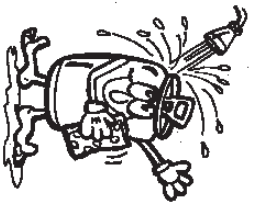
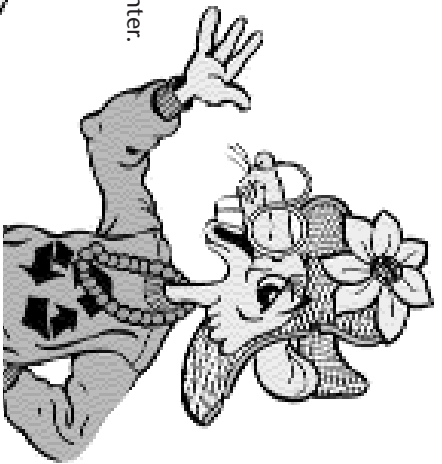


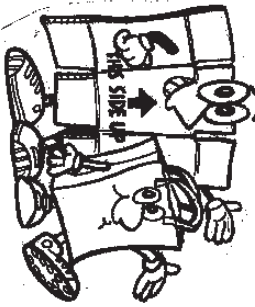
# Hey Kids!

*How much do you know about recycling?*

Circle everything below that you can recycle at the Larimer County Recycling Center.



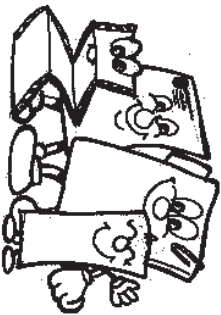
Aluminum Cans



Cardboard & Brown Bags



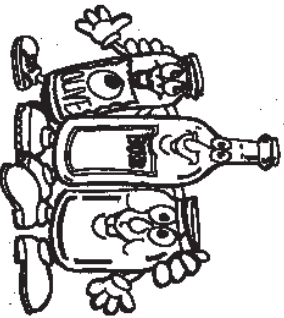
Lightbulbs



Office Paper & Junk Mail



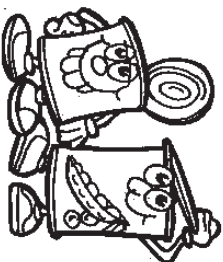
Magazines & Catalogs



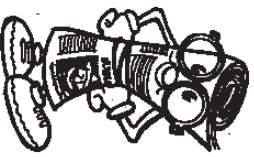
Glass Bottles & Jars



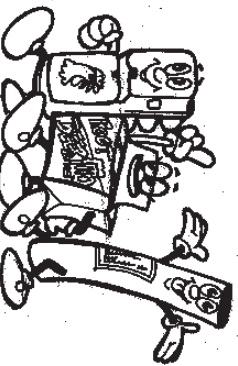
Styrofoam



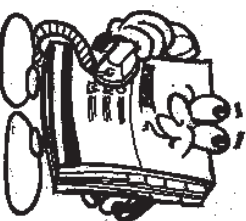
Steel Cans



Newspapers



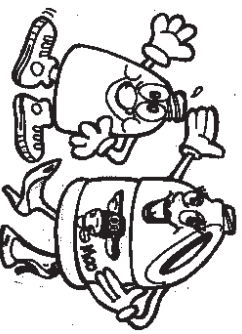
Paperboard



Phone Books



Plastic Bags



Plastic Bottles #1 & #2

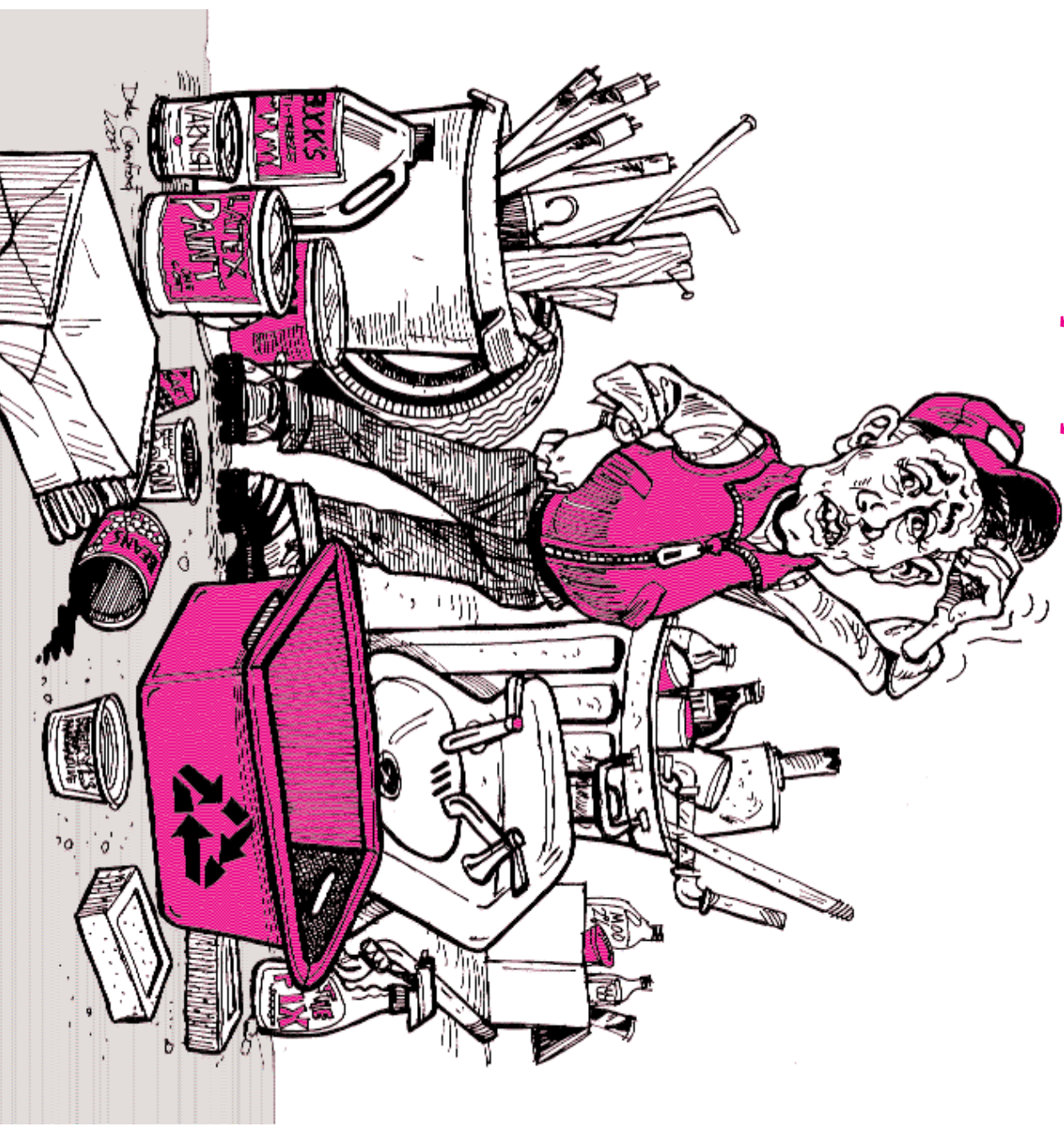
Everything can be recycled EXCEPT lightbulbs, Styrofoam, and plastic bags.

