



Greenprint Denver News

CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER

Residential Programs Increase in 2011

For the past two years, Greenprint Denver has been working with neighborhood Green Teams to connect residents with energy efficiency, water conservation, and other sustainability services and resources. This year, two new programs will be added to the suite of resources being offered to help Denver residents save money on utility bills, enhance energy and water efficiency, and have a positive impact on the environment.

Energy Efficiency Upgrade and Insulation Program

With funding from a federal Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG), and in partnership with Mile High Youth Corps and GB3 Energy Solutions, Greenprint Denver launched an income-qualifying program that provides free home energy and water efficiency upgrades and an attic assessment that may result in the installation of free attic insulation. This program is available to eligible homeowners and renters citywide.

Energy Advisor Program

Many people want to get an energy audit but don't know how to get started. Or they have completed an audit but don't

know what to do with the results. This spring, Greenprint Denver will be able to help residents take the next steps to improving the efficiency of their homes with the launch of the Energy Advisor Program. Energy experts will be available to help fill out forms, understand and prioritize audit results, locate rebates, get bids and select contractors. They can be in the home while the work is being done, and will perform a quality assurance check of all installations. This free assistance will be available to all Denver residents.

The City of Denver has a *Climate Action Plan* with a goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 25% by 2020. You can help the City reach that goal, PLUS save money on your utility bills by taking action. We'd like to help you do that.

For more information about our residential outreach program, visit www.greenprintdenver.org, or call 720-865-9017.

Small Business Energy Program Kicks-off

Energy efficiency experts from Denver's Department of Environmental Health kicked off the city's Small Business Energy Program on March 8th by replacing more than 500 incandescent light bulbs on the marquee of the Bluebird Theater with energy efficient, Cold Cathode compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs).

The new bulbs will cut the Bluebird marquee sign's energy use by 73%, shaving an estimated \$3,600 per year (including replacement costs) off the theater's annual lighting expenses, in addition to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Replacing the marquee lights is just the first step towards overall energy savings for the 98-year-old Bluebird. Theater staff is also planning to upgrade the interior lighting to achieve further energy and cost savings.



Jeremy Lauffenburger from Denver's Small Business Energy Program replaces old incandescent light bulbs with efficient CFLs on the Bluebird Theater marquee.

The program, part of the Department of Energy's Better Buildings Initiative funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), assists businesses with taking advantage of Xcel Energy audits, developing an action plan for completing energy upgrades, providing cash rebates for improvements once the projects are complete, as well as helping businesses evaluate additional opportunities for energy savings.

For more information about Denver's Small Business Energy Program, visit www.denvergov.org/bizenergy or call (720) 913-1516.

New Green Valley Ranch Branch Library is Very Green

As part of the City's commitment to Greenprint Denver initiatives, the new Green Valley Ranch Branch Library was designed and constructed with the goal of achieving U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold Certification through sustainable construction approaches.

The 26,000 square foot library is estimated to use approximately 60% less energy annually than conventionally-designed buildings, by incorporating green building features including the use of evaporative cooling systems, heat exchangers and day-lighting. The evaporative cooling and heat exchanger systems reduce the amount of energy required to heat and cool the library by re-using cool air from evaporation and by recycling discharged heat. Further, daylight sensors turn lights on or off as needed by monitoring light levels and activity within spaces.

Advanced, low-flow water fixtures at all lavatories and dual-flush valves on all toilets will use an estimated 40% less water annually. These strategies mitigate or eliminate unnecessary excesses in water volume. Additionally, the library's landscape was designed to use approximately 50% less potable water through the careful selection of plant

species that require less water and the use of highly efficient irrigation systems.

"I am thrilled that Greenprint Denver and the Better Denver Bond Program are working together to incorporate green building strategies into the City's newest infrastructure," said Mayor Vidal. "These efforts to conserve resources and preserve the environment are an investment in Denver's future and will benefit our residents for years to come."

