

Western

DISPOSAL SERVICES

A QUARTERLY UPDATE FOR OUR CUSTOMERS

Win One Month Free Trash Service

Several lucky customers will receive one month of free trash service for finding their names in this newsletter!

If you find your name, call our Customer Service Department at 303-444-2037 to receive credit on your account for one month of free service.

Sorry, names mentioned as part of the stories are not eligible.



Holiday Schedule

For up-to-date information about our holiday schedule, call our Holiday Hotline at 303-448-2280 or look it up at www.westerndisposal.com.

The following holidays will be observed by Western Disposal:

- * Independence Day..... 7/04/02
- * Labor Day..... 9/02/02
- * Thanksgiving Day..... 11/28/02
- * Christmas Day..... 12/25/02
- * New Year's Day..... 1/01/03
- * Memorial Day..... 5/26/03

E-Minders

Subscribe to Western Disposal's E-Minders Program. This program sends you e-mail reminders of upcoming holidays, programs and other useful information. You can join by calling us at 303-444-2037 or on our web site at www.westerndisposal.com.

SUMMER 2002

Western Creates New Automated Design

Twelve new automated residential trucks, designed by Western Disposal, are on the road. Western's list of requirements was provided to McNeilus, a trash truck body manufacturer, and Volvo, a truck chassis manufacturer, to design the most versatile trash/recycle collection vehicle in use today.



New Automated Residential Truck

The following features of the new vehicles enable improved safety and productivity when collecting trash and recycled material.

- Low entry cab – easier for the driver to enter and exit the cab.
- Right-hand drive – eliminating exposure to traffic when exiting the vehicle and putting the driver closer to the trash and recyclables when he does need to get out of the truck.
- Robotic arm – picks up trash and recycling carts, empties them into the truck, and returns them to exactly where they sat before collection. The entire cycle to empty a cart takes 15 seconds.
- Lower loading port on the side of the truck, just behind the cab – the drop frame design creates a low loading height so that large items and extra trash can be loaded manually.
- Additional loading port on the passenger side – allows manual loading from either side.
- Short truck chassis – enables a tighter turning radius.
- Cameras to increase safety and ensure proper collection of materials – one on the rear for increased vision when backing, one in line with the automated arm for an additional set of eyes for our driver, and one inside the hopper to ensure carts are emptied and to spot contamination in recycled material.
- Joystick mounted in cab – for easy operation of the robotic arm.
- Safety switches on the truck to help prevent mishaps – i.e., the robotic arm must be fully retracted before the truck can move, preventing the arm from striking objects when the truck is in motion.

Through the combined efforts of Western, McNeilus and Volvo in designing the new automated trucks, Western became a successful pioneer in automated collection for subscription trash haulers and also provided safer working conditions for all route employees.



Reminder Yard Waste Service

For those Western Disposal customers who do not compost, you can still sign up for seasonal yard waste service. Yard waste service is **available to city of Boulder residents only** for weekly collection from April 1 to November 30 each year with a three-month minimum service term required. Call Western Disposal at 303-444-2037 for additional information and/or to sign up for service. Save money by recycling your yard waste versus disposing of it as trash.

City of Boulder's Spring CleanUp 2002 Results

Boulder's Spring CleanUp 2002 was completed on May 17. More than 10,000 Boulder households contributed materials to this year's annual Spring CleanUp. Each household put out an average of 280 pounds of organics to be recycled. As a whole, everyone's efforts kept more than 1,566 tons of organics out of the landfill. Great job to all city of Boulder Spring CleanUp participants!

The huge pile of yard waste has been chipped into mulch and is free for the taking. Bring a shovel to Western Disposal's Transfer Station and load up as much as you want. Our summer hours are Monday through Saturday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

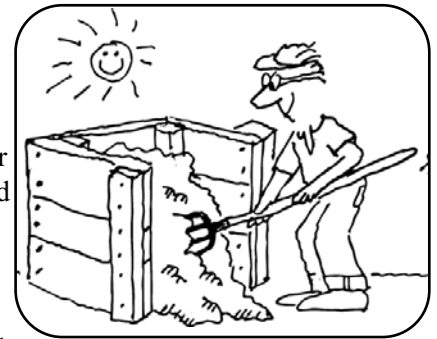
You TOO Can Compost

Have you ever wondered what your neighbors do with their yard waste? You see them working in their yard, but never see them dispose of piles of leaves or grass clippings. Chances are your neighbors have joined the composting bandwagon. Composting is a very convenient, economical and environmental way to handle your yard waste.