**ANSWER:**

# THE RECYCLONETIMES

Get caught up in it!

See inside to find out how YOU CAN START RECYCLING and help keep waste out of the landfill!



See pages 4 and 5 for recycling help.

# The Recyclone Times

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 1

SPRING 2004

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## Recycling Is Not As Hard As You Might Think (And it can save you money!)

By Cheryl Kolus, Larimer County Natural Resources

In 1997-98, Larimer County Natural Resources' environmental scientist and a team of temporary employees had the "enviable" job of doing a waste characterization study – digging through trash as it was dumped at the Larimer County Landfill and sorting it into various categories. The results at right show the breakdown of residential trash – trash that came from households like yours and mine. Take a look at that chart. Do you think a lot of that trash could have been recycled instead?

Yes, most of it could have been, and the situation likely hasn't changed today. So what possible reasons might we have for not recycling everything we can?

In my job as environmental educator for the county's natural resources department, I often hear from avid citizen recyclers about how discouraged they get when they see their neighbors throwing away recyclable materials. I wonder what the response would be if the recycler asked his non-recycling neighbors why they don't recycle. Maybe it's because:

- They just don't care
- They don't know how
- It's too much effort
- They have no storage space
- They don't have the option of curbside collection

Let's address those reasons here, and maybe neighbors can help neighbors start recycling by showing them this article. (After all, if they don't care about recycling, do you think they'll be browsing through The Recyclone Times?)

### Just Don't Care

The "just don't care" folks will be tough to convince; it's difficult to change attitudes and behaviors. Besides, we're not here to preach; we're here to educate residents so they can make their own informed choices. So let's educate!

Recycling is not a perfect industry – it still uses energy and causes some pollution, and often it does not pay for itself in the short-term. BUT...

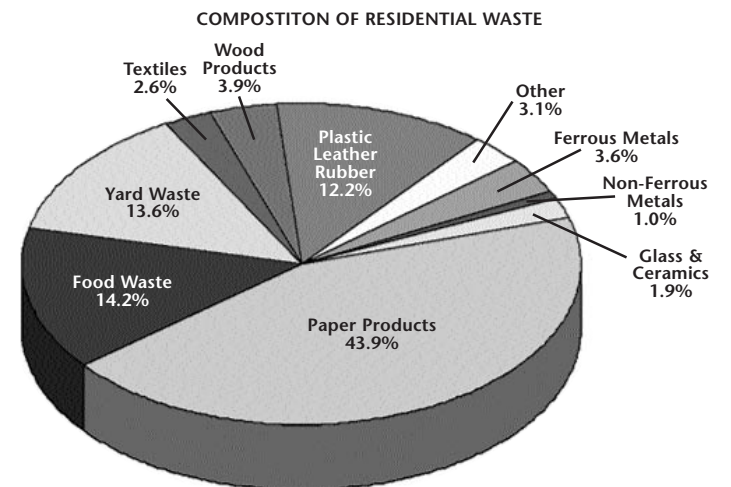
- Without recycling, 80 percent more wood will need to be harvested by 2010 to meet demand. With recycling, this figure drops to 20 percent.<sup>1</sup>
- Recycling just one ton of newspaper will save 17 trees and 7,000 gallons of water.
- It takes 95 percent less energy to recycle aluminum than it does to make it from raw materials.<sup>2</sup> Making recycled steel results in a 60 percent energy savings; recycled plastics, 70 percent; recycled newspaper, 40 percent; and recycled glass, 40 percent.<sup>1</sup>
- Recycling results in a net reduction in 10 major categories of air pollutants and eight major categories of water pollutants.<sup>3</sup>
- Recycling creates jobs.
- Recycling helps our landfills last longer.
- Considering less need for new landfills, less need for pollution mitigation, less waste, etc., in the long term, recycling is economically smart.
- Recycling simply helps preserve the environment for future generations of people and wildlife. Anyone with children or child relatives should want them to have a bright future in a safe and clean environment.

Still not convinced? Here's one more reason to recycle:

- **It can save you money!**

The Cities of Loveland and Fort Collins, as well as Larimer County, operate on a Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) system of trash collection: The more trash you set out at the curb, the more money you have to pay. Recycling is free, however, so the more you recycle, the less trash you have, and the smaller your trash bill will be!

You may even find some places to pay you for your recyclables. For instance, the Larimer County Recycling Center pays for aluminum cans. Call (970) 226-1101 for prices. Other scrap metal dealers (listed in the Yellow Pages under "Scrap Metal-Process and Recycle") may pay for



some materials, as well. (This could be a good way for kids to earn pocket money while helping with the recycling!)

### Don't Know How

Okay, let's assume you're all revved up to start recycling. What do you do? How do you get started? All you really need to know is in this newsletter.

- See page 4 for lists and descriptions of what you can recycle and how to sort it. If you have questions, call the phone numbers or visit the Web sites listed at the end of this article.
- Check out the box at left for a list of local trash haulers who may provide curbside recycling service (or check the Yellow Pages under "Garbage and Rubbish Collection" or "Recycling Services"). In Fort Collins and Loveland, trash haulers are required to offer free curbside recycling service to single-family homes, and they'll usually provide you with the necessary bins. (If you live in a multi-family complex, however, you may have a little more work ahead of you; see page 3 for tips on recycling in these complexes.) Call the trash haulers and do some comparison shopping. Make sure you ask specifically about their recycling services, and about getting a level of service that you realistically need. (Remember: You pay more for a larger volume of trash and/or larger carts, if the hauler provides you with one, so don't choose one...or more than one... that you're not going to fill up!) Some haulers may offer prepaid bags for your trash; using only as many as you can fill will ensure that you're not paying for more than you need.
- Be aware that not all items that are recyclable can be recycled at the curb. Some recyclables – corrugated cardboard and brown paper bags, office paper, and paperboard and low-grade paper – must be taken to a drop-off site. But we've got you covered there, too! We've listed recycling drop-offs located throughout the county on page 5.

One final word of advice here: If you're not sure if something is recyclable, please do not recycle it (or better yet, call and ask us about it). Sometimes putting the wrong item in a load of recyclables can ruin the whole load. See page 3 for an example relating to glass recycling.

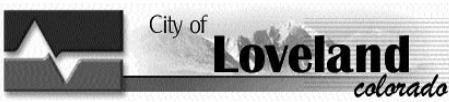
### Too Much Effort

Recycling does take some effort, but once it becomes habit, it's as easy (and practical) as brushing your teeth. Here are some tips to help make it more convenient for you to recycle:

- Have a place to put recyclables wherever they're generated. For example, keep a box by your desk for office paper. Use a bag or bin under your sink to place commingled containers (glass, plastic, aluminum and steel) in. Or place a second trash can next to your regular one, and label it "RECYCLING ONLY."
- Keep your recycling bin in your garage or in a covered outdoor location, so that you can periodically dump

*continued on page 7*

PUBLISHED BY:



### Missed Past Issues?

All issues of the Recyclone Times are available on the Larimer County Natural Resources Web site at [www.larimer.org/natural/publications/swmpubs.htm](http://www.larimer.org/natural/publications/swmpubs.htm).

