

District 5450 Conference | Protecting the Environment Sustainability Resources & Ideas

[Ridwell](#) Wasting less, made easy. Home & business collection of hard-to-recycle things like plastic film, batteries, light bulbs, threads and more! Things we dispose of every day without a good recycling or reuse solution.

[NexTrex](#) Your recycling solution for plastic film recycling (dry cleaning bags, bread wrappers, produce bags, zip-lock bags, etc.)

[Blue Star Recyclers](#) Recycling to create local jobs for people with disabilities.

[R-Cup](#) The best way to end single-use waste is to reuse what we have, over and over. r.World makes it easy.

[DeliverZERO](#) - reusable Take Out containers. New emphasis on REUSE to complement (and negate the need for) recycling.

[Green Sheen Paint Recycling](#) Paint recycling.

[Paint Care](#) Paint Recycling.

[E-stewards Recycler](#) Certified electronics recyclers and refurbishers are the trusted destination for all of your retired electronic assets.

[SpringBack](#) Over 30 million mattresses end up in landfills each year in the U.S. Springback's mattress recycling process breaks down over 90% of each mattress into individual components (steel, foam, ticking, cotton, wood) and recycles or re-purposes them.

[Wompost Composting](#) By composting, the average family can divert 500 pounds of waste from filling landfills and polluting our air and water supply. Composting fights climate change, effectively and simply.

[We Don't Waste](#) We Don't Waste works to reduce hunger and food waste in the Denver area by recovering quality, unused food from the food industry and delivering it to nonprofit partners, such as food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, schools and daycare programs, and more.

[Recycle Colorado](#) A 501(c) 3, statewide nonprofit advancing circular economies & improving recycling across the state of Colorado. Our members share a vision to transform Colorado into a national leader in waste reduction, recovery, and diversion.

[EcoCycle](#) Eco-Cycle is one of the oldest mission-based recyclers and Zero Waste organizations in the US, and an innovator in resource conservation.

[GatesNotes.com](#) Bill Gates' personal blog, where he shares about the people he meets, the books he's reading, and the things he learns about climate, sustainability science, etc.

[Rotary Club Carbon Footprint Calculator](#) Why should we be concerned about our own Carbon Footprint ? Do your Club meetings cause any carbon emissions ? How do you calculate your Club's carbon emissions ? How do you reduce your Club's carbon emissions ?

[U-Fix-It Clinics](#) Fix it, rather than buy new and save resources. The Denver U-Fix-It clinic was born out of the Boulder U-Fix-It clinic and a global Ifixit community that helps owners take charge of their item's maintenance and repair.

[Redwood Materials Lithium-ion Battery Recycling](#) Increasing the supply of battery materials while reducing environmental impact, cost, and supply chain risks.

[Techno Rescue](#) - When it's time to move on to newer technology, Techno Rescue can help with your older equipment.

[SustainAbility](#) - electronics recycling using a diverse workforce, which includes individuals who have intellectual/developmental disabilities, a significantly under-employed segment of our society.

[Leave No Trace](#) Leave No Trace pioneers science and provides proven, research-based solutions for the protection of the natural world.

[Crutches for Africa](#) Recycle (reuse) crutches, canes, walkers, wheelchairs.
c4a@crutches4africa.org David Talbot 303-877-2803

[The 5 Most Common Recycling Mistakes and How to Avoid Them](#)

[Quick Guide to Plastics](#) Plastic takes a toll on climate, communities, and the environment—and is challenging to recycle. When you can't avoid plastic, use this guide to help you make the best decisions for your health and the health of our planet.

[Ellen MacArthur Foundation](#) A charity committed to creating a **circular economy**, which is designed to eliminate waste and pollution, circulate products and materials (at their highest value), and regenerate nature. It's an economic system that delivers better outcomes for people, and the environment.

Common Ground (video)

Event Recycling Guide

RESOURCES and where to learn more:

[The Plastic Trap](#)

[Colorado's Producer Responsibility Program](#)

[HB21-1162 Management Of Plastic Products](#)

[HB22-1159 Waste Diversion And Circular Economy Development Center](#)

[SB23-253 Standards for Products Represented as Compostable](#)

[SB23-191 Organics Diversion Study Bill](#)

[Recycling for all Coloradoans](#) - Producer Responsibility legislation passed in 2022, to be fully enacted by 2026, will provide free recycling services to all residents of Colorado, paid for by producers of packaging materials used in Colorado.

Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE), [Front Range Waste Diversion City & County of Denver Recycling Center](#) - food scraps from Rotary functions could be dropped here if coordinated through a member who is a Denver resident, or possibly through a Denver-based Rotary club.

[What is the Carbon Cycle?](#) - The carbon cycle describes the process in which carbon atoms continually travel from the atmosphere to the Earth and then back into the atmosphere.

[DeliverZERO](#) - reusable Take Out containers. New emphasis on REUSE to complement (and negate the need for) recycling.

[Colorado Forward](#) - The Front Range Waste Diversion (FRWD or "forward") enterprise fund collects an increased user fee at Front Range landfills to provide funding and technical support

to local governments, nonprofits, businesses, institutions, and other entities on the Front Range that contribute to waste diversion activities within the state.

CHASING ARROWS: The Truth About Recycling

- In Colorado, we throw away 86% (sic) of aluminum cans.
- Recycling one (1) aluminum can saves enough energy to run a computer for five (5) hours.
- 16% of waste is recycled or composted in Colorado – about half the national average of 34%

Sustainability Messages for Your Rotary Club

Most of us receive too many emails, and email / ClubRunner messages may not be the best way to share ongoing sustainability messages and information with Rotarians. Consider an alternative:

- Implement a *Sustainability Minute* or *Earth Minute* at weekly meetings where members share sustainability messages just as some clubs feature a Member Business Minute, or Rotary Minute.
- Declare a *Sustainability Activity of the Month*, and enlist members in a Club-wide effort to do things such as:
 - Divert THIS! (list an item to keep out of the landfill)
 - *Increase curbside recycling participation*
 - *Subscribe to a composting service*
 - *Use public transportation as an alternative to a private vehicle x-times during the month*
 - *Go without single use plastic water bottles*
 - *Purchase a reusable, insulated water bottle*
 - *Switch to laundry detergent sheets instead of liquids in plastic bottles*
 - *Volunteer for a sustainability initiative*
 - *Subscribe to a hard-to-recycle service*
 - *Check tire inflation to optimize fuel economy*
 - *Forego a single-use, disposable coffee cup at meetings*

Today and every day, keep the Four R's in mind as we strive for Zero Waste.

Refuse - rather than accept a single-use plastic water bottle, or single-use beverage cup, choose an alternative or do without. Generating less waste is the best first step.

Reduce - reduce waste in your home and business. Look for products that limit packaging, use low impact or recyclable packaging. Too much stuff leads to too much waste.

Reuse - if no alternative to a single-use plastic water bottle is available, REUSE it rather than discard it. Reuse packaging that comes into your home or business. Fix and repair rather than buy new. Avoid single-use anything. There is no such place as AWAY in "throw it away".

Recycle - make smart decisions about the things you buy and make recycling a priority. Look for and use services that accept Hard to Recycle materials. Not all things that are recyclable actually get recycled...that's why recycling is last on this list!

Compost - Food waste and organics like vegetable & fruit peels, egg shells, apple cores, coffee grounds, cooked meat & fish, stale bread, and many other organics should be composted whenever possible. Use a backyard/garden composter, curbside composting where available, or a composting service. Composting keeps organics out of wastewater treatment facilities. It preserves nutrients and minerals that fertilize and enrich our soil, including your lawn, flower or vegetable garden. Fertile soil and the plants that grow in it pull carbon dioxide from earth's atmosphere and sequester it in the soil, helping fight climate change. Composting keeps organics out of landfills, where they break down into methane gas, a powerful greenhouse gas that is more harmful to earth's atmosphere than carbon dioxide.

City of Centennial Council Resolution 2024-R-07, approved 011624 enters into a Memo of Understanding (MOU) between **Centennial, Englewood, Sheridan** and **Littleton** with Resource Recycling Systems. This will be a regional study to determine the trash cycles in these communities and find opportunities for recycling and other waste options. It's a 2 year study so look for updates along the way.