



Greenprint Denver NEWS

Lights Out Lunch - in Denver December 11, 2009

Mayor Hickenlooper, Xcel Energy and the Governor's Energy Office are encouraging residents to participate in Lights Out Lunch on December 11th.

How can you participate? On December 11th, turn out your lights at lunchtime for one hour.

Businesses and their employees that sign up to participate will be entered into a random drawing to win a lunch for up to 25 people with Chauncey Billups of the Denver Nuggets or Paul Stastny of the Colorado Avalanche. To register, visit www.lightsoutlunch.com.

When: Friday, December 11, 2009
Time: Noon to 1:00 p.m



December 2009, Issue 6



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Medication Take-Back Pilot Project Comes to Colorado

The Colorado Medication Take-Back Project launched its pilot program on December 1st after over a year of hard work. The project consists of a network of secure boxes for the collection of unused and unwanted household medications.

When over-the-counter or prescription medications are no longer needed, they should be removed from the home and disposed of in a way that is safe and also protects the environment. For years we have been instructed that the safe way to dispose of old medications is by flushing them down the toilet. This can cause serious damage by polluting our lakes, streams and water supplies. Unused medications can also fall into the hands of small children and cause accidental poisoning. More than one million children under the age of five are treated each year in the United States for poisoning caused by household chemicals and medications.

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To provide a secure method of medication disposal, the Colorado Medication Take-Back Project was formed. Collection boxes can be found at ten convenient locations on the Front Range and in Summit County. For more details and drop-off locations, we encourage you to visit the Take-Back website at <http://www.coloradomedtakeback.info>.

Denver Signs on to BOMA's 7 Point Challenge

Mayor Hickenlooper drew a loud round of applause on October 14 at the Denver Metro Chapter's Building Owners and Management Association's (BOMA) annual luncheon as he signed a letter accepting BOMA International's *7 Point Challenge*.



The *7 Point Challenge* is a voluntary program that encourages commercial buildings to implement low- and no-cost operation and management practices to reduce energy use 30% by 2012. This is particularly important because commercial buildings accounted for 35% of Denver's greenhouse gas emissions in 2005. Buildings will be required to measure their energy performance annually using a national benchmarking tool, U.S. EPA's ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager, and share results with BOMA.

The City of Denver is well poised to meet the challenge. Of the 95 buildings Denver has benchmarked in EPA's Portfolio Manager, five are considered ratable spaces. These ratable spaces have an average Energy Star rating of 87, which positions them in the upper 13% of buildings nationally. These efficient buildings have reduced energy use 17% over the previous year.

Specific goals of the Challenge include decreasing energy consumption by 30% across portfolios by 2012, benchmarking energy performance and water usage, and providing education to building owners and operators and others involved in building operations to ensure that equipment is properly operated and maintained.

The City of Denver is only the fourth municipality to accept the challenge, and has once again demonstrated its commitment to "walk the talk" and be a leader to secure the future health of our community. For more information, visit <http://www.boma.org/getinvolved/7pointchallenge/Pages/default.aspx>

Denver attributes its success is due to programs such as:

- Cool Biz – Raising the temperature in City buildings during the summer by four degrees to save energy
- Switching facilities cleaning to happen during the day, which allows City building systems to shut down five hours earlier each day
- Operating mechanical and lighting systems only when staff and visitors are in the buildings
- Requiring new facilities built under the Better Denver Bond Program to be 28% more efficient than ASHRAE 90.1., with some of these projects coming in as much as 40% more efficient.

Take the *Denver Energy Challenge*

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The City & County of Denver, Xcel Energy, Denver Public Schools, the Governor's Energy Office, and the Sierra Club have teamed up to help Denver residents reduce their carbon footprint while helping ten local high schools fund clean energy projects.



On September 16th, Mayor John Hickenlooper, Denver Public School Superintendent Tom Boasberg, Governor's Energy Office, and Xcel Officials announced the official launch of the *Denver Energy Challenge*. The program provides residents with a new incentive to register for Xcel Energy's Windsource program. This incentive includes a donation for each new registrant, which will help fund energy efficiency or renewable energy projects at North, South, East, Montbello, West, Manual, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Lincoln, and Kennedy High Schools.

You can take the *Denver Energy Challenge* by signing up for Wind-source to get your electricity from 100% renewable energy sources in Colorado; it only costs about 2¢ more per kWh than the standard electricity mix. Then take the next step and make a donation to the Colorado Carbon Fund to support major CO₂-reducing energy projects across the state as well as local, community energy initiatives right here in Denver.

It's easy, and smart – visit www.denverenergy.org to sign up for the Denver Energy Challenge. Make your donation to the Colorado Carbon Fund at www.coloradocarbonfund.org.