### Trash Haulers Providing Service in Larimer County

(all are in the 970 area code unless otherwise noted)

BFI.....	223-0154
Bunting Disposal .....	339-3023 (Windsor and Timnath)
Canyon Utilities Service .....	493-0397 (rural Larimer County)
City of Loveland Solid Waste Division.....	962-2529
D & Z Disposal.....	667-5952 (rural Loveland)
Dick's Trash Hauling Service....	482-1674
Gallegos Sanitation, Inc.....	484-5556
One Way Trash.....	(303) 823-0556 (southern Larimer County)
Ram Waste Systems .....	226-3396
S & S Sanitation .....	667-2283 (southern Fort Collins and Loveland)
United Waste.....	532-0803 (rural Berthoud area)
Waste Management.....	482-6319

# Just Ask Patty Packrat

## Dear Patty:

I occasionally haul my trash up to the landfill myself and have always wondered: What's up with the pile of old appliances right next to all the trash being dumped?

– Curious About Trash

## Dear Curious:

Well, thanks for being so curious! You've given me a chance to remind people to recycle their old appliances, because that's just what that pile is all about.

Do you have a washer that won't wash? A dryer that won't dry? Or a freezer that won't freeze? If so, don't just trash it; recycle it!

The Larimer County Landfill accepts old appliances for recycling and collects them next to the area where regular trash is dumped. In fact, in 2003, we recycled 1.1 million pounds of appliances.

The landfill has contracted with a Denver scrap metal dealer, Metal Management, Inc., to haul away the appliances and recycle them. Items like washers, dryers, water heaters, etc., are recycled for their metals – usually steel, copper or aluminum. The metals can then be used to make a wide variety of new items.

Regular trash dumping fees are charged to customers to help cover handling costs. Appliances with Freon – such as refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners – cost more to recycle (\$22 each) because the Freon (a refrigerant that can harm the ozone layer if released into the air) must be removed and recycled, as well.

If the landfill's not convenient for you, check your local Yellow Pages under "Scrap Metal" to find other appliance recyclers. Be sure to call first to find out exactly what they accept and what charges may apply. Or ask the store where you're buying the new appliance if it will remove the old unit (and find out how they will dispose of it). Of course, if your old appliance still works, consider donating it to a local charity.

So, next time you need to replace an old appliance, don't just think about the hundreds of dollars you now have to budget for a new one, but think of how happy you'll be knowing you can offer the old one a second chance at life!

## Dear Patty:

I'm a diabetic and must take insulin daily. What's the safest way to dispose of all the needles I use?

– Concerned

## Dear Concerned:

I'll be short and to the point on this one. The best way to dispose of "sharps" (needles, blades and other sharp medical waste) is to place them in a hard plastic container (like an old laundry detergent bottle) and soak them overnight in a solution of 1 capful of bleach to 1 gallon of water. Then drain the liquid, tightly cap the bottle and place it in your regular trash.

## Dear Patty:

Where can I recycle regular old household batteries, like flashlight batteries?

– All Charged Up

## Dear Charged:

Bring your old alkaline batteries (like those in your flashlight) to Larimer County's household hazardous waste facility at the landfill (see page 6 for location and hours). It's free to drop them off, and while you're there, you may want to browse through our Drop 'N' Swap and take home someone else's usable leftovers (such as paint, car products, cleaners, etc.) free of charge.

We can also help you recycle other batteries. Car batteries can be placed on a special flatbed trailer at the landfill to be hauled away and recycled. Nickel cadmium or lithium batteries should be brought to the hazardous waste facility mentioned above.

Retail stores such as Batteries Plus (in Fort Collins) and Circuit City recycle household batteries, too. Call them for more information.

And when you buy replacement batteries, consider rechargeable ones. They last much longer and create less waste. Although they cost more initially, they certainly pay for themselves in the long run.



# Recycling Tips from an Earth-lover

By Nikki Schmidt

Hello everyone! My name is Nikki Schmidt, avid recycler and lover of the Earth. I first started recycling as a young child. Growing up in California, recycling was a huge part of school programs and city ordinances throughout the state. So, I guess because I learned young and have such strong feelings for the environment and its beauty, recycling is like second nature to me. I love the way it feels to know you're making a difference and being part of the solution to a problem. But my favorite part about taking care of the Earth is teaching others how to do so.

I currently work with Apartment Life, Colorado State University's off-campus family housing department. Recently, with the help of the university's Recycling Committee, we implemented a recycling system, complete with recycling bins placed throughout the institution's 900 off-campus housing units. Now our big project involves continually educating more than 1,500 apartment residents, which can sometimes be challenging because of the culturally diverse population.

While working with the diverse populations of Apartment Life, I've learned about the concept of recycling in other countries. For instance, many of our residents have no idea what recycling is because REUSE is more widely practiced in their homeland. On the other hand, many residents from countries like Japan – where you can be ticketed for leaving a recyclable item in the trash – are surprised we don't recycle more of our waste stream.

Because I am an environmental educator, I'm always willing to help those interested in recycling. So, I've compiled a few tips to help all of you who may be new to the idea.

## Learn your recycling symbols.

What's the difference between a #1 and a #5 found on the bottom of plastics? A lot! There are so many different kinds of plastics – just like there are different kinds of metals – and the numbering system helps recyclers (and others) identify the various types, only some of which are typically recyclable. Knowing your symbols will help you with the next step.

## Find out what is recyclable in Larimer County.

Many things we just assume are recyclable, but they're not. For instance the plastic margarine and sour cream containers with a #5 on the bottom are not recyclable here. By learning what is recyclable, you'll decrease the possibility of contaminating a good batch of recyclables heading off to market. Also, some recyclables are accepted by the Larimer County Recycling Center but are not picked up curbside. Paperboard (i.e. cereal and cracker boxes, shoeboxes, toilet paper rolls, etc.), cardboard and brown paper bags are good examples of things you can collect at your home for a month or two and then make a trip to the recycling center or another appropriate drop-off site to recycle them. (For complete recycling guidelines, see page 4.)

## Be a conscious consumer.

It doesn't help to recycle unless we also buy products made from recycled materials. When shopping, take the time to look closely at product packaging, and whenever possible buy products that have the highest percentage of their packaging made from "post-consumer" recycled material. *Post-consumer* refers to material that has been used by people like you and me and then recycled. *Pre-consumer*, a term you'll also see fairly often, refers to manufacturing scrap; e.g. extra paper that falls to the factory floor and is collected and recycled by the manufacturer.

## Make it a priority.

Caring for the Earth should be as much of a conscious effort as caring for your body, eating healthy, reading your religious books, or spending time with those you love. All these things require discipline. Make yourself a better person and donate some of your time to help protect our environment.

## Teach others.

Volunteer, take your kids out to clean up the neighborhood, put recycling bins in your workplace, pick up that piece of trash that all your other friends are ignoring . . . do anything that sends the message that you care and are proud to show it.

Along with reducing the amount of trash we buy in the form of packaging, and reusing products as often as possible, recycling helps solve our problem of having too much trash around. Good luck in all your Earth-friendly endeavors!



Nikki Schmidt lives in CSU's off-campus housing with her husband, Paul, and her two children, Brodie and Aidyn.



Prevention is better than cure.

–DESIDERIUS ERASMUS

## Credits:

The Recyclone Times is published by the Larimer County Department of Natural Resources, the City of Fort Collins Natural Resources Department, and the City of Loveland Solid Waste Division.

