



**Recycling Resource Economic Opportunity Grant  
Final Report**



Blue Star Recyclers  
Vocational Electronic Recycling Network Project  
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## II. WORK PLAN

<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Comments (if deliverable <u>was not completed</u>, please explain why or what progress has been made)</b>
Establish partnerships with vocational programs to employ adults with DD.	4/5/12	All of the collection partners were identified by September. The vocational partner in Pueblo could not be finalized until the work floor facility space was determined. Unfortunately, this ended up taking much longer than anticipated
Establish VERN partnerships.	9/1/2011	The partnerships with our primary VERN partners was completed within the first quarter of the project.
Purchase advertising and additional marketing tools to promote the launch of the collection depots.	11/1/2011	Both Pueblo and La Junta actively collected material by September. Canon City's collection program was delayed while the school district sought space for the project.
VERN partners have secured depot facilities, established fee structures and hours of operation, identified and trained staff, and have purchased supplies.	11/1/2011	Canon City was the last of the three communities to begin collecting e-waste. They officially launched the collection program November 1 <sup>st</sup> .
VERN partners will select individuals with interest and the capacity to disassemble electronic components.	4/5/12	Pueblo was the last of the communities to begin the vocational program. The vocational aspect was delayed while we pursued different options for a facility capable of housing the work floor. A facility owned by Jordan Residential and Vocational Services was finally identified in early April.
Depot locations are fully operational.	11/1/2011	All three communities were actively collecting electronics on a nongoing basis by November of 2011.
VERN partners will hire adults to disassemble and separate electronic components.	4/20/12	Pueblo was the final community to begin the disassembly operation. They officially kicked off the vocational program April 20 <sup>th</sup> .

## III. PROJECT SUMMARY

### 1. Executive Summary

The Vocational Electronic Recycling Network was created as way of expanding Blue Star Recyclers' mission of using ethical electronic recycling as a way of creating jobs for people with developmental disabilities. Through partnerships with businesses and organization in the downstate communities of La Junta, Pueblo, and Canon City, the project was designed to reproduce the vocational model developed by Blue Star

Recyclers in Colorado Springs with the goal of fostering locally owned and operated e-waste collection operations that would, in turn, employ local individuals with developmental disabilities. The RREO project aimed to address two critical problems facing these targeted communities: 1. a poor rate of e-waste recycling resulting from the lack of ongoing, consistent, e-waste diversion programs; 2. an extremely high unemployment rate for individuals with developmental disabilities (estimated at higher than 88%). Based upon EPA estimates regarding the amount e-waste generated in the targeted communities, we estimated that the RREO VERN project would recycle a total of 286,800 pounds of electronic waste and create six jobs for individuals with developmental disabilities.

From the onset, the VERN project faced many unexpected challenges. Identifying the right partnerships in each area proved much more difficult than anticipated. The time required to receive board approval and finalize memorandums of understanding significantly delayed implementation of the project in both Canon City and Pueblo. Another challenge proved to be maintaining the cash flow needed to purchase budgeted items. In some cases, the purchase of certain items had to be postponed until the project received reimbursement from earlier purchases. This difficulty with cash flow further delayed the time line of the project. Finally, we did not anticipate just how difficult it would be to implement a fee-based recycling model in as economically a depressed region as the Lower Arkansas Valley.

Despite these challenges, the VERN project proved remarkably successful. In all, the project resulted in the recycling of 249,251 lbs of electronics and created ten vocational opportunities for local individuals with developmental disabilities. Therefore, the project fell just short of our material volume goal, but significantly exceeded the vocational goal established in the scope of work. Best of all, the project accomplished these results under budget.

By the end of the grant cycle, the VERN programs launched in Canon City and Pueblo were performing above the desired pace and seem poised to far exceed expectations in the coming year. The programs possess committed partnerships and appear to be financially sustainable going forward. Although it exceeded its goal for material volume for the grant year, the partnership in La Junta was not renewed following the grant cycle. The decision not to renew the memorandum of understanding was predicated on the partner's inability to garner the ongoing community support needed to financially sustain the project. Blue Star Recyclers is currently looking for new partners in the area in hopes of rejuvenating the project.

## **2. Project Description & Overview of Work Completed**

A geographic disparity exists between the wide-array of recycling options present in urban areas and the lack of availability of these services in rural regions in Colorado. This is especially the case when it comes to electronic recycling. Where you live in the state, largely dictates whether or not you can affordably recycle potentially hazardous electronics. By the same token, rural areas of Colorado currently have incredibly high unemployment rates for individuals with autism and other disabilities. Individuals with developmental disabilities face well over 88% unemployment in these communities. Without job opportunities, these individuals are usually relegated to either sitting at home or spending their days in taxpayer funded day habilitation centers.

