



Eco-Cycle Guide 2019-2020

ZERO WASTE

The WHAT, WHY, and HOW to reduce, recycle, compost & go beyond

eco-cycle®

Use this guide to learn how to work toward Zero Waste, and what local resources are available to help.

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Eco-Cycle is one of the oldest and largest non-profit recyclers and Zero Waste organizations in the U.S. We innovate, implement, and advocate for local and global Zero Waste solutions to foster a more regenerative, equitable, and climate-resilient future.

Why REDUCE?

“Reduce” ranks first in the waste reduction hierarchy of “reduce, reuse, recycle, and compost” for a reason. Reducing the “stuff” in our lives prevents the need to create a product in the first place and therefore avoids the resulting impact on our environment, climate, and people. It’s also the easiest step we can ALL take, regardless of what recycling or composting services exist in our community.



Before you recycle. Before you compost. REDUCE and you:

1 REDUCE OUR CLIMATE IMPACT

More than 40% of our climate impact in the U.S. comes from our stuff and our food — how we extract it from the planet, make it, transport it, use it, and throw it away. It’s called our “consumption emissions.”

The more we buy and throw away stuff, the more energy it takes to make new stuff, and the faster climate change accelerates.

Reducing our consumption of stuff saves energy, natural resources, and landfill space by cutting the demand to make, transport, and eventually bury these items.

2 REDUCE OUR IMPACT ON EARTH’S RESOURCES

If everyone in the world used resources the way we do in the U.S., we’d need five planets to keep up! Reducing unnecessary consumption lets us live within our one planet’s means.



3 PROTECT HABITATS, RIVERS, AND OCEANS

Not all disposable waste makes it to the landfill, and instead ends up polluting land, rivers, and oceans where it can cause harm to people and animals.



4 REDUCE OUR DEPENDENCE ON WASTEFUL DISPOSABLES

In our “convenience” society, it’s common to pick up unnecessary waste like cups, straws, plastic utensils, bags, etc. These items are used for mere minutes, but producing them consumes energy, water, and natural resources, some of which took the earth millions of years to create.



5 REDUCE WHAT WE SEND TO THE LANDFILL

Reducing our use of disposable products is a quick way to stop burying resources in landfills, since many disposables are not reusable, recyclable or compostable.



How to REDUCE

As we go about our days, ordering take-out and making stops at coffee shops, it's easy to pick up unnecessary waste. These items may seem like innocent gestures of convenience, but each material has its own history of resource extraction, pollution, water consumption, and carbon impact. REFUSING single-use, wasteful products and REUSING durable items instead is key to living a Zero Waste lifestyle!

Here's our start-up guide for disposables to avoid and their reusable, durable alternatives.

AVOID

USE INSTEAD



Americans dispose of more than 100 billion plastic bags every year, and only a fraction are ever recycled. Up to 100 MILLION barrels of oil are needed to make the world's plastic bags each year. Yet, typical usage of a plastic bag is just 20 minutes.

Instead, stock up on reusable bags and totes.



Polystyrene foam, commonly called Styrofoam, contains styrene, a known carcinogen that can leach chemicals into food and drinks. Because polystyrene is so light, it can easily blow away and crumble into microplastics that pollute soil and water for centuries to come.

Instead, bring your own cups for beverages and reusable containers to hold leftovers or take out.



Bottled water uses more than 17 million barrels of oil per year to produce, and is often just tap water sold at 10,000 times the price. An estimated 50 billion paper coffee cups are thrown away in the U.S. every year; these paper cups are lined with plastic and are not typically recyclable.

Instead, remember to bring your own water bottle and travel mug.



About 40 billion plastic utensils are used in the U.S. each year for just a few minutes and then discarded to the landfill because they are not recyclable. Lightweight plastics like utensils and straws often end up in the environment, polluting rivers and oceans.

Instead, carry your own set of reusable utensils with you.



***Combine all the reusables listed on this page to create your own Zero Waste on-the-go kit!**

Why RECYCLE?

Maybe you've seen headlines lately like this one from *The New York Times*: "As Costs Skyrocket, More U.S. Cities Stop Recycling," and you're wondering if recycling is still worth the effort. The answer is YES! Recycling is a critical component of a more sustainable, circular economy and is crucial to maximizing natural resources, saving water and energy, and creating more resilient communities.



When you **RECYCLE**, you:

1 SAVE (A LOT) OF ENERGY

By adopting Zero Waste strategies, including recycling, we could reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 400 million metric tons of CO₂ per year, the equivalent of taking more than 20% of U.S. coal-fired power plants off the grid.

Manufacturing products from recycled materials saves 30% - 90% of the energy needed to manufacture these products from natural resources, and doesn't require additional extraction of trees, fossil fuels, or metal ores.

2 REDUCE DEMAND FOR NEW RESOURCES

Recycling extends the lifespan of materials, reducing pressure on finite natural resources. For example, aluminum cans and glass bottles can be recycled indefinitely! When we recycle these materials, it reduces the need to extract more bauxite ore or silica from the earth.



3 SAVE WATER

Manufacturing from recycled materials saves water. For instance, producing paper from virgin pulp (from trees) creates the largest industrial demand for water per ton of product in the U.S. Recycling one ton of paper saves 7,000 gallons of water.



4 STOP BURYING VALUABLE RESOURCES

We bury or burn more than two-thirds of our waste every day in the U.S., destroying the value of these materials. Colorado throws away nearly \$265 million worth of recyclable material each year, such as aluminum, cardboard, paper, glass and plastic.



5 CREATE MORE JOBS

Recycling creates an average of ten times more jobs than landfilling per ton. In the U.S., we could create 1.1 million new jobs by recycling 75% of our discards.





