



eco-cycle

# GREEN STAR SCHOOLS NEWS

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Coal Creek Elementary super sorters at the school's pre-kickoff trash audit.

## THE NEWEST GREEN STAR SCHOOLS

Coal Creek Elementary in Louisville is the newest Green Star School, launched in February.

Coal Creek has an active student council. They helped with sorting at the waste station on the very first day and continue to play an active role at their school.

Central Elementary in Longmont became a Green Star School last fall.

Central also won 1st place in the [Green Cup Recycling Challenge](#) sponsored by the St. Vrain Valley School District. Niwot Elementary came in second place. Great job!

## LYONS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SPRINGS BACK INTO ACTION

Lyons Elementary persevered after the devastating flood last fall destroyed many structures in their town. However, their building was spared.

During the repairs, all of Lyons' K-12 students were housed in the same building in Longmont.

In their temporary home, the high school recycling club and the elementary eco-club worked together by collecting and measuring recycling in the building on a weekly basis.

## GREEN TEAM STUDENTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Students at Creekside Elementary, enrolled in the City of Boulder's Family Resource Services after-school program, are working with the Green Star

Schools Coordinator to create their own Green Star Schools Green Team.

A small group of enthusiastic third and fourth grade students have made it their mission to help their school make the least amount of waste possible.

They have conducted classroom spot checks and a school trash audit. They are making posters for hallway waste stations and finding other ways to remind their school's community about proper sorting.



Creekside FRS Green Team: Deanna, Alyssa and Caitlin learn about decomposers and their importance to Zero Waste.

## RECYCLING & COMPOSTING TIPS OF THE SEASON!

We recently posted the newest sorting guidelines for recycling and composting at your school. We also have a new guideline flier on how to purchase 100% certified compostable tableware for your next Zero Waste event.

To have copies of any of these guideline fliers emailed to you, please contact Michele (see page 2). Click this link to find our "Is It Compostable?" [guideline flier](#).



## GREEN STAR SCHOOLS UPDATES

### DOUGLASS ELEMENTARY'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY LIGHT RECYCLING

For the second year, Douglass Elementary collected discarded holiday lights from their community and recycled them at Eco-Cycle/City of Boulder Center for Hard to Recycle Materials (CHaRM) facility.

Starting in November, the school's Green Star Committee asked the community to drop off any unwanted holiday lights at the school in a marked bin. Information was also provided on the benefits of L.E.D. holiday lights versus incandescent mini lights.

Two deliveries were made to Eco-Cycle and a total of 317 pounds of lights were diverted from landfill!

The lights are recycled for their scrap metal value. The 2012-13 school year's campaign was successful in diverting a total of 382 pounds of lights from landfill! Great job Douglass Elementary!

### EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES & IDEAS

Looking for an Earth Day Activity? Contact Michele for ideas on how to host a Zero Waste picnic.

Use items that would normally go into the trash and turn them into art objects or something useful [like this mat made from plastic grocery bags](#).

You can also [play Jack Johnson's](#)

[recycling song](#). Thank you Summit Middle School for the idea!

Challenge students and staff to use only one paper towel, if your school uses paper towels at the sinks. Learn more from this [video by Joe Smith](#).

### GREEN STAR SCHOOLS GRANT APPLICATIONS

We have sent out the Green Star Schools grant applications this month. If you need compostables or durables for your class parties or all-school events, or have another interesting Zero Waste idea, please complete a grant application and return it by Monday, April 14th. We will announce the winners on Earth Day.

If you need a grant application, contact Michele.

### BLUE MOUNTAIN'S RECYCLE-A-BALL ZERO WASTE EVENT

Blue Mountain Elementary had their annual Recycle-A-Ball Zero Waste event in March. Their event included recycled outfits made from prom and bridesmaid dresses as well as from newspapers and plastic bags.

Eco-Cycle staff was there to educate the public on Zero Waste and offered a free face-painting table to students.

The event had very little waste, as they used compostable paper cones for finger foods and water.

### GREEN STAR SCHOOLS WILL BE CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

Believe it or not, we will be celebrating 10 years of the Green Star Schools program next spring! The schools that will be the first to hit their 10 year anniversary are: BCSIS, Douglass Elementary, High Peaks Elementary and Horizons K-8.



Order used books for school fundraisers, classroom libraries or student incentives from Eco-Cycle's Children's Used Book Project. Contact Reba LeMaster at (303) 444-6634 ext.126 or [reba@ecocycle.org](mailto:reba@ecocycle.org).

### SUBMIT INFORMATION FOR NEXT SEMESTER'S NEWSLETTER TO:

**Michele Melio**  
**Green Star Schools Coordinator**  
**(303) 444-6634, ext. 118**  
[schools@ecocycle.org](mailto:schools@ecocycle.org)



### CLASSROOM PARTY TIPS

Remember to compost the cheesy side of your pizza boxes and recycle the clean top.

Have students make their own reusable cloth napkins to use at their classroom parties for the entire year. This will save paper and trees. Worn-out clothing is a great source of cloth to cut up.

Don't want to spend lots of money on compostable plates for finger foods at parties or for snacks? Use napkins or coffee filters. They can be composted afterwards.

