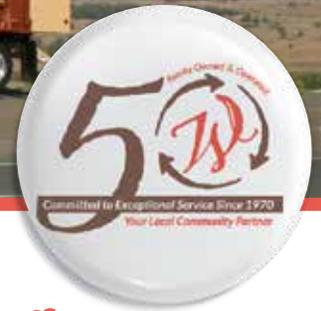




# Newsletter

## Fall 2020



### Holiday Schedule

If your pickup day falls on a weekday on or after any of the holidays listed below, your pickup will be delayed by one day during that week. Friday collections will take place on Saturday.

The following upcoming holidays are observed by Western Disposal:

Thanksgiving Day — Nov. 26, 2020

Christmas Day — Dec. 25, 2020

New Year's Day — Jan. 1, 2021

For holidays not listed above, your residential collection service will not be affected. For questions give us a call at 303-444-2037 or refer to your collection calendar.

### Business Spotlight: The Buff



Founded in 1995 by Jacquie and Chris Meyer, The Buff Restaurant in Boulder quickly became an institution for residents and visitors alike. Now in their 25th year, this family owned and operated restaurant is known for their incredible breakfasts, welcoming atmosphere, and their \$0.99 breakfast cocktails. The Buff also prides itself on working with numerous local companies including Ozo Coffee, Polidori Sausage, Mile High Spirits, Sherpa Chai, Odell Brewing, and Boulder Granola.

Environmental sustainability is a key priority for The Buff. According to Jacquie, "we always instilled environmental consciousness in our operations even before it was a groovy thing to do." One of their most impressive achievements is in waste diversion. Through their diligent efforts, The Buff diverts 95% of their waste! To achieve this incredible result, Jacquie and Chris focus on four main areas:

1. Recycle and compost service. The Buff subscribes to recycle and compost service through Western Disposal and recycles and/or composts all the waste they can.
2. Employee training. This is a continuous effort for both new and existing staff to teach them how to properly recycle and compost.
3. Focus on opportunities for waste reduction. Staff are constantly thinking about materials they use that end up as waste and seeking options to eliminate the waste. For example, they purchase ketchup in reusable glass jars from a local ketchup company called Elevation Ketchup rather than disposable plastic bottles. In addition, they work with another local company, Royal Crest Dairy, for re-usable glass containers for milk.

4. Be creative. The Buff has always used all cloth napkins and found a company called Riegel Linens making cloth napkins out of recycled plastic bottles. In addition, when the Buff moved to its current location at 2600 Canyon in 2014, the wood from the previous restaurant's booths were made into new booths, and some of the new wood walls were created by turning around the old existing beadboard.

Despite the challenges of operating during the current COVID crisis, The Buff has done its best to weather the challenges. They are offering expanded outdoor seating and pick up/delivery options while striving to maintain a safe environment for guests and staff through sterilization, masks, and social distancing.

We are so proud to partner with The Buff on their waste disposal efforts and applaud their achievements in waste diversion.

### Introducing The Waste Wizard!

What do I do with?... is by far the most frequently asked question we receive. And for good reason – the proliferation of food and product packaging, shipping material, and take-out containers, not to mention all our "stuff", can be overwhelming when it is time to dispose of it. Enter the Waste Wizard!

Located on the home page of our website, the Waste Wizard tool is a robust, searchable database that will deliver information about what goes where in a few keystrokes. Check it out at [westerndisposal.com](http://westerndisposal.com)!

WASTE WIZARD English Need help? Share

Type the name of a waste item and we'll tell you how to recycle or dispose of it.

## Recycling Textiles

“Old rags, any old rags!” was a call heard on many city streets from the late nineteenth century into the 1960s, as the rag man rumbled by collecting textiles from households. In fact, textile recycling can be traced all the way back to the Napoleonic wars (1803-1815) when virgin wool shortages resulted in the requirement that wool fibers be collected and reused. Zahid Qureshi Today, we are more familiar with the Goodwill drop or USAgain bin. Nonetheless, textile recycling continues to make sense economically, socially and environmentally.