What to

RECYCLE

using your single-stream, curbside recycling bin

PAPER & CARDBOARD



PAPEL Y CARTÓN



flatten
cardboard
aplane los
cartones

CONTAINERS

EMPTY & RINSE, DO NOT FLATTEN



empty
vacíe



ENVASES

VACÍE Y ENJUAGUE, NO LOS
APLANE



PLASTIC BOTTLES, TUBS, JUGS, JARS

EMPTY & RINSE, DO NOT FLATTEN



attach plastic screw-top caps
fijar las tapas plásticas de
rosca

BOTELLAS, JARRAS, FRASCOS, RECIPIENTES PLÁSTICOS

VACÍE Y ENJUAGUE, NO LOS APLANE



only sturdy
#5 "souvenir
cups" are
recyclable
sólo los
"vasos de
promoción"
#5 se pueden
reciclar

When in doubt, give us a shout! 303.444.6634 / recycle@ecocycle.org

Si tiene alguna duda, comuníquese con nosotros!



eco-cycle®
Building Zero Waste Communities

MORE PLASTICS CAN NOW BE RECYCLED IN YOUR SINGLE-STREAM, CURBSIDE BIN!

PLASTIC ITEMS



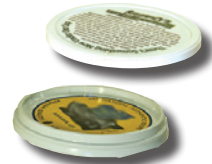
berry containers and other plastic clamshell containers
(no foam/polystyrene; remove liner)
recipientes de frutos rojos y otros recipientes
de plástico (celdas de almeja)
(no espuma; retire el revestimiento)



prescription
containers
empty
receta de la
botella
vacíe



take-out containers
no food
recipientes para llevar
no alimentos

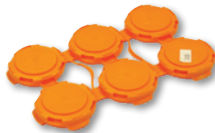


plastic tub lids
tapas de
recipientes
plásticas

RIGID PLASTICS



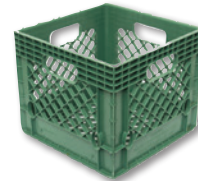
flower pots
macetas



hard plastic four-
and six-pack holders
porta bebidas de cu-
atro y seis unidades
de plástico duro



plastic lawn toys
remove metal axles,
all materials MUST fit inside cart
juguetes de plástico para el patio
remover los ejes de metal, todo el
material DEBE caber dentro del carro



plastic crates
cajas plásticas



buckets, handles OK
baldes, se pueden
dejar las manijas

PLÁSTICOS RIGIDOS

NOT RECYCLABLE IN SINGLE-STREAM, CURBSIDE RECYCLING BIN



food
comida



liquid
líquidos



foam / polystyrene
espuma / poliestireno



plastic cups
vasos plásticos



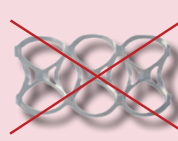
plastic-coated paper
papel recubierto de una
película de plástico



lotion / toothpaste tubes
tubos de crema / pasta
dental



plastic bags / film
bolsas / protectores
plásticos



soft six-pack rings
anillos de plástico suave de
seis unidades



frozen food boxes
cajas de comida
congelada



latex gloves
guantes de látex



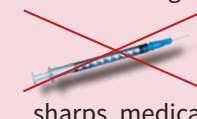
drinking glasses, ceramics
vasos de vidrio / cerámica



shredded paper
papel triturado



scrap metal
restos de metal



sharps, medical
waste
objetos punzantes /
residuos médicos



explosive / hazardous
materials
materiales explosivos /
peligrosos



RECYCLING BIN'S DIRTY DOZEN

CONTAMINATION IN RECYCLING BINS IS A HUGE PROBLEM.
DO YOUR PART BY RECYCLING RIGHT!

BELOW ARE ITEMS TO KEEP OUT OF YOUR RECYCLING BIN — AND
HOW TO PROPERLY DISPOSE OF THEM.

INCORRECTLY PREPPED MATERIALS



FLATTENED CANS AND
CONTAINERS
(difficult to separate from paper)



LIQUIDS LEFT
IN BOTTLES OR
CONTAINERS
(liquids attract rodents
and stinging insects
to the recycling plant;
ruins paper)

**INSTEAD: DON'T FLATTEN CONTAINERS, AND EMPTY
LIQUIDS BEFORE RECYCLING CONTAINERS IN YOUR BIN**

FOOD



INSTEAD: COMPOST YOUR FOOD SCRAPS
SEE FULL COMPOSTING GUIDELINES ON PAGE 10

HARD-TO-RECYCLE MATERIALS



SCRAP METAL
(damages sorting
equipment)



WHITE BLOCK FOAM
AND BUBBLE WRAP



SHREDDED PAPER
(too small to sort)



PLASTIC BAGS
(binds up sorting
equipment)

INSTEAD: BRING THEM TO THE CHaRM TO BE RECYCLED!
FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE CENTER FOR HARD-TO-RECYCLE MATERIALS ON PAGE 13

AMMUNITION OR EXPLOSIVE MATERIALS



**INSTEAD: CONTACT
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS



MOTOR OIL AND SOLVENTS, SYRINGES,
NEEDLES, SHARPS

**INSTEAD: TAKE TO THE HAZARDOUS
MATERIALS MANAGEMENT FACILITY**
SEE PAGE 16

LANDFILL ITEMS



NON-RECYCLABLE
PLASTICS
(no stable markets exist
for these items)



CERAMICS, DRINKING GLASSES
(not the same melting
temperature as recyclable
glass)



FROZEN FOOD BOXES OR ICE
CREAM CONTAINERS (their
plastic coatings render them
non-recyclable)

INSTEAD: THESE ITEMS MUST BE LANDFILLED
SEE LANDFILL GUIDELINES ON PAGE 19

Why COMPOST?

Most of us know composting is a way to turn our organic waste into a valuable soil amendment, but it's also a powerful climate-change-fighting tool!



