



### Recycle and Compost

Pull-Out Guides

### Fight Climate Change

Easy Ways to Practice Zero Waste

### Top 5 Products

to Always Refuse

### Is it Compostable?





Products Guide

*And much more...*

All guides available  
in printable form online  
at [ecocycle.org](http://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](http://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, we can reach our collective goal of reducing our impact on the climate and on the planet's finite natural resources.

I've only been at the helm as Eco-Cycle's Executive Director since January 2014, but I am grateful to be part of this hopeful, collaborative, inspiring movement we call Zero Waste. I come from a background of conservation, having served for many years as the Central Rockies Regional Director at The Wilderness Society. 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



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*Eco-Cycle is a Colorado non-profit organization and is tax-exempt under IRS Code 501 (c) (3).*

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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 to ultimately 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](http://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](http://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](http://ecocycle.org/junkmail)
2. Clean without the toxins: [ecocycle.org/ecoliving](http://ecocycle.org/ecoliving)
3. Pack a waste-free lunch: [ecocycle.org/ecoliving](http://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](http://ecocycle.org/reuse)
2. ReSource: Center for ReSource Conservation's architectural salvage and reclaimed building materials and tool library: [resourceyard.org](http://resourceyard.org)
3. Swap and Share: [ecocycle.org/share](http://ecocycle.org/share)

Save  
&  
Post!

# RECYCLE

## PAPER & CARDBOARD



## COMMINGLED CONTAINERS **EMPTY & RINSE, DO NOT FLATTEN**



## PLASTIC BOTTLES, TUBS, JUGS & JARS

**EMPTY & RINSE, DO NOT FLATTEN**

Attached plastic caps OK  
on EMPTY plastic screw-top  
bottles, jugs and jars!



place lids in trash

## NEW: LARGE PLASTIC CONTAINERS

Attached lids OK  
Throw away loose, flat lids



**NO SMALL BERRY  
CONTAINERS**

When in doubt, give us a shout!

**eco-cycle®**

Working to Build Zero Waste Communities

Eco-Cycle HOTLINE: 303.444.6634 • [ecocycle.org](http://ecocycle.org) • [recycle@ecocycle.org](mailto:recycle@ecocycle.org)

# RECYCLING BIN'S DIRTY DOZEN

Save  
&  
Post!

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 Aerosol Cans or Containers**  
The liquids in aerosol cans can cause a harmful explosion.

**9) NO Non-Recyclable Plastics like Styrofoam®, Plastic Cups**  
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 accidentally 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  
Mon – Sat: 9am – 5pm, Sun: 11am – 4pm • [ecocycle.org](http://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



Office Phones  
(landline)



Mobile Phones, Tablets &  
Cameras



Scrap Metal



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



Cooking Oil



Bubble Wrap



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](mailto:businessrecycling@ecocycle.org)  
[ecocycle.org/charm](http://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

#### Samsung consumer electronics – paid for by Samsung!

- No charge except for \$3 facility fee!

#### Audio Equipment

- Home Stereo Components: \$8
- Car Stereos: \$4

#### Computers & Equipment

- Monitors 19" or smaller: \$10
- Monitors 20" to 34": \$15
- Towers/CPUs: \$8
- Printers/scanners: \$8
- Laptops: \$4
- Uninterruptable Power Supply (UPS): \$8
- Large misc. computer equipment: 30¢/lb.
- Keyboards, mice, cables

#### Printer Cartridges

- Ink jet and laser jet printer cartridges

#### Copiers & Fax Machines

- Fax Machines: \$8
- Desktop Copiers: \$8
- Large Copiers (more than 40 lbs.): 30¢/lb.