The advent of synthetic fibers and fast fashion clothing trends have made textile recycling more complicated, but technology has risen to the challenge. Wearable clothing is processed for reuse, non-wearable synthetics are processed into feedstock for engineered plastics, and both natural and synthetic non-wearables can be processed into lower-grade fabrics with myriad end uses. The main objective for textile recycling is the re-use of clothing that would otherwise find its way to the landfill, where natural fibers generate methane and synthetics may leach toxins into the ground. Re-use of clothes can reduce pollution and energy consumption by decreasing new production and the impact of getting products to the end user.

Important U.S. Facts (source: Environmental Protection Agency):

- In 2014, 16 million tons of textile waste was generated in the US:
  - 2.62 Million tons were recycled
  - 3.14 Million tons were combusted for energy recovery
  - 10.46 Million tons were landfilled
- The average American discards 80 pounds of clothes per year
- The average lifetime of a piece of clothing is 3 years

Many Americans consider re-use a top priority and make donations to charities such as Goodwill, ARC, and The Salvation Army. Recently, for-profit clothing collection bins such as USAgain have increased in popularity. Allen & Karen Urbanowski

The listed charities evaluate and sort clean, desirable clothes and place them for sale in retail stores. According to the Council for Textile Recycling, nearly 50% of used clothing is given to charities by the general public and 61% of reusable textiles are exported to other countries. More than 70% of the world population uses secondhand clothing.

There are many ways to give your used clothing a second life, including clothing swaps, re-fashioning an old item into something fresh, selling to a consignment shop or repurposing at home as cleaning cloths, aprons or art projects.

Covid-19 put a temporary stop to donations, but collections are flowing again. In addition to donating to your favorite charity, EcoCycle’s CHARM center, located at 6400 Arapahoe in Boulder, offers options for clothing and textile recycling.

Visit: <https://www.ecocycle.org/a-zguide/clothing-and-fabrics>.



### The Way to a Better Environment

Established in 1970 with the belief that a local company providing dependable, environmentally friendly waste collection services would benefit the entire community, Western has remained local and is still going strong 50 years later. We take pride in being an engaged community partner, innovating and implementing best practices in responsible waste management and environmental stewardship, and always looking ahead.

**1986**  
INNOVATE

Maintenance Manager Jack Seader designed and developed three-compartment recycling trucks to collect recyclables in Boulder and take the city’s recycling into the 20th century.

**2003**  
BREAK GROUND

Western Disposal opened the first — and only — fully permitted composting facility in the county.



**1970**

THE BEGINNING

Western Disposal was founded by Boulder native Dan Souders.

**2001**

GO GREEN

Western Disposal becomes the first company in the state to switch to automated collection trucks and wheeled collection carts for trash and dual-stream recycling. At the time of conversion, the City’s recycling rate was just 17%. Within a year and a half, the recycling rate doubled to 34% due to Western’s provision of large recycling carts.



# The Future is Here

## Western fueling fleet with renewable natural gas

In early 2020, Western Disposal finalized an agreement with the City of Boulder for the purchase of renewable natural gas (RNG) generated at the city's Water Resources Recovery Facility (WRRF). The RNG will be produced by a new system that will convert biogas, which is derived from the breakdown of organic matter in sewage, into RNG. The system came online in August 2020 and its output will fuel up to 38 of Western's 56 collection vehicles.

## What is RNG?

As organic matter decomposes, it emits methane gas, called biogas. RNG is a biogas-derived, high-BTU gas that is comprised predominantly of methane after the biogas is cleaned and conditioned to remove most of its contaminants and the majority of its carbon dioxide and nitrogen. This process brings it up to natural gas pipeline quality standards which can be blended with, or substituted for, fossil-derived natural gas Peter Galvin. The Coalition for Renewable Natural Gas describes RNG as "an ultra-clean, ultra-low carbon natural gas alternative".