When you **COMPOST**, you:

1 STOP THE RELEASE OF METHANE, A POTENT GREENHOUSE GAS

A common misconception is that yard waste, food scraps, and other organic waste will simply rot in the landfill and eventually “go away.” This is not the case. Landfills are tightly packed tombs of trash that shut out oxygen and sunlight. Organic waste decomposes slowly in these anaerobic conditions, which produces methane.

Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas. It traps 84 times more heat in our atmosphere than carbon dioxide over the short term and is a major contributor to climate change impacts. Landfills attempt to mitigate these emissions, but composting prevents them all together.

2 SUPPORT A NATURAL CLIMATE SOLUTION

When we compost our biodegradable materials and then apply that compost to soils, we create a carbon “sink” by increasing the soil’s ability to pull carbon from the atmosphere and store it safely in the ground. Soil has the capacity to store three times more carbon than trees.



3 CREATE HEALTHIER SOILS AND FOOD

Compost helps improve all soil types, including clay soils that are common throughout Colorado. Compost enriches soil and helps it retain nutrients that produce healthier, more nutrient-dense food.



4 REDUCE WATER USE

Just as compost helps soil retain nutrients, it also helps soil retain water by increasing its absorbency - a 5% increase in organic material quadruples soil’s water holding capacity.



5 REDUCE WATER POLLUTION

Compost helps increase food productivity naturally, reducing the need for fertilizers and pesticides that often pollute rivers and water sources.





What to COMPOST

using your curbside compost bin

COMPOSTABLE PAPER



dark & bright-colored paper
papel de colores oscuros
y brillantes



coffee grounds & filter
residuos del café



paper towels
papel toallas



napkins
servilletas



greasy or waxed cardboard
cartón con grasa o cera

FOODS & PLANTS



plant trimmings
plantas cortadas

CERTIFIED COMPOSTABLE PRODUCTS



paper only, no plastic coating
sólo papel sin recubrimiento plástico

Trust this
compostable
product label:
Estas etiquetas
indican que el
producto se puede
compostar:



PRODUCTOS COMPOSTABLES CERTIFICADOS



PLEASE NO

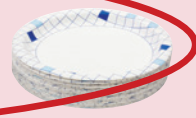


Plastic bags or
plastic-coated
paper; Place
these items in
trash

No papel con
recubrimiento
plástico; Por favor
coloca estos artículos
en la basura



POR FAVOR NO



When in doubt, give us a shout! 303.444.6634 / recycle@ecocycle.org

*Si tiene alguna duda,
comuníquese con nosotros!*

eco-cycle®
Building Zero Waste Communities

IS IT COMPOSTABLE?



Here's how to know which **PRODUCTS** are truly compostable in your compost bin.

✓ YES, IF IT'S A PAPER PRODUCT WITH NO PLASTIC COATING.

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.

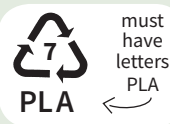


Products that appear to contain plastic must be certified compostable by BPI.



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



Find and purchase compostable products with our time-saving tools at www.ecocycle.org/compost

IS IT RECYCLABLE?

now there's an app for that!

Introducing the Eco-Cycle

A-Z RECYCLING GUIDE APP!



TEST YOUR RECYCLING KNOWLEDGE!



You can also test your recycling knowledge by playing the **Eco-Cycle Sorting Game**.

Visit www.ecocycle.org to play!

How many times have you stood at a recycling bin with an item in hand and wondered, “Can I recycle this?” Well, now there’s an app for that!

Eco-Cycle’s new tool helps people living and working in Boulder County know what to do with hundreds of discarded items -- everything from appliances and apple cores to zippers and zip disks.

Now you can find out in seconds if an item is recyclable, compostable, reusable, or trash!

Download it from the Apple App Store or Google Play and search for “Eco-Cycle A-Z”

Why GO BEYOND THE BIN?

There's more to recycling than what you can put in your curbside bin. Bring your hard-to-recycle items to the CHaRM!

All Boulder County residents and businesses have access to a first-of-its-kind facility that does not exist in most U.S. communities. It's the Eco-Cycle/City of Boulder Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials, affectionately called the CHaRM, where many items that you can't recycle in your curbside bin are accepted.



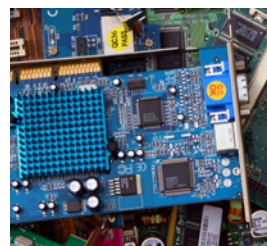
When you utilize the CHaRM, you:

1 GIVE NEW LIFE TO MATERIALS THAT TYPICALLY GET TRASHED

The common products and packaging accepted at the CHaRM are challenging to recycle for many reasons: they do not have enough inherent value to be recycled at a profit, contain multiple materials that cannot be separated and responsibly recycled at a profit, are toxic to handle and require special procedures, and/or have strict collection guidelines that don't mix with curbside recycling systems. That's why there is a fee associated with some of the products accepted - Eco-Cycle and the City of Boulder are actually paying to have these items processed.

2 RECYCLE ELECTRONICS AT THE HIGHEST STANDARDS

It is illegal to throw electronics in the trash in Colorado because of the hazardous toxins found in them. You can recycle your electronics at the CHaRM knowing they are recycled following the world's most rigorous environmental and social justice criteria.



3 CREATE JOBS FOR PEOPLE WITH AUTISM

Thanks to a partnership with Blue Star Recyclers, when you recycle your electronics at the CHaRM, you also create recycling jobs for people with disabilities.



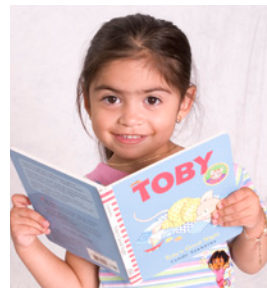
4 GIVE INDIVIDUALS A NEW LEASE ON LIFE

Through Eco-Cycle's partnership with Spring Back Colorado, every time you drop off your old mattress or box spring at the CHaRM, you support employment opportunities for Coloradans.



