

## Resource Sheet for Downtown Boulder Business District

### Introduction to Zero Waste and how your business can participate –

It has often been said that when a business generates waste, it is a sign of inefficiency. Zero waste is a concept that allows a business to evaluate all of its practices to find alternatives that will not generate waste.

The first step is to provide the infrastructure to handle the materials that are either recyclable or compostable by setting up bins and a collection service. Next, evaluate your inventory to replace disposable products with reusable, recyclable and compostable products. For example, you could switch to compostable to-go containers, use reusable eating ware for in-house dining, buy recycled content materials such as napkins and other paper and plastic products.

You can further impact zero waste by finding products that are durable, reusable, refillable, or made from recycled content. Managing your inventory to maximize shelf-life and avoid overbuying also contributes to throwing away less. Work with your suppliers to provide less packaging. If you always make purchasing decisions based on how the product is packaged and how you will have to dispose of it when done, you will have a head start on reducing the amount of waste that enters your business in the first place.

Here's how you can take advantage of resources to help your business become more efficient by working towards zero waste:

### Steps to take in getting your business signed-up for Zero Waste Services

Sign up for waste hauling services, which include:

- (1) **Collection** of ALL your discards (recycling, composting and other hard to throw away items).
- (2) **Education** within your company to help you reduce costly waste in the first place.
- (3) **Promotion** programs that let our community know about your commitment and successes.

### Resources and suppliers for compostable food service ware

Visit the following link to find distributors of recyclable and compostable products: <http://www.ecocycle.org/ebrn/suppliers.cfm> (Not only will you be closing the loop on waste, but you will also be supporting the local economy!

The PACE program can also help you select recyclable and compostable food service ware that suits your needs and complements your collection services. We offer some samples and an up-to-date list of products for purchase (on last page) from local retailers, through your restaurant supply vendor or online stores.

## Environmentally Preferable Product Vendors

**Biodegradable**

Made from Nature...Returned to Nature *Store.com*

[www.biodegradablestore.com](http://www.biodegradablestore.com)



ECO-PRODUCTS

[www.ecoproducts.com](http://www.ecoproducts.com)



[www.excellentpackaging.com](http://www.excellentpackaging.com)



**green home**  
environmental store

[www.greenhome.com](http://www.greenhome.com)



[www.treecycle.com](http://www.treecycle.com)



[www.worldcentric.org/](http://www.worldcentric.org/)

## Food Service Vendors with Preferable Products



[www.centextsupply.com](http://www.centextsupply.com)



[www.shamrockfoods.com](http://www.shamrockfoods.com)

**SYSCO**

[www.sysco.com](http://www.sysco.com)

## City of Boulder, Office of Environmental Affairs Resources

Take advantage of these programs and make your trash tax dollars work for you:

### Business Recycling Coupons:

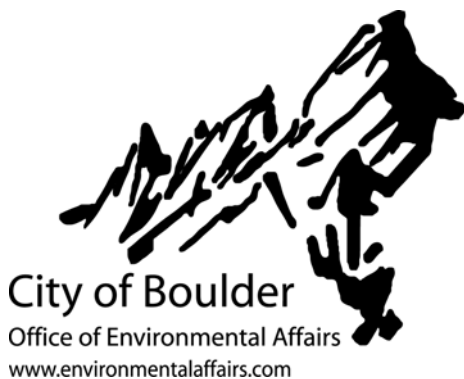
The city of Boulder wants to make it easier for businesses to reduce, reuse and recycle. If you would like to start recycling collection at your business, the city offers a three month free coupon to assist businesses with their initial costs. The goal is to divert more commercial waste from the trash and into the recycling containers; therefore reducing your weekly trash service.

### Composting Collection Rebate:

The city offers a commercial subsidy for the collection of compostable material from your business. A rebate of \$2.50 per cubic yard is reduced from your composting invoice from your hauler. Please contract your recycling hauler for more details on this exciting new program.

## **Going beyond Zero Waste in promoting more sustainable business practices:**

Partner with PACE and go beyond Zero Waste to achieve more sustainable business practices and be recognized as a sustainable business. PACE is a free program offered to Boulder County businesses to help identify measures to conserve water, energy and resources. Save your business time and money on operating costs by reviewing your environmental practices with us. PACE certified businesses receive free media advertising. We educate the community including students on sustainable practices and to choose green businesses with the PACE window decal. There are over 285 PACE-certified businesses in Boulder County.





## **TESTIMONIAL:**

Dear Fellow Business Owners:

My name is Matt Clark-Johnson and my partner in crime is Seth Larsen and we co-own Cheba Hut Toasted Subs on the Hill. Seth and I purchased the business on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006. While pondering different thoughts over Christmas Break, we decided we wanted to become a Zero Waste facility for personal and business reasons. We wanted to create a competitive advantage along with being socially responsible. We first started composting and recycling in January of 2007. At first, we tried to phase in new products to support zero waste purchasing habits. It was difficult for our customers to separate chip bags one place, cups here, and straws over there. So we decided in March of 2007 if there was an available alternative we made it our new line of paper products. All of our cups, lids, straws, cutlery, portion containers and salad containers are compostable products. Once you make the change over, there is an initial learning curve for employees but it quickly becomes habit. This is simple stuff. Our employees were all very excited to be part of the first Zero Waste facility on the Hill. Since the inception, we have had nothing but positive response from employees, customers and many press publications in town. From newspaper articles to catering Zero Waste parties and luncheons, we have experienced 100% same store sales growth. The Hill needs a new face, a positive face and I believe if we could move towards a Zero Waste zone on the Hill the amount of recycled and composted materials would be unbelievable. The press and increased traffic up here would increase all of our bottom lines tremendously. I could go on and on about the positive aspects, but I cannot force anyone to do anything. But please think hard about this and if you have any questions please feel free to stop into the Cheba Hut at anytime.

Cheers,

Matt Clark-Johnson and Seth Larsen

Container Type	Compostable Made From	 				
Trash Bags	Corn Plastic					
Take Out Bags	Corn Plastic, Cellulose, Paper					
Take Out Containers	Corn Plastic Bagasse					
Plates	Paper Bagasse					
Soup + Bowls	Bagasse Paper					
Utensils	Potato Starch Corn Plastic					
Tasting Spoons	Corn Plastic					
Cold Cups + Lids	Corn Plastic					
Hot Cups	Paper					
Portion Cups	Corn Plastic					
Corn Straws	Corn Plastic Paper					
Stir Sticks Stir Straws	Natural Wood Corn Plastic					
Coffee Sleeves	Paper Cork					

As you convert from recyclable cups, plates and utensils to compostable items, please consider a tax deductible donation of your stock on hand to one of our community non profit partners:

Carriage House Homeless Community Center  
1120 ½ Pine Street (behind the First Congregational Church)  
Phone: 303-442-8300 (10 am – 3 pm, Monday - Friday)  
Joy Eckstine, Executive Director [joy@bouldercarriagehouse.org](mailto:joy@bouldercarriagehouse.org)

EFAA-Emergency Family Assistance Association  
1575 Yarmouth Avenue  
Phone: 303-442-3042 <http://efaa.org/>  
Liz Rowland at [Liz@efaa.org](mailto:Liz@efaa.org)

Boulder Shelter for the Homeless  
4869 N. Broadway (October-April only)  
Phone: 303-468-4323  
E-mail [info@bouldershelter.org](mailto:info@bouldershelter.org)