The library, which opened on March 12th, is the first of three Denver Public Library branches to be completed as part of the Better Denver Bond library improvements. In addition to the green building features, the \$11.4 million facility boasts the latest in library technology including customer self-checkout stations, 50 public computers, wi-fi accessibility, and community meeting rooms.

Upon voter approval of the Better Denver Bond Program in 2007, the City established a Better Denver Bond Sustainability Committee to encourage innovation and sharing of best practices across city agencies and construction projects. To date, green building practices have saved the City \$700,000 in energy, water, and material costs. In addition, 95% of the construction and demolition debris has been recycled, rather than being sent to the landfill as trash.

The success of this project demonstrates the value of coordinating with project managers to integrate sustainable building features into the design and construction phases. By taking advantage of green design elements and sustainable building technologies, the Green Valley Ranch Branch Library will have a lower operating expense and will minimize the use of natural resources throughout the life of the library.



Within the Green Valley Ranch Branch Library, 75% of spaces have access to natural light and 90% have a view to the outdoor environment.



*Want to find **sustainable restaurants** in Denver? Look for this fork-shaped bike rack. Members of Eat Greener Denver (EGD) have installed the bike racks outside of 9 of their restaurants, including Snooze, Vesta, 1515, Duo, Olivea, and Avenue Grill, with plans to install 11 more this spring.*

The group of independent businesses was established in 2009 in partnership with the U.S. EPA, Greenprint Denver, and several local organizations to create a 12-month implementation plan for environmental purchasing and employment practices. EGD raised money for the bike racks while highlighting their greening efforts at last year's Doo at the Zoo community event.

Denver Water Retrofits Denver Public School Bathrooms

Several Denver Public School (DPS) buildings have cut their water use by at least 40% since 2009, thanks to a partnership with Denver Water to help reduce water consumption in schools. This project involved evaluating indoor and outdoor water use in 124 schools to identify, analyze, and recommend projects that would reduce utility and operational costs for the district, and support Denver Water's demand management efforts.

DPS is about one-third of the way finished with a project to replace all inefficient toilets, urinals and faucets with high-efficiency fixtures. Denver Water is buying all the fixtures and Denver Public Schools is supplying the labor. When the project is complete, the district is expected to reduce its water use by 55 million gallons of water a year.

"The number of kids in the DPS system means a lot of toilets are flushed. The total amount of water saved each day is staggering," said Donna Pacetti, Denver Water's local government conservation coordinator. Pacetti, an Urban Fellow on loan to Greenprint Denver, oversees the project for Denver Water. "Replacing all these fixtures will save an enormous amount of water for the future."

East High School, an official Denver Historic Landmark, is one of the school buildings that received new equipment while schools were closed this summer. Based on the water-consumption data provided by Denver Water, East uses an average of 3,000 gals/student and is spending approximately \$23,000/year on water and sewer costs. Approximately 27% of the annual consumption comes from indoor water usage, which is where the greatest savings opportunities were identified. The indoor water fixtures were replaced in all bathrooms, including faucets, urinals, and toilets, classroom sinks, and kitchen hand sinks. The annual indoor savings to DPS from the fixture upgrades at East High School alone are estimated to be 1,380,000 gallons of water and \$5,785 per year in electricity, water, and sewer costs.



Denver B-cycle Launches Second Season

Denver B-cycle's second season launched on Monday, March 14th, with a press conference conducted entirely on bikes. The distinct red Denver B-cycle cruiser bikes had been taken off the street for a three-month "winter hibernation" while some exciting system improvements were made. Annual members and volunteers returned the bikes to docking stations throughout the city after participating in the St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, March 12th.

The bikes already contain GPS and RFID technologies that enable riders to track their usage data on their personal user profiles, such as distance, duration, calories burned, and carbon offset. A few enhancements to look forward to this season:

- New kiosk "brain" for improved processing and faster server communications
- New color LCD kiosk screen with increased responsiveness and functionality
- Minimum age lowered! Riders must be at least 18

years old OR 16 years old with a valid driver's license

- Updated pricing structure (Visit the B-cycle website, <http://denver.bcycle.com/pricing.aspx>, for rates and more information.)