5 SUPPORT SCHOOLS AND LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Bring your used children's books to the CHaRM, and help us redistribute approximately 50,000 books each year to 27 local and international organizations including shelters, clinics, and schools.



How to

RECYCLE AT THE CHaRM

eco-cycle®

CITY OF BOULDER

CENTER FOR HARD-TO-RECYCLE MATERIALS

6400 Arapahoe Rd., Boulder • Open Mon-Sat, 9am - 5pm (closed Sundays) • www.ecocycle.org/charm

THE ITEMS LISTED ARE ACCEPTED AT THE CHaRM ONLY • DO NOT PUT THEM IN CURBSIDE BINS

ELECTRONICS



TVs, VCRs & DVD players,
Satellite Boxes



Video Game Systems



Printer/Copy Machines, Fax Machines,
Printers & Printer Cartridges



Mobile Phones, Office
Phones, Home Phones



Laptops, Computers &
Monitors



Tablets & Cameras



Computer Accessories
Keyboards, Mice, Cables



Audio Equipment

SMALL APPLIANCES: MUST HAVE CORDS OR BATTERIES



NO: vacuum bags, glass (coffee pots, blender carafes, etc.), or food/liquid residue

Check website for current rates: www.ecocycle.org/charm. Prices subject to change.

Have metal appliances? See *Scrap Metal* listing.

HARD-TO-RECYCLE PLASTICS: MUST BE CLEAN, DRY & EMPTY



Plastic Bags



Plastic Bubble Wrap



Foam Packing Sheets



Newspaper Bags



Ziploc Bags

NO moisture, receipts, food waste in bags, biodegradable plastic, tape, or packing peanuts

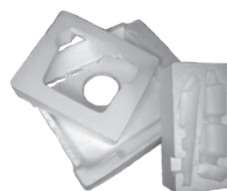
Check website for current rates: www.ecocycle.org/charm. Prices subject to change.

BIG DURABLE #2 PLASTICS: MARKED WITH A #2



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.

#6 WHITE BLOCK FOAM



White Block Foam Packaging with a #6 (aka "Styrofoam")

NO: packing peanuts, polystyrene (Styrofoam®) cups/ to-go boxes, moisture, or tape.

SCRAP METAL: ITEMS THAT ARE AT LEAST 50% METAL, INCLUDING APPLIANCES



NO: propane tanks or canisters of any kind (Have a tank or canister? Visit www.ecocycle.org for details). **REMOVE** fuel caps and lids; **DRAIN** all liquids.

MISCELLANEOUS



Bikes, Parts, Tires & Inner Tubes

NO other accessories or sporting goods



Books & Manuals (Computer & office manuals, hard-bound and paperback books)



Concrete (Accepted in small quantities; less than small pick-up truck bed size: \$0.07/lb.)
NO metal or rocks; 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 I.D.: free
Non-Boulder residents: \$8.00)



Mattresses & Box Springs

- Standard spring or futon mattress, any size: \$17.50
- Box spring, any size: \$17.50
- Memory foam mattress, any size: \$24
- Mechanical bed: \$36.50
- 100% foam mattress toppers: \$8.75

As of July 2018, we can no longer accept bed bug-infested mattress or box springs at the CHaRM
NO mattresses or box springs with mold



Plate Glass Windows

- Includes windows, patio and shower doors, picture frame glass, glass tabletops, glass block, tempered or insulated glass
- Cracked/broken panes are OK
- Window, no jamb: \$3/unit
- Window with jamb: \$8/unit
- Door, no jamb: \$12/unit
- Door with jamb: \$20/unit

NO glassware (drinking glass, dishes, etc.), mirrors, Pyrex (food containers, microwave dishes, measuring cups), canning jars, or bottles and jars



Porcelain Toilets, Sinks & Urinals

- Toilet with 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. No rugs or carpet**

OTHER MATERIALS

PAPER SHREDDING

- Paper materials only
- \$10 per file box (banker's box) full of paper

SINGLE-STREAM RECYCLING

- See guidelines on page 6

COMPOSTABLES

- Visit www.ecocycle.org/charm for fees
- See guidelines on page 10

Where to find ZERO WASTE FACILITIES & RESOURCES

ALLENSPARK

Allenspark Transfer Station and Recycling Drop-off

Accepts bagged and loose garbage from households and small businesses for a fee. Single-stream recycling, textile recycling, and scrap metal recycling are accepted free of charge. No slash is accepted at this facility.

Location: 14857 State Highway 7

Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun, 10 - 4; Closed Tues & Thurs

Phone: 303.747.2107

www.bouldercountycycles.org

Meeker Park Forestry Sort Yard

Accepts logs, slash, timber, pine cones, needles, and leaves for drop off.

Open May 15-October 12

Location: 8200 State Highway 7

Hours: Wed - Sat, 9 - 5

Phone: 303.678.6368

www.bouldercounty.org/property-and-land/forest-health/community-forestry-sort-yards

BOULDER

Available to all Boulder County residents

Art Parts Creative Reuse Center

Accepts and sells gently used art supplies.

Location: 2860 Bluff St.

Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat, 10:30 - 6, Wed 12 - 7; Closed Sundays

Phone: 720.379.5328

www.artpartsboulder.org

Boulder County/City of Boulder Yard & Wood Waste Drop-off Center at Western Disposal

The City of Boulder and Boulder County sponsor the yard waste drop-off center and wood waste drop-off center at Western Disposal. Residents receive a 40% discount from normal yard and wood waste drop-off pricing. Keep yard waste separate from wood waste. Boulder County contractors bringing material from construction job sites located in the city limits of Boulder can pay 30% less than the standard construction trash disposal rate if wood waste is kept separate.

