

August 23, 2010

Brian Gaboriau
Colorado Department of Health and Environment
Office of Environmental Integration and Sustainability
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South
EDO-OEP-SP-B2
Denver, CO 80246-1530

RE: RREO Program Amended Final Report

Dear Brian,

Attached is our amended final report with the changes you requested. Please let me know if you need any further changes.

Sincerely,

Bryce Isaacson

Vice President of Sales and Marketing

Western Disposal Services

5880 Butte Mill Road

Boulder, CO 80301-9100

303-448-2315

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RECYCLING RESOURCES ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY **FUND GRANT PROGRAM**

FINAL REPORT

1. ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

1) Agency Name:

Western Disposal Services

2) Project Title:

Effective Composting In Urban Setting In Colorado

3) Name of Project Manager: Bryce Isaacson

4) Project Manager email address and phone number:

Email: <u>bisaacson@westerndisposal.com</u>

Phone: 303-448-2315

5) Name of person completing this report:

Bryce Isaacson

6) Email address and phone number of person completing report:

Email: bisaacson@westerndisposal.com

Phone: 303-448-2315

2. WORK PLAN

DELIVERABLE	COMPLETION DATE	COMMENTS
Bids for Equipment	8/4/2009	
Received Equipment	08/04/2009 08/06/2009	Full amount of grant of \$173,900 was spent on equipment
Revised on-site operations to incorporate new equipment	9/1/2009	

3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY / PROJECT DESCRIPTION / OVERVIEW OF WORK

1. Executive Summary

Western Disposal purchased the two pieces of equipment, a new trammel screen and a used windrow turner, immediately after receiving approval from the state of Colorado to begin work under our signed contract. The used windrow turner was purchased on August 6, 2010, at a cost of \$75,712.00. The new trammel screen was purchased on August 4, 2010, at a cost of \$137,412.00. The grant amount to Western Disposal Services was \$175,900.00, and the total cost of the equipment was \$213,124.00. Western Disposal contributed the additional \$39,224.00 to cover the difference in the grant award amount and the actual cost of the equipment. The equipment was immediately put into service. Western Disposal reconfigured the compost windrow sizes to be narrower and shorter to accommodate the footprint required for the compost turner.

The compost turner has helped Western to double the capacity of our compost facility by cutting the processing time from 9-12 months to 4-6 months. We are now turning our windrows every two weeks instead of every three months.

The trammel screen has helped us produce a much more aesthetically pleasing and more marketable finished compost product. We are also using the trammel screen to process our ground wood waste which has helped us find a market for at least 60% the material which almost non-existent before.

The biggest challenge continues to be finding markets for the materials. Local city and county regulations that require the collection of compostables from residences within their jurisdictions continue to create a steady volume of feedstock for processing into compost. Unfortunately, the economic recession has, at the same time, significantly reduced the demand for compost products.

Western's customer count and processing volumes continue to grow. As of June 30, 2010, we have 28,005 residential and commercial customers from whom we collect compostable materials. During the last 12 months, July 2009 – June 2010, we have collected and processed, or will process, 8173 tons of yard waste, food waste and 1716 tons of wood waste.

Western continues to fund the ongoing operational costs for our composting facility, which is currently \$45,600.00 per month or \$547,200.00 annually.

Our compost program, "effective composting in an urban setting", continues to be viable and effective in processing yard waste, food waste and wood waste from local municipal programs and from our subscription commercial customers. The equipment purchased through the Recycling Resources Economic Opportunity Fund Grant Program was critical to increasing the capacity of our composting facility capacity and in creating a more marketable finished product. The RREO Grant Program has helped position our facility for future growth in residential and commercial organics collection and processing.

2. Project Description and Overview of work completed

Project Description:

There is a composting gap in the state of Colorado. Due to the low landfill disposal fees statewide, it is difficult to economically justify the construction cost of a composting facility, the purchase of the necessary equipment to operate a composting facility and the on-going costs and operational costs of the facility, when disposal of the materials would be less expensive at the landfill.

The city of Boulder and Boulder County sponsored a drop-off program for yard waste and wood waste that is located at Western Disposal's Transfer Station in Boulder. Residents are allowed to drop off their materials for free, or at a reduced fee, to encourage the diversion of these materials from local landfills and to create a material stream for the initial composting program that Western Disposal started. The city of Boulder, the city of Louisville and unincorporated Boulder County have since required pay-as-you-throw residential rate structures with embedded compostable collection, and the volumes we collect has increased significantly.

Compostables represents one of the largest constituents of the disposal stream and is the primary cause of the production of methane gas in landfills. Methane is an especially potent greenhouse gas (GHG) whose reduction is of upmost importance.

