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Holiday Schedule

Residential customers looking for up-to-date information about our holiday schedule, call our Holiday Hotline at 303-448-2280 or visit: westerndisposal.com.

The following holidays are observed by Western Disposal:

- Thanksgiving Day .. Nov. 22, 2018
- Christmas Day Dec. 25, 2018
- New Year's DayJan. 1, 2019
- Memorial Day May 27, 2019
- Independence Day ... July 4, 2019
- Labor Day.....Sept. 2, 2019

THE NEW ECONOMICS OF RECYCLING

In the 1990's, United States' recycling programs expanded dramatically to divert more materials from the landfills while at the same time China's appetite for recyclable materials kept growing to help feed their economic engine. The recycling industry became very successful at diverting materials from landfills, conserving natural resources and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by collecting, sorting, hauling and marketing recyclables to their end markets. For years, China had been the largest purchaser of recyclable materials collected in the United States. According to the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, a trade association known as the "Voice of the Recycling Industry", 31% of the United States' recovered material, worth \$5.6 billion, was exported to China in 2017.

As US cities and counties zealously expanded recycling programs to decrease materials heading to landfills, more and more trash became part of the bales of recyclables that we exported to China, up to 20% or more of the total weight according to one industry expert².

Over the past year, China has taken many steps to limit the volume of recyclable materials coming into their country including import bans on certain recyclable materials, imposing strict quality standards on contamination levels and developing a long-term plan to create a domestic recycling industry and infrastructure to recover their own recyclable materials and stop importing. This has had a significant impact on US recycling and the rest of the world. The new normal is that China and now other countries don't want foreign garbage inundating their ports and mills anymore.

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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: BOULDER BUSINESS LOOMS LARGE IN SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS

In Boulder, the farm to table concept is well known and practiced by many Boulder restaurants to help customers see the connection between the food served and the farms where this food grows. In addition, many of us also maintain our own gardens to feed our families fresh healthy foods.

This connection to farms, while popular in the food movement, is generally uncommon in the clothing world. How many of us have ever used the term "farm to fabric"? Typically, we have little connection between the clothes we wear every day and the farms producing the cotton, wool, etc or the factories making these garments.

However, one Boulder company has spent nearly 50 years literally building this connection. Founded in 1969 by Barry and Dan Schacht, Schacht Spindle Company, Inc., manufactures wool products for hand weaving and hand spinning right here in their Boulder factory. Their main products Derek Fehrer & Dulce Monteiro Mendes include spinning wheels that are used to weave raw materials such as wool, cotton or hemp into yarn, and looms which are used to weave yarn to create fabric. Schacht distributes these products worldwide, enabling weavers and spinners to use materials right from a farm or fiber mill to create their own clothing, blankets, etc. Truly a farm to fabric process!

Schacht Spindle prides themselves on using sound and honest business practices to create a profitable and successful company and do so while acting in a socially and environmentally responsible manner. According to Lance Blom, facilities manager, Schacht Spindle's leadership is continuously imparting environmental sustainability practices and education to all staff.

Their environmental efforts promote waste diversion, energy savings, and locally grown food. For waste diversion, Schacht Spindle partners with Western Disposal for trash, recycling and compost services. In addition, Western hauls all of the sawdust generated during the production of their looms and spindles to Academy Stables in Lafayette for use as horse bedding. Finally, any larger wood scraps are provided for use by hobbyists, schools, woodworkers, etc for art or other types of projects. These efforts in diversion have resulted in a diversion rate of over 70% of their materials from the landfill.

While connecting people to their fabrics, they also create a connection for their employees to locally produced food by providing community garden plots for employee use to grow their own food. In addition, they have chickens on site and employees can volunteer to care for the chickens in exchange for the eggs that are produced.

Finally, they have retrofitted their facility with LED lighting to reduce their energy use. Western is proud to assist Schacht Spindle with their diversion efforts and appreciate partnering with another long term local company. We applaud their efforts and look forward to continuing our relationship for long into the future. For more information on Schacht Spindle, please visit www.schachtspindle.com.



