



eco-cycle®

# GREEN STAR SCHOOLS® NEWS

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## A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST GREEN STAR SCHOOLS!

**Newest Green Star School Members:** Niwot High School (SVVSD), Columbine Elementary (SVVSD), and Angevine Middle School (BVSD)

The Green Star Schools program has had a big 2022! This semester, three new schools and over 2,000 students have been added to the program. Launching these three Green Star Schools is especially exciting because they were postponed due to the pandemic; this year they were finally able to resume and launch. We're here to celebrate every semblance of normalcy we can this year!

***This semester, with the enrollment of Angevine Middle School, all public schools in the City of Lafayette are now part of the Green Star Schools program!***

There are currently 59 Green Star Schools in Boulder County. Eco-Cycle's Green Star Schools program is looking forward to continued collaboration with existing Green Star Schools, as well as the enrollment of new schools, bringing Zero Waste practices to every school in Boulder Valley and St. Vrain Valley School Districts!

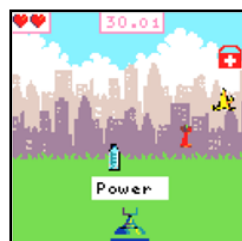
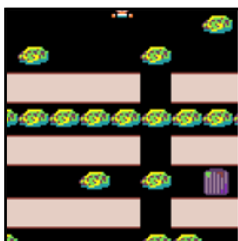
## GAMERS ARE PROBLEM SOLVERS!



Students in Dr. Vu's game design class created video games highlighting litter pickup around the school. Students have been very innovative in creating engaging video games **with a purpose!** Using the idea of gamification and incorporating gaming mechanics, students created arcade games to reinforce the message that it is everyone's job to throw away their own waste.

This [website](#) hosts a variety of the games created by Altona Rattlers! What a wonderful way to incorporate technology and environmental issues!

*Contributed by Jessica Campbell and Mai Vu, Teachers, Altona MS, SVVSD*



## RESTORING LOST VEGETATION

The Eco-Warriors at Centaurus High partnered with five other high schools, The Nature Conservancy, Cool Boulder, and Tree-Plenish to plant trees in the Boulder Valley area on Earth Day. Tree-Plenish works with high schools nationwide to offset their paper usage by providing trees to be planted throughout the community.

The Eco-Warriors originally planned to plant about 210 saplings with Tree-Plenish prior to the Marshall Fire. After the fires, students had the idea to increase their tree goal by 1,000 to restore the vegetation lost throughout Superior and Louisville.



Eco-Cycle volunteers planting trees on Earth Day

With the help of community volunteers, the Eco-Warriors coordinated the planting of over 1,200 trees on Earth Day!

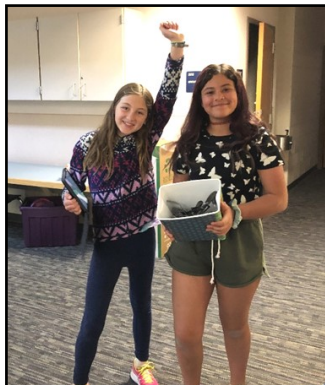
*Contributed by Caroline Armstrong and Ava Moorhead, Student Leaders, Centaurus High School, BVSD*

## FORK AND SPOON DRIVE

Eagle Crest's Eco Eagles saw a problem in the cafeteria: lost reusable forks and spoons!

The solution? A school-wide fork and spoon drive! Students created bins to put in each pod area for utensil collection. When students accidentally take utensils from the cafeteria, or if they find forks or spoons outside of the cafeteria, they can put them in the bin. Families are also encouraged to donate utensils.

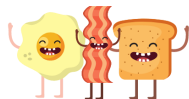
The Eco Eagles collaborated with Eco-Cycle for educational presentations. Eco Eagle leaders presented to all grades on the new fork and spoon drive initiative, while Eco-Cycle provided Green Star School refreshers on proper waste sorting and reuse. The Eco Eagles check the bins weekly and return the durables to the cafeteria.



Eco Eagles collecting utensils  
other schools to have fork and spoon drives!

*Contributed by Stephanie Potter, Teacher, SVVSD*

## BREAKFAST WASTE SORTING



With such little time to eat and sleepy brains in the morning, breakfast waste sorting can be a challenge, especially with breakfast in the classroom. At Columbine Elementary, Courtney Ferguson has made waste sorting simple with bilingual breakfast slides, tailored to each breakfast meal. With these user-friendly slides, students and staff can easily sort breakfast items into compost, recycle, and trash.

See Columbine's breakfast waste sorting slides [here](#) and modify them to reuse for your school's breakfast waste sorting needs!

*Contributed by Courtney Ferguson, Teacher, Columbine Elementary, BVSD*

## I SPY WITH MY LITTLE ECO-EYE

Hanging in the main school hallway for all to see, the bulletin board game, titled: "I Spy with my Eco-Eye," provides an interactive way to learn about waste sorting. The Eisenhower EcoAmbassadors created the "I Spy" bulletin, made from discarded waste to educate on landfill diversion practices. Using waste collected from home and printed images, the group categorized the items and wrote descriptions and hints about each one. Students also created answer keys for each type of waste bin, with pictures of the bin on the front cover and the correctly-sorted items on the second page.

Instead of laminating the printed answer keys, which then need to be landfilled, the EcoAmbassadors reused plastic sheet protectors to make the answer keys more durable. Students also reused leftover butterfly decorations from the school's Innovations Lab. The game includes a list of how many items can be sorted in each waste category.

Take a look at their bulletin; can you find them all?

*Contributed by Marti Hirsch, Eisenhower, Green Team Leader, BVSD*

## UPCYCLED SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS

At New Vista High School, Dustin Bailey's science students took a dive into the dumpsters to create low budget, upcycled science projects. Students dug through local dumpsters around the school to create a biosphere and learn about biotic and abiotic cycles.

At first, students were disgusted by the idea of dumpster diving, but when their creative minds kicked in, they had a lot of fun gathering unique items for their miniature eco-systems. Some of the sealed Eco-Bottles are still thriving months later with no care or external additions!



Eco-Bottle biospheres

When proposing this project to students, Mr. Bailey compared the zero carbon footprint of walking to a dumpster and gathering materials to the higher carbon footprint of driving to a craft store to get the "perfect" materials. He noted when you open almost any dumpster, there are plenty of perfectly good materials available. Some of the groups that chose to reuse had the best terrariums because they had so many free options to choose from.

*Contributed by Dustin Bailey, Teacher, New Vista High, BVSD*



I Spy With My Eco-Eye Bulletin Board

### Cheers to another GREEN year!

It has been my privilege and pleasure to work with staff and students at all our Green Star Schools across Boulder County in their efforts to reduce, reuse, recycle, and compost waste in schools. I look forward to continued collaborations next school year.

**Thank you all for being a Zero Waste Community Partner!**

Happy Summer! Kathy