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Editor .....Cheryl Kolus

Copy Editor .....Debbie Bidwell

Design .....Leslie Charpentier, A Design Firm

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# Recycling in Multi-Family Complexes

(Adapted from an article on the City of Fort Collins Web site at <http://fcgov.com/recycling/apartment.php>)

In Fort Collins and Loveland, recycling pickup service is available to those living in apartment complexes, duplexes, condos/townhouses and mobile home parks. (Those who live in rural areas or other towns in Larimer County should check with their trash hauler for the availability of such programs.) Recyclable materials that are collected include: newspaper, magazines and catalogs, junk mail, aluminum and steel cans, glass bottles and jars, and plastic bottles type #1 and #2. (See page 4 for more details.)

In Fort Collins, there are several private trash haulers to choose from, and they usually charge a fee. In Loveland, the city provides recycling services to multi-family complexes free of charge. If you live in or own a complex in Loveland with four or more units, however, you can choose to use a private hauling company rather than the city for trash and recycling services.

Any multi-family complex may be eligible for recycling pickup service, but there must be space available for the container(s) and access for trucks. Setting up a recycling program in these housing complexes is well worth the effort because of the high concentration of residents here and the large amounts of recyclable materials that can be collected. If you're an owner, manager, or resident and want to establish a recycling program for your buildings or complex, here are some suggestions:

## Step 1: Get Support

Having the support of the owner or homeowners association and the building management is essential. Building managers may need to contact the owner for permission to set up storage facilities on the property. Or if you have a homeowners association, contact the president for approval.

To get the owner's support, point out that recycling results in less trash being

generated by the complex, which can lead to immediate savings by decreasing the number of trash pickups needed. In addition, if a garbage chute or compactor is being used, recycling means less wear on equipment and less opportunity for jamming with newspaper. You should also emphasize the environmental benefits of recycling: It saves energy, reduces pollution, conserves natural resources, and helps our landfills last longer.

The cooperation of the building maintenance staff is essential, too. The staff should be assured that recycling does not mean much extra work if they're already taking care of the trash anyway.

## Step 2: Decide What to Collect

Tailor the recycling program to meet the requirements of the housing complex (space, number of residents, etc.). If possible, all the materials listed in the first paragraph should be collected.

## Step 3: Arrange for Pickup of Materials

Once you know what materials you want to have collected, contact a few trash haulers to compare services and prices. Recycling programs may vary in the types and sizes of central recycling containers they provide. Very large complexes may need 30-yard roll-off containers or Dumpster-like bins. Others may use 30- to 60-gallon carts. Set up a meeting with your trash hauler to have a representative explain the details of the program, answer questions, and look over your complex. You may need two containers: one for aluminum cans, steel cans, glass and plastic bottles, and a second for newspapers, junk mail, magazines and catalogs.

Trash haulers don't usually provide bins for tenants to carry their recyclables from their individual unit to the central outdoor storage location. Some condos, townhouses or mobile homes, however, may be treated as single-family homes with residents receiving individual recycling bins or bags to set at the curb. Again, check with your hauler.

## Step 4: Provide for Storage Location and Materials Handling

You can store recyclables inside the building or outside in sheds or containers. Before selecting a storage site, find out your hauler's requirements. In buildings with minimal outdoor area, the basement may be a good location because it can support the heavy weight. The garbage compactor room, utility or storage room is often used. In these cases, you'll

need a ramp or freight elevator to the ground floor.

If storing materials inside the building, plan a process for handling the recyclables. Will residents be required to bring their materials to a central collection location, or will the maintenance staff pick materials up at specified sites? If the maintenance staff does the work, can residents still drop off their recyclables at the central location, or will the area be off limits to everyone but staff? All containers should be clearly marked specifying the type of material and preparation requirements.

An outside collection site can be highly visible, so it must be kept neat. Consider landscaping with bushes or fences to provide a visual buffer. If the storage area will be accessible to residents, take precautions to keep the recycled materials separate from the trash so as not to contaminate the recyclables. It's a good idea to locate the recyclable storage away from the regular trash area so people aren't tempted to mix them up. Unfortunately, contamination of recyclables with regular trash is a common and serious problem in multi-family recycling programs. For your recycling program to work, residents must care enough and know enough not to mix trash with recyclables.

## Step 5: Get Started

Once the system for collection is in place, inform the residents and seek their participation. They'll need to know what materials to collect, how to prepare them and where to deposit them.

The best way to reach residents is through direct contact. Start with a poster (near the mailboxes, perhaps) that announces the recycling program. Then give specific instructions to each resident in a personal letter, delivered door-to-door or enclosed in a rent or maintenance bill. Leaving a stack of letters in the lobby is not a good alternative, because you can't be sure everyone will get one. Consider holding educational meetings, too, and offer them in addition to individual notices, because it's likely not everyone will show up at a meeting. Meetings are a good place for people to ask questions and get immediate answers. Once the program is underway, use doorknob notices as reminders. Doorknob notices are available from Larimer County Natural Resources; call (970) 498-5772.

If you're unsuccessful in getting the support of the homeowners association or building owner, you may be able to get personal recycling service just for yourself, especially if you live in a townhouse or condo with immediate access to a curb near your unit. Call your trash hauler to find out costs and to obtain your own recycling bin.

## For Recycling to Work, Recyclers Must Follow Guidelines

Just a small amount of ceramic material in a load of glass bottles destined for recycling earlier this year nearly caused the entire load to be rejected by Coors Brewing Company in Golden. Coors buys glass from the Larimer County Recycling Center in Fort Collins, and uses it to make new beverage bottles. Lloyd Connour, of Waste Management, Inc., manager of the recycling center, was able to convince the company to accept the load – this time.

"The problem is that ceramics, window glass, mirrors, light bulbs, drinking glasses, etc. all have different chemical compositions and different melting temperatures," Connour explained. "Just one wrong thing can ruin a load." For example, a small piece of unmelted ceramic material can end up in a new glass bottle, creating a hazard because the bottle can break more easily.

A rejected load of glass (or any recyclable material) results in a waste of

money and resources. Rejected material will end up buried in a landfill, while Waste Management (operator of the recycling center) must still pay the costs of transporting the material to and from the manufacturing plant.

"Yes, it's possible that one individual can put the wrong thing in a recycling bin and unknowingly cause a ton of material to be landfilled instead of recycled," says Stephen Gillette, director of the Larimer County Natural Resources Department, which owns the recycling center. "It may not happen often, but it does happen."

Glass recycling guidelines allow for the collection or drop-off of glass bottles and jars only. Absolutely no other types of glass are permitted. In addition, lids should be removed (metal lids can be recycled, but still must be removed first). While recycling center workers try to keep contaminants out of the recycling stream, it's simply impossible to find all of them in the tons of glass that they see daily.

"Recycling can be confusing," admits Cheryl Kulus, environmental educator for the county's natural resources department. "If you're not sure whether something is recyclable, it's better really to throw it away. Of course, the best thing to do is call and ask us."

"For recycling to work and be as efficient as possible, we all need to learn and follow the guidelines," Kulus said.



**"If you're not sure whether something is recyclable, it's better really to throw it away. Of course, the best thing to do is call and ask us."**

— CHERYL KULUS,  
LARIMER COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCES

Not sure if you can recycle something?  
Call one of the numbers below:  
Larimer County (970) 498-5772  
City of Loveland (970) 962-2529  
City of Fort Collins (970) 221-6264  
Or visit the Web sites listed on page 7.