Can I Recycle...?

You've got the basics down, now it's time to up your game. Take the "pulp fiction" quiz below to see how well you know the Boulder County Recycling Center's paper recycling guidelines.

Fact or fiction - the following papers are recyclable:

- A. Copy or printer paper-ream wrappers
 - B. Hanging and file folders
 - C. Construction paper and tissue paper
 - D. Gift wrap
 - E. Bright colored paper
 - F. Thermal paper receipts
 - G. Tea bag envelopes and sugar packets
 - H. Meat-wrapping paper
 - I. Juice boxes
- A. **Fiction:** Strive to buy paper with as much recycled content as possible but put the wrappers in the trash – they're typically coated with plastic film.
- B. **Fact:** Cleaning your office? Toss hanging and file folders in the recycle bin.
- C. **Fiction:** The fibers in construction and tissue papers are too short to be reused. Like napkins and tissues however, they CAN go in the compost.
- D. **Fiction:** For the most part, gift wrap is short fiber, often embellished with metallic and sometimes finished with a plastic film. It should go in the trash 50 weeks per year. For the two weeks following the holiday season the Recycling Center usually sets up a drop-off bin at 1901 63rd St. in Boulder.
- E. **Fiction:** These are made with a "beater" dye, which means that the dye is literally beat into the fiber. Recycle these Francesca Painter and it's like putting a new red t-shirt in with a load of white laundry. Deposit in your compost bin.
- F. **Fiction:** Contains plastic; should be thrown in the trash.
- G. **Fiction:** Like so much single-use packaging, these are typically finished with plastic. Trash.
- H. **Fiction:** What do you think keeps the meat "juices" from leaking out? That's right, plastic. You know what to do.
- I. **Fact:** These and other aseptic containers, often made by Tetra-pak are paper-based but do require a special recycling process. The good news is the Boulder County Recycling Center has a partnership with a processor that processes this material. Put in the recycle bin but remove and trash the straw first.

Thanks for playing!

THE NEW ECONOMICS OF RECYCLING *(continued from page 1)*

Is it China's fault or our own fault? depends on your perspective. China shed a light on the United States' sloppy recycling practices and exposed the fact that waste diversion does not necessarily equal recycling. We need to recycle to create a new product that is valued in the marketplace without using virgin materials, not to blindly divert materials in the name of recycling. We have become wishful and aspirational in our recycling by setting out items for collection that we believe or wish are recyclable, even though they are not. US mills have long complained about the quality of materials they purchase from our domestic material recovery facilities (MRFs) and now the pressure to reduce contamination is not just coming from China.

A Brief History

- China's widely publicized crackdown on importing certain materials recovered through recycling was announced in February 2017. Initially this "National Sword" program focused on halting smuggling operations using illegal permits to import scrap materials and scrutinizing bales of low grade plastics for contamination and paper with high moisture content. By the spring of 2017, it became evident this program would be used to access the overall quality of all material loads imported into the county, legally or illegally.
- In July 2017, China announces a ban on all imports of recovered mixed paper and post-consumer plastics, textiles and scrap metal by the end of 2017. At the same time, they issued a policy document describing a big picture plan to stop importing recovered materials that can be recovered domestically.
- In November 2017, China announces a new quality standard for material limiting contamination to just 0.5%. This standard would apply to all paper and paperboard materials, even those not banned such as newspaper (ONP) and cardboard (OCC) effective March 2018.
- In January 2018, many US exporters to China were now trying to ship materials to southeast Asia, i.e., Vietnam, Malaysia and Taiwan to find a home for our materials.
- By August 2018, Chinese buyers had not been issued permits to buy any import materials since May, so the fallout was now affecting municipal programs and material recovery facilities in the US.
- In August 2018, Taiwan and Vietnam made announcements to heavily limit recycling imports than were now overwhelming their ports and manufacturing facilities.
- In August of 2018, China announced a 25% tariff on all US imports of cardboard (OCC) and other recovered fiber and plastic in retaliation for the latest US tariff proposals on China.