The VERN project was designed to simultaneously address both these issues facing rural communities in our state. Through local partnerships, VERN establishes fully functioning material collection programs and then, utilizing the collected electronics, the project creates de-manufacturing operations that employ adults with disabilities. By creating local environmental, economic, and social benefits, the recycling program produces much more value to the community than traditional rural recycling models. By keeping revenue and jobs local, the community is more supportive of the effort and, ultimately, the program is more sustainable going forward.

The RREO grant project represented our first opportunity to test this model in the communities in La Junta, Pueblo, and Canon City. The grant allowed us the resources needed to establish local partnerships, purchase supplies and materials, lease and modify facility space, promote and publicize the program, and helped provide the community with some recycling fee subsidies.

After starting the project, we quickly realized that each of the targeted communities presented unique challenges. To the best of our ability, we tried to modify the model to meet the specific needs of each community. In an effort to give each community the best prospect of success, we ended up with three very distinct program models. In La Junta, we partnered with InspirationField, a local 501(c)3 disability service agency. In Canon City, we partnered with the local school district, Canon City Schools, RE-1. In Pueblo, we formed a partnership with a local for-profit paint recycler, Southern Colorado Recycling, and a local disability services organization, Jordan Residential and Vocational Services.

Once we established our partnerships, we provided each partner with training on material management, environmental compliance, and the logistics of recycling collection. Essentially, we had to teach each partner how to run a recycling business. This training involved having our partners come to our facility to learn our operations, as well as us going down to their facilities to work hands-on with their staff.

Once each partner was prepared for safely managing the collection operation, we sought to build communitywide support by reaching out to local civic clubs, local media outlets, and community leaders. The promotion concentrated on public education regarding both recycling and employment for individuals with autism. We tried to present to as many different audiences as we could. We presented to rotary clubs, lions clubs, school councils, city councils, and county commissioners. The public education effort also garnered nine newspaper articles and three radio interviews in support of the VERN project.

We then followed up this public education campaign with more traditional advertising, utilizing newspaper, movie theatre, and radio advertising to promote the programs. To help incentivize public participation, we also held seven community-wide recycling events that provided subsidized fee rates to the public. In this way, were able to provide individuals with less disposable income the opportunity to recycle their unwanted or obsolete electronics at little cost.

As public support grew for the collection program, we were able to develop the inventory of material needed to begin de-manufacturing and sorting of computer equipment. The vocational aspect of the program required that we assist our community partners in how to identify, hire, and train individuals with developmental disabilities to dismantle and

sort computer components. Once again this involved having the work-floor supervisors and targeted workers visit our facility, as well as having our supervisor go to each partner to work hands-on with their workers.

As with any pilot project, we faced some unanticipated challenges. That being said, the program was an overall success. The project produced two unequivocally successful programs that can act as models for other rural communities throughout Colorado.

### **3. Summary of Findings & Results**

The VERN project got off to a slow start. When crafting the scope of work, we did not anticipate the difficulties involved in receiving board approval from the individual VERN partners and did not anticipate the cash flow difficulties that would result from the relatively slow RREO reimbursement cycle. These obstacles significantly delayed the timeline we initially established in our scope of work. As a result, Pueblo ended up approximately two months behind schedule and Canon City ended up three months behind. Obviously, the slow deployment of these two communities put us significantly behind the pace needed to meet the goals outlined in our scope of work.

Although slow to the starting gate, the programs in Canon City and Pueblo proved to be extremely successful. Throughout the second half of the grant year, both communities diverted significantly more material than anticipated. By the end of the grant year, the VERN project had recycled 249,251 lbs. of electronic waste, over 87% of the original project goal. Of the material recycled, there were 32,402 lbs. of hazardous heavy metals diverted away from local landfills. Given the slow start of two of the three communities involved in the project, this level of diversion represents a remarkable level of success.

Just as significantly, the project produced thirteen vocational opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities, ten of which have proven sustainable beyond the grant year. Within our scope of work, we anticipated the VERN project would create a total of six jobs for individuals with disabilities. In this respect, we significantly exceeded the goals established at the onset of the grant. Within communities with unemployment rates for individuals with developmental disabilities well over 88%, the outcomes produced by this project are very meaningful.