Treecycle 2010: January 4th – 15th

Make recycling the Christmas tree your first New Year's resolution in 2010. Recycling your Christmas tree is very easy. Denver residents just need to follow these simple guidelines:

1. Remove all tinsel and decorations from your Christmas tree. Real Christmas trees only (No artificial or flocked trees, tree stands or trees in plastic bags).
2. Customers that use trash bins or barrels should set trees out on their normal trash collection day during the two week period starting January 4th. Dumpster customers should set trees out for collection on January 4th or January 11th and the trees will be collected during that week.
3. Your tree must be out by 7 AM on your collection day and at least 4 feet away from any containers, bags, dumpsters or other obstacles.
4. Do not place trees in dumpsters or carts.



The Christmas trees are collected and ground-up resulting in mulch that is made available *free* to Denver residents at the annual Treecycle Mulch Giveaway & Leaf-Drop Compost Sale. Residents may call 720-865-6810 after April 1st for more information about when sale will be held.

For more information about other Denver Recycles programs call 3-1-1 or visit us online at www.DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles.





Why should you recycle your tree?

Because it saves landfill space, helps Denver avoid landfill disposal fees, and allows the City to provide residents with free mulch made from the recycled Christmas trees.

Great News for City Schools

As part of the City’s ongoing efforts to reduce costs and increase efficiencies, Solid Waste Management (SWM) and Denver Public Schools (DPS) finalized an agreement this year that allows the City to provide trash and recycling services to Denver Public Schools and its Administrative buildings.

Trash service through SWM began in September for all schools, and Denver Recycles began rolling out recycling collection services in September with plans to have all DPS schools recycling by the end of the 2009-10 school year. Prior to this agreement, DPS was collecting its own trash using a small fleet of trucks, and some schools had contracts with private haulers for recycling services.

DIA Catches Passengers “Green-Handed”

To celebrate *America Recycles Day* on November 15th, Denver International Airport had fun with the traveling public and brought awareness to their robust recycling program at DIA by catching them “green-handed”.

Passengers caught in the act of recycling something in one of the airport’s 520 special recycling bins were rewarded with a gift certificate to one of 16 of its shops and restaurants. Members of DIA’s Environmental Services team were found combing the main Jeppesen Terminal and the three concourses looking for passengers who are recycling.

According to Janell Barrilleaux, Director of Environmental Programs at DIA, “America Recycles Day provided DIA with the opportunity to educate our travelling public, business partners and employees about the importance of recycling. Recycling conserves resources, reduces waste and in many cases, reduces costs. We hope we raised the level of awareness about DIA’s environmental programs—and make it fun at the same time.”



Looking for a holiday gift idea?

Here are a few that are unique, affordable, and helpful to the environment:

Plant a tree

Give a donation to the Mile High Million and they will plant a tree. Giving is simple! [Complete the donation](#) form on the Mile High Million link (on the Greenprint Denver website) and you will receive a certificate to pass along as your gift. Your contribution, big or small, will go toward planting trees in the Denver metro region to provide clean air, shaded streets and a more beautiful city for generations to come.



Get a Project C Colorado Carbon Fund Plate

Make a donation to the Colorado Carbon Fund – it is recommended that you make a donation to offset at least 50% of your vehicle’s annual emissions, but require a minimum \$25

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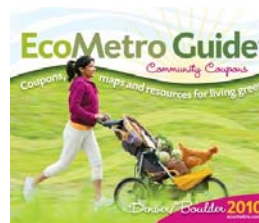
Then, during the donation process, make sure you check the box to receive a Colorado Carbon Fund license plate certificate good for one set of license plates. Please make sure the name you enter matches both your credit card and your vehicle title. After your transaction is processed you will receive an email with a receipt and the certificate.



Third, print out your Colorado Carbon Fund license plate certificate and bring it to your county’s vehicle Title and Registration office. You must also have everything you normally bring to register your vehicle, so please check with your local county office to be certain you have everything you need to get your plates. The state also charges a \$50 fee for this plate, which is in addition to the donation you make to the Colorado Carbon Fund.

Give the gift of an EcoMetro Guide

The EcoMetro Guide is a great find—it's packed with coupons to markets, restaurants, and other businesses for items that you will actually use. These Guides have a green, environmental focus and include information about local, eco-friendly resources like your area farmers markets, utilities, and recycling centers as well as educational tips on topics like sustainable fish, organic produce, and energy-use calculators. For a limited time, *save \$5* on your *EcoMetro Guide* at www.ecometro.com.



**Happy Holidays from all of us at
Greenprint Denver**

To learn more about Greenprint Denver, visit www.greenprintdenver.org.
Contact us at greenprint@denvergov.org, or call 3-1-1

