

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver
Proclamation No. 13-0267
Celebrating Earth Day 2013

WHEREAS, each year April 22nd marks the celebration of Earth Day to inspire all citizens to conserve and consider sustainability actions to protect and preserve our environment; and

WHEREAS, City Council has taken on the charge to do its part by establishing a composting and recycling program in City Council offices, purchasing recycled or paper products, printing materials double-sided or copying only when necessary, and turning off lights and equipment when they are not in use; and

WHEREAS, Public Works Solid Waste Management, in 2012, collected about 31,600 tons of recyclable material like aluminum, tin, cardboard/paper, plastics, milk cartons and glass collected from Denver residents, as a result, these efforts to recycle these materials helped to conserve 327,786 mature trees, 109,230 cubic yards of landfill airspace, 119,968,661 kilowatt hours of electricity, 61,548 barrels of oil, 176,993,600 gallons of water, and avoided 533 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, Environmental Health's commercial sustainability program, Certifiably Green Denver, promotes healthy communities where businesses commit to sustainability, and as a result of this program, 36 new businesses have reduced their energy use by as much as is needed to power 104 ski chair lifts for 1 day, reduced their water consumption by enough to fill two Olympic size swimming pools with their unused water, and these businesses commit to best business practices by local sourcing of products, reducing materials, and diverting waste from our landfills; and

WHEREAS, in addition to continuing the Zero Waste policies that were created last year in partnership with Denver Recycles/Denver Solid Waste - to reduce how much waste is sent to the landfill, by providing recycling and composting - the City has diverted an estimated 15% of its residential waste stream from the landfill due to recycling and composting efforts; and

WHEREAS, on April 22nd Denver hosted its free Earth Day fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in front of the City and County Building at 1437 Bannock Street, where more than 60 city agencies and sustainable exhibitors provided activities and displays operated 100% by powered clean, renewable energy courtesy of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, to educate and engage residents about the ways we can protect our natural resources and to celebrate accomplishments in preserving our city's future.

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

Section 1. That City Council thanks the many citizens and businesses that participate in helping the City to reduce waste and to increase and conserve energy, water, and other limited resources in our environment.

Section 2. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that copies be transmitted to the Departments of Public Works and Environmental Health, for their continued partnership in conservation and sustainability.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL April 22, 2013

PRESIDENT