## Why switch to fueling with RNG?

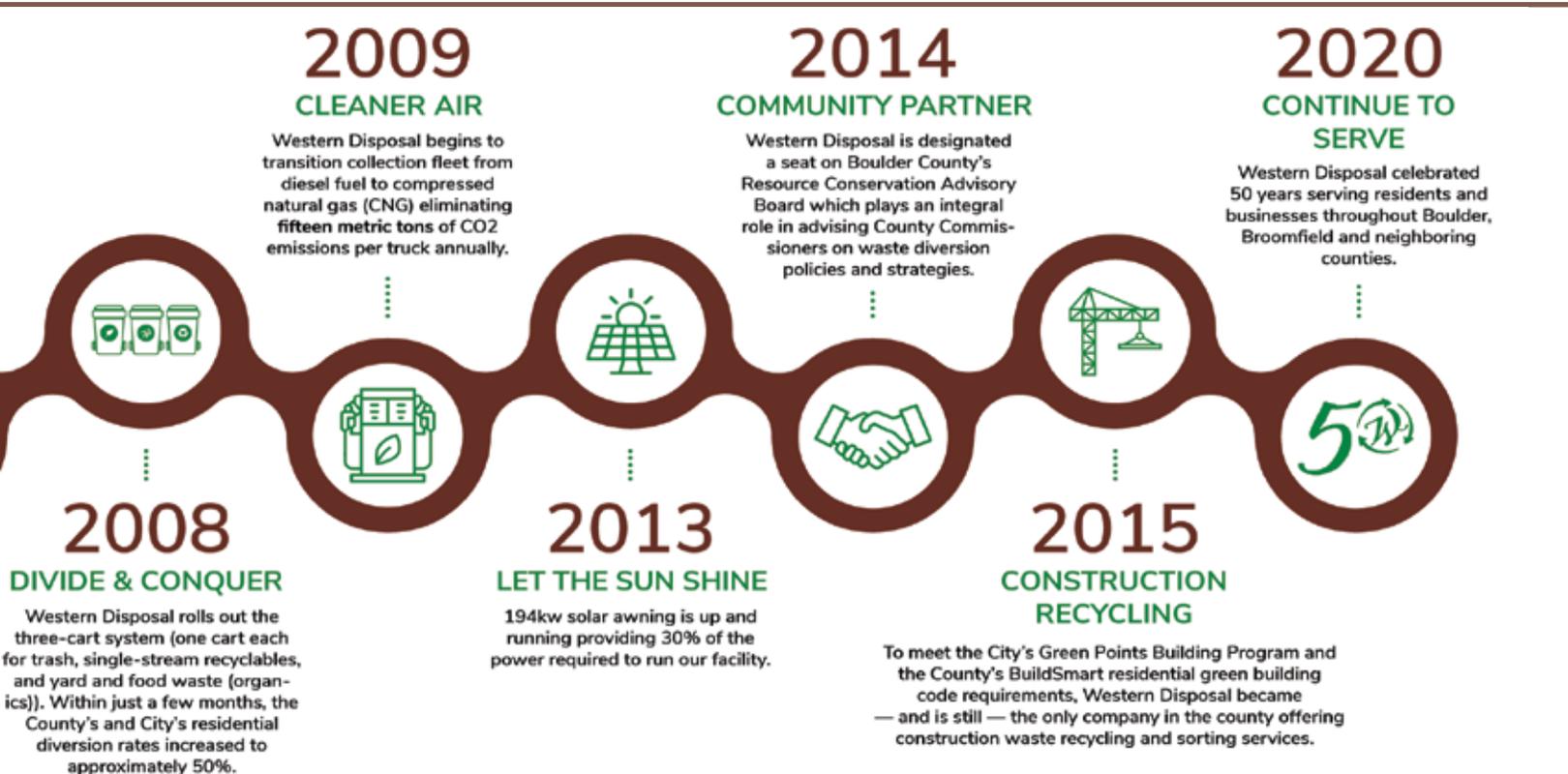
According to the U.S. EPA, natural gas is the cleanest option of all fossil fuels and replacing diesel with natural gas vehicle fuel, as Western Disposal has done with its fleet, reduces pollutant emissions and improves local air quality. So why take the next step to RNG?