# Preparing Your Recyclables

We're glad you're recycling! And you can help us even more by preparing your recyclables properly. By following the guidelines below, you'll not only help make the jobs of the recycling drivers and recycling center workers easier, but you'll also ensure that the best use is gained from your recyclables. Remember – dropping off recyclables at the Larimer County Recycling Center is FREE! For more information on where to recycle, call (970) 221-6264 (Fort Collins), (970) 962-2529 (Loveland) or (970) 498-5760 (Larimer County).

## The following may be picked up curbside:

These things can be mixed together and are called "commingled" recyclables:

- Glass Bottles & Jars
- Aluminum Cans
- Plastic Bottles
- Steel (Tin) Cans

These may also be mixed together, but kept separate from the commingled items:

- Newspaper
- Magazines & Catalogs
- Junk Mail (envelopes and their contents)



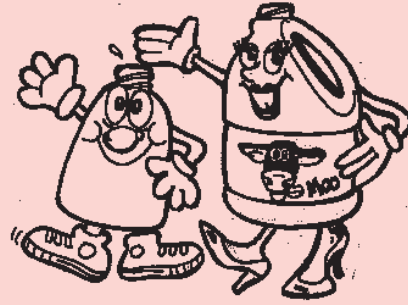
### Glass Bottles & Jars

Remove lids and rinse. Paper labels can stay on. No plate glass, drinking glasses, oven cookware, light bulbs or ceramics.



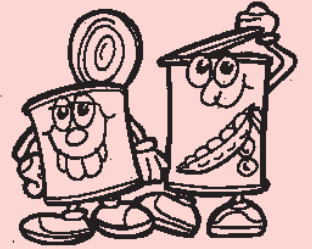
### Aluminum Cans

Rinse. Don't flatten.



### Plastic Bottles & Jars

Remove lids and rinse. Type #1 PETE and #2 HDPE, screw-top bottles ONLY. Includes soda, milk and most household bottles. No snap-top containers such as yogurt or margarine tubs. No chemical or pesticide bottles. No plastic bags.



### Steel (Tin) Cans

Rinse. Metal lids are okay. Labels can stay on. Empty aerosol cans without lids are okay.

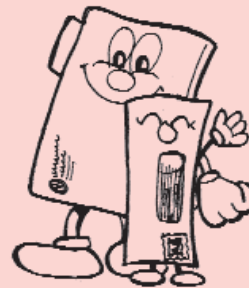


### Newspaper

(Including all inserts) Bundle in brown paper bags. No other papers, boxes, bags or string.



### Magazines & Catalogs



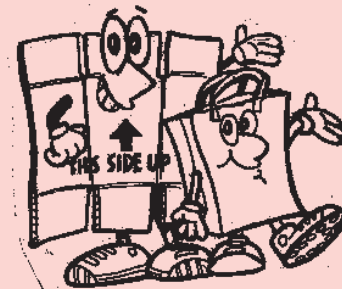
### Junk Mail

Envelopes and their contents. Coated paper – fax, glossy brochures, advertisements. No self-adhesive labels; no tan or brown paper envelopes. No fluorescent or pastel-colored paper, books, stickers, cellophane, etc. No plastic-coated papers such as ream wrappers.

## You can recycle all of these materials at:

The Larimer County Recycling Center & Landfill  
5887 S. Taft Hill Road  
Fort Collins  
(970) 498-5760

City of Loveland Solid Waste Division  
400 N. Wilson Ave. (yardwaste, batteries, scrap metal and appliances, too) or  
105 W. 5th St. (for used motor oil only)  
Loveland  
(soft-bound books not accepted in Loveland)  
(970) 962-2529

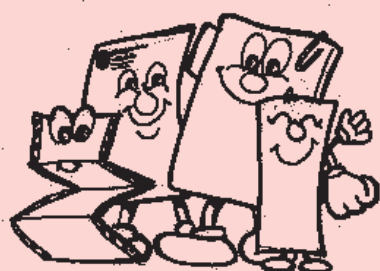


### Corrugated Cardboard & Brown Paper Bags

Flatten boxes. No wax-coated or food-contaminated boxes (i.e. pizza boxes).

## The following must be taken to a recycling drop-off site:

Corrugated Cardboard & Brown Paper Bags  
Office Paper  
Paperboard & Low Grade Paper



### Office Paper

These items may be mixed together:

- White paper – letterhead, typing, copier, index cards, loose-leaf paper.
- Computer paper – white, blue and green bar.
- Colored paper – pastels only. No neons or deep tones.
- File folders – manila or pastel.

#### Please remove:

Rubber bands, metal fasteners, plastic tabs, wire or plastic spirals, and tape.

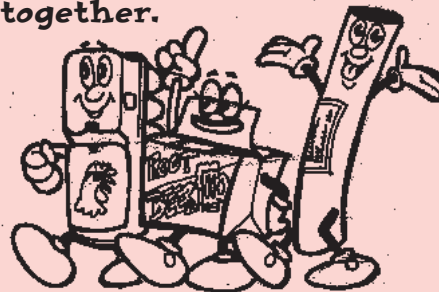
#### No need to remove:

Paper clips, stamps and staples.

### Paperboard & Low Grade Paper

These items may be mixed together.

- Cereal/cracker boxes
- Gift/shirt boxes
- Paper egg cartons
- Paper tubes, any size or thickness
- Shoe boxes
- Six-pack holders/boxes
- Soap and tissue boxes
- Kraft paper and envelopes (dark orange)
- Greeting cards
- Paper bags (brown bags go with corrugated cardboard)
- Wrapping paper (including tissue-type packing paper)
- Hanging file folders
- Fluorescent and dark-colored paper, blueprints
- Phone books

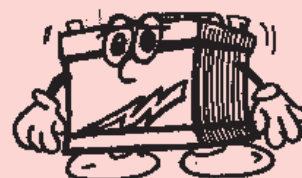


### Phone Books & Soft-Bound Books

Recycle with paperboard. (Except in Loveland, recycle separately.) No coated sulfite, neons or brights, paper covers or glue fiber.

### These items are NOT recyclable:

- Paper towels
- Paper plates/cups
- Tissues/napkins
- Pet food bags
- Charcoal bags
- Foil-lined boxes
- Waxed paper and waxed cardboard
- Frozen food and fast food containers
- Carbon paper
- Photographs

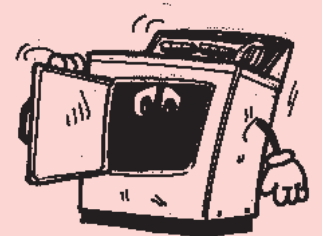


### Automotive Batteries

Inquire at the landfill gatehouse for disposal information.

### Used Motor Oil

Place in non-breakable containers and empty into the tank by the recycling bins. Motor oil only. Containers are not recyclable.



### Appliances

Appliances are accepted for recycling at the landfill for a fee. Inquire at the landfill gatehouse.

# Recycling in Larimer County

For information on preparing your materials for curbside recycling see page 4. For more information or to learn where to take "harder-to-recycle" materials call the Larimer County Department of Natural Resources at (970) 498-5760.

To learn where to recycle all sorts of things in northern Colorado, visit the City of Fort Collins' online guide at [www.fcgov.com/recycling/centers.php](http://www.fcgov.com/recycling/centers.php).