Location: 5880 Butte Mill Rd.

Hours: Mon - Fri, 7 - 5; Sat, 7 - 2

Phone: 303.444.5794

www.westerndisposal.com/trash-recycle-center/wood-yard-waste

Boulder County Hazardous Materials Management Facility

Drop-off and reuse for hazardous materials such as paint and household cleaners. For residents of Boulder County, City and County of Broomfield, and Town of Erie. Proof of residency will be checked upon entry.

Location: 1901 63rd St. (west of the Boulder County Recycling Center)

Hours: Wed - Sat, 8:30 - 4; Closed Sun, Mon, Tues

Phone: 720.564.2251

www.bouldercountycycles.org

Boulder County Recycling Center & Drop-off Center

See pages 6-7 for materials accepted. Shredded paper also accepted separately.

Location: 1901 63rd St.

Hours: Drop-off open 24 hours

Phone: 303.444.6634; 720.564.2220

www.ecocycle.org; www.bouldercountycycles.org

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

Accepts hard-to-recycle materials and scrap metal for recycling. See pages 14 - 15 for details.

Location: 6400 Arapahoe Rd. (co-located with ReSource)

Hours: Mon - Sat 9 - 5; Closed Sun

Phone: 303.444.6634

www.ecocycle.org/charm

ReSource Central: Material Reuse Facility

Accepts and sells new and used building materials in good shape.

Location: 6400 Arapahoe Rd. (co-located with Eco-Cycle CHaRM)

Hours: Mon - Sat, 9 - 5; Closed Sun

Phone: 303.419.5418

www.resourcecentral.org/resource

ReSource Central: Tool Library

Provides affordable tool-lending services to individuals, businesses, and civic or community organizations.

Location: 6400 Arapahoe Rd. (co-located with Eco-Cycle CHaRM)

Hours: Mon - Sat, 9 - 5; Closed Sun

Phone: 303.419.5418

<https://tools.resourcecentral.org>

ERIE

Erie Recycling Center

Accepts single-stream recycling for drop off.

Location: 1000 Briggs St. (next to Public Works building)

Hours: Summer Hours: 8 - 7; Winter Hours: 8 - 5

Phone: 303.926.2870

www.erieco.gov/282/Erie-Recycling-Center

LONGMONT

Longmont Waste Diversion Center

Please be sure to bring a current City of Longmont utility bill and identification to show that you are a city resident paying the waste management fee. See details of everything accepted on page 18.

Location: 140 Martin St.

Hours: Mon - Sat, 7:30 - 4:45

Phone: 303.651.8416

www.longmontcolorado.gov/wasteservices

LOUISVILLE

Louisville Branch Recycling Site

Proof of residency will be checked at the gate by city staff. This site only accepts wood and plant material such as tree and shrub debris.

Location: North side of cemetery on Hwy 42 & Empire Rd.

Hours: Open to Louisville residents the first full weekend of each month from 8 - 4

Phone: 303.335.4733

www.louisvilleco.gov/residents/parks-recreation/branch-recycle-site

Louisville Leaf Drop-off Site: Louisville Sports Complex

Only leaves and grass clippings are accepted at the drop off containers; no trash, branches, or plastic garbage bags. Proof of residency will be checked upon entry.

Location: 1200 Courtesy Rd.

Hours: Seasonal; call or check website for details

Phone: 303.335.4750

www.louisvilleco.gov/government/departments/public-works-/water-wastewater-treatment/leaf-drop-off

LYONS

Lyons Recycling Drop-off Center

Accepts single-stream recycling.

Location: 198 2nd Ave. (south side of lot)

Hours: Open dawn to dusk

Phone: 720.564.2220

www.bouldercountyclerycles.org

NEDERLAND

Nederland Forestry Sort Yard

Accepts logs, slash, timber, pine cones, needles, and leaves for drop off.

Open May 2 - October 19

Location: 291 Ridge Rd.

Hours: Wed - Sat, 9 - 5

Phone: 303.678.6368

www.bouldercounty.org/property-and-land/forest-health/community-forestry-sort-yards

Nederland Transfer Station and Recycling Drop-off Center

Accepts single-stream recycling, scrap metal recycling, and textile recycling free of charge. Trash and compostables accepted for a fee. No slash is accepted at this facility.

Location: 286 Ridge Rd.

Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun 8 - 4; Closed Wed

Phone: 303.258.7878

www.bouldercountyclerycles.org

NIWOT

Niwot Recycling Drop-off Center

Accepts single-stream recycling.

Location: Niwot Loop Trailhead (north of Hwy 52 on N. 79th St.)

Hours: Open dawn to dusk

Phone: 720.564.2220

www.bouldercountyclerycles.org

SUPERIOR

Superior Yard Waste Recycling Facility

Yard waste site for RESIDENTS ONLY (not for commercial use). Bring ID or some form of resident identification when dropping items off.

Location: 2125 Honey Creek Ln.

Hours: Wed, 2 - 5; Sat - Sun, 8 - 12 & 1 - 5

Phone: 303.499.3675

www.superiorcolorado.gov/departments/parks-recreation-open-space/superior-yard-waste-site

OTHER RESOURCES

Don't see your item listed? Check out the Eco-Cycle A-Z Recycling Guide

Learn how and where to recycle 400+ items in Boulder County and the Denver Metro area.

www.ecocycle.org

Download the NEW Eco-Cycle A-Z Recycling Guide App!
Available on the Apple App Store or on Google Play.

City of Boulder via Inquire Boulder

See a business that needs help complying with the Universal Zero Waste Ordinance? Use Inquire Boulder to report businesses, homes, HOAs, and apartment and condo complexes without recycling, compost, or trash service.