Proper composting operations avoid emitting methane, divert substantial volumes of materials from landfills, and produce a useful product – a win/win/win situation. Colorado has a shortage of composting infrastructure, and composting facilities can be difficult to site and operate successfully because of perceived odor problems by neighboring properties. Local siting is a key to a sustainable composting program due to economic and environmental issues involved with transporting compostables long distances. That disconnect – urban generation centers vs. rural siting to avoid neighbor issues – is a continuing issue in composting.

Western Disposal has operated its effective urban composting facility within Boulder's city limits for eight years without odor or other complaints from neighboring properties. At the time of our grant application, Western's facility faced limitations in capacity and product cleanliness that would require the purchase of two new pieces of equipment: a windrow turner and a compost trammel screen to clean contaminants from the finished compost. Our project was to purchase this equipment so that we could increase the throughput from our facility and make a more marketable material which will ultimately lead to a higher market acceptance of our locally produced compost.

Overview of Work Completed:

Western Disposal Services purchased a new trammel screen and a used windrow turner immediately after receiving approval from the state of Colorado to begin work under our signed contract. The used windrow turner was purchased on August 6, 2010, at a cost of \$75,712.00. The new trammel screen was purchased on August 4, 2009, at a cost of \$137,412.00. The grant award amount to Western Disposal Services was \$173,900.00, and the total cost of the equipment was \$213,124.00. Western Disposal contributed the additional \$39,224.00 to cover the difference between the grant award amount and the actual cost of the equipment.

The equipment was immediately put into service. Western Disposal reconfigured the compost windrow sizes to be narrower and shorter to accommodate the footprint required for the compost turner. Western Disposal already had compost in finishing piles waiting to be screened so the trammel screen was also put into immediate use.

Western Disposal started the city-wide contract to collect trash, recyclables and compostables for approximately 5,000 homes on June 1, 2009, for the city of Louisville. This increased the amount of yard waste and food waste we were receiving at our composting facility by approximately 17%. The increased efficiencies in our processing began immediately with the implementation of the windrow turner. The windrow turner helped double the throughput capacity of our compost facility by cutting our processing time in half, from 9-12 months to 4-6 months.

We began using the trammel screen immediately upon its delivery, as we had a significant amount of fully processed compost in finishing piles that was ready to be screened. The trammel screen helps us to produce a much more aesthetically pleasing finished product. The trammel screen takes out the large faction of woody material that has not fully broken down and creates a consistent size in the remaining material. The trammel screen also removes the vast majority of contaminants that are in the material, such as rocks, pieces of plastic bags, pieces of plastic bottles and pieces of compostable bags that have not fully broken down.

Western developed a vacuum system that we attach to the trammel screen so that we can remove the plastic contaminants and the unprocessed pieces of compostable bags from the larger carbon faction in the screening process. This allows us to have three materials coming from the screening process. One is the small amount of contaminants that can lower the perceived value of the products. Second is the larger piece of woody waste that has not fully processed, which is reground and put back into the windrow system. Third is the homogenous and clean finished compost product. Because our grant award was for the purchase of equipment to aid in the processing and marketing of compost, the deliverable tasks were easy to implement. We had already searched for and located the equipment prior to approval to proceed, so the act of purchasing the

equipment required only a phone call. Brian Gaboriau visited our facility in Boulder, Colorado, and verified that the equipment had been purchased and had been put into use.

3. Summary of Findings and Results

The equipment costs were more than we initially anticipated. Prior to the approval from the state of Colorado to begin work under our signed contract, we had located both a used windrow turner and a used trammel screen. By the time we were notified that we could begin work, the used trammel screen was no longer available, and we had to spend an additional \$39,224.00 of our own matching funds to acquire the two pieces of equipment with a new trammel screen. The windrow turner is doing the work we anticipated it would.

After purchasing the windrow turner, we changed the windrow layout on our compost processing pad to that we could accommodate the use of the turner. We had to lay the windrows in a longer, narrower and shorter pattern so that the windrow turner could straddle the windrow. If the windrows are too large, the machine continually stalls and the turning process takes much longer. The windrow turner has helped cut the compost processing time from 9-12 months down to 4-6 months, thus doubling the throughout capacity of our compost facility. The use of the turner, versus our old method of using a CAT loader bucket, creates a much more homogeneous windrow, allowing us to maintain a more consistent moisture content and temperature throughout the windrow. We changed our process from turning the windrows every three months with the loader bucket to turning the windrows every two weeks with the windrow turner. The windrow turner also saves a significant amount of time over our old method of using the CAT loader for the turning process. Since the acquisition of the windrow turner on August 6, 2009, we have in process, or will named processed, approximately 4500 tons of yard waste and food waste materials into compost for the period ending June 30, 2010. This equates to approximately 12,850 cubic yards of material laid out for processing and will yield approximately 8300 finished cubic yards of compost for Western to sell.