The positive outcomes produced by VERN clearly resonated with the general public in the communities served by the project. The feedback received from community members has been overwhelming positive. Most local residents expressed a high level of excitement about the program's aims. Even in La Junta, which lacked the consistent level of participation required to sustain the program, the public turned out in high numbers to the initial kick-off collection event. By producing triple bottom line benefits, the VERN model is attractive to a diverse cross-section of the public. Indeed, even individuals not motivated by an environmental call to action, proved willing to recycle through the programs established by the RREO grant as a way of supporting the social or economic goals of the project.

### **4. Summary of Unanticipated Outcomes or Roadblocks**

As mentioned above, the timeline we established in our scope of work proved to be overly optimistic. The VERN project requires a significant commitment from the community partner. Given this level of commitment, a lot of groundwork was necessary to get organizational approval for the venture. In retrospect, we should have anticipated that formalizing these VERN partnerships would not be simple. For the project to be

successful, prospective partners must be closely evaluated to ensure they are prepared to devote the resources needed to get the program off the ground.

In this respect, it is not surprising that the one partnership that was solidified quickly proved to be the one partner not capable of fostering a sustainable program. In La Junta, InspirationField expressed immediate interest in the VERN program model and quickly entered into a memorandum of understanding to act as the VERN partner in the Lower Arkansas Valley. Initially, the program started very well. The official kick-off event was extremely successful, collecting over 57,490 lbs. Based upon that one day event, we had an inventory sufficient to hire three disabled workers. Over the course of the year, however, the InspirationField proved unable to engage the public and enlist ongoing support. As a government funded disability service agency, the type of business and community outreach required to sustain the VERN model was simply outside their core competency. In a region as economically troubled as the Lower Arkansas Valley, this proved damning. Ultimately, the program was unable to collect enough material to sustain the three jobs initially created by the program. When it became apparent that the public was beginning to dump electronic waste at an InspirationField facility in a manner that could potentially compromise the environment, it was determined that the program had to be suspended.

As the sole partner in VERN project, InspirationField did not possess the resources needed to develop a sustainable program. Unlike the La Junta project, the programs created in Canon City and Pueblo had access to a wide array of resources and support. Canon City Schools found this support internally. As a school district, they were able to enlist the help of their facilities department, the special education department, administrative staff, and community outreach staff. In addition, the project coordinator reached out to the high school marketing class and the shop class to help develop material for the program. In Pueblo, the program was able to tap the business acumen of Southern Colorado Recycling, a for-profit LLC, and the disability service experience of the vocational partner, Jordan Residential and Vocational Services. The Pueblo program also received a lot of support from the public sector. The Pueblo Public Health Department was instrumental in promoting the program to the public. Likewise, city council members and county commissions proved very interested in the project, providing the program with credibility.

If InspirationField had access to the public and private support enjoyed by the other two programs, the outcome could have been different. However, the agency did not have the resources or skill set to develop these resources. To be successful, another community partner was needed to drive the program forward. Unfortunately, this community partner has not yet been identified.

#### **5. Communication of Project Findings**

The VERN model seems to generate a lot of community interest. Based largely on the media coverage generated from the RREO grant project, Blue Star Recyclers received the Colorado Association for Recycling (CAFR) 2012 Outstanding Media Outreach Award. As mentioned above, the project generated nine newspaper articles and three radio interviews.

VERN's continued success requires that each partner continue to tell the story of the program to the program. We will continue to work with the partners in communicating every new milestone reached by the project to the community and continuing to promote

program events. One avenue we will lend this support will be by maintaining web pages on our site devoted to each VERN community. These web pages will display the accomplishments of the program, provide pictures and content about the individuals employed by the program, and be constantly updated to inform the public about new developments.

VERN members have also been encouraged to continue to seek speaking engagements in front of civic clubs, public officials, and other community audiences. It is hoped that these presentations will continue to develop a community of advocates to keep each community moving forward. The partners have also indicated that they plan to purchase advertising to promote special offers and events.

Based upon the success of the RREO project, Blue Star Recyclers has committed to expanding the network. As we develop and expand VERN, we will be very active in promoting the success of the Canon City and Pueblo programs. As we promote the VERN model, we hope to receive some statewide, perhaps even national media exposure about the project. We will also be presenting the project to communities throughout the state over the course of the next year. To aid in the effort, we will be developing VERN's web presence and be developing a wide range of marketing materials.