<https://bouldercolorado.gov/zero-waste/zero-waste-report>

CU-Boulder Environmental Center

Wide range of sustainability services and ways to get involved.

www.colorado.edu/center

U-Fix-It Clinics, Sponsored by Eco-Cycle

Free hands-on repair clinics for electronics, toys, appliances, etc.

www.ecocycle.org/ufixit

BUSINESS RESOURCES

City of Boulder's "Zero Waste Boulder" Website

Extensive Universal Zero Waste Ordinance toolkits and resources.

www.ZeroWasteBoulder.com

Eco-Cycle CHaRM-On-The-Road Service

Commercial hauling for hard-to-recycle items; See pages 14 - 15 for a list of accepted items.

www.ecocycle.org/businesses

EnergySmart

For residential energy and water conservation services.

www.energysmartyes.com

PACE: Partners For A Clean Environment

Extensive free energy and water conservation tools and services for businesses.

www.pacepartners.com

ReSource Central

Consultations, tools, and services for water and energy conservation; includes resources for residents.

www.resourcecentral.org

RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING & COMPOSTING CURBSIDE SERVICES IN BOULDER COUNTY

Boulder

All trash haulers are required to provide curbside compost and recycling. Contact local hauler for prices.

Erie

Trash and recycling haulers operating in the Town of Erie offer various levels of recycling services and options. Contact your hauler directly.

Lafayette

The City of Lafayette contracts with Republic Services for residential composting and recycling. For service information, contact Republic Services at 303.286.2400.

Longmont

The City of Longmont provides recycling, composting, and refuse curbside collection for residents. For service information, contact the City of Longmont at 303.651.8416.

Louisville

The City of Louisville contracts with Western Disposal to provide recycling, composting, and refuse curbside collection for residents. For service information, contact Western Disposal at 303.444.2037.

Lyons

Trash and recycling haulers operating in the Town of Lyons offer various levels of recycling services and options. Contact your hauler directly.

Superior

For residents of Original Town, Coal Creek Crossing, Downtown Superior, Sagamore, Calmante, and The Ridge: Contact Town Hall with questions about trash, recycling, and seasonal compost curbside collection at 303.499.3675.

For residents of Rock Creek Ranch and The Summit at Rock Creek Townhomes: contact HAVEN Community Management at 303.530.0700. For questions relating to curbside compost services, contact Waste Connections at 303.288.2100.

***No matter where you live, be sure to ask your hauler about saving money by reducing the size of your trash cart!**

RECYCLE ROW IN BOULDER

The City of Boulder is going for Zero Waste!

Visit zerowasteboulder.com for more info.

Facilities to help you practice Zero Waste



- 1 ReSource**
Accepts and sells new and used building materials in good shape.
6400 Arapahoe Rd. (co-located with Eco-Cycle CHaRM)
Mon-Sat 9-5; Closed Sundays | www.resourcecentral.org/resource | 303.419.5418
- 2 Eco-Cycle/City of Boulder CHaRM: Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials**
Accepts hard-to-recycle materials and scrap metal for recycling. See pgs. 14-15 for details.
6400 Arapahoe Rd. (co-located with ReSource)
Mon-Sat 9-5; Closed Sundays | www.ecocycle.org/charm | 303.444.6634
- 3 Boulder County Recycling Center & Boulder Drop-off Center**
See page 6 for materials accepted. Shredded paper also accepted separately.
1901 63rd St. | Drop-off open 24 hours | 720.564.2220 • 303.444.6634
- 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 | www.bouldercountyrecycles.org | 720.564.2251
- 5 Western Disposal Organics Transfer Site**
www.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 | www.westerndisposal.com | 303.444.5794

LONGMONT WASTE DIVERSION CENTER

140 Martin St. 303.651.8416 | www.longmontcolorado.gov | Preguntas? Llame a 303.243.5820

Hours vary. Visit website for details. **Please check in at the window and bring a current utility bill indicating the Waste Management Fee.**



Single-stream recycling—accepted 24/7. See pages 6-7 for guidelines.

ACCEPTED DURING STAFFED HOURS ONLY:

Automotive and Rechargeable Batteries: Includes motorcycle and boat batteries. **NO alkaline batteries.**

Compostables Drop-Off: See page 10 for guidelines.

Cooking Oil: Must be in see-through plastic containers (gallon milk jugs or the original plastic containers or box 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, 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: See bin marked “shredded paper.” **NO bagged material.**

#6 White Block Foam: #6 White block foam packaging and rigid foam insulation only. **NO packing peanuts, Styrofoam® 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 trash, plastic bags, lumber, sod, dirt, rock or split rail fence material will be accepted.

Free self-service mulch is also available at the Longmont Waste Diversion Center.

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 and yard waste collection events

What to LANDFILL



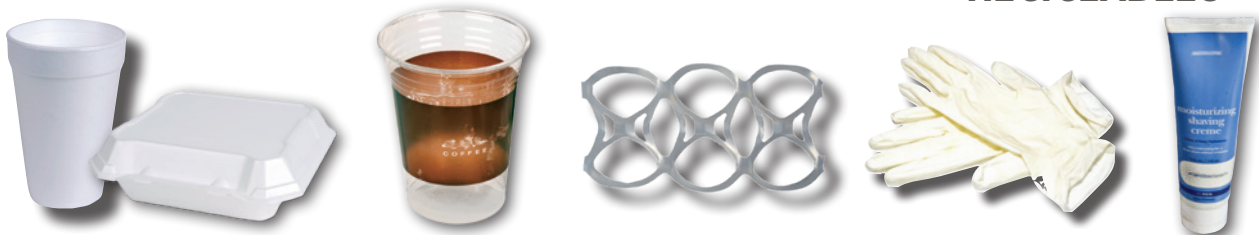
PLASTIC-COATED PAPER

PRODUCTOS DE PAPEL CON RECUBRIMIENTO PLASTICO



NON-RECYCLABLE PLASTICS

PLÁSTICOS QUE NO SON RECICLABLES



WRAPPERS & FROZEN FOOD PACKAGING

ENVOLTURAS Y EMPAQUES DE COMIDA CONGELADA



PLEASE ALSO TRASH: FEMININE PRODUCTS, DIAPERS, ANIMAL WASTE & OTHER BIOHAZARDS

POR FAVOR COLOQUE TAMBIEN EN LA BASURA: PRODUCTOS DE HIGIENE FEMENINA, PAÑALES, EXCREMENTO ANIMAL Y OTRAS SUSTANCIAS CON RIESGO BIOLÓGICO

