRASCOS, RECIPIENTES PLÁSTICOS

VACÍE Y ENJUAGUE
NO LOS APLANE



LARGE PLASTIC CONTAINERS

RECIPIENTES GRANDES DE PLÁSTICO

throw away loose, flat lids
tire a la basura tapas
sueltas y planas



PLEASE NO



small berry containers
recipientes de plástico
pequeños de frutas

NO POR FAVOR



plastic bags
bolsas de plástico

When in doubt, give us a shout!
¡Si tiene alguna duda, comuníquese con nosotros!

40th
ANNIVERSARY
1976-2016

eco-cycle®
Building Zero Waste Communities

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Eco-Cycle HOTLINE: 303.444.6634 • www.ecocycle.org • recycle@ecocycle.org

RECYCLING BIN'S DIRTY DOZEN

Please keep these materials OUT of the recycling bin.



1) NO Syringes, Needles, Sharps, any other kind of Medical Waste or Diapers

2) NO Explosive or Hazardous Materials such as Ammunition, Motor Oil or Solvents

3) NO Plastic Bags
They bind up sorting equipment. **INSTEAD:** Take clean, dry and empty plastic bags to the CHaRM (Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials — see pages 8-9) or participating grocery stores.

4) NO Food Waste
INSTEAD: Compost it — see pages 14-15.

5) NO Plastic Packaging such as Block Foam, Packing Peanuts, Bubble Wrap, Plastic Shrink Wrap or Film
INSTEAD: Take #6 white block foam and bubble wrap to the CHaRM — see pages 8-9. **Packing peanuts are NOT accepted at the CHaRM.**

6) 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 bin marked “Shredded Paper” at the the Boulder County Recycling Center or Longmont Waste Diversion Center.

7) NO Scrap Metal
It damages sorting equipment. **INSTEAD:** Recycle scrap metal items at the CHaRM — see pages 8-9.

8) NO Liquids Left in Bottles or Containers
Liquids attract rodents and stinging insects to the recycling plant, and degrade the paper in the single-stream, making the paper non-recyclable.

9) NO Non-Recyclable Plastics like Plastic Cups or Foam Cups/To-Go Containers
No stable markets exist to remanufacture these materials into new items.

10) NO Ceramics, Drinking Glasses, Light Bulbs or Other Non-Recyclable Glass
These create dangerous flaws in new glass bottles.

11) NO Frozen Food Boxes or Ice-Cream Containers
Their plastic coatings are not recyclable.

12) NO Flattened Containers
Automated sorting equipment separates 2-dimensional or “flat” materials (paper) from 3-dimensional or “round” materials (containers). The equipment will mistakenly sort flattened containers as paper.

Save
&
Post!

RECYCLE: 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. 11
Open Mon – Sat: 9 am – 5 pm ; Closed Sundays • www.ecocycle.org • 303.444.6634

see fees and
guidelines on
next page

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



Computers & Electronics



TVs & Monitors



Copy Machines, Printers
& Fax Machines



Printer Cartridges



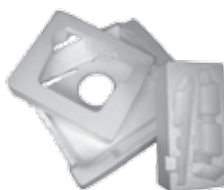
Mattresses & Box Springs



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
with a #2 or #4



Big #2 Plastics



Large Appliances



Small Appliances



Textiles



Paired Reusable Shoes



Porcelain Sinks and 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



Funded in part by
City of Boulder trash
tax dollars.

RECYCLE: CHaRM



Guidelines and fees for materials on page 8

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 19" or smaller
- Monitors 20" to 34"
- Towers/CPUs
- 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

- 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: \$6

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
- 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

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.