RNG is renewable because its biogas feedstock is generated continuously, as opposed to fossil natural gas which is finite. Its production diversifies fuel supplies thus increasing local fuel security. Local economic benefits accrue through construction and maintenance of infrastructure, fuel production employment and RNG vehicle and fuel sales.

RNG provides additional benefit over fossil natural gas because it generally has a lower total carbon intensity ("CI", also known as carbon footprint), after accounting for emissions from fuel production, transport and use. RNG's CI is even lower when reduced CH4 emissions otherwise emitted from the organic waste used to produce the fuel are taken into account. The EPA has published data showing the average CI for RNG derived from wastewater recovery is 30 versus 80 for fossil CNG and 100 for diesel.

Western was one of the first waste haulers in Colorado to convert from diesel to compressed natural gas for its vehicle fleet, and our partnership with the City of Boulder to use its RNG is another step forward in reducing our carbon footprint. We've been serving Boulder and the surrounding communities for 50 years and are committed to being a key partner in helping to meet community climate goals.

Source credits: rngcoalition.com, epa.gov: An Overview of Renewable Natural Gas from Biogas, bouldercolorado.gov/water/wastewater-treatment



## Managing Fall Yard Waste

As the seasons change to fall and winter, your curbside composting capacity may be stretched. Western Disposal is here to assist you with options for diverting these materials from the landfill and turning them into compost.

### City of Boulder and Boulder County

#### Leaves & Pumpkins

Leaves and pumpkins can be placed in your compost cart or in compostable bags outside of your cart and will be collected on your compost collection day. If you do not have curbside compost or the leaves are overwhelming you, they can be dropped off at our Trash & Recycling Center for a fee. The City of Boulder and Boulder County subsidizes this drop-off program with a 40% discount which means residents pay only 60% of the drop off fee.



Starting November 1st and running through Thanksgiving, Western sets up free leaf drop off right across the street from our Trash & Recycle Center in the Stazio Ball Fields' parking lot. Barbara Yaeger During business hours (Mon-Fri: 7am – 5pm, Sat: 7am – 2pm), customers can drop off their leaves and pumpkins for free in the roll-offs provided.

#### Christmas Trees

Those with curbside compost service can place the tree outside of your compost bin on your compost collection day. Trees longer than 6 feet should be cut in half and please remove all ornaments and tinsel. If you do not have curbside compost and would still like to keep your tree out of the landfill, you can drop it off at our Trash & Recycle Center. We will be accepting trees beginning December 26 through the end of January.



### Broomfield

Customers in Broomfield can take their leaves and pumpkins to the City of Broomfield's Tree Branch Recycle Center located at 2990 W. 124th Avenue, Broomfield.

Hours of operation: Wednesdays, 1 - 5 p.m. and Saturdays, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

#### Leaf Drop Off Start and End Dates

Saturday 10-17-2020 through Saturday 1-9-2021

#### Pumpkin Drop Off Start and End Dates

Saturday 10-24-2020 through Saturday 1-9-2021

## 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.

## Paperless Billing

Sign up for paperless billing and receive your newsletter electronically! Visit [westerndisposal.com](http://westerndisposal.com) and sign in or sign up under "my account".

## Trash & Recycle Center

### Winter Hours Beginning

**November 28, 2020:**

**Monday – Friday 7 AM – 5 PM**

**Saturday 7 AM – 2 PM**

**Phone: 303-444-5794**



**Committed to Exceptional Service Since 1970**

5880 Butte Mill Rd. • P.O. Box 9100  
Boulder, Colorado 80301

Phone: (303) 444-2037

Fax: (303) 444-7509

**contact@westerndisposal.com**  
**[westerndisposal.com](http://westerndisposal.com)**