



Greenprint News

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HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM GREENPRINT DENVER

Greenprint's Year One Successes:

- On July 11, 2007, Waste Management broke ground on a 3.2-MW landfill gas-to-electricity plant (power equivalent of 3,000 homes)
- Plans for a 2-MW solar plant are moving forward at DIA which will generate enough energy to power the tram system
- Over 70,000 trees have been planted throughout the community as part of *Tree by Tree: the Mile High Million*
- Conversion of 3 bluegrass sites in Denver Parks (Ruby Hill, Montbello, and Milstein) have been converted to natural vegetation, bringing a 50% water savings
- The new Justice Center will be LEED-certified
- 164 low-flow toilets installed in the City & County Building will save 900,000 gallons of water per year
- Recycling is now done at the Colorado Convention Center and Red Rocks Amphitheatre
- Denver Recycles reports average weekly tonnage of recycled materials has increased by 63% in 2007
- Denver's first Climate Action Plan was adopted by Mayor Hickenlooper and published in October



Energy News at DIA

Denver International Airport is launching an in-depth energy study with Siemens Building Technologies to try to lower electricity bills, increase energy efficiency and reduce its impact on the environment as it plans for future development. This is in line with one of Mayor Hickenlooper's key goals under the Climate Action Plan, which is to cut DIA's power consumption by 1 percent per passenger per year.

The project will deal with all aspects of energy use at DIA, including heating, cooling, ventilation, lighting, water use, baggage system, parking and traffic-management procedures, and will explore the feasibility of introducing new technology and renewable energy sources to DIA to reduce carbon emissions. Energy reduction not only will decrease DIA's expenses, the airlines too will benefit by a reduction in their operating costs.

DIA is in the process of constructing a two-megawatt solar energy system just outside the airport's main terminal and installing nearly 10,000 solar panels that will generate enough energy to power the tram system (or the equivalent of approx. 1,000 homes each year). The airport also is installing new energy-efficient technology on 160 escalators and moving walkways throughout the airport consisting of motion sensors that allow the escalators and walkways to stop moving when no one is present. This is expected to cut energy use for those systems by up to 40 percent. DIA estimates it will save up to \$100,000 annually and recover its investment costs in three years. Read the entire article at: <http://www.rockymountainnews.com/news/2007/dec/14/dia-brings-in-firm-to-look-at-energy>

Spotlight on Denver Water

647 new toilets and 127 urinals were purchased and installed in City government buildings in 2007 thanks to the partnership between Denver Water and Greenprint Denver. Where do the old commodes go? The commodes are on the road again. The china, once separated from the other parts, eventually ends up at Brannan Sand & Gravel Company and becomes road base. So the roads you drive on in the future could be toilets you replaced in the past.

Greenprint Denver Update -

Dec. 5 - Presentation by Greenprint staff to American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) to discuss wider adoption of energy efficient technologies by the industry

Dec. 12 - Greenprint outreach with Sierra Club Regional Representative in an effort to foster relationships and further the cause of environmental protection

Dec. 12 - Taped interview by Comcast Network with Greenprint Director, Michele Weingarden

Dec. 14 - Presentation by Greenprint staff to the Internal Climate Action Group at the Museum of Nature and Science to discuss possible greening and sustainability efforts. The museum could be the City's first cultural institution to undertake a commitment towards a green future!

In December, the Mayor's Office and Greenprint Denver participated in the Adopt-A-Family giving program hosted by Denver Human Services. Dozens of donated gifts made the holidays a little brighter for the Samhain family, whose seven children range in age from 18 months to 11 years.

2008 Urban Lens Calendars are available through Denver Parks and Recreation. Your generous donation of \$10 each benefits the Denver Parks and Recreation Youth Scholarship Fund. If you have any questions about programs provided by Denver Parks and Recreation or to place an order, please call 720-913-0689 or contact 311, Denver's customer call center.

- Events -

Xcel Energy Offers Free Workshops. Take advantage of Xcel Energy's free energy efficiency workshops now through April 1, 2008. The workshops are targeted for HOAs, neighborhood groups, service clubs, church groups and other community gatherings. To schedule a workshop, call 303-294-2476.

For the latest "green" events, visit: <http://greenprintdenver.org/news/events.php>.

-TIP OF THE MONTH-

Take Recycling Seriously. Denver Public Works, through its Solid Waste Management Division, provides waste management service for 165,000 homes in Denver and collects over 256,000 tons of trash at Denver homes each year. That's an average of 1.6 tons per household a year. Recycling can lower those figures and help the environment at the same time. Recycling lowers carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions by reducing the energy it takes to produce products, as well as the reduction in emissions by transporting less solid waste to the landfill.

Denver Recycles encourages environmentally responsible purchasing and disposal habits in your homes, at work and at school in an effort to reduce the volume and toxicity of our waste stream. Currently available to Denver residents living in single family homes and in buildings of 7 or fewer residential units, Denver Recycles offers purple bins for residential recycling of corrugated cardboard, mixed office paper, junk mail, magazines and catalogs, paperboard (cereal boxes, tissue boxes, etc), phone books, brown paper bags, newspapers (including inserts and ads), plastic bottles, glass bottles and jars, aluminum and steel cans, aluminum foil and pie tins, and empty aerosol cans. Residents of multi-family properties or businesses in commercial buildings should contact their management or landlord to inquire about setting up recycling collection service through their waste hauler. To learn more about Denver Recycles, please log onto their website at: <http://www.denvergov.org/recapp/DenverRecyclesHome/tabid/425351/Default.aspx>.

We face a startling dilemma concerning plastic. A plastic milk container cannot be recycled into another milk container without adding a new virgin layer of plastic due to the fact that it melts at low temperatures and retains pollutants and tainted residue of its former contents. Some plastics actually release deadly vapors when the heat is turned up to sear these off. As a result, most reclaimed plastic is used for secondary products such as fleece jackets, carpeting and plastic lumber, all of which are unrecyclable products. Of the seven different plastics in common use, only two of them -- PET #1, used in soda bottles, and HDPE #2, used in milk jugs -- have much of an aftermarket. Due to the molecular structure of plastic that resists biodegradation, every bit of plastic ever made (with the exception of the small amount that's been incinerated) still exists. Read more about how plastic is destroying our environment and making its way into our food chain by logging on:

http://www.bestlifeonline.com/cms/publish/health-fitness/Our_oceans_are_turning_into_plastic_are_we_2_printer.shtml.



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