4. Summary of Unanticipated Outcomes or Roadblocks

Western Disposal's only unanticipated outcome was the additional amount we had to pay above the grant award amount to acquire the two pieces of equipment. Western does not foresee any roadblocks with respect to the use of the equipment purchased through the grant from the state of Colorado or the ongoing operation of our composting facility.

Western Disposal's composting facility is in its eight year of operation, and we have proven our composting operation to be economically sustainable. Western Disposal currently has over 28,000 homes where we provide curbside collection of yard waste and food waste materials, and we have 187 commercial composting customers. This material is processed into finished compost material at our composting facility.

Western Disposal's trash and recycle center is also the location of the city of Boulder and Boulder County yard waste and wood waste drop-off, which generates a significant amount of additional materials that are ground and sold to other Colorado composting operations.

2009 and the first half of 2010 have been challenging for the composting industry, and we anticipate the next couple of years to be much the same. Local city and county regulations that require the collection of compostables from residences within their jurisdictions are creating a steady volume of feedstock for processing into compost. Unfortunately, the economic recession has at the same time, significantly reduced the demand for compost products. The main use for compost has been the installation of new turf grass at new homes and new commercial developments; and, as we know, there is very little new development occurring at this time. Marketing the finished product will continue to be a challenge in the near future, but we continue to work hard to find markets for our processed materials and partner with other compost and mulch producers to move our material.

5. Communications of Project

Please see the attached Western customer newsletter articles that were published in our Fall 2009 and in our March 2010 editions. This newsletter is mailed to approximately 32,000 residential customers and 6000 business customers. We are now advertising our Green 'n Gro compost product as "new and improved" with our screening process. We communicated immediately to our wholesale compost customers that our product was now an improved screened product. We advertise our compost and mulch products each spring in our customer newsletter.

6. Future Impact of Project

After purchasing the trammel screen, Western Disposal found a second use for this piece of equipment beyond the intended use of screening the finished compost. The most difficult material to find a market for that we take in at our composting facility has been the wood waste we receive from the city of Boulder and Boulder County sponsored wood waste drop-off located at our Trash and Recycle Center. We also generate additional wood waste materials from our own construction recycling services. Western Disposal's composting facility is a Class II facility so we are not allowed to bring in bio-solids, and we have an additional restriction of not being able to accept manures in our processing.

Western has not been able to use the ground wood waste in our own operation since we do not have a rich enough nitrogen source, such as bio-solids or manures, to mix with the wood waste material. We have relied on grinding the wood waste material to a 2" or 3" size and marketing the material to other composting facilities that do have the nitrogen rich sources that we do not. The wood waste material has been the most difficult to market because of the different specifications that each end-user may have. Some companies only want the fine faction composting or others only want the larger

faction for making colored mulch. Prior to the acquisition of the trammel screen, we were not able to separate the two factions. The trammel screen has helped us meet the demands of the market place for the ground waste material, and we are now finding it easier to move some of this material.

We currently take in approximately 1000 yards per month, or about 150 tons per month. The trammel screen we purchased with the grant funds now screens the wood waste into 60% fines for composting and approximately 40% large faction for other uses. In the future, we see additional communities in our service area implementing "pay-as-you-throw" pricing requirements and also requiring the curbside collection of compostables. This will require additional composting facility capacity. We also see the expansion of our commercial composting services and the expansion of construction recycling services. The expansion of these services will also bring more materials into our facility.

The grant from the state of Colorado has allowed us to cut our compost processing time in half and in turn double the capacity of our composting facility. The grant has also helped increase the marketability of our finished compost and the ground wood waste we produce. Western will be able to take in more materials and offer more products and services to the residential and business communities.

7. Financial Summary

Western Disposal spent the entire grant amount of \$173,900.00 immediately after receiving approval to move forward on our project. As previously stated, Western Disposal contributed an additional \$39,224.00 that was necessary to acquire the used windrow turner and the new trammel screen. Western continues to fund the approximate \$45,600.00 per month, or \$547,200.00 annually, necessary to operate our composting facility.

