

Press Release

For Immediate Release  
July 3, 2008

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### **NEW RECYCLING PROJECTS RECEIVE \$1.3 MILLION IN GRANT MONEY**

(Denver, Colorado) – The State of Colorado announced that an exciting group of new recycling projects are recipients of \$1.3 million in grant money awarded by the Department of Public Health and Environment on July 1, 2008. The money, derived from landfill fee surcharges adopted in HB07-1288, is designed to stimulate business development and job creation for companies and non-profits that provide recycling services. As a result, more opportunities will be created for citizens of Colorado who wish to take personal action to divert waste from landfills, thereby conserving resources and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The twelve projects selected for grants ranged widely in amount of money awarded, type of applicant and geographic location in Colorado. The smallest grant (\$3,000) helps students on the West Slope buy bins to collect recyclables and analyze Fruita Monument High School's waste stream. The largest amount of money (\$281,000) goes to Alpine Waste and Recycling, which will expand its processing plant's capability for the "single-stream" of commingled materials (paper, cardboard, plastics, bottles and cans) that are increasingly being offered for the convenience of residential recyclers in Colorado.

A group of reviewers that made recommendations to the state Pollution Prevention Advisory Board (PPAB) on which projects to fund said they gave high marks to the quality of the proposals. "We were really delighted to see so many excellent applications from all around the state, especially from rural communities such as the Four Corners Recycling Initiative in Southwest Colorado," said Marjie Griek, chair of the PPAB's Assistance Committee. "Numerous groups came together and created a really smart, well thought-out plan to use their grant of \$91,000 to increase the collection of recyclables in the area."

The metro Denver area also fared well in grant selection. The City and County of Denver was awarded \$215,000 to pilot a yard waste composting program aimed at diverting organic material from landfill disposal. Another \$113,000 will go to the operators of the Denver Arapahoe Disposal Site, Waste Management, Inc., to create an area at the front gate where discards such as scrap metal, electronic waste, tires, batteries, and other recyclables can be unloaded before customers proceed to the "working face" of the mega-landfill.

A grant of \$244,600 awarded to a Northern Colorado firm called National Recycling will be used for building a comprehensive public drop-off center in Greeley. The Boulder-based Eco-Cycle, one of the country's oldest non-profit recyclers, will spend \$50,000 to buy equipment that densifies polystyrene. "Far and away, this is the material that people find most difficult to recycle," said executive director Eric Lombardi. "By installing this new machine, Eco-Cycle can play an important role in helping transform the market for recycling Styrofoam® in Colorado."

Other grant recipients include the Telluride Regional Resource and Recovery Center (\$145,000) to purchase a baler and composter for a Resource Recovery Center to divert compostable, construction,

and recyclable waste that currently goes to landfills; Phillips County (\$48,000) to enhance and increase cardboard and paper recycling; Wet Mountain Valley Partners in Recycling (\$9,700) to improve education, planning, and develop a data tracking system; City of Greeley (\$15,650) for outreach and education for their GreenCycle Center; and Elbert County (\$160,000) to expand existing composting, recycling and HHW diversion services to a rapidly growing community.

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