When in doubt, give us a shout! 303.444.6634 / recycle@ecocycle.org

*Si tiene alguna duda,
comuníquese con nosotros!*

eco-cycle®
Building Zero Waste Communities

Your recycling questions answered

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Are my recyclables actually getting recycled in Boulder County? I've seen a lot in the news lately about how recycling is dead in the U.S. because China has stopped taking recyclables.

Your Boulder County recyclables are definitely being recycled (and they always have been). They are NOT going to the landfill – so KEEP RECYCLING! The Boulder County Recycling Center (BCRC), owned by Boulder County and operated by Eco-Cycle, has a national reputation for producing consistently clean, high-quality materials, largely because local residents and businesses have long been our partners as savvy and conscientious recyclers. While other recyclers are struggling with the fact that China has closed its doors to most imports of recyclables, the BCRC is actually faring better than most because our marketing strategy for recyclables has always been focused on producing high-quality materials for local and domestic markets.

That said, global recycling markets have taken a beating since China closed its ports to paper and plastic recyclables that had more than .5% contamination (an almost impossible specification to meet). The U.S. lost a huge market that had been buying nearly one-third of our country's recyclables for a decade. The result has been steep price drops for recyclables worldwide and some communities, especially on the coasts, have had no choice but to temporarily landfill paper and some plastics because their markets vanished overnight.

In truth, while we are in a short-term market slump, China's new policy has actually presented the U.S.

recycling industry with an opportunity. Now is the time for industries to work with recyclers on developing new end-markets within the U.S. so that the full value of these materials is reinvested in our own economies, and more green jobs are created in our state.

Recycling continues to be one of the most important actions each of us can do every day to protect our environment, combat the climate crisis, conserve natural resources, and create green jobs. So keep up the good work, recyclers! We'll continue to do our part to help keep recycling thriving in Boulder County if you'll continue to help by following the guidelines in this guide for producing the cleanest, most marketable recyclables possible.



I've been wondering forever whether I'm doing the wrong thing if I bag my recyclables in a plastic bag. I live in an apartment complex where I have to take my recyclables to a shared recycling container, so I carry them down there in a bag and throw it in. I notice that most of the other recyclables in there aren't bagged. Is it okay if I put them in a bag?

The answer is NO. Please do NOT put recyclables inside plastic bags (or in any bags)! This is actually our #1 contaminant at the Boulder County Recycling Center (BCRC)—plastic bags used to contain recyclables, or plastic bags thrown loose into the recycling cart. It's such a problem for two reasons.

The first: it's inefficient. The equipment at the BCRC is designed to automatically sort recyclables into their different material types (cardboard, plastics, glass, paper, etc.). But when materials come in plastic bags, neither the materials nor the bags can go through the system. A staffer has to see the bag, grab it off the moving conveyor belt before it goes through the rest of the system, rip the bag open, and shake out all the contents onto the conveyor belt. That slows things down considerably, creating

costly inefficiencies, and puts our staffers more at risk of coming into contact with something broken and sharp.

Secondly, that plastic bag is then garbage. Plastic bag markets require the material to be clean and dry, and these bags definitely aren't. We have to landfill them, and pay the price for doing so. Loose plastic bags are also a significant issue because they wind around our sorting equipment and jam it up. In fact, we have to stop the conveyor belts twice a day, and staffers have to cut bags off the sorting equipment by hand. Talk about inefficiencies.

But here's a tip that's win/win for both of us: Reuse that plastic bag. Use it to take your recyclables to the shared container, shake them out into the bin when you get there, and reuse it for next time!

How clean do my recyclables need to be? Why do you list food as one of your biggest contaminants in the recycling bin?



Food in your recycling bin = a big deal. Your recyclables go to the Boulder County Recycling Center where people, as well as automatic sorting systems like the new plastics optical sorter, separate materials so they can be sent to their respective markets. Food residue on recyclables puts our workers' health and safety at risk because of mold, pests like rodents and stinging insects, and unpleasant smells in the facility. Also, food and liquids inside containers can destroy the value of recycled paper, and affect the value of containers.

So, how clean is clean? Before recycling, be sure to empty your containers by scraping out all food (into your compost bin), or pouring liquids out. Give each container a quick shot of water, shake it up to loosen any food remaining, pour it out, and then recycle it.



Why is plastic harder to recycle than other materials?

Plastic is in a category of its own for several reasons. First, plastic is made with fossil fuels, so its initial production process is harmful to the planet. It's a harder-to-recycle material because it loses quality during the recycling process. Other products like glass, steel and aluminum can be recycled an

infinite number of times back into the same product. Plastic is usually "down-cycled" into something like a carpet or a bench, an item that is typically landfilled at the end of its useful life, so it's not a cyclical system as with glass, steel or aluminum.

Because it is downcycled, new bottles are still made out of fossil fuels and no market demand is created for recycled plastics to be made into new bottles. The plastics industry tends not to buy back their own product (unlike glass, aluminum, cartons, and fibers), so even though they could be making new bottles and jugs with at least a percentage of recycled plastic, they opt to make them out of fossil fuels instead.