How have all these changes impacted United States' recycling?

- 1) Higher processing costs to meet the new quality standards. Material recovery facilities (MRFs) must slow down their sorting lines and add more sorters to manually remove more contaminants from the material stream. This has lowered the efficiency of the MRFs and increased their processing costs.
- 2) Higher tipping fees charged, and/or lower rebates paid for source separated material by material processing facilities (MRFs). In many markets the tipping fee for single-stream recyclables drop-off is now higher than the areas landfill tipping fees.
- 3) Lower revenues from the sale of materials due to depressed commodity prices. The loss of our export market to China has led to less demand and oversupply which in turn has led to lower revenues on some materials, negative pricing on others and overall lower revenue to single-stream processing facilities.
- 4) Increase in monthly recycle collection fees to both commercial and residential customers. When collection programs, both private and public, must pay more and/or receive less to have their recycle materials processed, these costs are being passed onto consumers in the form of higher collection rates and lower rebates.
- 5) Higher Capital Improvement Costs. To meet the new higher quality standards, some material recovery facility (MRF) owners and operators must install more costly sorting equipment such as optical sorters or robotic sorters to make their materials marketable.
- 6) Unavailability of markets and storage. The inability of our domestic market and other foreign markets to absorb our materials previously sent to China has disrupted our supply chain. Some of the recycled materials are not able to find a viable end market, so they are being eliminated from recycling programs or are being landfilled until a market solution is created. Some materials are being temporarily stockpiled for those who have storage space, in hopes of finding a market in the future and for facilities without storage capacity, there is no choice but to landfill materials that have no market.

Currently the most problematic materials to find economically viable end markets for are glass, mixed paper and plastics # 3-7.

How have these changes impacted local recycling?

To date there have not been any changes to programs in the local area. Both Boulder County and Boulder County's Recycle Center operator, Eco-Cycle, have done a great job of processing and marketing local materials during difficult times. Eco-Cycle has been able to find markets for all materials even when others have not. The facility model does not produce a mixed paper product, but rather a sorted office paper product which still has a strong market value. They have not been plagued with the revenue loss or lack of market for paper that some other facilities have. Thanks to the efforts of local residents and businesses, the Boulder County Recycle Center boasts a contamination rate of less than 10% (less than half of the national average of 20% to 25%). Boulder County and our local communities are also fortunate to have Momentum Recycling located in Broomfield to process their glass materials and Rocky Mountain Bottling in Golden to buy the glass cullet created for the manufacturing of new bottles. Many other markets and areas of the country do not have the advantage we do for our glass.

(continued on page 3)

THE NEW ECONOMICS OF RECYCLING (continued from page 3)

The Boulder County Recycle Center has not been immune to the higher processing costs and lower revenues from commodity pricing. As a result, the County has been increasing the tipping fee it charges for residential single-stream material. Western Disposal was not charged a tipping fee from January – March 2018. The tipping fee charge increased to \$5.00 per ton in April and May 2018, to \$10.00 per ton in June 2018, and in July, August and September 2018 it increased to \$15.00 per ton. The commercial single-stream tipping has remained at \$0.00 all of 2018 (January to September).

Consumers in the United States, largely unaware of these new regulations and developments, expect the materials they put in the recycle carts to be recycled and have come to expect the recycling service should be free.

The recycling industry must face the new normal for the recycling economics by working together to recycle correctly, improve the processing and capabilities of our material recovery facilities (MRFs), find and develop domestic markets to use our recovered materials and engage in the conversation to make clear that recycling is not free.

