

Recyclers' Corner

February 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.]

DIA Composts! Denver International Airport's Newest Green Initiative

The next time you are in Jeppesen terminal at Denver International Airport and decide to grab a quick bite to eat, you may be interested in knowing that by choosing to patronize DIA's concessions in the terminal, you will be helping to support DIA's Composting Collection Pilot Program.



Thanks to a grant from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the City of Denver launched a **pilot composting collection program in DIA's terminal and Airport Office Building** in late January. During the next couple of months, DIA Environmental Services, Denver Solid Waste Management and 15 concessionaires will be partnering on this exciting project. Contributions from Rehrig Pacific, HDR Engineering, A1 Organics, ISS and AECOM Transportation are helping to ensure the project's success.

Similar to Denver's residential composting collection pilot program, participating businesses at DIA sort and collect their **pre-consumer food scraps and soiled paper products**. The collected material is sent to A1 Organics' commercial composting facility where it is turned into nutrient-rich fertilizer. This helps to minimize the amount of trash disposed at the airport and reduces greenhouse gases resulting from landfilling these organic materials.

The composting collection pilot program at DIA is currently limited to behind the scenes and will allow the airport to test the economic feasibility of implementing an airport-wide program, as well as determine collection and hauling logistics of the material.

The City and County of Denver would like to recognize and thank the airport vendors that are voluntarily participating in this program. The participating vendors include Amore Fiori, Auntie Anne's, Ayala's (Seattle's Best Coffee), Boulder Beer, Burger King, Cantina, Caribou Coffee, CofTea, Panda Express, Pour La France, Red Rocks Bar, TCBY, Taco Bell and Vertical Mile Market.

For more information about the City's composting collection pilot program and to track our progress visit DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles or call us via **3-1-1**.

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Recycling Myth Busters: Learn the Truth.

Part 2 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: Putting lime wedges and bottles caps inside glass bottles is okay. It all gets recycled.

FALSE. All items placed inside bottles are considered **contamination**. The preference for recycling processors is to have bottles free of any contaminants inside. The cleaner the product, the easier the material is to process (saving energy) and the higher the market value of the material for recycling.

Of all the contaminants, lime wedges are the least difficult impurity to handle since the lime edges are simply organic matter the burns away in the process of melting the recycling bottles. However, other contaminants such as bottle caps or rocks don't burn away so easily and can lower the quality of the glass "cullet" making the recycled glass less desirable.



So please remember to empty out your glass bottles before placing them in your recycling cart.

For more information on recycling, please visit DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles.

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