

# City of Lakewood Recycle Center

## 1068 Quail Street

**OPENING:** The transition to the new facility will occur during December 21. Because of the substantial change in operations and the training needed for attendants, public announcements of the availability of the new center will not focus a particular grand opening date.

**BACKGROUND:** Public recycling at the City shops began in 1988 with three small dumpsters. In 2011, approximately 1,500 tons of material, more than double the amount recycled in 2009, is being recycled through frequent pick-up of six large roll-offs. The City has responded to the evolution of the facility to a regional, high-volume center with a number of significant improvements.

### **IMPROVEMENTS:**

- **Safety** – Citizens arriving to recycle will no longer contend with large equipment traffic including fuel tankers, snow plows, school buses and fire district vehicles. The center has a separate dedicated drive entrance and is fenced off from other City shops' operations. There is also more space for citizens to park their vehicles. An attendant will be present to assist citizens with their recycling and to manage traffic, particularly when the roll-offs are being replaced by the contractor.
- **Efficiency** – Citizens are encouraged to sort recycling material and utilize the material-specific bins to improve the process necessary to re-use material. The attendant will encourage citizens to sort their recycling. The compactors also make the site more efficient by reducing the number of trips necessary to replace recycle bins by a factor of four for compacted material.
- **Compactors** – Two solar powered compactors, one for cardboard and one for plastic, aluminum cans and steel cans, will reduce transportation costs and energy consumption necessary to re-use materials. The attendant will operate the cardboard compactor the second compactor can be safely loaded by citizens.
- **Green Features** – The center features (a) porous asphalt pavement that allows stormwater runoff to soak into the soil, which eliminated the need for a separate stormwater quality and detention basin, and will reduce ice on the pavement in the winter; (b) photo-voltaic power for the compactors; (c) LED area lighting; and (d) the signage for the center is made from primarily recycled material.
- **Site Appearance** – The presence of an attendant will discourage people from leaving unrecyclable trash at the site. Trees and shrubs will be planted in the spring of 2012 on the

south and west sides of the facility. A closed circuit surveillance system will discourage inappropriate activity.

- **Upgrade Funding** – The improvements were funded by \$140,000 from the City’s Capital Improvement Fund and a grant of \$63,000 from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.
- **Operational Funding** – The facility remains free to those bringing materials to recycle. The greater efficiencies of sorting materials and compacting some materials will reduce costs and improve the center’s potential for being financially self-sustaining. The net revenue or net cost of operating the center depends on market prices for recycling the material. In today’s market, the City receives approximately \$3,500 per month. In 2010, the City was paying the contractor each month due to lower market prices for the materials. In today’s market, net revenue is anticipated to increase due to the facility improvements even with the additional costs of attendants, compactors and lighting.

#### OPERATIONAL INFORMATION

The site will be open every day of the year except New Year’s Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day Hours of operation are as follows:

October through April – 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

May through September – 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The Rooney Road Recycling Center (151 S. Rooney Road, Golden, CO) remains open for household hazardous waste, yard waste and electronic waste.