All phone numbers are in area code 970.

## FORT COLLINS

	Aluminum	Brown Paper Bags	Corrugated Cardboard	Glass Bottles & Jars	Magazines & Catalogs	Newspaper	Office Paper	Junk Mail	Paperboard/Low Grade Papers	Plastic Grocery Bags (#4)	Plastic Bottles (#1 & #2)	Steel (tin) Cans	Telephone Books
<b>Albertson's</b> 3660 S. Mason 223-3221 731 S. Lemay 221-5845 1646 N. College 416-5815	•									•			
<b>Aragon Iron &amp; Metal</b> 516 N. Highway 287 484-2577	•											•	
<b>City of Fort Collins Drop-off Site</b> 1702 Riverside 221-6600 Mon-Sun, open daylight hours	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>Colorado Iron &amp; Metal</b> 1400 E. Mulberry 482-7707	•												
<b>King Soopers</b> 4503 JF Kennedy Pkwy. 223-5759 2325 S. College 482-8855 1015 S. Taft Hill 221-4943	•		•			•	•						
<b>Larimer County Recycling Center</b> 5887 S. Taft Hill 226-1101 Mon-Sat 8-4:30, Sun 9-4	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>Rocky Mountain Battery</b> 1475 N. College 484-5384	•				•	•	•						
<b>Wal-Mart Supercenter</b> 1250 E Magnolia St. 493-3048										•			

## BERTHOUD

<b>Good Deal Recycling</b> 988 Second St. 532-4338	•												
<b>Larimer County Drop-off</b> 248 Welch 498-5760 or 532-2643	•			•	•	•		•			•	•	
<b>Town of Berthoud</b> 248 Welch 532-2643			•										

## ESTES PARK

<b>Estes Park Recycling Center</b> Transfer Station on Elm Road 568-5740	•		•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•	
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## LOVELAND

<b>Albertson's</b> 1365 E. Eisenhower Blvd. 669-0020 1451 E. Eisenhower Blvd. 593-9779										•			
<b>City of Loveland Drop-off</b> 400 N. Wilson 962-2529	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>King Soopers</b> 253 E. 29th St. 669-6222 1275 Eagle Dr. 663-4125	•		•			•							
<b>Larimer County Recycling Center</b> 5887 S. Taft Hill (N. Wilson Ave.) 226-1101 Mon-Sat 8-4:30	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>Rocky Mountain Battery Service</b> 2929 N. Garfield 667-4059	•												

## WELLINGTON

<b>Larimer County Recycling Drop-off</b> Town Garage, 6th & Grant 498-5760	•			•	•	•		•			•	•	
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## RED FEATHER LAKES

<b>Larimer County Recycling Drop-off</b> Glacier View 1417 Green Mountain Dr. 498-5760	•			•	•	•		•			•	•	
--	---	--	--	---	---	---	--	---	--	--	---	---	--

Check with specific recyclers for hours and drop-off locations for recyclable items – special containers may be outdoors or indoors.

If your business recycles any of these items, and you want to be included on future lists, please call (970) 498-5772.



**For Household Hazardous Waste Questions Call (970) 498-5760.**

Subscription curbside recycling is available in most areas throughout Larimer County. For more information, call your local trash haulers.

**Motor oil is accepted at the following locations. Please call first.**

### FORT COLLINS

**Checker Auto Parts**  
1006 N College (970) 493-8244  
4372 S. College (970) 223-5329

**Larimer County Landfill**  
5887 S. Taft Hill (970) 498-5770

**Rams BP**  
1001 S. Taft Hill (970) 482-7710

### LOVELAND

**City of Loveland Drop-off**  
105 W. 5th St. (970) 962-2529

**Larimer County Landfill**  
5887 S. Taft Hill (N. Wilson Ave.) (970) 498-5770

### ESTES PARK

**Estes Park Recycling Center**  
Transfer Station on  
Elm Road (970) 586-5740



**Styrofoam packing "peanuts"** are accepted at local mail service centers for reuse. Call first. Rigid Styrofoam packaging currently cannot be recycled.

### Consider Using Trash Hauler Services

You, or maybe someone you know, may choose to haul your trash to the Larimer County Landfill yourself. What you probably do not know is that the number of self-haul customers increases the County's operating costs. It takes more staff, more "working face" on the landfill, and consequently more "daily cover" soil to accommodate self-haulers. If you live in a community served by commercial trash collectors, please consider using their services. You may find that it's a break-even proposition, since it will save you the time it takes to visit the landfill.

### Wait 'til Your Bin is Full

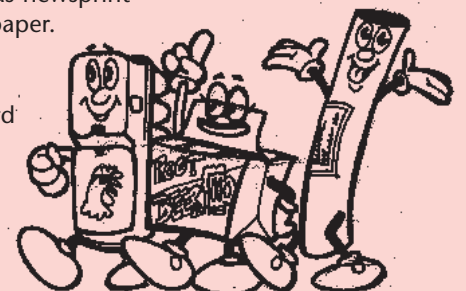
Please don't set out your recycling bin if it's only partially full. Instead, just set it out every other week; you will be helping your hauler be more efficient and keep collection costs down.

At the Larimer County Recycling Center:

### When in Doubt – Put It with Paperboard

Office paper is a very high-grade commodity in the recycling marketplace. But it's easy to ruin its value – or even get rejected by the recycling mills – if it contains lower grade paper such as newsprint-quality wrapping paper.

So when in doubt, throw those items into the paperboard recycling bin.





## SAFELY DISPOSE OF HAZARDOUS WASTES AT:

**Larimer County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility and Drop 'N' Swap (at the Larimer County Landfill)**  
5887 S. Taft Hill Road, Fort Collins (N. Wilson Ave. if you're coming from Loveland)  
(970) 498-5760  
Hours: Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays  
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Estes Park Household Hazardous Waste Collection Site (at the Estes Park Solid Waste Transfer Station)**  
455 Elm Road, Estes Park  
(970) 586-6478 or (970) 586-5740  
Call for hours or more information.

All hazardous waste brought to these facilities must be in a labeled, non-leaking container that can be left at the site.

## Attention Business Owners and Managers

Business and commercial hazardous wastes may be accepted at low cost through our BHAPE Program (Business Hazardous Waste Assistance Program and Education). Because of state and federal regulations, we cannot accept business waste without an appointment. Call (970) 498-5760 for more information on the "Be Happy" Program.

## Transfer Stations:

Transfer stations are located in outlying areas of the county and are designed to make it easier for residents in these rural areas to rid themselves of household wastes. The wastes collected at the transfer stations are periodically transported to the Larimer County Landfill. For 24-hour information relating to any of the transfer stations listed below, please call (970) 498-5770.

Wellington • Berthoud  
Red Feather Lakes • Estes Park

## Recycling Drop-offs:

The Larimer County Department of Natural Resources also maintains roll-off recycling containers in Berthoud, Wellington, Glacier View Meadows, Estes Park, and at Rocky Mountain National Park headquarters. Call (970) 498-5760 for information about these sites.

# Safely Rid Your Household of the Nasties

No, we're not talking about some weird disease. Nor are we talking about the moldy cheese in your fridge or the 8-legged critters hiding in your attic. We *are* talking about something the average household is home to 64 kinds of: household hazardous waste.

