

Valuable Lessons in High Country Composting



Kevin Berg, Recycling Supervisor
Summit County Government

Important Focus Areas

- Infrastructure Access
- Community/Political Buy In
- Education and Outreach
- Partnerships
- Feedback & Setbacks

Access to Infrastructure

- Available Composting Facility?
- Compost Collection Route?
- Residential Compost Drop-Off?



Community/Political Buy In

- Galvanizing Issue to Grow Local/Political Support
- Make Composting a Platform Issue
- Composting Key Component In Zero Waste Culture
- Community Pulse & Finding Your Champion
- Engage the Business Community
- Education & Outreach/Advocacy

Education & Outreach

- Understand Your Audience
- Determine Roles for Community Sectors
- Adapt the Messaging to Your Audience
- Be Creative
- Be Consistent With Your Message

Education/Outreach



High Country Conservation Center
 Started in 1976
 Roots in Recycling
 Provide solutions to waste reduction and resource conservation

Focus areas:

- Waste reduction
- Energy conservation
- Green Building
- Sustainable foods



Compost Outreach

□ Support Services Contract

- General education & outreach
- Ask Eartha Steward – weekly column
- Green Show on Summit TV
- Recycling hotline
- Eartha Steward's Guide to Green Living in the High Country
- Events & Farmers Market Booths
- E-newsletters
- Facebook
 - Social Marketing Approach: fresh, hip, local, consistent



Composting in the Schools

The Composting in the Schools Program is designed to educate students, teachers and parents about the importance of composting as well as implement cafeteria composting and waste-free lunch initiatives.



Composting at Events



Composting at Home & at Work

2011 Residential Compost Pilot Program
Increasing commercial composting programs throughout the County

2011 NEWS LETTER

Sign Up for the High Country Compost Pilot Program!

Interested in getting your compost bin? Sign up for the High Country Compost Pilot Program! This program is designed to help you get your compost bin and start composting. For more information, visit www.co.hc.wa.us.

Service Area: The program is available to all residents in the High Country area. For more information, visit www.co.hc.wa.us.

Start Date: The program will start in the fall of 2011. For more information, visit www.co.hc.wa.us.

Compost Bin: The program will provide you with a compost bin. For more information, visit www.co.hc.wa.us.

Sign Up Today for the High Country Compost Pilot Program!
www.co.hc.wa.us



A waste audit at Mi Casa found that 90% of the waste generated could be composted.

The Community Compost Connection

The Living Classroom Greenhouse & Community Gardens



Partnerships

Pick Partner with Various Interests

- ▣ Financial
- ▣ Environmental
- ▣ Community

Our Partners

- ▣ Vail Resorts
- ▣ Copper Mountain
- ▣ Towns
- ▣ Faction & Company
- ▣ Arapahoe Basin



Feedback and Setbacks

- Compostable Items
- Bags or no bags
- Bear Attacks
- Landfilling Material
- Freezing Temperatures
- Transient Community
- Joint Waste Receptacles
- Biopolymers
- Container Issues



Questions and Contact

Kevin Berg, Summit County Government
KevinB@co.summit.co.us