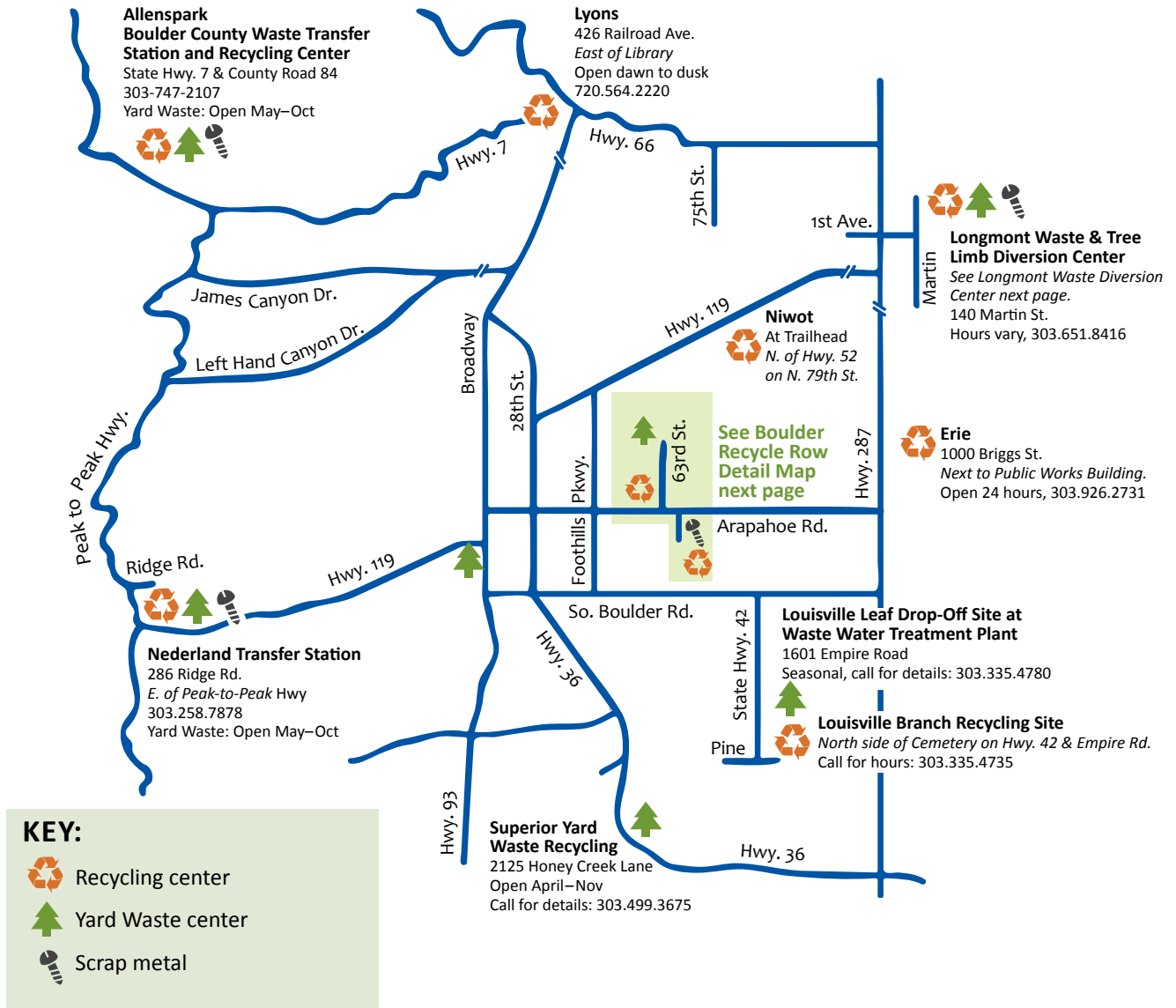
Compostables

See guidelines on page 14. Visit www.ecocycle.org/charm for fees for dropping off compostable materials.

WE RECYCLE ELECTRONICS RESPONSIBLY

Eco-Cycle has partnered with a Certified e-Stewards Recycler to process and recycle all electronic equipment. e-Stewards is the world's most rigorous environmental and social justice criteria for recycling e-scrap. Our materials are recycled domestically and responsibly. Learn more at www.ecocycle.org.

BOULDER COUNTY RECYCLING AND RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITIES



We Can Do Better!

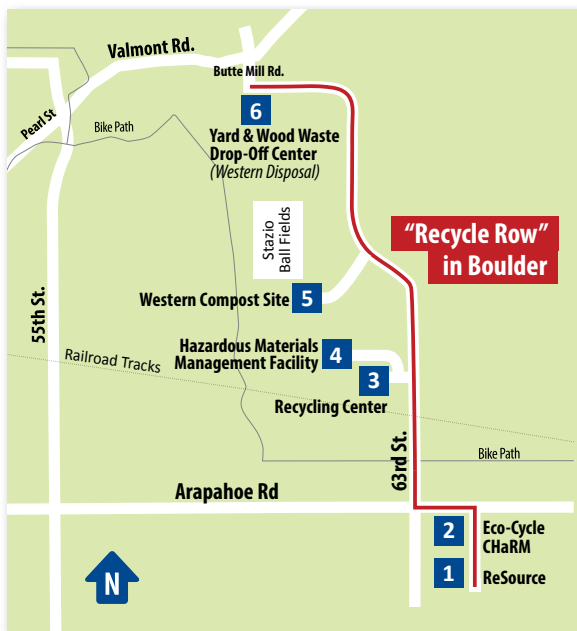
Every year in Boulder County **we landfill 1,800,000 lbs** of aluminum containers and foil. That aluminum could have been sold to recycling markets **for over \$1 million.** Our local community is literally throwing away money and our environment.