You've probably thought about the idea of composting, but were overwhelmed with questions. We thought we would provide you with some insight into the world of composting by answering some questions for you along with providing a couple of web sites for additional information.

What is compost and how can I use it? Compost is an earthy, dark, soil-like substance from the decomposition of plant remains and other once-living materials. Ann Thorne. Compost can be used in a variety of ways: on lawns, gardens, landscapes and houseplants.

What is the composting process? Composting, in essence, is the maintenance of a microbial farm. You are the microbial farmer providing the food, water and air to the microbes (bacteria, fungi and protozoan). The end product, compost, is made by billions of worker microbes breaking down the organic material.



What tools are needed for composting? The basic elements for composting are organic material (food), air and water (all in the right quantities). Other tools include a bin to collect the elements and a turning device (pitchfork or shovel).

What materials can be used in composting? The organic material (food) of your composting pile can be anything growing in your yard. A balance of brown (carbon) and green (nitrogen) organic materials is necessary to provide the proper environmental conditions. The following is a list of some of the different materials that can be composted (this list is not inclusive):

Brown Materials (usually dry): evergreen needles, dry leaves, dried brown grass clippings, bark chips, straw, prunings and cuttings

Green Materials (usually moist): green leaves and weeds before they go to seed, vegetable/fruit peels, green grass clippings, coffee grounds (including the filter), tea bags, egg shells (crushed) and flowers

What materials should not be used in composting? Chemically-treated wood products, diseased plants, meat, bones, fatty food wastes, dairy products, pernicious weeds, human or pet wastes and charcoal or coal ashes shouldn't be used.

What is the schedule for watering and aerating? Moisten your dry materials as you add them to the pile. The composting process functions best when the pile is as moist as a wrung-out sponge. If the pile is too dry or too wet, it will significantly slow the process. For proper aeration, break up moist materials to prevent them from matting down. Turn the pile every so often to aerate.

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Now you have the basics to begin composting. For additional information check out these web sites: <http://go4green.sask.com/home/garden/compost1.html> or www.vegweb.com/composting/intro.shtml. Also, visit the "What's New" section of Western Disposal's web site, www.westerndisposal.com; there is an article listing free composting workshops and mini-seminars.

Windsorce® *Helping Create a Cleaner Future*



Your trash and recycling company is powered, in part, by wind! Western Disposal is proud to be one of over 21,000 customers statewide that support Windsorce®, a product of *Xcel Energy*SM.

Windsorce® is the largest customer-driven wind energy project in the United States. Buying

one 100-kilowatt hour block of wind energy each month for a year has the same environmental benefit as not driving a car 2,400 miles (saving carbon dioxide emissions) or planting a half-acre of trees. Wind as fuel has no air, water or waste emissions. Using wind power in place of coal, natural gas, or oil avoids the environmental impacts of mining, drilling, transporting and burning these fuels.

Windsorce® currently has two wind farms that are capable of generating a total of 74 megawatts of electricity. Ponnequin Wind Facility, located in northern Colorado, has 44 turbines. The second farm, where all the electricity is purchased from, is located in north-eastern Colorado near the town of Peetz. There are 30 turbines at that location.

Now *Xcel Energy*SM customers can decide how their electricity is generated. Use the application on the back page to join Western Disposal as a supporter of Windsorce®. For additional information visit their web site at www.cogreenpower.org.

Windsorce®
Helping create a cleaner future for Colorado.

Western Receives "Our World Award"



**Western Disposal President,
Gary Horton, with "Our World Award"**

Boulder Rotary Club honored Western Disposal for its contributions to conservation, preservation and increased awareness of the natural world.

Western was singled out for the award because of its recycling and landfill diversion programs and its support of local non-profits that also recycle and/or divert materials from landfills.

Western collects not only residential recyclables, but also collects cardboard and office paper from many of its commercial customers. Carol Ferre/Robert Pankrath. The cardboard and office paper is baled at Western's Transfer Station and then shipped to markets throughout the country.