#### Phones

- Mobile Phones
- Office Phones: \$4
- Home Phones: \$2

#### Small Electronic Items

- PDAs, iPods, iPads, tablets
- Digital Cameras: \$2
- Video Game Systems: \$4 – \$8 (depending on size)

#### TVs, VCRs & DVD Players

- TVs 19" or smaller: \$10
- TVs 20" to 34": \$15
- Consoles, TVs larger than 34": \$30
- VCRs/DVD Players: \$8
- Satellite Boxes: \$8

### SMALL PLASTIC APPLIANCES

- Must have cords or batteries
- Handheld: \$1
- Small (rice cooker size): \$2
- Medium (vacuum size): \$4
- Large (carpet steamer size): \$8
- Extra-Large (20 lbs.+): 30¢/lb.
- **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

- Includes plastic shopping, newspaper & ziplock 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

#### #6 White Block Foam

- #6 White block foam packaging and rigid foam insulation only
- Businesses: \$6 per cubic yard
- **NO** packing peanuts, Styrofoam® cups or "to-go" boxes, moisture or tape

#### 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.

### 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 and office manuals
- Hard-bound books and paperbacks

#### Concrete

- accepted 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: \$4

#### 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, humidifiers): \$15
- **NO** oil or fuel in motors, batteries, or propane canisters.

### OTHER MATERIALS ACCEPTED AT THE CHaRM

#### Single-Stream Recycling

##### \*No facility fee

See guidelines on page 6.

#### Compostables

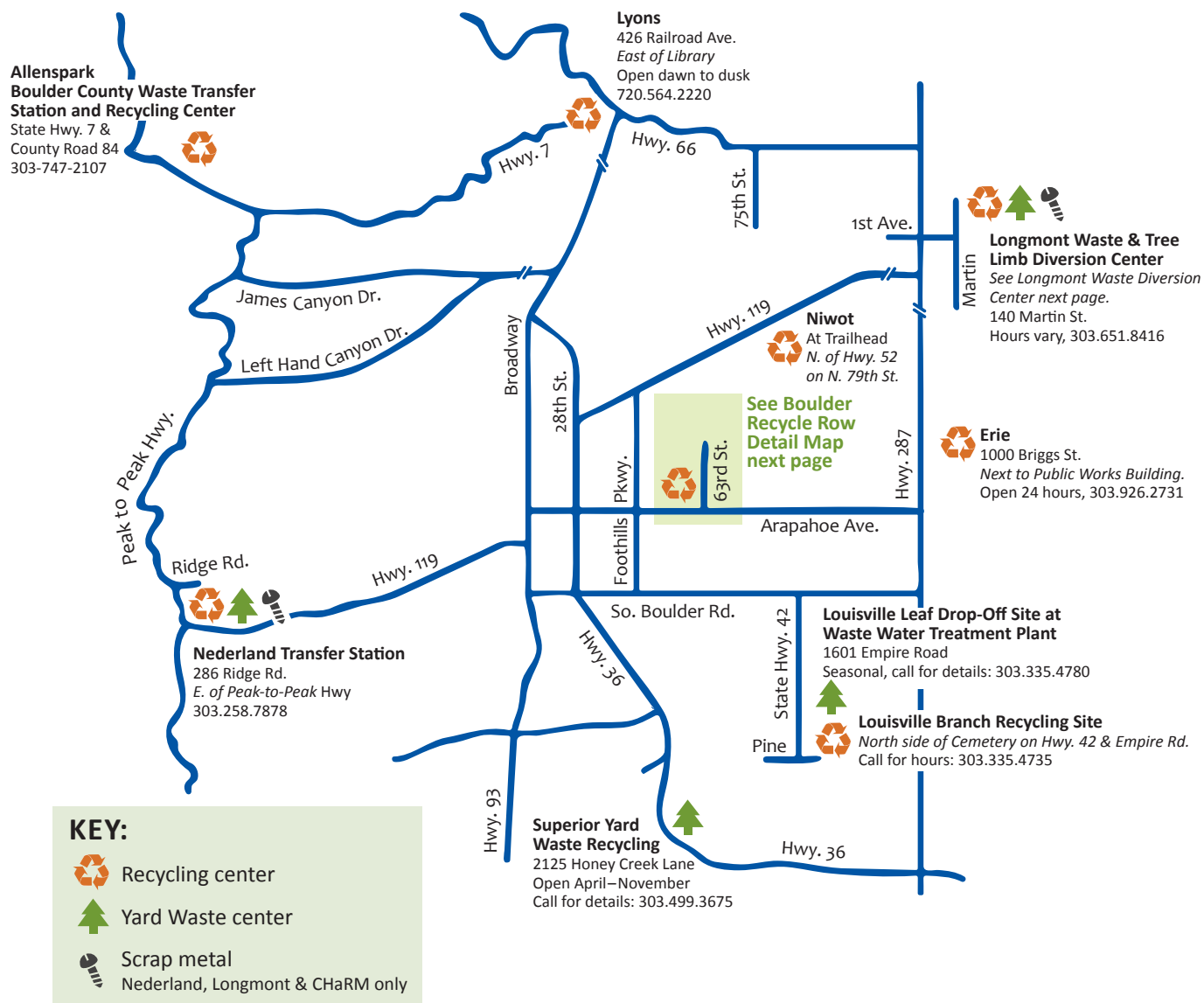
See guidelines on page 14. Visit [www.ecocycle.org/charm](http://www.ecocycle.org/charm) for fees for dropping off compostable materials.