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.conservationscenter.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.ecocycle.org/hazwaste | 720.564.2220

5 Western Compost 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 page 6.

ACCEPTED DURING STAFFED HOURS ONLY:

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

Compostables Drop-Off:
See page 14 for guidelines.

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. **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, 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®.

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 unbagged leaves. Non-residents and contractors will be charged a fee.

NO sod, dirt, rock or split rail fence material will be accepted.

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

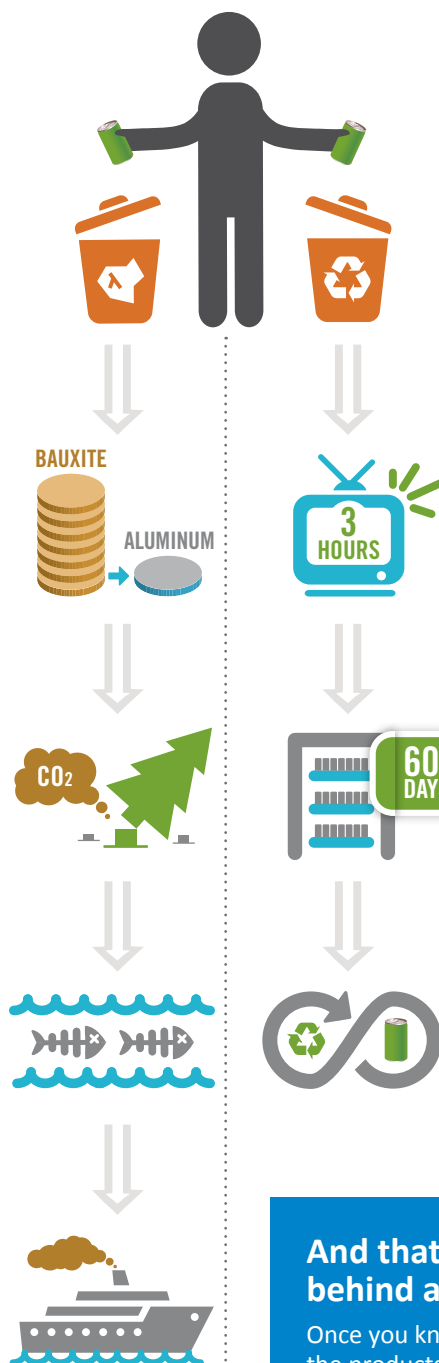
WHY RECYCLE?

Let's look at the choice between recycling and not, using an aluminum can:

What does it mean if we toss this aluminum can?

Some may think it's no big deal to toss a can. It doesn't take up much room in the landfill, right? It's not about the landfill. If we lose aluminum to the landfill, we have to replace it. *Here's what that entails:*

- We need more bauxite ore, the raw material used to make aluminum, so we have to go to rainforests or other ecosystems in places like Australia, China, Brazil and Indonesia.
- To produce just ONE ton of aluminum, we're going to have to mine for 4-7 tons of bauxite.
- We need to strip mine the land, removing the nutrient-rich top soil to get to the ore just below the surface.
- Where there is a forest, we need to clear-cut it and burn the slash, creating climate-changing carbon dioxide.
- The ecosystem and habitat are destroyed. Without trees or topsoil, major run-off occurs, polluting nearby waterways.
- Native people who live in or nearby the area are robbed of critical natural resources, including water, and are potentially displaced.
- The ore is then shipped all the way to Iceland for manufacture before it's shipped again to distributors around the world.



What does it mean if we recycle this aluminum can?

We can fight climate change, reduce water pollution, save energy and prevent habitat destruction for humans and animals, all in one little can. *Here's how:*

- We can prevent all of the destruction and greenhouse gas emissions of bauxite ore mining.
- We can save 95% of the energy it takes to make one can from bauxite ore—enough energy to power your TV for 3 hours.
- Recycled aluminum is kept in U.S., creating jobs.
- The can will be back on the shelf in less than 60 days.
- We'd have no need to mine for ore since aluminum can be recycled indefinitely!

Not bad for one little can.

And that's just the story behind an aluminum can.

Once you know what lies behind all the products and packaging of our lives—the paper, plastic, steel and glass—you realize how important it is that we each choose the simple act of recycling to do our part for the environment and our economy.





WHAT HAPPENS TO MY RECYCLABLES AFTER THEY ARE PICKED UP AT THE CURB?