Grant Budget Table Breakdown (Western Disposal Services) (RREO)

·	Grant Funds	Matching/In Kind	Total Amount
	Spent	Amount (if any)	
Personnel Salaries & Wages			
Fringe Benefits			
Tuition/Fees			
Travel Costs			
Materials/Supplies/Equipment			
(under \$5,000)			
Equipment Purchases (over	\$173,900.00	\$39,224.00	\$213,124.00
\$5,000)			
Contractors/Subcontractors			
Consultants			
Training/Educational classes			
Marketing/Advertising			
* Other Direct Costs		\$3,700,000.00	\$3,700,000.00
Indirect Costs			
Total Project Cost:	\$173,900.00	\$3,739,224.00	\$3,913,124.00

1. Existing Compost Site

Additional in kind contributions: Western Disposal funds the operational expenses for the composting facility which are currently \$45,600.00 monthly or \$547,200.00 annually. Our operational costs have increased since our original grant application due to the increase in the number of customers we collect from and the increase in the volume of materials we are processing.

8. Final Conclusion

Our compost program, "Effective Composting In An Urban Setting", continues to be viable and effective in processing yard waste, food waste and wood waste from local municipal programs and from our subscription commercial customers. The equipment purchased through the Recycling Resources Economic Opportunity Fund Grant Program was critical to increasing our composting facility capacity and in creating a more marketable finished compost product. The trammel screen has also helped us to make more saleable and marketable product sizing for our ground wood waste material. The RREO Grant Program has helped position our facility for future growth in residential and commercial organics collection and processing. Thank you to the state of Colorado.

9. Appendix

A. Grant Metrics

GRANT METRICS

Date Project Fully Operational: 09/01/09

DIVERSION RATES:

MATERIAL:		
YARD WASTE / FOOD WASTE		
MONTH TONS DIVERTED		
Jul-09	770.62	
Aug-09	646.54	
Sep-09	651.60	
Oct-09	709.76	
Nov-09	830.56	
Dec-09	590.22	
Jan-10	342.06	
Feb-10	274.26	
Mar-10	469.22	
Apr-10	820.73	
May-10	929.56	
Jun-10	1137.56	
TOTAL	8172,69	

MATERIAL:	WOOD WASTE
MONTH	TONS DIVERTED
Jul-09	204.02
Aug-09	164.42
Sep-09	175.58
Oct-09	173.19
Nov-09	86.00
Dec-09	70.02
Jan-10	134.56
Feb-10	74.96
Mar-10	128.85
Apr-10	123.21
May-10	208.71
Jun-10	172.53
TOTAL	1716.05

END OF DIVERTED MATERIALS:

- 1) Yard waste / Food waste Ground and processed into finished compost.
- 2) Wood waste Ground and screened into two size factions for sale to other composters who need carbon materials for their operations.

NUMBER OF PERMANENT JOBS CREATED: 0

AVERAGE SALARIES OF JOBS CREATED: Not applicable

AVERAGE NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS:

(Yard waste and food waste customers – both Residential and Commercial)

NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS	
Jul-08	4,182
Aug-08	6,585
Sep-08	6,434
Oct-08	6,386
Nov-08	9,459
Dec-08	16,924
Jan-09	20,705
Feb-09	22,196
Mar-09	22,186
Apr-09	22,259
May-09	22,348
Jun-09	27,139
Average Number of	
Customers	15,567

NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS	
Jul-09	27,112
Aug-09	27,295
Sep-09	27,228
Oct-09	27,390
Nov-09	27,490
Dec-09	27,452
Jan-10	27,456
Feb-10	27,372
Mar-10	27,450
Apr-10	27,754
May-10	27,940
Jun-10	28,005
Average Number of	
Customers	27,495

- All of the yard waste and food waste materials are collected from our residential and commercial compost customers. This material is ground and processed into a finished compost product using the windrow turner and trammel screen that was purchased using the grant funds awarded by the state of Colorado. The tonnages listed have been or will be processed using these two pieces of equipment.
- The wood waste tonnage listed has been or will be ground and separated into two size factions using the trammel screen purchased using the grant funds awarded by the state of Colorado.

• Western began the roll-out of its residential compostable collection service in unincorporated Boulder County in July of 2008. The customer count climbed again in November of 2008 when we began the roll-out of the city of Boulder's program. The customer count grew by another 5000 customers when we began the city of Louisville's curbside program in June of 2009. The customer count continues to grow as we add new commercial customers and homeowners associations who fall under the requirements of City and County pay-as-you-throw ordinances with embedded compostable collection service.

B. Community Leaders

Jeff Callahan Boulder County 720-564-2221 jcallahan@co.boulder.co.us

Kara Mertz City of Boulder 303-441-3153 mertzk@bouldercolorado.gov

Doug Short City of Lafayette 303-665-5588, ext 3322 douglass@cityoflafayette.com

Tom Phare City of Louisville 303-335-4601 phareteci@louisvile.co.us

C. Newsletter Articles and Photos

- 1. Newsletter Articles (Attachment A)
- 2. Photos (Attachment B)



A QUARTERLY UPDATE FOR OUR CUSTOMERS

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!





