

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 13-0364

Celebrating the 44th Annual Earth Day in 2014

WHEREAS, each year since 1970, April 22nd is recognized worldwide as Earth Day, an event that grew out of U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson's tireless efforts to inspire us all to conserve and consider sustainability actions to protect and preserve our environment; and

WHEREAS, Denver has worked hard to be sustainable and to protect our air, water and natural resources through policies implemented in various ways, including in Denver Public Works, which in 2013 collected a total of 242,450 tons of materials but through programs such as recycling, composting, e-waste events and coupons, household hazardous waste recycling, Leaf-drop and Tree-cycle, 33,460 tons (15%) were diverted (up from 31,600 tons in 2012), saving 126,030 cubic yards of landfill space; keeping 100,960 metric tons of Carbon Dioxide Equivalents out of the atmosphere; conserving 84,714 barrels of oil and 3.9 million gallons of gasoline; and

WHEREAS, Denver Environmental Health's commercial sustainability program, Certifiably Green Denver, promotes healthy communities where businesses commit to sustainability, and as a result of this program, 111 new businesses (up from 51 in 2012) have reduced energy use by as much as is needed to power 693 ski lifts for one day, saving \$81,500 annually, reduced water consumption by enough to fill 30 residential swimming pools, and these businesses commit to best business practices by local sourcing of products, reducing materials, and diverting waste from our landfills; and

WHEREAS, Denver's Office of Sustainability has been involved in numerous efforts to reduce the city's footprint such as reduction of energy intensity of City facilities to 5.6% below the 2011 baseline, partially due to two new LEED-certified libraries; conversion of City fleets to domestic natural gas; reduction of process time and fees for permits to install residential solar power systems; efforts that have made the Denver Convention Center and Denver International Airport among the greenest of their kind in the country; partnering with Denver Water in a water conservation pledge campaign; and implementing improvements to make Denver more bike-friendly, to name just a few initiatives and efforts; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ranks the Denver Metro Area 8th in the number of ENERGY STAR Certified buildings: 221 structures containing 43.5 million square feet with energy savings of over \$40 million and emissions reductions equal to electric usage of over 50,000 homes; Xcel gave the City its Multiple Program Awards for energy efficiency; The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy rated Denver 11th for its energy-efficient policies and programs; and the American Forests recognized Denver's as a Top 10 Urban Forest; and

WHEREAS, on April 22nd, the City will host a free zero-waste Earth Day Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Atrium of the Wellington Webb Municipal Building, 201 W. Colfax, where over 40 local businesses, agencies and organizations presenting environmentally-friendly products, services and sustainable business practices to help engage us all in the ways we can all protect our natural resources and to celebrate accomplishments in preserving Denver's future.

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

Section 1. That City Council thanks the Earth Day Fair participants and encourages everyone to continue to reduce waste, protect air quality 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 Office of Sustainability, Public Works, and Environmental Health for their continued partnership in conservation and sustainability efforts.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL April 21, 2014

PRESIDENT