Come see for yourself how it all works! Public tours of the Boulder County Recycling Center are available. Call us at 303.444.6634, or stop by during operating hours for a self-guided tour.

Most materials recycled in Boulder County are taken to the Boulder County Recycling Center (BCRC, pictured above), owned by YOU, the public, and operated by Eco-Cycle. At the BCRC, Eco-Cycle sorts the materials, and then sells them to manufacturing facilities for use in making new products.

Dozens of Eco-Cycle sorters are tasked with removing materials that will contaminate the recycling stream, such as plastic bags and other non-recyclables. The cleaner the materials are when we receive them at the facility, the more efficient and cost-effective this process. So it's up to each of us to follow recycling guidelines correctly.

Here's what becomes of each type of recyclable:

Glass: Glass containers are made into new bottles right here in Colorado.

Cardboard, newspaper and mail: Paper manufacturers in the U.S. can't get enough recycled paper. Paper is recycled into new paper products ranging from paperboard and cardboard boxes to fine writing paper.

Paper milk, juice and soup boxes: Eco-Cycle helped create a domestic recycling market for these products by working with the leading industries that use them. Paper in paper cartons is used in many paper fiber applications.

Aluminum: Aluminum containers and foil are a valuable and highly-recyclable material. Aluminum cans are made from at least 50% recycled content. It is much more energy and resource-efficient for the industry to use reclaimed aluminum. And it can be recycled indefinitely!

Steel cans: Steel cans and scrap metals are recycled into all forms of steel products. Almost all metal products in the U.S. now contain recycled content.

Plastic bottles, tubs, jugs and jars: Much of our plastics go domestically to the southeast U.S. Plastic remanufacturers clean, wash and purify the plastic containers and turn them into plastic flakes or pellets. The flakes and pellets are then used by manufacturers to make new products such as carpet, clothing, auto parts, tennis balls, park benches and new bottles and jugs. Recyclers of PET (primarily #1 water and soda bottles) want much more material than they can get!

More online:

Watch a video of the sorting process at ecocycle.org/recycle



COMPOST

COMPOSTABLE PAPER



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

PAPEL COMPOSTABLE

FOODS & PLANTS



plant trimmings
plantas cortadas

ALIMENTOS Y PLANTAS

CERTIFIED COMPOSTABLE PRODUCTS



paper only, no plastic coating
sólo papel sin recubrimiento plástico



Trust these
compostable product
labels:

Estas etiquetas
indican que el
producto se puede
compostar:



NatureWorks LLC

ingeo

PRODUCTOS COMPOSTABLES CERTIFICADOS



PLEASE NO PLASTIC



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

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



NO PLÁSTICO



When in doubt, give us a shout!
¡Si tiene alguna duda, comuníquese con nosotros!

40th
ANNIVERSARY
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eco-cycle®
Building Zero Waste Communities

Eco-Cycle HOTLINE: 303.444.6634 • www.ecocycle.org • recycle@ecocycle.org

3 REASONS TO COMPOST

1 Composting reduces pollutants that cause climate change.

When landfilled, paper, food and other biodegradable materials create methane, a potent greenhouse gas that has 84 times more heat-trapping power than CO₂ (another significant greenhouse gas) over 20 years. The good news: We can prevent those emissions from ever happening just by composting at the curb or in our backyards.

2 Composting actively combats climate change.

When we increase the organic content in our soils, it actually enables the soil to become a climate change fighter! The soil becomes a “carbon sink,” capable of pulling CO₂ from the atmosphere.

3 Composting builds healthy soils.

Across the globe, our soils are being depleted of healthy nutrients due to many factors, such as fertilizers, pesticides, over-grazing and construction. In fact, you could say that most aspects of modern civilization short-circuit the natural life cycle of living things eventually dying, falling to the ground, decomposing and becoming soil.

Compost is a natural soil amendment that mimics the natural cycle and puts nutrients and healthy microbes back into the soil. This is important not just for the sake of producing more and healthier food and reducing the need for chemicals, but composting is also key to soil’s ability to sequester carbon and grow the plants that produce the very air we breathe.

Doesn't food just biodegrade in the landfill?

Landfills are designed to prevent water, oxygen and sunlight from entering, so while biodegradable materials do break down, they do so VERY slowly and anaerobically (without oxygen). In the absence of oxygen, methane is produced (see Reason #1).

That’s why it’s critical that we keep biodegradable materials (like paper, food scraps and yard waste) out of the landfill.

Keep it clean!

KEEP PLASTICS OUT! Do NOT put compost in plastic bags and be sure that any product you place in the bin truly is compostable, and not coated with plastic. See guidelines on page 16 to be sure the products you purchase meet accepted standards for composting.