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

The following holidays are observed by Western Disposal:

• Thanksgiving Day 11/26/09
• Christmas Day 12/25/09
• New Year's Day 1/01/10
• Memorial Day 5/31/10
• Independence Day 7/04/10
• Labor Day 9/06/10

E-Minders

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

Western Receives Grant from the State of Colorado

In early August, Western Disposal received a \$173,900.00 grant from the State of Colorado's Department of Public Health and Environment to help purchase a windrow turner and a trammel screen for our composting facility. Western applied for the grant in mid-March and was chosen from over 65 applicants to receive a portion of 1.4 million dollars available from the Recycling Resources Economic Opportunity Fund Grant Program.

The State of Colorado's Recycling Resources Economic Opportunity Act created a recycling grant program (RREO Grant Program) that was designed to fund the implementation projects that promote economic development through productive management of recyclable materials that would otherwise be treated as discards. This was the second year of the grant program that is funded from a special fee collected at all of the landfills in the state of Colorado.

Western's grant application was titled "Effective Composting in an Urban Setting in Colorado." The acquisition of the windrow turner will help Western to increase the capacity of our composting facility by almost 100%. The turner allows for more frequent and consistent turning of windrows which provides a higher quality product and reduces processing time from 9-12 months to 5-6 months.

The acquisition of the trammel screen will also help Western produce a higher quality product by screening out contaminants such as plastic bags, rope, stones and larger organic pieces which have not fully broken down. Screening makes our final compost product more uniform in particle size and more aesthetically appealing. Bruce and Michelene Fast. With the adoption of new residential hauler regulations in most areas of Boulder County, materials coming to our facility are not always prepared properly and frequently contain plastic bags and other contaminants. It is not possible to remove all of these materials from feedstocks prior to processing so a trammel screen is essential to clean up the finished product.

Western thanks the state of Colorado for helping us increase the capacity of our composting facility and for helping us to produce a better, cleaner and more aesthetically pleasing compost product for you, our customers.

Composted yard waste makes up a quarter of the U.S. recycling rate.

Yard waste includes grass, leaves, and tree and brush trimmings. By weight, grass is the biggest component of yard waste, averaging half of all yard waste. Leaves and brush each provide one quarter. By volume, leaves are the biggest component.

Yard waste is the largest component of generated municipal solid waste (MSW) by weight but is a relatively small component of landfilled MSW by volume.

The amount of yard waste and its MSW disposal market share declined dramatically in the last four decades while the composting rate soared. Backyard compost piles and grasscycling programs have reduced yard waste generation. State and local composting requirements increased the number of commercial composting operations.

Composting is the controlled decomposition of organic matter by micro-organisms into a humus-like product. Waste and carbon dioxide dissipate into the atmosphere. Up to 75 percent of the volume and 50 percent of the weight are lost through composting.

Aeration, temperature control (132-140 degrees F), moisture content (40-60 percent) and an adequate carbon-to-nitrogen ratio are required for composting. Improper operation can cause odors and allow the growth of a fungus (aspergillus fumigatus) that causes health problems.

SOURCES:

Biocycle Magazine, April 2006, www.biocycle.com

"Municipal Solid Waste in the United States: 2007 Facts and Figures," U.S. EPA, Office of Solid Waste, www.epa.gov/osw

Composting Council, www.compostingcouncil.org

Cornell Waste Management Institute, www.cfe.cornell.edu/compost

"Measurement Standards and Reporting Guidelines," National Recycling Coalition, www.nrc-recycle.org

Data is from 2007 EPA estimates, except where noted.

Yard Waste by Chaz Miller, Waste Age, January 2009

Yard Waste MSW Facts

Generated:

- 32.6 million tons, or 12.8% of MSW by weight.
- 216.3 pounds per person, per year.

Composted:

- 20.9 million tons, or 64.1%.
- 3,500 yard waste composting facilities, mostly in the Northeast and the Midwest.
- Average daily throughput is 57,300 tons.
- Compost can be produced in as little as three months.
- Composted yard waste accounts for one-fourth of the U.S. recycling rate.

Incinerated or Landfilled:

- 11.7 million tons, or 6.9% of discarded MSW.
- Percentage sent to disposal has steadily declined for the last four decades.
- 2,876 Btu per pound vs. 4,500-5,000 Btu for a pound of garbage.
- Several states ban the burning of yard waste piles.
- 24 states ban or restrict yard waste disposal.

