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Eco-Cycle's Cyndra Dietz receives prestigious Enos Mills Lifetime Achievement Award from the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education

Denver, CO (February 25) – Eco-Cycle's Schools Coordinator Cyndra Dietz will receive the Enos Mills Lifetime Achievement Award from the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education (CAEE) this Saturday, March 2. Each year the Enos Mills Lifetime Achievement Award is given to an outstanding individual for their long-term accomplishments in environmental education. This award is named in honor of Enos Mills, whose writings, photography and passion for education and environmental protection are largely responsible for the establishment of Rocky Mountain National Park.

Dietz is receiving this prestigious award for her 33-year commitment to environmental education in Boulder County. Since 1990 she has directed Eco-Cycle's Boulder/Broomfield County School Recycling and Environmental Education Program and in that time she has grown the program from a staff of one to eight. Today her program delivers more than 1,600 presentations in three school districts: Boulder Valley, St. Vrain Valley and Adams 12, for over 48,000 K-12th grade students and staff each year.

Dietz innovated an award-winning and model program called "Green Star Schools." Currently 33 Boulder County schools partner with Eco-Cycle to move toward Zero Waste through increased recycling, the implementation of composting, and special waste reduction activities. The Eco-Cycle Green Star Schools are the first in the nation to reduce waste in every aspect of school life. As a result of implementing the program, up to two-thirds of the discards from each of the Green Star Schools is kept out of landfills.

In addition, Dietz has raised over \$2 million in outside funds to bring unique environmental programming into these schools. Through consulting, trainings, conferences and publication of articles and curricula, Dietz has mentored countless fledgling recycling programs throughout the United States and Canada. Her programs have received many state and national awards, recognizing her outstanding and innovative efforts.

"It is such an honor to be receiving this distinguished award," said Dietz. "I have committed my life to environmental education because I believe strongly that the way forward toward creating a sustainable society is to work with children. They inherit the consequences or results of the choices we make, so it is important to educate and empower them to choose and affect their own future."

"Cyndra is a leader in the truest sense," stated Eric Lombardi, Eco-Cycle's Executive Director. "She has designed new programs for Boulder and Broomfield Counties' schools that not only educate our children about environmental science, but change the way the schools themselves become more environmentally sustainable."

Dietz will be honored along with 12 other awardees at CAEE's Fifteenth Annual Awards Celebration being held on Saturday, March 2, 2013, at 6:00 p.m. at the Renaissance Denver Hotel.