#### **6. Future Impact of the Project**

Given the level of excitement from the VERN partners in Canon City and Pueblo, we feel confident that both programs will be successful for years to come. Both programs possess stakeholders that are committed to the project and seem eager to expand its influence. Based upon the rate of material diversion experienced in the last quarter of the grant cycle, both Pueblo and Canon City appear poised to significantly increase their material volumes in the next year. As material volumes increase, both programs should be able to add even more jobs for individuals with autism and other disabilities.

Starting July 1<sup>st</sup>, VERN moved from a grant-funded project, to a permanent department of Blue Star Recyclers. A VERN program was launched in Alamosa, Colorado this July, and five additional communities have expressed a desire to join the network within the next few months. Ultimately, we believe the VERN model can provide value to a number of communities both within Colorado and in other states.

As the inaugural members of the network, we believe Canon City and Pueblo will offer a template that can be followed by other communities hoping to get similar programs started. When compared to recycling diversion programs that send material out of rural communities, shipping the revenue and job potential along with it, VERN offers rural areas a much more valuable solution to the e-waste problem. Now that the model has been proven to be workable, we anticipate more and more communities will want to join the network. Our ultimate hope is that this RREO funded grant project will be responsible for a chain reaction that sparks electronic recycling throughout rural America.

#### **7. Financial Summary**

The VERN project was truly a pilot project. When developing our grant application, we really did not have any models by which to craft our budget. Although we ascertained our grant request through earnest due diligence, it was very difficult to forecast what the actual costs of the project would be. We are proud to report that we were able to implement the project \$33,910.13 under our original budget. We underutilized the grant award by \$11,034.14. Our expenditures and in-kind contribution were as follows:

Description	Grant Funds Spent	Matching/In Kind Amount (if any)	Total Amount
Personnel Salaries	\$13,773.47	\$1,946.56	\$15,720.03
Fringe Benefits	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Tuition/Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Travel Costs	\$6,358.65	\$679.50	\$7,038.15
Materials/Supplies/Equipment(under \$5000)	\$12,775.13	\$0.00	\$12,775.13
Equipment Purchases (over \$5000)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Contractors/Subcontractors	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Training/Education	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Marketing/Advertising	\$19,645.97	\$0.00	\$19,645.97
Other Direct Costs	\$26,199.43	\$20,757.95	\$46,957.38
Indirect Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Project Cost:	\$78,752.65	\$23,384.01	\$102,136.66

## 8. Conclusion

We did not know what to anticipate when we launched the VERN project. Although we had successfully established an electronic recycling program designed to employ individuals with disabilities in Colorado Springs, we did not know for sure if that model could be exported to rural communities. In a lot of ways, this RREO project represented virgin territory for us. Throughout the grant year, we encountered many unforeseen challenges that put the success of the project in doubt. However, at the end of the day, the partners involved the project pulled through, and we ended up with two dynamic, vibrant, recycling programs. The VERN partners in Pueblo and Canon City seem committed to the project and ready to shepherd their programs forward in the years to come. Both programs should become models by which a number of other communities can benefit.

Although the environmental impact of the program has been substantial, the heart of the project will always be the individuals with disabilities served by it. Both the Canon City and Pueblo programs report startling success in this regard. The ten individuals employed through the program have made amazing strides in both their productivity and their emotional and physical wellbeing. For many of them, VERN represents the first time in their lives that they have been given the opportunity to demonstrate value. When given the chance to be productive, these individuals have proven there are no limitations on their capacity for growth.

**9. Appendix**

- a. Grant Metrics Table (see Excel Spreadsheet)
- b. Community Leader Contact Information

Jack Pendleton  
President of Southern Colorado Recycling  
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President of Jordan Residential and Vocational Services  
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Kirsten Javernick  
Director of Special Education at Canon City Schools  
719.276.5716, [javernk@canoncityschoools.org](mailto:javernk@canoncityschoools.org)

Susan Finzel-Alderid  
Environmental Coordinator at Pueblo Public Health Department  
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Eva Montoya  
District 2 Representative of the Pueblo City Council  
719.546.9647, [emontoya@pueblo.us](mailto:emontoya@pueblo.us)

Jeff Chostner  
District 3 Representative of the Board of Pueblo County Commissioners  
719.583.6537

Honey Mosehetti  
School Board President, Canon City Schools  
719.275.2720

- c. Manuals, Brochures, Print Advertisements, Pictures, Educational Materials, etc.
  - i. A story in pictures
  - ii. Newspaper articles
  - iii. Examples of advertising campaign