### 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](http://www.ecocycle.org).

**6400 Arapahoe Rd. Boulder • Mon – Sat: 9am – 5pm, Sun: 11am – 4pm • [ecocycle.org/charm](http://ecocycle.org/charm) • 303.444.6634**

# 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](http://zerowasteboulder.com) for more info.



## 1 ReSource

Accepts and sells new and used building materials in good shape.  
6400 Arapahoe Ave. (co-located with Eco-Cycle CHaRM)  
Mon–Sat 9–5, Sun 11–4 | [resourceyard.org](http://resourceyard.org) | 303.419.5418

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

6400 Arapahoe Rd. (co-located with ReSource)  
Mon–Sat 9–5, Sun 11–4 | 303.444.6634 | [ecocycle.org/charm](http://ecocycle.org/charm)  
See pages 8–9 for more information.

## 3 Boulder County Recycling Center & Boulder Drop-off Center

See page 6 for materials accepted. Shredded Paper also accepted separately.  
1901 63rd St. | Open 24 hours. | 720.564.2220

## 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 | [ecocycle.org/hazwaste](http://ecocycle.org/hazwaste) | 720.564.2220

## 5 Western Compost Site

[westerndisposal.com](http://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 | [westerndisposal.com](http://westerndisposal.com) | 303.444.2037

# LONGMONT WASTE DIVERSION CENTER

140 Martin St. 303.651.8416 | [ci.longmont.co.us](http://ci.longmont.co.us) | Preguntas? Llame a 303.243.5820

Until April 18th 2015: Mon–Sat 7:30–4:45 | Closed Sundays, New Year's Day, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving & Christmas

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.

### NEW! #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** 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

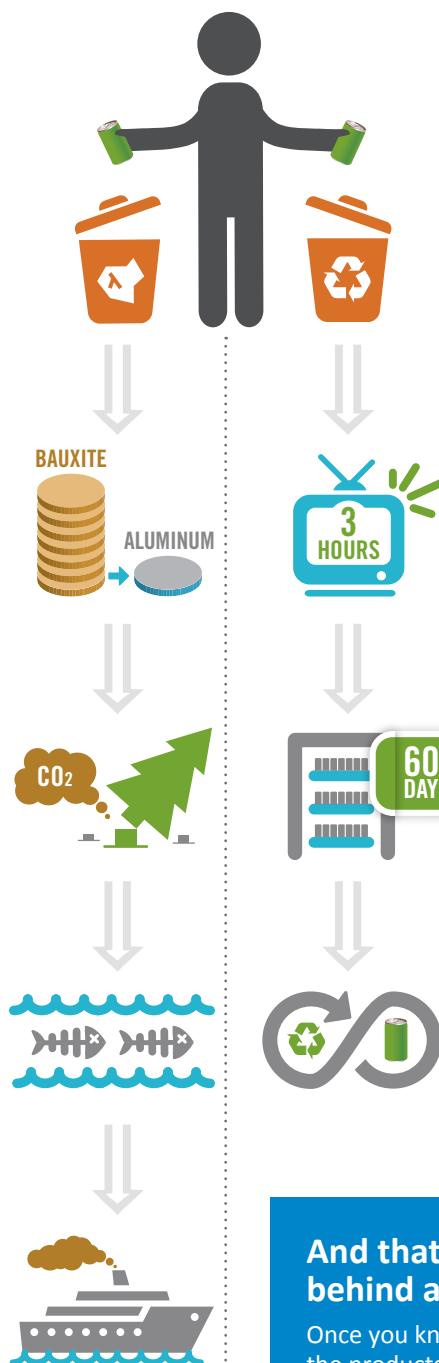
# WHY RECYCLE?