Landfill Volume:

- 21.7 million cubic yards in 1997.
- 5.1% of landfilled MSW in 1997.

Density:

- Uncompacted is 250-500 pounds per cubic yard.
- Landfilled is 1,500 pounds per cubic yard.

Source Reduction:

Grasscycling ("Leave it on the Lawn" programs) and backyard composting made yard waste the most source-reduced item in the waste stream.

- Brush can be shredded into mulch.
- Xeriscaping (Landscaping with plants that need small amounts of water and produce small amounts of waste) reduces yard waste.

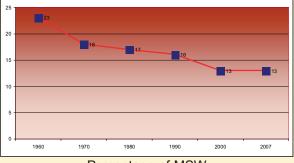
Composting Markets:

- Composted yard waste is a soil conditioner that improves texture, air circulation, and drainage, moderates soil temperature, enhances nutrient and waterholding capacity, decreases erosion, inhibits weed growth, and suppresses some plant pathogens.
- High-quality compost is used as a soil amendment and mulch.
- Compost can be used as landfill daily cover.
- Compost processors often charge a tipping fee.

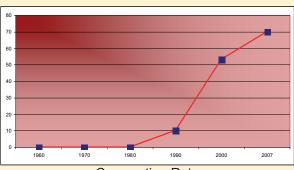
End-Market Specifications:

- Vary by market.
- Keep non-organic materials out.
- Little heavy metal contamination.

Yard Waste MSW Percentage and Composting



Percentage of MSW



Composting Rate

Black Bears are on the Prowl for Food:

Please Don't Feed them with Garbage

It is not unusual for residents of Boulder to observe black bears. Typically, bears will travel through town and not create much of a disturbance as long as attractants are not plentiful. However, once a black bear has easy access to food in trash, they quickly learn to associate every can on the block as an easy meal. We need your help to stop this cycle.

Starting in August, bears enter "hyperphagia," a physical state in which they must eat enormous amounts of food to prepare their bodies for winter hibernation. During this period a bear will feed up to 20 hours a day and may consume 20,000 calories per day in order to build up body fat to sustain them through hibernation. Most bears will forage on oak brush acorns and choke cherries. However, this is also the time of year where bears will try to find the easiest source of food available, including trash and other yard attractants.

If attractants are made inaccessible, the bear will move on. Thus, we encourage everyone within the community to make an effort to keep bears "wild" and out of trouble. Please help by observing the following:

- Never feed wildlife in order to get a better view of them. It is illegal to feed big game or to leave attractants available for them;
- Keep garbage in a well-secured location. Clean trash cans with ammonia and water to reduce odors that attract bears;
- Put out garbage on the morning of pick up. Do not put out trash the night before;
- If you do not have a garage, maintain trash indoors or in a secured site.
 Double bag trash to help reduce odors. Food scraps that are highly aromatic can be placed in the freezer until garbage-collection day;
- Use a bear-resistant trashcan or dumpster. Western has wildlife resistant containers available:
- Hang birdfeeders high so bears cannot reach them; clean up beneath bird feeders;
- · Don't backyard compost food scraps in areas where bears may frequent;
- Do not leave pet food or dirty dishes outdoors at night. Store all pet food and other animal feed inside;
- If you have fruit trees, don't allow fruit to rot on the ground;
- After cooking on a grill, leave the burners on for several minutes to burn remaining scraps and liquids completely. Store grills in a storage area or in the garage.

The Colorado Division of Wildlife (DOW) offers this reminder: A fed bear is a dead bear. If a bear runs into trouble and must be trapped, it will be tagged and relocated. If the bear comes into conflict with people a second time, policy dictates that the bear must be destroyed. This can be avoided by residents living responsibly in bear country. Nguyen X Xinh.

If you have questions or concerns about bears, please contact the DOW in Denver at (303) 291-7227. You can also read more about bears and other wildlife species by visiting

http://wildlife.state.co.us/WildlifeSpecies/CoexistingWithWildlife/

Thank you for your help!

E-bill and E-pay

Western Disposal offers simple and convenient billing and payment options designed with your convenience in mind. Check out the following options below to see which ones work for you!

Billing Options

- NEW! Electronic Register your Western Disposal account with our online E-Billing service and we will notify you via e-mail when your statement is ready. You'll also have the opportunity to view the Western Disposal newsletter online.
- Traditional Receive your regular paper statement and newsletter in the mail.

One-Time Payment Options

- NEW! Electronic Pay online using credit card or e-check (using your bank's routing and account numbers).
- Traditional Mail a check with your statement's stub or pay by phone using your credit card.