Composting program updates:

Unincorporated Boulder County, City of Boulder, Lafayette, and Louisville residents: You can now include all meat, bones and dairy products in your curbside compost collection cart.

City of Longmont: The City of Longmont begins its “opt-in” curbside compost program in Spring 2017. Sign up today to reserve your cart. Call 303-651-8416 or visit www.LongmontColorado.gov/solidwaste. Compostables are accepted at the 140 Martin Street Waste Diversion Center during staffed hours.

For additional guidelines, refer to page 14. For more on composting in your community, visit: ecocycle.org/compost.



IS IT COMPOSTABLE?



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



bagasse

paper only,
no plastic
coating

bagasse

greasy
pizza
boxes

wax paper & wax paper
cups (wax will scrape off
with your fingernail)



plastic-lined butcher
or deli paper

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



must
have
letters
PLA



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

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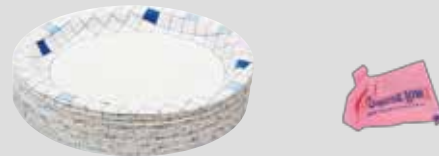
LANDFILL



PLASTIC-COATED PAPER PRODUCTS



PRODUCTOS DE PAPEL CON RECUBRIMIENTO PLASTICO



NON-RECYCLABLE PLASTICS



PLÁSTICOS QUE NO SON RECICLABLES



flat lids



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

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FAQs



⇒ 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 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 6-7 for full guidelines.



⇒ Why can't I recycle all plastics?

All plastics could be recycled if there were a market, i.e. a manufacturer who would use them to make products. There are some plastics that simply have no buyer.

⇒ How do I dispose of paints and solvents?

Unwanted paint and other hazardous items can be taken to the Boulder County Hazardous Materials Management Facility (HMMF). Call 720.564.2251 for details. Empty metal paint cans (no need to rinse) can be recycled as scrap metal at the Eco-Cycle CHaRM – see pages 8-9.



⇒ What about old medications?

Do NOT flush your old or leftover pharmaceuticals down the drain. Wastewater treatment plants are not designed to remove these chemicals and compounds, so this can have harmful effects on our waterways and ecosystems. Visit ecocycle.org/a-zguide/medications for local medication drop-off events and more information about disposing of pharmaceuticals.

If there is no drop-off program near you:

- 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, and place 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 hardware store for free CFL recycling programs or find the most up-to-date info on our A-Z Recycling Guide at ecocycle.org/a-zguide. You can also recycle CFLs at the Boulder County Hazardous Materials Management Facility (see page 11).



Have a question? Contact us!

Eco-Cycle HOTLINE: M-F, 9-5 | 303.444.6634 | En Español: 303.243.5820
ecocycle.org | recycle@ecocycle.org



THANK YOU

It is thanks to you, our community, that Eco-Cycle is able to do the work we've been doing since 1976. It is our goal to work with local communities to demonstrate and share a new paradigm of Zero Waste in an effort to address climate change, resource depletion and habitat loss. It is important, timely work, and we are deeply grateful to our many donors and sponsors who partner with us to make this monumental societal change.

Eco-Cycle Solutions: Founding Partner



With deep gratitude, Eco-Cycle thanks **WhiteWave Foods** for becoming our first founding partner in launching a comprehensive online hub—the **Eco-Solutions Portal**—to empower individuals and local communities all over the world to move forward on Zero Waste solutions.

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Thank you for your support in creating Zero Waste Living Videos.

Friendship Fund

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Thank you for your support in printing these guides.

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Boulder County**

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Special Thanks

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Art Parts Creative Reuse Center
Boulder Organic Ice Cream
Alfalfa's Market**

Zero Waste Event Sponsors

Thank you to our Zero Waste Event Sponsors who help us reduce, reuse, recycle and compost at community events around Boulder County.

Silver Level Sponsor:

A1 Organics

Bronze Level Sponsors:

**1-800-Got-Junk?
Boulder Brands
Boulder Valley Credit Union
Sargent Bickham Lagudis**

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Thanks to our Green Star Schools funders for their support during the 2015-16 school year!

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Walmart, Boulder
Western Digital Foundation**

**And THANK YOU to the
hundreds of individuals
who support Eco-Cycle
financially and with their
volunteer time.**

Support Eco-Cycle

To make a donation, sponsor an Eco-Cycle program, or support the organization in other ways, please visit ecocycle.org/support.





Working to Build Zero Waste Communities

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Boulder, CO 80308

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"What is recyclable where?" Check out our A-Z Recycling Guide at ecocycle.org



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