## A Story in Pictures

### Initial Collection Events



Otero and Bent County Recycling Event



Canon City Schools Kickoff Event



Canon City Schools Recycling Event



Pueblo County Recycling Event

### Public Education



Andy O'Riley and Bill Morris presenting to audiences about VERN

## Training



Canon City tours the Blue Star facility



Blue Star supervisor, Dave Fry, demonstrating the disassembly process

## The Canon City Crew in Action



## The Pueblo Crew in Action



# LaJuntaTribuneDemocrat.com

## Local agency will turn junk into jobs

La Junta, Colo. —

InspirationField has launched a new electronic recycling program. Starting on Sept. 26, InspirationField will be collecting unwanted electronics from local businesses and residents for a nominal fee. As a part of the recycling process, the agency will be employing local adults with disabilities to de-manufacture and separate computer components. This new business adventure will provide InspirationField the opportunity to address a serious environmental problem, while simultaneously creating meaningful work for some of the most under-employed residents of Otero County. InspirationField Executive Director Johnnie DeLeon commented, "This is a great opportunity for us to create jobs for some of our individuals in services, as well as helping protect the environment. We are really excited to be partnering with Blue Star Recyclers for this adventure." The program initiative partners InspirationField with a Colorado Springs-based company, Blue Star Recyclers, to ethically recycle the electronic waste generated in La Junta, Rocky Ford and neighboring communities. Blue Star Recyclers will ethically recycle all collected electronics. Most electronics contain components that contain potentially toxic heavy metals, such as lead, mercury, cadmium, and beryllium. If land-filled or otherwise dumped, these metals can contaminate the soil and groundwater. Blue Star ensures that all hazardous components are recycled in a manner that safeguards both the environment and human health and safety. Blue Star Recyclers was awarded a grant from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. This grant enabled Blue Star Recyclers to create partnerships with local businesses in Canon City, Pueblo and La Junta. During the first year of operations, the grant will provide some subsidies to help launch the electronics recycling in the lower Arkansas Valley, Pueblo, and Canon City. Andy O'Riley, vice president of materials processing with Blue Star Recyclers, stated, "A large majority of people with developmental disabilities are unemployed. Any jobs we create for this group is a huge win for them and the community. Not only does this benefit people with disabilities, recycling electronics in an ethical way keeps e-waste out of

## Energetic ideas

Event urges recycling of electronics

By CHARLOTTE BURROUS burrousc@canoncitydailyrecord.com

Posted: 10/03/2011 08:26:19 AM MDT

Recycling electronics once a year is not enough. But thanks to a new program that begins soon, residents will be able to recycle computer equipment at anytime. During the second annual Energy Fair at Sonny's Ace Home Center, regional recycling coordinator Beth Lenz, ocal talked about recycling items through BlueStar Recyclers.

"They recycle responsibility," she said. "They also partner with people with disabilities to recycle. They set up a depot with Cañon City High School and students with disabilities." During the fair, BlueStar Recyclers vice-president Andy O'Riley talked about the benefits of recycling on the local level. "Historically, we've always done annual recycling events," he said. "The idea is for people who are moving or otherwise just can't wait for an annual event, we need to get some kind of ongoing recycling program in Cañon City." Using the partnership with the school district, the company can also use the materials to provide economical benefit for Cañon City.

"Using the computer components to employ some of the disabled students so that two or three individuals will essentially de-manufacture the materials (will) develop job skills," O'Riley said.

"Eventually, it will turn into a pay check and ultimately become a gateway, a vocational path to future employment." The two-fold benefit will keep the material out of the landfills and provide a good economical impact by employing individuals who otherwise might not have many work opportunities. The program will accept tired, rundown, broken or used equipment lying around, including computers, laptops, keyboards and other computer accessories, CPUS, desktop printers, faxes, monitors, copiers, stereo components, typewriters, calculator, TVs, microwaves, video equipment, gaming equipment and more.

"We're collecting the computer components to build up our inventory and get the disabled teens working by early next year," O'Riley said. He noted it would cost to recycle them, but it would provide other benefits. "A lot of the materials have negative net value," he said. "The cost and ethical recycling is more than the value of the commodities themselves. We need to generate enough income to employ disabled students. Most things are going to be plenty (inexpensive,) but that money is going to go directly to employ students with disabilities." In the meantime, several vendors were set up inside the store to provide ways of going green, including the organizers, UAACOG housing coordinator Laura Yost, who featured the Home Improvement program.

