

Western

DISPOSAL SERVICES

A QUARTERLY UPDATE FOR OUR CUSTOMERS

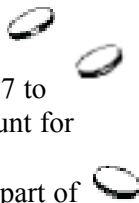
SUMMER 2003

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..... 7/04/03
- * Labor Day..... 9/01/03
- * Thanksgiving Day..... 11/27/03
- * Christmas Day..... 12/25/03
- * New Year's Day..... 1/01/04
- * Memorial Day..... 5/24/04

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.

Untangling the Confusion Over Plastics Recycling



by Marti Matsch, Eco-Cycle Communications Director,
reprinted with permission from Eco-Cycle and the *Daily Camera*.

If you've ever stood before your recycling bin wondering whether the plastic item you're about to toss in is kosher with the "recycling police," this column is dedicated to you. No doubt you've muttered to yourself (or at the top of your lungs) "Why do we need all these recycling guidelines and are the people who make up these rules conspiring to confuse me?" I hear ya. Here's an attempt to soothe your plastic perplexities.

Why can't plastic lids be recycled? They have the same number on them as the bottles.

The coding system on plastics is, without a doubt, one of the most confusing aspects of recycling. The number codes were originally intended as a plastics industry system, and not as a code for consumer recycling, so you can't necessarily go by the code's presence on a plastic product as an indication of its recyclability. That's why we specify the type of container in addition to the number.



The technical answer to this question takes us into a complicated lesson in polymer compatibility, but let me simplify for the majority of us who are simply looking for an answer and not a lesson in chemistry. In this case, although both the lid and the container might be made from the same plastic resin, the two were created via different manufacturing processes, giving them different melting points. At the same temperature, one may melt to the consistency of pudding, while the other is more liquidy, like soup. Bottom line, they're not compatible, so we ask you to throw away all plastic lids.

What is the difference between plastic bottles and tubs, and why can't tubs be recycled at the curb? (This question is usually followed by: Y'know, you can recycle more plastics in California.)

Back to the melting point explanation. Bottles and tubs also undergo different manufacturing processes, again, resulting in different melting points. At this time, there is a relatively stable market for bottles with a No. 1 or No. 2 on the bottom. However, the market for the tubs with a No. 2 or No. 5 is not only unstable, it is a money loser. We have to pay the markets to take the material, not the other way around. For this reason, we can only take a limited volume—the amount that comes in through the Boulder and Longmont drop-off centers. We are ALWAYS seeking new markets for plastics because they are our

Continued on Page Two

Plastics Recycling (continued from page 1)

No. 1 challenge, so by continuing to collect this limited volume at the two drop-off centers, we are able to use it for market development and research for expanded recycling opportunities.

Californians, you're right. You can recycle more plastics on the West Coast because most of the "low grade" plastics markets (such as the market for tubs) are in Asia and those who live on the Pacific Rim have more direct access to these markets.

Which plastic bags are recyclable, and why can't I recycle them at the curb?

The Eco-Cycle/City of Boulder Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials (ChaRM) will accept plastic bags with a No. 2 or No. 4 only (which primarily includes grocery bags, dry cleaning bags, and newspaper bags), and they **MUST** be clean, dry and empty. Eco-Cycle has long struggled with the notion of accepting plastic bags. If there was ever a material that put the "Hard" in "Hard-to-Recycle," it's plastic bags.

That's because there are so many contamination issues associated with them. Maurine and Michael Repucci. A little moisture left in a bag can create a "runny" effect in the remanufacturing stage, and receipts or food left in the bag create inconsistencies—all contaminants that will ruin a whole batch of new plastic. And, once again, plastic bags other than No. 2s and No. 4s melt at a different temperature and spoil the remanufactured material.

Without question, plastic bags are a lot trickier than any other item we accept. Because the guidelines for plastic bags are so specific, it does not work to accept them with other materials at the curb or at the drop-off centers and risk contamination. We accept them only at our staffed ChaRM center at 5030 Old Pearl. (Call 303-444-6634 for directions).

Of course, remember that reuse is always better than recycling. We still encourage you to avoid plastic bags whenever you can. When you do get them, reuse them before you recycle. (Unless you're a dog owner reusing newspaper bags; in that case, just reuse them and please forgo the recycling.)

Marti Matsch is communications director for Eco-Cycle, Boulder County's non-profit recycler since 1976. E-mail your eco-questions to marti@ecocycle.org.



Save Green by Going Green

Please note: This program is available to city of Boulder customers only.

Do you dispose of grass clippings and other yard waste as trash?

Do you want to save money?

Do you want to help the environment?

Sign up for Western Disposal's yard waste recycling program: your grass clippings, leaves, plant materials, brush and branches less than 6" in diameter will be recycled . . . and it costs less than disposing of the material as trash.

A cart is supplied for your use. Weekly collection is available from April 1 to November 30 on your regular service day. A 3-month minimum service term is required.

