



eco-cycle

# GREEN STAR SCHOOLS® NEWS

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## CELEBRATING FOUR NEW GREEN STAR SCHOOLS



Student-designed GSS logo, Timberline PK-8

Welcome **Timberline PK-8**, **Superior Elementary**, **Westview Middle**, and **Eldorado PK-8**, the newest Green Star Schools! All these students and staff joined our Green Star Schools community, reducing waste, and fostering a new generation of environmental leaders.

As new members of the Green Star Schools program, **Westview's** Green Star Schools student team has been implementing student waste goalies to help peers sort their lunch discards and ensure that compost and recycling are clean. Students created a video to help get their peers more involved in the program. They also led campus clean-ups to improve their campus!



Student waste goalies at Westview Middle

"[Eco-Cycle's] Green Star Schools has been a huge help...they have been giving presentations to the students to inform us about composting and recycling. We have learned so much about composting and recycling as well! Thank you all for being such a big help."

*Contributed by Bristol Leedom, Audrey Pelham, and Stella Wallner, 7<sup>th</sup> grade Green Star Team, Westview, SVVSD*

**Many BVSD Green Star Schools restarted student composting in the cafeteria this fall, with the goal of bringing the remaining schools back onboard by April 2024, Earth Month. Thank you for recommitting to reducing waste in our community!**

## PRACTICING REUSE AT ZERO WASTE EVENTS



Green Star Schools can integrate Zero Waste practices into school celebrations from classroom parties to all school community events! Eco-Cycle works with the planning committee to find ways to reduce waste and supports recycling, compost, and reuse at the event. **Eisenhower Elementary**, **Bear Creek Elementary**, **BCSIS**, **Whittier Elementary**, and **Eldorado PK-8**, all partnered with Eco-Cycle to host Zero Waste Events!

Reuse is the best way to reduce, simply celebrate, wash and repeat! At **BCSIS's** Autumn Social and **Whittier Elementary's** Heritage Night, event attendees were encouraged to bring their own reusable dishware and the schools provided reusables for loan, significantly reducing single-use, disposable waste. **Eldorado's** middle school dance used their school's Zero Waste Event kits to serve food and drinks. Thanks to parents volunteering to wash the reusables, no disposables were used at the school dance!



Preschool student reusing and composting during classroom party

Preschoolers at **Fireside Elementary** used reusable plates and composted leftover food scraps during their classroom Halloween party!

*Contributed by Laurie Mickey, Teacher, Fireside Elementary, BVSD*

**We love to see reuse practices increasing in our Green Star Schools community.  
Keep up the Green work!**



Reusables at Eldorado dance

**Hosting a school event at your school? Want to make it Zero Waste?  
Contact the Green Star Schools Program Manager at [kathy@ecocycle.org](mailto:kathy@ecocycle.org) for support!**

## THANK YOU FOR KEEPING COMPOST CLEAN!

Composting keeps food waste out of the landfill, prevents harmful methane emissions, and creates a valuable soil amendment to build healthy soils that absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. In turn, healthy soil reduces water and chemical use while growing nutritious foods!

**We appreciate all your support in keeping the compost clean!** In compliance with A1 Organics' compost guidelines, Green Star Schools are composting **ONLY** food scraps in the kitchen and cafeteria.

View [Eco-Cycle's Compost Guidelines](#) for more information.



**A shout-out and massive thank you to the amazing Green Star Schools custodial and kitchen staff for your support and dedication. We could not do it without you!**



*This fall, BVSD Green Star Schools have diverted **38,109 lbs** of clean compost away from the landfill!*





Crest View students with their "Climate Change Chronicles: Inspiring Students to Be the Change" mural

## CREATING GREENER SPACES AND INSPIRING POSITIVE CHANGE

**Crest View Elementary's** 5<sup>th</sup> grade students created the "Climate Change Chronicles: Inspiring Students to Be the Change" mural. This project showcases the climate stripes representing the average temperature change from 1895 to 2023 in Colorado. Crest View students painted and glued discarded CDs to spell out "Be the Change." The mural is a daily reminder of the urgent need to act on behalf of climate change and to empower youth to make a positive impact in our world.

*Contributed by Jessica Moon Bernstein, Teacher, Crest View Elementary, BVSD*

The Panthers for Climate Action Club at **Louisville Elementary (LES)** and the Pirates for Climate Action Club at **Louisville Middle (LMS)** are working together to decarbonize both of their schools. Students met with district personnel to understand how bond money will be used to improve the efficiency of school buildings in 2025-2026. Because bond funding does not include renewable energy, students are embarking on a two-year fundraising effort to purchase solar panels for both schools. Students are learning to write grants and organize local fundraising efforts.

*Contributed by Tiffany Boyd, Executive Director of Classrooms For Climate Action*



LMS: Pirates for Climate Action Club

LES: Panthers for Climate Action Club

**Eisenhower Elementary's** EcoEagles Green Team entered the Resource Central SPARK Renew our Schools Competition last spring. The EcoEagle EcoAmbassadors learned about the sources of Colorado's energy, including fossil fuels and renewable sources. Using handheld meters, students took energy measurements around the school in order to improve efficiency and reduce their energy use. With their hard work and dedication, they placed first in the competition, earning a prize worth \$2,000: the installation of an energy gauge!



EcoEagles sharing a video they created about Colorado energy use

*Contributed by Marti Hirsch, Zero Waste Advocate, Eisenhower Elementary, BVSD*

This fall, the EcoEagles leveled up to the STAR competition. Armed with a whole school energy meter, which provides daily, weekly, and monthly data charts, students are running a whole school competition to see which grade uses the least amount of energy!

**Eagle Crest Elementary** spent time cleaning up their schoolyard garden beds! Eco Eagles students trimmed their pollinator gardens, planted bulbs, and left plants such as clover that will serve as cover crops for the winter. They also planted a winter rye as a new "living mulch." Students learned cover crops add nutrients, keep moisture, and aerate the soil. They took baseline measurements of the soil's pH, texture, and moisture in each of the beds, and will compare that to data they collected in the winter and spring. The Eco Eagles look forward to measuring soil changes, finding ways they can improve the soil, watching their cover crops and bulbs come to life, and experiencing our pollinator gardens' healthy return!

*Contributed by Stephanie Potter, Teacher, Eagle Crest, SVVSD*



Students take baseline measurements of soil PH and moisture

During service week, a group of 16 students from **New Vista High** toured the Boulder County Recycling Center with Eco-Cycle. Many of them are energized to start an Eco-warriors club in the spring semester after all the info they learned!

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



New Vista HS students at the Boulder Counter Recycling Center

**Welcome Hayley Connors-Kelth!** Hayley, Eco-Cycle's new Green Star Schools Coordinator, joined the Green Star Schools team this Fall to support student education and all things GSS!



**An intro from Hayley:** I am honored to collaborate with the Green Star Schools community throughout Boulder County. As the new GSS Program Coordinator, I want to thank all the staff and students who help make this program possible! I look forward to partnering with your school further to strive towards creating a zero-waste community. Cheers to a greener future! *Hayley*

Thank you for being a part of Eco-Cycle's Green Star Schools community!  
Please contact our Green Star Schools team for support with waste reduction at your school.

Kathy, Green Star Schools Program Manager at [kathy@ecocycle.org](mailto:kathy@ecocycle.org)  
Hayley, Green Star Schools Program Coordinator at [hayley@ecocycle.org](mailto:hayley@ecocycle.org)