"Along with Sonny's, Atmos and Black Hills Energy, the Council of Governments helped to develop the program," she said. "All of us came together and decided to raise energy awareness and help give people some tools to do that." During the fair, she explained one of the things that can be done with the program is to improve the energy efficiency of the home.

The Cañon City Tiger Electronic Recycling Project will be open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday, beginning Nov. 1 at the modulars on the west side of CCHS at 12th Street and

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**BlueStar Recyclers vice president Andy Navarro throws a piece of computer equipment into the...**

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## [Tiger Print Recycling Needs Your Old Electronic Waste!](#)

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Cathy Goodwin (School to Work Alliance Program) and Andy O'Riley (Blue Star Recyclers) stopped by our studio to talk shop about the CCHS Tiger Print Recycling Program.

The program employs local students with special needs and disabilities, teaching them valuable skills for life and employment.

Andy O'Riley believes "employment is the key to independence" and even more so with students who have disabilities. They've also discovered that recycling and deconstructing electronic waste is one of many tasks students with developmental disabilities excel at.

The program is always seeking electronics, so Fremont County, don't let that printer end up in a landfill, instead head to CCHS Tiger Print Recycling at their warehouse at 1030 South 4th st.

Tiger Print can recycle Computers, Laptops, CPU's, TV's, Microwaves, Monitors, Copiers, Keyboards, Mice, Video Equipment, Gaming Equipment, Desktop Printers/Fax, Stereo Components of all types, Telephones including cordless and cell, Typewriters and calculators and much, much more.

Rather than throwing out old electronics, certainly destined for a giant landfill, our community can now train local students who need and want employment.

To hear my interview with Cathy Goodwin and Andy O'Riley follow the link! Happy recycling!

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## Making the old new

### Students gain work experience through Tiger Print Recycling

By CARI E CANTERBURY canterburyc@canoncitydailyrecord.com  
Posted: 01/25/2012 08:24:10 AM MST



Cañon City High School students Toni Quintana, left, and Dustin Monett move a television set onto a pallet Monday at the district warehouse for their Tiger Printing Recycling program. (Jeff Shane/Daily Record)

Students at Cañon City High School now have a way to learn job skills while at the same time helping to preserve the environment.

Through Tiger Print Recycling, students with developmental, social or emotional disabilities can gain work experience and employment opportunities while offering the community a drop-off point for their recyclable electronics.

Located at the Cañon City Schools Warehouse, Tiger Print Recycling has its own space where students accept computers, laptops, TVs, microwaves, copiers, gaming equipment, stereo components and more, for a nominal fee. Blue Star Recyclers then picks up the materials to ensure they are processed in the most environmentally ethical manner possible.

Director of Special Services for Cañon City Schools Kirsten Javernick said the program is part of the Vocational Electronics Recycling Network Project, made possible by a grant through the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and Blue Star Recyclers of Colorado Springs.

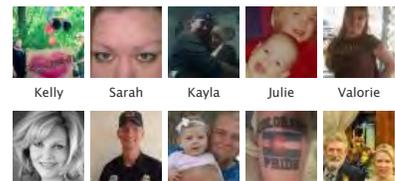
The program is a win-win situation, Javernick said.

"We help the environment and get some good work experience for our kids as they learn some valuable skills and are able to transition into adult life after high school," she said.

Senior Toni Quintana is new to the program, she said, but looks forward to learning some new skills.

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"The guys I work with are really great guys and just to have the experience to learn about a job before you get thrown out in the real world," she said.

Dustin Monett, a junior, also appreciates the opportunity to gain employment experience.

"It gives me work experience because I've never had a job yet," he said. "It teaches you what to do on a job basically."

In February, students will begin de-manufacturing some of the electronic waste that is brought in.

"Then, we'll be taking our kiddos with a little bit more significant need supports and train them how to take apart computer towers and sublimate them into their components for easier recycling," Javernick said.

Ken Cline not only supervises the program and acts as a job coach, he also is helping to design the curriculum to go along with the program so students can earn academic credits.

"Students get to work with customers that come in, so they get to learn that aspect of it, as well," he said, "how to greet a customer, how to count back money, those things."

Tiger Print Recycling accepts electronics from 10 a.m. to 1p.m. Monday through Friday at the district warehouse, 1030 S. Fourth St. For more information or recycling fees, call 276-5717 or 276-6000. Air conditioners and refrigerators are not accepted.