The new recycling economy is not the cyclical pattern that we have seen in the past, this is the new normal. Recycling is the right thing to do, but it will require new actions to make our recovered materials marketable and to create new markets. We can no longer continue as if its business as usual and we must make fundamental changes as an industry. These necessary changes include:

- 1) Investment in domestic manufacturing infrastructure that can utilize our recycled plastic, fiber materials and scrap metal. We need to become self-sufficient and not rely on the rest of the world to take our discards.
- 2) Development of new domestic markets for our materials which will increase their value and help change the new economics of recycling.
- 3) Increase education at all levels so that materials delivered to our material recovery facilities (MRFs) are as free of contaminants as possible. Focus our efforts to reduce contamination on the core recyclable materials and not add new materials that don't have developed markets. Diversion does not equal recycling.
- 4) Make sure we are producing high quality recyclables from our material recovery facilities (MRFs), so they are desired by both domestic and international markets.
- 5) Communicate with our generators, customers both commercial and residential and our recycling partners with transparency about the economic realities of recycling and why their actions and help are so important. This is an industry and global wide issue and not a local issue Everyone is now feeling the pain of the new recycling economy.

¹ China's Scrap Trade Policy (2018, September 4) Retrieved from <http://www.isri.org/advocacy-compliance/china>

² Tita, Bob, Recycling, Once Embraced by Businesses and Environmentalists, Now Under Siege, The Wall Street Journal, May 2018

³ Other sources used to compile this information include: *Waste Advantage Magazine, Recycle.com, National Waste & Recycling Association, Resource Recycling, Waste Dive and Waste 360*

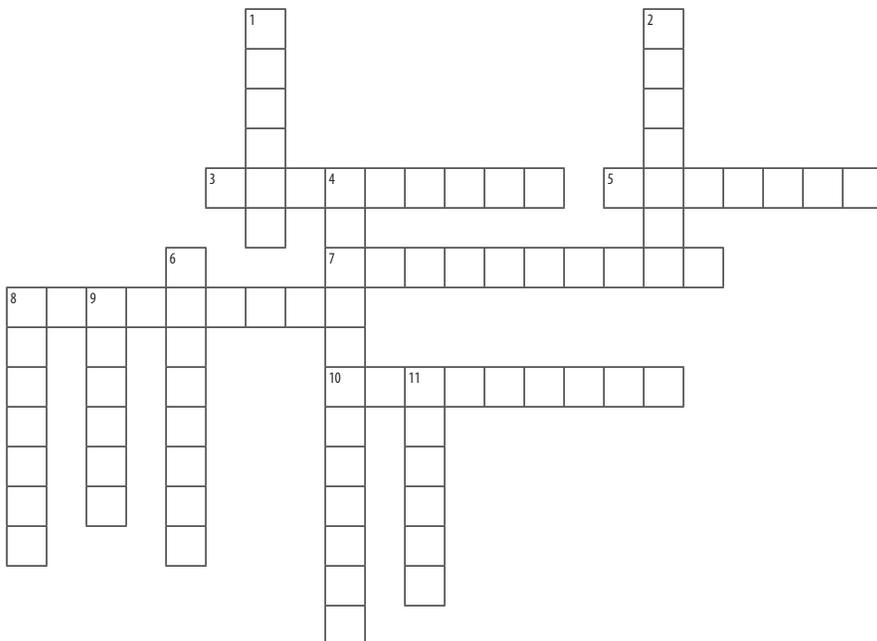
FREE CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING AT THE CURB FOR RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS

After the holidays are over, don't put your tree in the trash—leave it at the curb next to your compost cart to be composted. Western will pick up your tree on your compost collection day. If your tree is taller than 6 feet, please cut into lengths no longer than 6 feet so that the driver can fit it in the truck. Remember—remove all nails, ornaments, plastic, tinsel, stands and lights before Carl Hager & Michelle Cox-Hager setting your tree out for collection! Also, flocked trees and wire-based wreaths are not compostable.

If you are a Western residential customer, but do not have compost service, put your tree at the curb by your cart on your trash collection day during the month of January, and we will pick it up with your trash at no additional charge. These trees will **NOT** be composted. If you would like to have your tree composted, bring it to our Trash and Recycle Center. (If you are a resident of the city of Boulder, there is no charge.)



FALL IN TO FALL Gear up for the chilly weather and sweaters with Western by completing the crossword puzzle below.