Denver B-cycle, the first citywide bike sharing program in the United States, launched on Earth Day 2010. This program is a legacy project from the 2008 Democratic National Convention (DNC) hosted by Denver when then-Mayor John Hickenlooper pledged to make it the greenest convention in history. The momentum that organized the *Freewheelin*, short-term bike sharing project for the DNC was converted to create a permanent program for Denver's residents and visitors. In Denver B-cycle's first seven months of operation in 2010, there were nearly 103,000 individual rides for a total of 211,111 miles traveled. There were 973 rides on opening day of the 2011 season.

Landscaping Your Yard Just Got Cheaper

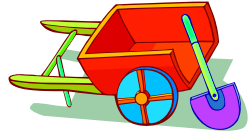
On Saturday, **May 7th**, the City and County of Denver will hold its annual **Treecycle Mulch Giveaway & LeafDrop Compost Sale**. Mulch is ground wood chips that can be used to control weeds, help soil retain moisture, and protect shallow-rooted plants from weather extremes. The material to be given away comes from the Christmas trees that were collected from Denver residents this past January. The compost, a soil amendment made from decomposed organic material that can be mixed into soil or spread thinly over lawns to help reduce water and fertilizer needs, is made from leaves collected in last fall's LeafDrop program.

This event, sponsored by Denver Recycles and Denver Parks & Recreation, is an opportunity for Denver residents to save some cash on their landscaping projects and supplies this spring. Plus, Garden Centers of Colorado will be collecting plastic garden pots and trays for recycling at Havana Nursery. Green-minded gardeners can reduce the amount of water, fertilizer, and herbicides needed in their yards and reuse materials that otherwise would have been sent as trash to the landfill, which supports Greenprint Denver's citywide waste diversion goal.

There will be **five** sites around Denver where residents can go to pick up **FREE mulch** and **one** site that will also have **compost FOR SALE** on **May 7th from 8 AM to 3 PM** (or while supplies last):

Mulch & Compost Site:

- NE Denver: **Havana Nursery** (10450 Smith Rd., just south of I-70 on Havana St.)



- Loader service for trucks and trailers – **ONLY** at this site
- Limit 3 cubic yards per vehicle
- Collection of plastic flower pots for recycling

Mulch ONLY Sites: (Dig-your-own)



- NE Denver: **Fred Thomas Park** (Quebec St. & 26th Ave.)
- NW Denver: **Sloan's Lake Park** (Sheridan Blvd. & 17th Ave.)
- SE Denver: **Veterans Park** (E. Iowa Ave. & S. Vine St.)
- SW Denver: **Bear Creek Park** (Hampden Ave & Sheridan Blvd)

Please remember:

- The event is for City & County of Denver residents only. Commercial vehicles are prohibited from taking or selling the City's mulch.
- Bring a shovel or pitchfork and your own bags or containers to collect your supply of mulch or compost if you plan on digging your own from the pile.
- Residents loading material into trucks or trailers must bring along a tarp to make sure loads are covered before leaving the site.

For more information about Denver Recycles programs call **3-1-1** or visit them online at

DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles

Green Saving Tip: Federal Tax Credits



Get rewarded for investing in energy efficiency and renewable energy! Before you submit your tax forms to the IRS on April 15th, make sure that you're claiming all the tax credits for which you're eligible. Visit the Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency (DSIRE) at <http://www.dsireusa.org/> and click on "Federal Incentives" for a list of financial incentives for your personal and corporate taxes.

You can also learn about state-, local government-, and utility-sponsored rebate, grant and loan programs by clicking on the state of Colorado from the map on DSIRE's homepage or by visiting the Governor's Energy Office's Web site, www.RechargeColorado.com.

Greenprint News, Events & More Available Online

Greenprint enjoys sharing accomplishments, events, news items and announcements with the general public. To learn more about Greenprint, green events, or green news, follow us on Facebook ("Greenprint Denver"), Twitter ("GreenprintDenver") or check our website, <http://www.greenprintdenver.org>. In addition, you can contact us with any questions at:

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