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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Boulder County School Wins Annual Waste-Free Lunch Contest, Eliminating 90% of ALL Lunch-Room Trash

Boulder County, CO (November 22)— **Louisville’s Coal Creek Elementary was declared this year’s winner of the Eco-Cycle Waste-Free Lunch Contest, which aims to encourage lunchtime waste-reduction strategies in schools and is funded annually by the Boulder County Resource Conservation Division.** Students at Coal Creek recycled and composted 90% of all their lunchtime waste, with just four pounds of lunch trash produced by all 450 students. **Superior Elementary was the runner-up with a 26% elimination of all lunch waste.** As the contest winner, Coal Creek Elementary will receive \$400 to spend at Eco-Cycle’s Eco-Store (www.ecocycle.org/ecostore). As the runner up, Superior will receive \$200.

For five days, students at participating schools all over the county were packing food in reusable containers, avoiding single-use packages, recycling cans, bottles, cartons and juice boxes, and taking leftover food back home to significantly decrease lunchtime trash. The winning school also set up carefully monitored compost collection bins in the lunchroom, leading to almost zero in the trash can.

“This contest is a great opportunity for students to help reduce their school’s trash bill and help the Earth at the same time,” said Cyndra Dietz, Eco-Cycle’s School Recycling and Environmental Education Programs Coordinator. “We hope the reuse and recycling habits they develop during Waste-Free Lunch week will continue far into the future.”

In all, seven schools participated this year: Burlington Elementary (Longmont), Eldorado K-8 (Superior), Erie Elementary (Erie), Hygiene Elementary (Hygiene), Whittier Elementary (Boulder), and of course, Coal Creek Elementary and Superior Elementary.

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