Saturday, students will host a special electronic recycling and hard drive shredding event to officially kick off the program. From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. all fees are discounted. Computer monitors are \$5 to recycle; TVs under 25" are \$10 each; TVs over 25" are \$20 each; hard drive destruction is \$5 each; and all other electronics are free during this one-time event.

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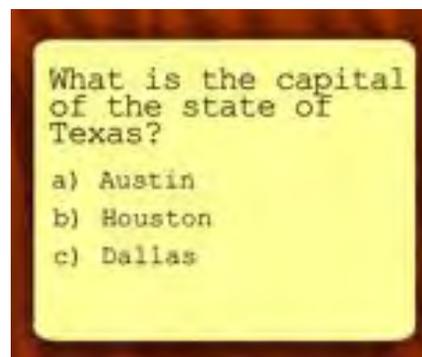
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# Electronics recycling to aid disabled workers

Companies team on project with eye toward hiring by July.

Posted: Saturday, March 10, 2012 12:00 am

By **ANTHONY A. MESTAS** | [anthony@chieftain.com](mailto:anthony@chieftain.com) | 0 comments



A plan to turn electronic junk into economic fuel for Pueblo also would provide jobs for people with disabilities. Local paint recycler Southern Colorado Services & Recycling is teaming with Colorado Springs nonprofit BlueStar Recyclers on the proposal.

The plan calls for extending BlueStar's electronics recycling and disabled

workers employment program to Pueblo by July.

"We want disabled people in Pueblo to have the same opportunities as they do in Colorado Springs," said Andy O'Riley, vice president of BlueStar.

The public is charged a fee for some items to be recycled. The companies advise the public to call in advance for fee prices. Pickup service also is available.

Southern Colorado Services & Recycling operates from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at 1731 N. Erie Ave. The telephone number is 542-6910.

The project would create jobs for a segment of Southern Colorado that is currently facing an unemployment rate of 88 percent, O'Riley said.

Jack Pendleton, of Southern Colorado Services & Recycling, said his company has been building up its inventory of recycled items in advance of hiring workers. The company also is in contact with two organizations that can direct disabled individuals to get jobs at his company, Pendleton said.

The company also is reaching out to surrounding counties to participate, he said.

"We want to create a win-win situation here and, hopefully, we can extend to other Southern Colorado counties to create more volume (of electronics) so we can create more jobs," Pendleton said.

O'Riley agreed that a key to the project's success will be attracting a large volume of recyclable items. "The more material we take in Pueblo, the more jobs we should be able to create locally," he said.

The jobs are ideal for disabled individuals, especially for autistic people, O'Riley said.

"It's a very black and white activity. It's very systematic and procedural. It is right along the lines of their natural skill set," O'Riley said.

**Follow Anthony A. Mestas on Twitter:** <http://twitter.com/mestas3517>

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July 31, 2012

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## Pueblo company creates jobs through the VERN Project

Posted: Thursday, March 8, 2012 12:00 am

The Pueblo West View |

Southern Colorado Services and Recycling, a locally owned and operated paint recycler, will soon be one of the first organizations in Colorado to create jobs for people with disabilities by recycling electronics. Southern Colorado Services and Recycling has been collecting electronic waste in the Pueblo area for more than two years, but it has always sent materials to Colorado Springs for processing.

Unfortunately, when the material left town, so did the jobs created through the recycling of the electronics.

That dynamic will soon change.

Through its selection to take part in the VERN Project, Southern Colorado Services and Recycling will soon begin de-manufacturing and separating old computer components using a work team comprised of individuals with autism and other types of disabilities.

The VERN Project (Vocational Electronics Recycling Network) is between the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and Blue Star Recyclers of Colorado Springs.

Blue Star Recyclers' program in Colorado Springs demonstrated that some individuals with developmental disabilities excel at the type of manual disassembly and separation activity required to responsibly recycle electronic components.

The VERN Project, through a grant from the department of public health, will allow the program to be replicated in smaller communities across the state.

“The impact will be especially beneficial when you consider that we will be creating jobs for a segment of the population that is currently facing nearly 90 percent unemployment in southern Colorado,” said Jack Pendleton, with Southern Colorado Services and Recycling.

For more information, call 542-6910.

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by Taboola

From The Web



Why Stylists Hate Boxed  
Haircolor

(Hair Color For Women)

# Recycle Your Unwanted Electronics

## Help Us Create Jobs in Pueblo



Southern Colorado Services and Recycling partners with Jordan Residential and Vocational Services to provide Pueblo with ethical electronics recycling services. The more electronics you recycle the more jobs we create for local people with disabilities.