Automatic (Recurring) Payment Options

- NEW! Electronic Register online using a credit card or ACH withdrawal from a checking or savings account.
- Traditional Mail in the completed form found on our website under the Billing and Payment section for automatic payments using a credit card or ACH information from your checking or savings account
- Traditional Call our Customer Service
 Department and set up automatic credit
 card payments over the phone.

(If you do not sign up for electronic delivery of your statement, you will continue to receive it via postal delivery.)

Registration for new E-Billing and E-Payment options must be completed on our website at www.westerndisposal.com.

Click on the Billing and Payment section and follow the directions for account registration. If you have any questions, please call our Customer Service Department at 303-444-2037.

Area Leaf Collection Programs

City of Boulder: The city of Boulder eliminated its Spring Cleanup Program and its Fall Leaf Collection Program this year when City Council approved the addition of compost collection, but you can still bring your leaves to the Citysponsored yard waste drop-off located at Western Disposal's Trash and Recycle Center. City residents may drop off leaves free-of-charge.

5880 Butte Mill Road, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday-Saturday thru Nov. 27 Winter hours: We close at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday beginning Nov. 28.

Broomfield: The city and county of Broomfield offers a leaf and pumpkin drop-off at its recycle center.

225 Commerce Street, 24 hrs/day, 7 days/wk Oct. 16-Nov. 30

Longmont: 140 Martin Street, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday-Saturday

Louisville: As the City now has compost collection included with trash service, curbside pickup of leaves or bagged leaf collection will no longer be offered. The City will, however, continue to offer leaf drop-off bins throughout the town as well as at the City of Louisville Water Treatment Plant. Only leaves and grass clippings are accepted at the Waste Water Plant and designated drop-off sites. Drop-off sites will be open from Nov. 2 - Nov. 20. Dates are approximate so please check the City's web site and local newspapers for the list of drop-off locations and any changes to dates.

Lafayette: Due to budget constraints, the city of Lafayette will not have a leaf drop-off program.

Boulder County: Boulder County residents may also drop off leaves at the County-sponsored yard waste drop-off located at Western Disposal's Trash and Recycle Center. County residents receive a 40% discount off the normal disposal fee. Location and hours are listed above under the city of Boulder.

Free Christmas Tree Collection at the Curb

After the holidays are over, don't throw your tree away—leave it at the curb next to your compost cart. 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 setting your tree out for collection! Bruce and Nana Jacquemard. Also, flocked trees and wire-based wreaths are not compostable.

Snow Removal



During the winter, snow and ice make it difficult for our drivers to access and maneuver trash containers.

To ensure that your containers can be emptied, please remove any snow in front of your containers or enclosures, especially drifts or piles.

Extra Trash Stickers



TO REORDER: 303-444-2037 www.westerndisposal.com extra Trash Recycling Sav epaid Tag You Money!

Prepaid residential trash stickers are now available for all of our service areas. If you have regularly scheduled trash service, you may purchase prepaid trash stickers for \$3.00 each and save 25% over the on-route price of \$4.00 per extra 32-gallon bag.

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

In person: Western's Admin. Bldg.
 5880 Butte Mill Road

2. By phone: 303-444-2037

3. By fax: 303-444-7509

4. By electronic mail: contact@westerndisposal.com

5. Via web site: www.westerndisposal.com

6. By mail: P.O. Box 9100

Boulder, CO 80301



Ways to Reach Us...

5880 Butte Mill Road • P.O. Box 9100 Boulder, Colorado 80301 ph. (303) 444-2037

fax (303) 444-2037

e-mail: contact@westerndisposal.com www.westerndisposal.com



April Showers Bring May Flowers!

Spring is here and so is planting season. Invigorate your flower beds, garden, new trees or new lawn with Western's "Green 'N Grow" compost. We operate our own compost facility; our compost is 100% organic and made of yard and food waste from local residents and businesses. We also sell natural mulch made



from Boulder's and Boulder County's yard waste drop-off program at our Trash and Recycle Center.

Green 'N Grow Compost

(100% organic compost – no manures or bio-solids)

\$24.00/cubic yard

\$4.50/bag (50# or ~1.5 cubic feet)

Natural Mulch

2" grind (no colorant added)

\$7.50/cubic yard

- Free loading of your truck or trailer
- Pick-up hours: 7:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m. Monday-Saturday
- Delivery service available for a fee
 - Small quantities up to 4 cubic yards: \$75.00 \$90.00 (depending upon location)
 - Large quantities up to 30 cubic yards: call for price
- Compost and mulch-use estimator and application guidelines are available at our Trash and Recycle Center gatehouse
- Our facility is conveniently located at 5880 Butte Mill Road in Boulder

Get a rebate from the city of Boulder for your Green 'N Grow compost purchase. Nobel Ida. If your business is located in or you live in the city limits, you are eligible for a rebate.