Lastly, unlike the other materials, plastics have a whole variety of polymers and chemical additives that make for a HUGE variety of incompatible materials. Aluminum is aluminum. Steel is steel. But plastics are made from seven different polymers. Within those seven polymers is a huge variety of products depending on the additives used to create different material characteristics. That's a lot of variety to sort and market. The recycling industry has LONG asked the plastic industry to standardize plastic products and to talk to recyclers at the design phase of their product instead of creating endless numbers and types of products and putting the onus on recyclers to magically "recycle" their product without their participation.



If I see a recycling symbol on the bottom of a plastic item, does that mean it's recyclable?

No, this is an unregulated symbol and it doesn't indicate the recyclability of an item.

There are now some reputable third-party certification organizations that actually confirm the recyclability of some products and their packaging. But for now, you still need to go by the guidelines in a community to know whether an item is included in that local recycling program and facility, rather than going by the symbol on the package. Local guidelines change from place to place because the recyclability of a product or packaging depends on local markets, facilities and sorting capability. While universal guidelines and consistent labeling is certainly a goal in the recycling industry, we currently can't depend on a recycling symbol to let us know if it's locally recyclable in our region's facilities.

What's the Most Impactful Work We Can Do Toward a Balanced Climate?

Eco-Cycle Focuses on Four Climate Solutions

We have just 12 years to turn our climate crisis around, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, made up of the world's leading climate scientists. It's time for us all to commit to acting boldly to disrupt entrenched systems that no longer serve us and redesign them so that we may thrive and live more realistically on our one planet. One of those systems is our production system, which is often overlooked as a cause of the climate crisis, but is actually one of the most significant culprits. More than 40% of our climate impact in the U.S. comes from "consumption emissions"—our stuff and our food, and how we extract it from the planet, make it, haul it, use it and throw it away.

As one of the leading Zero Waste organizations in the world, Eco-Cycle is looking at how we can leverage our unique role to make the biggest difference possible to address our "consumption emissions" and even how we might work to REVERSE climate change. We are aligning our resources and efforts to work on what we have determined are the FOUR most significant ways we can positively impact our climate and our planetary future:



1 Draw emissions BACK DOWN with Carbon Farming

If we are to succeed in keeping our emissions below the critical 2 degrees Celsius threshold, we must go BEYOND reducing emissions to actively removing carbon from the atmosphere by using "carbon farming" to store carbon safely and beneficially in our soils.

In carbon farming, regenerative agricultural practices—such as no tilling, applying compost and growing cover crops—are implemented to restore living soil ecosystems, enhance photosynthesis and increase the soil's ability to store carbon. Composting plays an essential role in driving soil regeneration by infusing beneficial soil microbes. By enhancing the planet's natural processes, carbon farming helps the Earth to heal itself.

Promising research from the Marin Carbon Project suggests that a widespread focus on building healthy soils may be our best hope to draw down atmospheric carbon dioxide.

Eco-Cycle is working on both agricultural and urban lands to help determine best practices for using carbon farming as a climate solution.

2 Prevent emissions by reducing plastic consumption

Plastics contribute to climate change throughout their entire life cycle—from fracking and extraction of virgin resources, to production at chemical processing plants that emit air pollution, to their disposal in the environment or in landfills. **Only 9% of all the plastics ever made have been recycled, and many plastics are not recyclable at all.**

Plastic production is expected to double in the next 20 years and nearly quadruple by 2050—when it is predicted there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish! Much of that impact is due to our addiction to single-use disposable plastics. We cannot rely on recycling to take care of this prolific problem and its climate impacts; we must reduce.

Eco-Cycle is working to reduce plastics consumption by helping major industries rethink and redesign their products to minimize wasteful plastics, and by helping to pass local ordinances to reduce or ban disposable plastics like straws, bags and polystyrene foam take-out containers.



3 Create a Zero Waste Colorado

Our beautiful state continues to be one of the most wasteful in the country. In 2018, we created a record 9.3 million TONS of waste while our recycling rate flat-lined at just 12%, far behind the national average of 35% recycling.

But it doesn't need to be that way. The next few years—working with Governor Polis and the state legislature—are crucial for putting Colorado on the path to creating a circular economy where 95% of the materials we throw away are transformed into new products or composted into nutrient-rich soil, and green local jobs are created!

Eco-Cycle is sharing best practices learned in Boulder County to help communities elsewhere in the state adopt ordinances, programs and infrastructure to create Zero Waste Colorado communities. We are actively supporting Denver in transforming from a laggard to a Zero Waste leader, and working at the state legislature to promote Zero Waste legislation like SB19-192: The Front Range Waste Diversion Enterprise Grant Program passed in May 2019!

4 Make Boulder County communities a model for the nation

The world needs successful models to emulate, and Eco-Cycle will continue to work with our local Boulder County partners to create community-based Zero Waste models for governments, schools, community events, businesses and neighborhoods.

We will continue to:

- Pass cutting-edge Zero Waste policy
- Operate the Boulder County Recycling Center in the exemplary fashion that has made it stand out as a success story in the midst of the China crisis
- Create opportunities at the CHaRM for Boulder County residents and businesses to recycle more types of materials than any other community
- Educate and engage our community through our award-winning schools and community education programs.



Building Zero Waste Communities

P.O.Box 19006

Boulder, CO 80308

Non-Profit Org.

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Permit No. 229

Boulder, CO

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by City of Boulder Trash Tax dollars.*

WANTED: BIG THINKERS. PROBLEM SOLVERS. ACTION TAKERS.



BECOME AN ECO-LEADER

Join a community of over 1,000 volunteers to advance local Zero Waste solutions:

Recycling & Composting Legislation • Disposable-Free Dining Project • Community Carbon Farming Pilot • Sustainable Events

Learn more and sign up at: ecocycle.org/network

eco-cycle