



Environmental Center

University Memorial Center, 355
207 UCB
Boulder, Colorado 80309-0207
(303) 492-8308
Fax: (303) 492-3244
<http://ecenter.colorado.edu>

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Contact:

Dan Baril, Daniel.Baril@Colorado.EDU

Heidi Clark, Heidi.Clarke@Colorado.EDU

Recycle Mania Underway at CU

On January 27, the University of Colorado-Boulder Environmental Center's Recycling Outreach kicked off the biggest recycling event of the year: Recycle Mania. Recycle Mania is a ten week national contest between almost 400 colleges and universities to see who can recycle the most and reduce their waste.

In this friendly competition, the Recycling Outreach committee is hosting several events to promote Recycle Mania on the CU-Boulder campus. The main goal is to increase awareness and participation in recycling and waste reduction.

The kickoff event of the competition, held Thursday, January 31, was called "Scrape Your Plate Day." Designed to inform students of the fact that the dining hall staff composts behind the scenes, students were asked to scrape their own food into compost bins in the dining halls. The concept that composting can mitigate climate change by preventing methane gas from entering the atmosphere was stressed on Scrape Your Plate Day.

As the competition gets moving, Recycling Outreach will encourage students to partake in the campus-wide, ten week long scavenger hunt. The hunt will have online clues taking students all around campus to learn about recycling, and there will be prizes for the most active participants.

The last week of March will be host to the dynamic "Recycling X-Games." Taking place in the fountain area by the University Memorial Center (UMC), the Recycling X-Games will provide students the opportunity to win fantastic prizes in games such as the Phonebook Shotgun, Recycle Pong, and the Dumpster Dive.

Other promotions include "Dorm Storms," in which Environmental Center staff, Eco Leaders, and volunteers will visit dorm rooms and offer to collect residents' recycling for them. The catch is that if students suggest they don't have any recycling, Dorm Storm



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volunteers will go through their trash in an attempt to prove them wrong. One university will be announced as the national winner, but Environmental Center staff will also be tallying the results specific to each CU residence hall. The hall that collects the most pounds of recycling will win a party in its lobby.

Students are encouraged to help CU win Recycle Mania by recycling as many materials as possible, reducing their waste, and choosing reusable products. More information and volunteer opportunities can be found at recycling.colorado.edu or on the national Recycle Mania web site, www.recyclemaniacs.org.