## What is Household Hazardous Waste?

Household hazardous waste (HHW) is any substance containing ingredients that could negatively affect your safety, health or the environment. Signal words found on hazardous products include *poison*, *danger*, *warning* and *caution*. They can be found on a wide range of products, including furniture polish, bleach, antifreeze, insecticides, paint, mothballs and much more. Also look for indications of hazardous properties on the label. Such properties are defined by the Environmental Hazards Management Institute as follows:

- Toxic: can cause injury or death if swallowed, absorbed or inhaled
- Flammable: easily catches fire and tends to burn rapidly
- Corrosive: can cause a material or living tissue to be destroyed
- Explosive: violently bursts when exposed to pressure or heat
- Irritant: causes soreness or swelling of the skin, eyes, mucous membranes or respiratory system

Another hazardous property you may see on a label is *reactive*. This means the product contains chemicals that, if combined with certain other substances, could result in hazardous reactions such as gaseous emissions or explosions.

## Why can't I just throw away HHW with the trash?

Dumping unused portions of household hazardous wastes in the trash or down the drain can cause safety and environmental problems. If buried in the landfill, chemicals can react and cause explosions or make their way into the groundwater. While the county strictly monitors the landfill's groundwater and gas emissions, and acts quickly to rectify any problems found, it sure is easier to prevent such problems from occurring in the first place by properly disposing of or recycling hazardous wastes.

## Let us help!

The county opened the Rocky Mountain region's first permanent household hazardous waste collection facility in 1989. In 1990, a second site was opened at the Estes Park Transfer Station. Since that time, more than 13 million pounds of household hazardous wastes have been diverted from the landfill.

## Examples of Materials Accepted:

Acids	Dioxin pesticides	Lubricants
Rug cleaners	Adhesives	Disinfectants
Moth balls/flakes	Rust solvents	Aerosols
Drain cleaners	Nail polish/remover	Dry gas
Silvex (pesticide)	Airplane glue	Chlorine
Oven cleaners	Spot removers	Antifreeze
Fiber glass resins	Paints (oil-based/latex)	Pesticides
Toilet bowl cleaner	Auto batteries	Flea products
Paint removers	Tub/tile cleaners	Varnish
Batteries (other)	Furniture polish	Cements
Paint thinners	Turpentine	Herbicides
Brake fluid	Hair removers	Inks
Photo chemicals	Chemistry sets	Waste fuels

## Do Not Bring the Following Unacceptable Materials:

- Asbestos material (Call 970-498-5771 for disposal information.)
  - Explosives: shock-sensitive materials such as dynamite, ammunition, picric acid, fireworks, and firearms. (Call the Sheriff's Department at 970-498-5100 for disposal information).
  - Pathological wastes and medicines: infectious waste, medical waste, pharmaceuticals, controlled substances (drugs) and syringes.
  - Known PCB wastes.
  - Radioactives (includes smoke detectors).
- Larimer County reserves the right to refuse any material that is deemed unacceptable by the managing site staff.

## Paint and Used Motor Oil

Used motor oil and paint generated through household use are accepted for disposal any time the landfill is open. You must be able to pour the oil from your container into our tank. Crankcase oil, motor oil and transmission fluid are accepted in the oil tank. Contaminated oil or brake fluid must be taken to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility during its operating hours.

Paint can be placed on the trailer by the collection facility. Empty paint cans are considered non-hazardous and can be put in your normal trash. Discard the lids and let the paint remaining inside the cans completely dry up, then place them in the trash.

Car batteries are also accepted (at no charge) for recycling at the landfill any time during business hours. Place them on the trailer in the landfill area. Nickel cadmium, lithium or alkaline dry cell batteries (such as flashlight batteries) should be brought to the collection facility for recycling.

## Drop 'N' Swap

The Drop 'N' Swap is a favorite among county residents. Through the Drop 'N' Swap, we offer usable, low-toxicity products under our "Buy none, get one free" policy.

Here's how it works: Let's say you need about half a gallon of latex paint, a little bit of copper cleaner, just enough pesticide to kill a pesky patch of weeds, and camp stove fuel to get through the weekend. Chances are we have all these items and more. Just stop by the Hazardous Waste Facility, pick up what you want, and we will thank you on the way out.

About 30,000 pounds of hazardous household products are reused through the Drop 'N' Swap program each year, keeping them out of the landfill and out of our groundwater. The best way to dispose of chemicals is to use them up as they were originally intended to be used, which is just what this program does. And, of course, it's free!

The Drop 'N' Swap is open during the collection facility's regular operating hours (see box at left).

Now that you know a bit about household hazardous wastes, please act responsibly. Bring your unwanted HHW to the county's hazardous waste collection facility at the landfill. It's free!

# Recycling Your Printer Cartridges and Cell Phones Can Mean Extra Money for Schools

By Brad Smith, Access Computer Products, Inc.

You can help local schools earn money by recycling your old printer cartridges and used cell phones. For more than eight years, Access Computer Products, Inc. and its program, Cartridges For Kids®, have been buying these items from school groups and businesses, and sending them off to be recycled or reused.

Here's how it works: Businesses or schools collect old cell phones and printer cartridges and take them to Access Computer Products at 451 W. 69th Street in Loveland. In exchange, they receive a check. A business can ask that the check be sent directly to a particular school, or staff can disburse the money themselves to one or more schools of their choice. Individuals may also donate or receive a small amount of money from Access for these items, but it would be more efficient to find out if schools in their area are participating in the Cartridges for Kids® program, and if so, donate the items directly to the school.

Through their fundraising program, Access and Cartridges for Kids® strive to educate children and adults about the amount of waste thrown into landfills, as well as provide a monetary incentive for recycling.

The primary goal of the program is to provide environmental fundraising that is safe, educational and pays cash to schools, allowing them to fund priority projects. Their goal is to pay more than \$10 million by 2005 to programs that benefit children.

The program also aims to provide a service for those who want to recycle empty printer cartridges and used cell phones. Currently, more than 250 million pounds of empty cartridges are thrown into landfills annually. And recent reports suggest that by 2005, up to 500 million cell phones will be landfilled. Together with printer cartridges, this translates into about 200,000 tons of waste that could be recycled instead.

Access Computer Products, Inc. and Cartridges For Kids® recycle about 170,000 cartridges and cell phones every month. They are involved with 6,800 schools nationwide, and most of the schools along the Front Range participate in the Cartridges For Kids® program. If you would like to donate phones or cartridges to a local school and want more information about this program, call (970) 612-2930 or go online to [www.cartridgesforkids.com](http://www.cartridgesforkids.com).

# Recycling Is Not As Hard As You Think...

continued from page 1

the household recycling bins into the main one that you'll set on the curb (or take to a drop-off).

- Tape copies of recycling guidelines to all of the recycling containers in your house so you have easy access to them to help you sort as you recycle. You can use page 4 of this newsletter, or call (970) 498-5772 for a smaller version.

## No Storage Space

What if you live in a condo or apartment and have no garage or outdoor storage areas? This can make recycling a bit more challenging, but it's still doable.