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](http://ecocycle.org/recycle)



Save  
&  
Post!

# COMPOST



## COMPOSTABLE PAPER

dark &  
bright-  
colored  
paper



napkins, tissues & paper towels

greasy or waxed cardboard

## FOODS & PLANTS



plant trimmings

## SPECIALY-DESIGNED COMPOSTABLE PRODUCTS



bagasse



paper only, no  
plastic coating

TRUST THESE  
COMPOSTABLE  
PRODUCT LABELS:



NatureWorks LLC

ingeo

PLEASE NO

NO PLASTIC



NO PLASTIC-  
COATED  
PAPER; PLACE  
THESE ITEMS  
IN TRASH >>



\*SEE PAGES 8-9

When in doubt, give us a shout!

**eco-cycle**<sup>®</sup>

Working to Build Zero Waste Communities

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# 3 REASONS TO COMPOST

## 1 Composting prevents 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 CO<sub>2</sub> (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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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 it's 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, and Louisville residents:*  
You can now include all meat, bones and dairy products in your curbside compost collection cart.

*City of Lafayette residents within the service area (excluding HOAs):*  
Your curbside program starts in February 2015!

*City of Longmont:*  
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](http://ecocycle.org/compost).



# 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

When in doubt, give us a shout!

**eco-cycle®**



Find and purchase compostable products with our time-saving tools at [www.ecocycle.org/compost](http://www.ecocycle.org/compost)

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# LANDFILL

Save  
&  
Post!

These items have no recycling markets and can't be composted either. See pages 4 - 5 for how to avoid items like these in the first place.

## PLASTIC-COATED PAPER



## NON-RECYCLABLE PLASTICS



## WRAPPERS & FROZEN FOOD PACKAGING



**PLEASE ALSO TRASH:** FEMININE PRODUCTS, DIAPERS & OTHER BIOHAZARDS

## 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 a 75% recycling rate 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 84 times more heat in our atmosphere than CO<sub>2</sub> 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 the landfill instead, we put more pressure on the environment to make the goods we need. Incinerators that burn waste are BAD news too (we don't have any in CO). Learn why at [ecocycle.org](http://ecocycle.org).





# 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](http://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. Go to [bouldercountywater.org](http://bouldercountywater.org) and click on "Pharmaceutical Disposal" to learn more, 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, 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](http://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](http://ecocycle.org) | [recycle@ecocycle.org](mailto: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.

## Founding Partner: Eco-Cycle International Zero Waste Community Solutions Portal

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



## Eco-Cycle International Video Production Sponsor

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

**Friendship Fund**

## Eco-Cycle Guide and Eco-Cycle Holiday Recycling Guide Sponsors

Thank you for your support in printing these guides.

**City of Boulder  
Boulder County**

## Eco-Cycle Event Sponsors

Thank you to our sponsors for supporting our event to honor our outgoing Executive Director Eric Lombardi and welcome our incoming Director Suzanne Jones.

### Presenting Sponsor:

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## 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**

## Green Star Schools Program Supporters

Thanks to our Green Star Schools funders for their support of the program during the 2013-14 school year!

**Boulder County  
Boulder Valley School District  
St. Vrain Valley School District  
Ball Foundation  
Red Empress Foundation  
New Belgium Brewing  
Google Community Grants Fund of the Tides Foundation  
Jared Polis Foundation  
The Community Foundation serving Boulder County  
Elevations Credit Union  
Longmont Community Foundation  
Sprout Foundation  
Patagonia Boulder  
Red Apple Recycling  
A1 Organics**

**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](http://ecocycle.org/support).





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Tear out the guides, post and share. Share online versions of the guide at [ecocycle.org](http://ecocycle.org).

Want a stack of these guides for your neighborhood, workplace, community club or place of worship? Call us: 303.444.6634.

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"What is recyclable where?"  
Check out our A-Z Recycling  
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