Across:

3	Month when the autumn equinox occurs
5	Large, orange gourd, typically carved in to a jack-o-lantern
7	Fall beverage, sometimes served hot
8	'Trick or Treat'
10	Ragged guardian of a cornfield

Down:

1	Traditional bird served at Thanksgiving dinner
2	Halloween garb
4	A day of giving thanks for the blessing of the harvest
6	Popular American sport played during this time of year
8	Period of gathering crops
9	These begin to change in color as the temperature drops
11	The season that marks the transition from summer to winter

AREA LEAF COLLECTION PROGRAMS



City of Boulder and Boulder County:

Bring your leaves to the City and County sponsored yard waste drop-off located at Western Disposal's Trash and Recycle Center. City and County residents receive a 40% discount off the normal disposal fee. You can also utilize your Western curbside compost service.

Drop-off location: 5880 Butte Mill Road, Boulder

Days & hours of operation: 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday-Saturday through November 17. Beginning Saturday, November 24th, Saturday hours are 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Lafayette:

Drop-off location:

City Service Center 1700 Avalon Avenue, Lafayette.

Days & hours of operation: October 29th – November 30th, Monday – Friday, 6:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Saturday, November 17th, 9:00 a.m. – 1 p.m. Closed November 12th (Veteran's Day) & November 22nd (Thanksgiving) For more information visit: www.cityoflafayette.com

Louisville:

Residents please check the city of Louisville's website at www.louisvilleco.gov for current information on this year's dates and location.



Longmont:

The City of Longmont offers residents FREE curbside collection of bagged leaves each fall. Pick-up free leaf bags at the Waste Diversion Center (140 Martin Street) while supplies last. Only one pass will be made through each neighborhood, so be sure to have leaves out before 7am on Monday of your designated leaf pick-up week. Find the schedule online at LongmontColorado.gov/WasteServices or by calling (303) 651-8416. For those that miss the curbside collection, the Longmont Waste Diversion Center accepts yard-waste all year. You can also sign up for composting service through the City to enjoy curbside collection of yard waste and more throughout the year!

Broomfield:

Residents can drop off their fallen leaves and discarded pumpkins at the Broomfield Tree Limb Recycling Center located at 225 Commerce Street.

Days & hours of operation: Wednesday, October 10th through Saturday, December 1st Wednesdays, 1:00 to 5 p.m., Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (the tree limb drop-off is closed at all other times). Attendant will be on duty, and proof of residency is required.

YES...IT'S REALLY THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!

Hope to see you again this year at your local Holiday Parade

Boulder Lights of December: Saturday, December 1, 6:00 pm

Louisville Parade of Lights: Friday, December 7, 5:30 pm



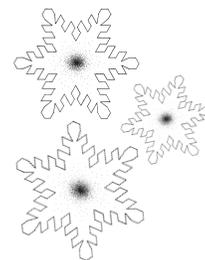
Crossword Answers

Across: 3. September, 5. Pumpkin, 7. Harvest, 8. Halloween, 10. Scarecrow

Down: 1. Turkey, 2. Costume, 4. Thanksgiving, 6. Football, 8. Harvest, 9. Leaves, 11. Autumn

SNOW REMOVAL

During the winter, snow and ice make it difficult for our drivers to access and maneuver your collection containers. To ensure that your containers can be emptied, please remove any snow in front of your containers or enclosures, especially drifts or piles.



Win One Month Free Trash Service

Several lucky residential 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.

TRASH & RECYCLE CENTER

Extended Hours Continue Until November 17, 2018: 7 A.M. – 5 P.M. Monday - Saturday
Winter Hours: November 19, 2018 – March 31, 2019; Monday – Friday 7 A.M. – 5 P.M. Saturday 7 A.M. – 2 P.M.

Online Billing

Don't forget we offer convenient online billing and payment options. Eliminate paper invoices and have the peace of mind of automatic payments – or make instant one-time payments. Visit westerndisposal.com and sign in or sign up under "My Account".

If you go paperless and want to continue to receive your newsletter, sign up for e-minders at westerndisposal.com.



Locally Owned and Operated Since 1970

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