Rates:

32-gallon yard waste cart: \$6.00/month
save \$2.50 each month over disposing as trash

64-gallon yard waste cart: \$10.00/month
save \$7.00 each month over disposing as trash

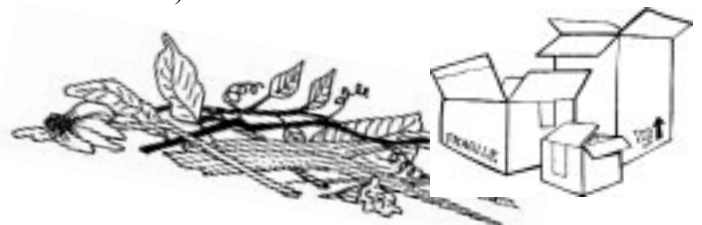
96-gallon yard waste cart: \$12.00/month
save \$13.50 each month over disposing as trash

To sign up for yard waste recycling, call our Customer Service Department at 303-444-2037 today.

Lighter Landfills

Western Disposal helped to divert 55.9 million pounds of recyclables from the landfill in 2002. Highlights include:

- ➔41.5% (23,190,000 lbs.) of the total recycled was collected from single-family residences and from multi-unit residential complexes.
- ➔23.8% (13,295,600 lbs.) of the total recycled was yard-waste and woodwaste diversion.
- ➔26.8% (14,973,000 lbs.) of the total was fiber (paper/cardboard) and commingled container materials collected from commercial and industrial businesses.
- ➔7.9% (4,408,800 lbs.) of the total was additional material Western pulled directly out of the trash at our Transfer Station (i.e., cardboard, scrap metal and concrete).



Windsorce® - Helping Create a Cleaner Future

Your trash and recycling company is powered, in part, by the wind! Western Disposal is proud to be one of over 30,000 people and 500 businesses 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 benefits 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.

The average home uses approximately 600 kWh of electricity each month. One megawatt of wind energy can provide the electricity needs for approximately 300 households. A 660 kW wind turbine will produce 1.8 million kWh of electricity per year. There are 1,000,000 watts or 1,000 kilowatts in a megawatt.

Windsorce® currently has three wind farms that are capable of generating a total of 236 megawatts of electricity. Ponnequin Wind Facility, located in northern Colorado, has 44 turbines. The second farm from which Xcel purchases electricity is located in northeastern Colorado near the town of Peetz. There are 30 turbines at that location. The third location is near Lamar in southern Colorado and will generate 162 mw of wind power. Colorado is the 11th greatest potential wind resource of all states in the country. We have the potential to generate 481 billion kWh per year from wind.

Now *Xcel Energy*SM customers can decide how their electricity is generated. Use the application on the back page of this newsletter 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.



Water Conservation Tips

If you've heard anything on the news lately about the drought, you know that experts are saying that even with all of the moisture Colorado has received this winter, our reservoir water levels are still below average. We have gathered some helpful tips that you may be able to use this summer to cut back on your water use:

Indoors:

- Turn off the water when brushing your teeth, shaving or washing your face.
- Take a 3-5 minute shower instead of a bath and replace showerheads with an ultra-low-flow version.
- Don't flush foreign matter (for example: tissues, insects or cigarette butts) down toilets.
- Investigate and repair all water leaks. Check regularly for dripping taps and leaking toilets (use a few drops of food coloring in the tank). A faucet dripping at the rate of one drop per second wastes 2,700 gallons of water per year.



Outdoors:

- Sweep walks and driveways instead of hosing them down with water.
- Reduce vehicle washing. Use a nozzle that will stop water flow completely when not in use.
- If your local water restrictions allow, set sprinkler timers to water between 6pm and 6am to avoid excessive evaporation and water only every third day.
- Raise lawnmower blade to at least 3 inches; this encourages grass roots to grow deeper and shades the root system, holding soil moisture.
- Avoid over-fertilizing; this increases the need for water.
- Mulch to retain moisture in the soil and to control weeds that compete for water.
- Utilize xeriscaping (using low water requiring plants and strategic watering systems), which can reduce landscape water use by 70% or more.

City of Boulder's Annual Spring Clean-Up Results for 2003

Boulder's Curbside Spring CleanUp 2003 was completed on May 17. More than **11,785** Boulder households contributed materials to this year's annual Spring CleanUp. Each household put out an average of **420** pounds of organics to be recycled. This is a 50 percent increase per stop over what was collected in 2002. Michael and Lynn Manders. As a whole, everyone's efforts kept more than **2,431** tons (more than a 55 percent increase over 2002) of organics out of the landfill. Great job by all city of Boulder residents!

In addition, at the site on 63rd Street, **residents dropped off more than 750 tons of branches.**

Western Disposal's Transfer Station Free Recycling Drop-off

Recyclables Drop-off

Cardboard, office paper, commingled containers, newspaper

Yard Waste Drop-off (City of Boulder Program)

Free to city of Boulder residents, discounted to commercial and Boulder County residents

Summer Hours: Monday-Saturday 7:00 am - 5:00 pm

Boulder County Household Hazardous Waste

Call 303-441-4800 for information

Hours: Wednesday 8:00 am - 3:30 pm

Friday/Saturday 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

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



If you live in the city of Boulder, don't forget to purchase your extra trash stickers at \$2.00 each and save 35% over the price of \$3.15 per 32-gallon container.

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

1. In person
Western's Admin. Bldg.
5880 Butte Mill Road
2. By phone
303-444-2037
3. By fax
303-444-7509
4. By electronic mail
contact@westerndisposal.com
5. Via web site
www.westerndisposal.com
6. By mail
P.O. Box 9100
Boulder, CO 80301



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



20% Post Consumer Waste