For more information about this rebate, please go to **www.bouldersaveswater.net** and click on "Rebate Program" to obtain additional information and download a rebate application.

For more information on Western's Green 'N Grow compost or natural mulch products, or to schedule a delivery, please call our Customer Service Department at 303-444-2037.

Extra Trash Stickers



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Extra Trash Recycling Saves
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20% Post Consumer Waste

Contamination Goof-Ups

In the past year, Western has reached a new goal in providing green services. Dorothy Babcock. All of our customers are offered recyclables collection and many of our customers are offered compostables collection.

As is true with most new services, there are "goof-ups" to overcome. The main goof-up in recyclables and compostables collection is contamination. When the collectibles are contaminated, the cost of cleaning up the materials is significant and can actually cause the materials to be discarded as trash.

The worst contaminant in both recyclables and compostables is plastic bags. They are a big no! no!

Western collects your recyclables and delivers them to the Boulder County Recycle Center. Feedback from the Recycle Center as to why plastic bags contaminate:

- They get wet and dirty and cannot be recycled.
- They get caught in the machinery during sorting, which causes delays in removing the bags, and in turn increases the cost of sorting. Tanya Saarva.
- Another goof-up is to put your recyclables into plastic bags (even ones that claim to be recyclable) before putting them in the cart for collection. At the Recycle Center, the bags must be removed and discarded before the recyclables can be sorted, again increasing costs and delays in sorting.
- A solution: #2 or #4 plastic bags can be recycled at CHaRM if they are clean, dry and empty.

Western collects your compostables and delivers them to our compost facility. Lon L'Heureux. Why plastic bags contaminate compost:

- When the compostable material is put through a grinder, the plastic is shredded into tiny pieces and becomes mixed with all the other materials.
- · All the material is then put into windrows to decompose.
- After the decomposition process is complete, the material is screened to remove large particles. Some small pieces of plastic may pass through the screen and end up in the end product.

Other common goof-ups: • Plastic caps • Plastic lids • Styrofoam®

Yard Waste Reminder for Boulder Residents

Just a reminder, there is no longer a spring cleanup for organics or a fall leaf drop-off that was sponsored and paid for by the city of Boulder. Karen and Paul Raab. Last year when the City added curbside compost collection as a requirement for haulers to provide to residents, these programs were discontinued.

Please use your residential organics collection service to recycle your yard waste and leaves. You may have to spread your materials out over several collection days, but the everyother-week collection schedule will still help you recycle these materials. You also have the option of bringing your yard waste to the yard waste drop off, located at our facility, and sponsored by the City and County of Boulder.

Please refer to your compostables guidelines for the list of accepted materials, a list of volumes included with your service and a description of how to prepare your materials for collection. Genevieve Jacobi.

It's Improved

Spring is here and so is planting season. Invigorate your flower beds, garden, or lawns with Western's improved "Green 'N Gro" compost. Our compost is 100% organic and made of yard and food waste from local residents and businesses. David and Cassie Cabal. With a grant we received from the State of Colorado in June of 2009, we purchased a trammel screen; and we are now screening our finished compost to remove contaminants and create a more uniform material size, resulting in a higher quality product for your yards and gardens.

Green 'N Gro Compost \$24.00/cubic yard (100% organic—no manures or bio-solids) \$4.50/bag (50# or ~1.5 cubic feet)

Natural Mulch 2" grind (no colorant added) \$7.50/cubic yard

- Free loading of your truck or trailer
- ▶ Pick-up hours: 7:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m. Monday-Saturday
- ▶ Delivery service available for a fee; call for price
- ► Compost and mulch-use estimator and application guidelines are available at our Trash and Recycle Center gatehouse
- Our facility is conveniently located at 5880 Butte Mill Road in Boulder

Get a rebate from the city of Boulder for your Green 'N Gro compost purchase. If your business is located in or you live in the city limits, you are eligible for a rebate.

For more information about this rebate, please go to www.bouldersaveswater.net. For more information on Western's products or to schedule a delivery, please call our Customer Service Department at 303-444-2037.

Extra Trash Stickers



www.west Extra Trash Prepaid Tag isposal.com

Recycling Saves

You Money!

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NEW! E-bill and E-pay

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Our newsletters are always available on our website.



Ways to Reach Us...

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20% Post Consumer Waste

PHOTOS Attachment B



Windrow Turner



Trammel Screen