

# Recyclers' Corner

## September 2008 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.]

## Denver Launches Composting Collection Pilot Program

**The next generation in recycling - Denver Composts!** Denver residents have proven they are great recyclers and thanks to a grant from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, we are now ready to take recycling to the next level in Denver by testing composting collection through a new pilot program. Organic material, like food, food-soiled paper and yard debris, is the single largest item we throw away in our landfill and it's 100 percent compostable.

The residential composting collection pilot program is scheduled to begin this October and will test collection services at 3,000 Denver homes. Each home will be provided with a green, 65-gallon composting cart (the same size as the purple Denver Recycles carts) and a small kitchen pail to collect organic material inside the home. The green carts will be serviced weekly during the growing season, then every-other-week through the winter.



The areas eligible for the pilot program have been selected to provide a representative sample of the City & County based on a number of different factors. At this time, our funding limits us to 3,000 homes. Residents receiving a brochure in the mail are eligible for service and invited to participate.



The composting collection program will accept organic material that includes yard debris such as grass clippings, plant trimmings, small branches, weeds and leaves; food such as fruit and vegetable trimmings, meat, dairy, coffee grounds, bread and other processed food; and food-soiled paper such as used paper plates, paper coffee cups, tea bags, coffee filters, paper milk cartons (no foil lined cartons), paper ice cream cartons and much more. The program will strictly prohibit any type of plastic materials, as these are contaminants that prohibit the ability to compost the organic material.

For more information or to track the progress of the pilot program, visit us online at [www.DenverGov.org/DenverRecycle](http://www.DenverGov.org/DenverRecycle).

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## **DON'T TOSS OUT THAT OLD TV SET YET!** **Important Update on the Digital Television Transition**

In February 2009, all television stations will stop broadcasting in analog over-the-air signals and officially switch to digitally broadcasted signals. The switch to digital broadcasting is federally mandated and is designed to improve quality and free up airwaves for emergencies.

**What does this mean for you?** Only residents using an antenna with their television (either rooftop or "rabbit ears") will be affected by this change and there are ways to avoid having to toss your TV out. Residents can

simply purchase a converter box that will convert the digital signal into a format the television can display.  
**Televisions connected to cable, satellite or other pay TV services will not be affected.**

To assist analog TV owners, Congress created the **Converter Box Coupon Program**, which will provide up to two coupons per household (worth \$40) towards subsidizing the purchase of converter boxes. The converter boxes are being sold by large national chains and are expected to cost between \$50 and \$70 each. Residents can request converter box coupons by calling **1-888-DTV-2009** (1-888-388-2009) or visiting the National Telecommunications and Information Administration website at **www.dtv2009.gov**. The deadline for requesting coupons is March 2009.

If you must replace a television, the City & County of Denver encourages residents to recycle their old televisions and other electronics and not to throw them in the trash. Like most electronic waste, televisions contain hazardous materials such as lead. When television sets are broken they can release these hazardous materials and spread them to trash collectors and the environment. A list of local companies accepting televisions for recycling can be found online at **www.DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles** under the “**Recycling Directory**.” Please note there is usually a fee in the range of \$5 to \$50 for recycling televisions and monitors depending on the size, make and model.

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