- If you can rearrange your closet or kitchen cabinets, you might find space to place recycling bins. (As long as you rinse your food and beverage containers well and tote your recyclables to a drop-off on a regular basis, you shouldn't have to worry about odors.) As noted above, you could just place a second trash can next to the regular one and use it for recyclables. You should, however, keep paper products separate from commingled containers, so they don't get wet or contaminated with food.
- Keep a recycling bin in the trunk or back seat of your vehicle, and each time you make a trip to your car, dump your day's recyclables in the bin. You'll be all ready to go the next time you drive by a recycling drop-off.
- If you have a neighbor with more storage space, make a deal with them. Your neighbor may allow you to store your recyclables at their place in exchange for your taking the items to the recycling drop-off periodically.
- If your workplace recycles, take your recyclables to work with you each day. Don't let them pile up so much that it becomes a hassle to transport them and you're tempted to throw them away instead.

## No Curbside Collection

Without the option of curbside collection, recycling is certainly less convenient. But you can follow some of the tips above to make it easier, and take a look at page 5 to find recycling drop-offs near you. Larimer County Natural Resources has placed drop-off bins in five rural areas throughout the county. The Cities of Fort Collins and Loveland also have drop-off sites, and some businesses offer recycling of certain items.

If you don't have curbside recycling available where you live, or if you want to recycle additional items (such as corrugated cardboard, paperboard, and phone books), place boxes or plastic storage tubs in your garage or in a covered outdoor area that are labeled with categories of recyclables. Make sure they're easy to carry and load into your vehicle when you're ready to take them to a drop-off site.

## Some Final Advice

If you want to start recycling, great! Maybe you're going to jump right in and recycle everything you can. Go for it! But there's nothing wrong with taking it slowly at first. Start with something easy. Do you drink a lot of canned soda? Start by just collecting that (and maybe making some money off it, too!). Then you can add other materials as you get used to the idea.

Make time to do your recycling, just as you would make time to take out the trash. Recycling is just as important, if not more so. If you plan to haul your recyclables to a drop-off, set up a regular schedule and mark it on your calendar so you'll remember to do it and your bins won't be overflowing.

Please don't think that you're not going to make a difference, because you are. And we thank you for that!

## What can we do to help non-recyclers start recycling?

E-mail your suggestions to [ckolus@larimer.org](mailto:ckolus@larimer.org).

For more recycling information, call or visit online:

Larimer County (970) 498-5772

[www.larimer.org/natural](http://www.larimer.org/natural)

City of Loveland (970) 962-2529

[www.ci.loveland.co.us/PublicWorks/SolidWaste/SolidWasteMain.htm](http://www.ci.loveland.co.us/PublicWorks/SolidWaste/SolidWasteMain.htm)

City of Fort Collins (970) 221-6264

[www.fcgov.com/recycling](http://www.fcgov.com/recycling)

Statistical References: <sup>1</sup>Natural Resources Defense Council,

<sup>2</sup>Aluminum Association, <sup>3</sup>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



## Computer Collection Event Is May 15

By Shirley Bruns, City of Fort Collins Natural Resources Department

Computers and some electronics will be accepted for reuse or recycling at the fourth annual computer collection event taking place Saturday, May 15 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The event will be held in the parking lot of Front Range Community College, 4616 S. Shields St., Fort Collins, and is sponsored by the Cities of Fort Collins and Loveland, Larimer County, Waste-Not Recycling, the Fort Collins Sertoma Club and Weld County Partners.

Individuals and small businesses (with 25 or fewer employees) can drop off computer equipment (including monitors, CPUs, scanners, printers, mice, keyboards, etc.), cell phones and non-console televisions. Regular phones, console TVs, copiers and other electronics, such as stereos, VCRs, CD players, etc., will NOT be accepted. To help pay for the cost of recycling, \$5.00 will be charged for each monitor, CPU, scanner, laptop and printer. In addition, TVs 19 inches or smaller will be assessed a \$10.00 fee, and those 20 inches or larger a \$15.00 fee. Other acceptable items will be taken for free.

Most computer equipment and other electronics contain hazardous materials, such as lead, arsenic, cadmium, mercury and chromium. While the Environmental Protection Agency does not regulate the disposal of such items that come from households, individuals who offer them for reuse or recycling are helping keep toxins out of the environment.

All components will be shipped to legitimate recycling facilities that ensure the safety and well-being of their employees and the environment. Working computer systems that are Pentium II or better will be donated to Weld County Partners and then placed in homes with children needing access to a working computer. Cell phones will be refurbished, preprogrammed to dial 911 and distributed to victims of domestic violence.

In case of bad weather, the collection event will be held the following Saturday, May 22. For more information, call Shirley Bruns, Fort Collins recycling outreach coordinator, at (970) 221-6264 or visit the City of Fort Collins' Web site at [www.fcgov.com/recycling](http://www.fcgov.com/recycling).

## Celebrate Earth Day at the Garbage Garage Open House

The Garbage Garage, Larimer County's waste and recycling education center, will be hosting an open house Saturday, April 24, in celebration of Earth Day (April 22). Stop by between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. and enjoy refreshments and giveaways, as well as the magic of Cody Landstrom. Vote for your favorite "reusable art" piece (see below), and browse

through the educational and interactive displays to learn about reducing, reusing, recycling, landfills and household hazardous waste. It's sure to be a fun time for all ages!

The Garbage Garage is located at the Larimer County Landfill, 5887 S. Taft Hill Road, Fort Collins.

Questions? Call (970) 498-5772.

## Larimer County and the Garbage Garage Announce the 2nd Annual Reusable Art Contest

- Contest is open to all K-12 students in Larimer County.
- Artwork can be of any kind, but must be made with scrap materials (old cans, used paper, scrap metal, etc.).
- Artwork may be designed to hang on the wall, hang from the ceiling, or stand freely.
- If free-standing, artwork should not be more than 18 inches wide.
- Participating teachers or individual students must call 498-5772 by April 2 so we can make arrangements to judge your artwork.
- Judges will choose 12 finalists the week of April 5.

- On April 24, finalists' artwork will be displayed at the open house at the Garbage Garage.
- Visitors to the open house will vote for three grand prize winners (divided into age groups); in case of a tie, judges will make the final decision.
- Prizes: Finalists will receive a package of "recycling goodies;" grand prize winners will each receive \$50 and have their artwork displayed at the Garbage Garage for one year.
- Winners agree to the use of their name on Larimer County's Web site, in press releases, and in other means of public display.

## Garbage Garage Wins National Award

The Larimer County Natural Resources Department was awarded the Best New Program Award from the North American Hazardous Materials Management Association (NAHMMA) for its Garbage Garage Education Center. The department was honored in early October at the 2003 Hazardous Materials Management Conference in Kansas City, Mo.

The Best New Program Award recognizes the best household hazardous waste (HHW) program implemented at the local level during the past year. The Garbage Garage includes displays and interactive activities relating to the safe handling of HHW, including a "kitchen cabinet" asking visitors to point out five things wrong the items stored in it, a display showing less toxic alternatives to common household cleaners, and a slide show about the problems

and solutions relating to electronics waste disposal.

In addition to HHW education, the Garbage Garage offers fun and colorful exhibits about trash, landfills, and reducing, reusing and recycling. The education center opened in April 2003 and has received only positive, enthusiastic comments from visitors. To arrange a visit, call the Larimer County Natural Resources Department at (970) 498-5772.

NAHMMA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to reducing hazardous materials entering municipal waste streams from households, businesses, industries and other entities. Membership-based, the association is comprised of individuals from government, business and the environmental community who are committed to pollution prevention.