### We recycle:

Televisions, computers and IT equipment, audio, video and monitors, office electronics, small appliances

### Southern Colorado Services & Recycling LLC

1731 N. Erie Ave, Pueblo, CO 81001

Phone: 719-542-6910

Business Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

### Partners:



# Electronic Recycling & Hard Drive Shredding Event

## Spring Cleaning? Let us Help...

Recycle your old electronics with us.

Protect your confidential information and shred your hard drive on site!

**Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> 2012**  
**10 am to 1 pm**

**Canon City Schools Warehouse**  
1030 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Canon City

All net proceeds will help us create jobs for people with disabilities in Canon City!

Support local environment, economy, and community!



**All fees discounted for this event!**

Computer Monitors.....\$5 each  
Televisions under "25 .....\$10 each  
Televisions over "25.....\$20 each  
Hard drive destruction.....\$5 each



**All other electronics are FREE!**



## TIGER PRINT RECYCLING

Tiger Print Recycling creates work experience and employment opportunities for students with developmental disabilities, social or emotional difficulties. This "business" within the School District creates jobs and helps the environment.

Call Raynette Douglas at 719.276.5717 for more information.

# Grant Metrics

Date project fully operational:

April-12

(Based on deliverables- month that impact of grant would have changed volumes/job creation/participants)

Diversion Rates:

(Choose one material per box. Only list those collected over the grant cycle. Must be listed as "tons". See tab labeled "Conversion Tables" if needed.)

Material Diverted #1	Electronics (CPUs, TVs, etc.)
Tons Diverted	
July-11	
August-11	1.96
September-11	32.19
October-11	7.4
November-11	3.17
December-11	
January-12	11.7
February-12	1.85
March-12	4.14
April-12	11.26
May-12	21.65
June-12	29.31
<b>Total</b>	<b>124.63</b>

Other div. material:

Material Diverted #2	
Tons Diverted	
July-11	
August-11	
September-11	
October-11	
November-11	
December-11	
January-12	
February-12	
March-12	
April-12	
May-12	
June-12	
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>

Other div. material:

Material Diverted #3	
Tons Diverted	
July-11	
August-11	
September-11	
October-11	
November-11	
December-11	
January-12	
February-12	
March-12	
April-12	
May-12	
June-12	
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>

Other div. material:

Material Diverted #4	
Tons Diverted	
July-11	
August-11	
September-11	
October-11	
November-11	
December-11	
January-12	
February-12	
March-12	
April-12	
May-12	
June-12	
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>

Other div. material:

Material Diverted #5	
Tons Diverted	
July-11	
August-11	
September-11	
October-11	
November-11	
December-11	
January-12	
February-12	
March-12	
April-12	
May-12	
June-12	
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>

Other div. material:

Material Diverted #6	
Tons Diverted	
July-11	
August-11	
September-11	
October-11	
November-11	
December-11	
January-12	
February-12	
March-12	
April-12	
May-12	
June-12	
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>

Other div. material:

Material Diverted #7	
Tons Diverted	
July-11	
August-11	
September-11	
October-11	
November-11	
December-11	
January-12	
February-12	
March-12	
April-12	
May-12	
June-12	
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>

Other div. material:

Material Diverted #8	
Tons Diverted	
July-11	
August-11	
September-11	
October-11	
November-11	
December-11	
January-12	
February-12	
March-12	
April-12	
May-12	
June-12	
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>

Other div. material:

End use of diverted materials:

(Describe where materials are going [e.g., MRF, new products, reuse])

Once collected, the material was sorted and the computer material was de-manufactured. Ferrous and non-ferrous metals were sold locally by each VERN partner to local scrape yards. T

Number of Permanent Jobs Created:

12

Include full-time & part time paid positions. 1 FTE = 40 Hours Per Week

Type of Permanent Job(s) Created:

(Provide titles of jobs created)

The program created ten part-time jobs for individuals with developmental disabilities (Recycling Techs) and two part-time supervisor positions. (Enclave Supervisors)

Average Salaries of Jobs Created:

(Average of all jobs created)

Less than \$15,000

Average Monthly Customers for FY 2011:

(July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011)

12

Average Monthly Customers for FY 2012:

(Estimate or customer lists)

	Avg. Monthly Amount
July-11	0
August-11	39
September-11	250
October-11	147
November-11	63
December-11	30
January-12	225
February-12	37
March-12	82
April-12	215
May-12	420
June-12	360
<b>Ave. / FY 12</b>	<b>155.6666667</b>