

# Recyclers' Corner



## October 2009 Issue

[Editor's Note: Recyclers' Corner is a periodic news column sponsored by Denver Recycles, a program of Denver Public Works/Solid Waste Management. It includes updates on seasonal and ongoing activities related to the City and County of Denver's recycling programs. Editors are invited to publish all or part of the column; however, we request that you run major edits by our staff to ensure accuracy of the information. Questions may be directed to Charlotte Pitt or Tom Strickland at Denver Recycles, 720-865-6815.]

## 2009 LeafDrop: Rake, Reuse & Recycle

**IT'S TIME ONCE AGAIN TO RAKE UP AND RECYCLE THE LEAVES IN YOUR YARD AND HELP MAKE SURE THAT THEY ARE TURNED INTO COMPOST!**

**On the first three Sundays in November (Nov. 1, 8 & 15)**, residents may drop off an unlimited amount of leaves at five LeafDrop locations. Two weekday drop-off locations will also be available from October 5<sup>th</sup> through December 4<sup>th</sup>. LeafDrop is brought to you by Denver Recycles, a program of Solid Waste Management/Denver Public Works.



Removing yard debris, such as leaves, from our waste stream is important in reducing our impact on global warming and the environment. Consider recycling your leaves by digging them into your garden, composting them at home or using a lawn mower to mulch small amounts into your grass. Using your fallen leaves in this manner can help you create a healthy lawn or garden!

Remember to **never sweep your leaves into the street**. This clogs up storm sewers and street sweeper vehicles.

### **SUNDAY DROP-OFF LOCATIONS:**

**These Sundays only: November 1, 8 & 15** (10 AM to 4 PM)

- Northwest - **Sloan's Lake Park** (17th Ave. at Sheridan Blvd.)
- Southwest - **John F. Kennedy High School** (Newland St. & Brown Pl.)
- East Central - **Cranmer Park** (3rd Ave. & Clermont St.)
- Southeast - **South High School** (Louisiana Ave. & Franklin St.)
- Northeast - **Smiley Middle School** (26<sup>th</sup> Ave. & Holly St.)

### ***Brown Bag Them & Go!***

Save your plastic trash bags and our time by bringing your leaves in paper yard debris bags. Unlike plastic bags, brown paper bags can be composted with your leaves. Many hardware, home improvement and department stores sell paper yard debris bags. Or even better, bring your leaves in reusable containers or tarps that we can empty and give back to you.

### **WEEKDAY DROP-OFF (CLOSED WEEKENDS & HOLIDAYS):**

**Monday through Friday only, October 5 – December 4** (7 AM to 2:30 PM) – CLOSED THANKSGIVING DAY

- **Havana Nursery**, 10450 Smith Rd. (just south of I-70 on Havana St.)
- **Denver Solid Waste Transfer Station**, 7301 E. Jewell Ave. (Quebec St. & S. Cherry Creek Dr.)

Weekday LeafDrops must be in **tied or secured bags**. Paper bags are preferred.

**Notes:**

- Denver residents only.
- Make sure your leaves do not contain branches or other waste.
- DO **NOT** drop leaves at these sites except during the times and dates specified.



Don't forget to treat your Halloween jack-o-lanterns to a second chance and compost them with Denver Leaf**Drop**.

Close the Loop by reclaiming your leaves next spring in the form of rich compost at the 2010 Treecycle Mulch Giveaway & Leaf**Drop** Compost Sale. After April 1, 2010, you may call 720-865-6810 or visit **DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles** for details.

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## Recycling Myth Busters: Learn the Truth. Part 10 of 12

There are a lot of myths about recycling passed along from person to person. We are here to explain some of those myths, so you can be the best recycler possible.

- ***Myth: Recycling electronic equipment should be free.***

**FALSE.** **Electronic recyclers have costs just like any other business.** The revenue generated through recycling the small quantities of metals and other components contained within the electronic equipment only covers a small fraction of the overall recycling costs. There are significant labor costs associated with the trained personnel that safely disassemble the equipment. Also, there are storage and transportation costs when dealing with getting the numerous different components of electronic equipment to the appropriate manufacturers and markets. Thus, most electronic recyclers charge a fee based on the number of units or pounds brought in for recycling. (Note: Be inquisitive of electronic recyclers not charging a service fee, as this could be a sign that they might not be dealing with the material responsibly).

***So if it is going to cost money to recycle electronic equipment, then why bother?*** Simply put, it will likely cost us as a society a lot more in the long run not to recycle electronics. First, **electronic equipment often contains many types of toxic materials that could potentially pollute our environment.** Lead, mercury, selenium, cadmium, arsenic, zinc and PCB's (polychlorinated byphenyls) can all be found inside computers and other electronic equipment. The Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) inside monitors and televisions can alone contain 3 to 7 pounds of lead. When televisions or monitors are placed in landfills and break apart, they release lead and other toxins that potentially could get into the ground or air and create pollution problems.

Second, the heavy metals found in electronic equipment are rare. **Every little bit of those metals that we can recycle helps to lessen the need for expensive mining operations** to find new sources of them. By recycling these materials, we can conserve our natural resources and lower the environmental costs of producing new electronic equipment.

***How can I recycle my electronic equipment?*** To apply for an "E-cycle Coupon" that can be used to reduce the cost you'll need to pay to recycle your electronic equipment or to find information on electronics recyclers here in Denver that are listed in our "Recycling Directory", visit us online at **DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles**. There is a limit of one "E-cycle Coupon" per home and only a limited number of E-cycle Coupons will be available.

For other information on reducing your waste, please visit us online at **DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles**.

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