At Western's Transfer Station the following materials are pulled from the incoming trash and sent to be reused or recycled: concrete, metals, cardboard and dimensional lumber.

Western provides one and one-half acres of land on 63rd Street rent-free to ReSource 2000, a non-profit that deconstructs buildings and sells the reusable materials.

Western provides a rent-free building to Retired Senior Volunteer Program, which matches retirees with free time and valuable talents with people in the community who need assistance.

Western is the prime sponsor of EXTRAs! *for education*, a non-profit that matches individuals and businesses with reusable equipment and materials with schools who can use the equipment and materials.

Many thanks to Boulder Rotary for their
"Our World Award."

How Commingled Containers Are Separated

In our last newsletter we promised to describe how commingled containers are separated for further recycling in preparation for delivery to end-markets.

After our recycle drivers pick up commingled containers from your house or business, they bring the “commingled” to the Boulder County Recycle Center (BCRC) located at 1901 - 63rd Street in Boulder. The trucks drive into the tipping hall where they unload. From there, the materials are pushed onto a conveyor belt and moved into the processing room for sorting. Next, a magnet sweeps the material and pulls out all steel (“tin”) cans and empty aerosol containers. In a flash, technology has separated the first item. Tom Dunn.

The materials then move over a shaker screen where pieces of trash or glass smaller than one inch are taken out. Small balls of aluminum foil, unfortunately, can drop down at this point and end up as trash; please flatten – don’t ball – your foil.

The next sort is one of “heavies vs. lights.” A column of air lifts the light plastic containers, aluminum, paper milk/soy cartons/drink boxes and any trash to the lightweight sorting conveyor belt. The heavier glass remains on the original belt and is hand-sorted by color and sent to roll-off containers ready for shipment to end-markets.

The “lights” continue their journey and pass a gauntlet of workers who hand-separate the mix into their own storage cage: #1 (PET) plastic bottles; #2 (HDPE) plastic bottles, and paper milk/soy cartons/drink boxes. At this point, the only two materials still on the belt are aluminum and any residual trash.

Now we all know that a magnet won’t stick to aluminum. But the final machine, an eddy-current separator, gives the metal a temporary charge, which allows the aluminum to literally jump from the belt like toast out of a toaster into its own storage cage. The trash continues on to be compacted and taken to the landfill. You can reduce the trash contamination by properly recycling and putting only the stated items in your recycling bin. Please keep trash out.

You can see much of this fascinating process yourself on a free, self-guided tour of the BCRC. For details, call 720-564-2220 or visit their web site at www.bouldercountyrecycles.net/.

Windsor[®] Application

Name _____
Company _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zip _____ Telephone # _____

Mail application to:
Xcel EnergySM
P.O. Box 840 - HSC
Denver, CO 80201-9716
1-800-824-1688

Indicate your level of commitment below: (the average home uses 600 kw/month)

- \$2.50 additional per month for 100 kw hours
 \$5.00 additional per month for 200 kw hours
 \$7.50 additional per month for 300 kw hours
 I would like 100% of my energy from Windsor[®]

*Additional charges
will be calculated on
your monthly Xcel
Energy bill*

I understand there is a one-year minimum commitment to the program, and I will continue to be enrolled in the program on a month-to-month basis until I notify Xcel Energy of a change in my commitment (either increased or decreased level of commitment).

Extra Trash Stickers



For city of Boulder customers under the pay-as-you-throw program, don’t forget to purchase your extra trash stickers at \$2.00 each and save 33% over the price of \$3.00 per 32-gallon container.

Stickers can be acquired in a number of ways (minimum order of five, unless purchased in person):

1. *Walk in*
Western’s Admin. Bldg.
5880 Butte Mill Road
2. *Phone*
303-444-2037
3. *Fax*
303-444-7509
4. *E-mail*
contact@westerndisposal.com
5. *Web site*
www.westerndisposal.com
6. *Mail*
P.O. Box 9100
Boulder, CO 90301



*Serving Boulder County
Since 1970*

Ways to Reach Us...

5880 Butte Mill Road • P.O. Box 9100
Boulder, Colorado 80301
ph. (303) 444-2037
fax (303) 444-7509
e-mail: contact@westerndisposal.com
www.westerndisposal.com