

Chair's Corner

by Jane Ard-Smith
Pikes Peak Group Chair



On April 22nd, the world will celebrate the 39th anniversary of Earth Day. A lot has changed in 39 years. What started out as an environmental teach-in in 1970, with an estimated 20 million Americans participating, has turned into a worldwide, month-long event and celebration - with nearly a billion people across the globe expected to be involved in some capacity.

Here in the Pikes Peak region, we'll commemorate Earth Week, beginning with an electronics and ink cartridge recycling event on April 18 and culminating with an Earth Day event at Colorado College's Cornerstone Arts Center on April 25th. The theme this year is "Bringing Earth Day Home." Get more information on both events at www.pikespeakearthday.org.

For me, Earth Day is a chance to take public action - I plan to volunteer at the recycling and Earth Day events - but it's also an opportunity to reflect on my personal impact on the planet. What about you? How do you commemorate Earth Day? Write me at janeardsmith@comcast.net - we'll feature some of the responses in the next Chair's Corner.

Recycle Your Old Electronics and Ink Cartridges on April 18, 10-2 pm

In conjunction with Earth Day, GRX and Cartridge World are sponsoring a recycling event on the UCCS Campus, Parking Lot #1. Bring your old computer, audio and video equipment, appliances, and any item that plugs into the wall (except major appliances and air conditioners), as well as unwanted copier and printer toner/ink cartridges. There will be a small charge to recycle the electronic equipment, but all proceeds benefit Community Intersections, <http://www.commonworks.net/intersections.php>.

RECYCLING NEWS



By Judy Schulman, Recycling Chair

The Pikes Peak Group is part of a coalition of individuals and businesses from the area - the Green Cities Recycling Working Group - that meets every couple of months to increase recycling opportunities in and around Colorado Springs.

At our last meeting we identified several aspects of recycling to focus on. They are:

- ◆ Provide recycling at community events such as SpringSpree and the Balloon Classic. We have bins; we need volunteers to put them out and monitor them. We would welcome your help with this.
- ◆ Help area schools toward sustainability- there are parents of middle-schoolers in our group that have been active in getting recycling programs going in their children's school districts. Children are receptive to environmental ideas and can influence their families' behavior.
- ◆ Propose a city ordinance for a grid system for trash pick-up- A trash hauler would bid for all the business in a particular grid so that there would be only one trash truck per week on a given street. This is better for air pollution, less wear on streets, safer for kids. A problem with this is that some trash haulers are strongly opposed; some zip codes are slow pay, hard to collect from. No one wants these areas.
- ◆ Franchise agreement -This is an alternative to the grid system. There would be one trash hauler for the whole city. This is the cheapest method for consumers. This way of dealing with trash hauling is in place in some areas of California and works well according to some of our members who have lived there.
- ◆ Track Recycling data - Where are we now? Is our community improving in terms of how much we recycle and divert from the landfills?
- ◆ Reduce- with commodity prices for many things we recycle way down, what we send off to be recycled is piling up. We need to reduce from the front end what we generate and send off to be recycled.
- ◆ Local processors for recycling- rather than sending glass, plastic, metals, paper, cardboard to far away places (other states or countries) for re-manufacture into new goods we need closer plants. This would lower the carbon footprint of recycling.
- ◆ "Pay as you throw" pricing is a way to encourage area residents to recycle. This has worked in other areas. Residents are charged for trash pick-up based on the quantity of trash they throw away; there is no charge for recycling.
- ◆ Lifecycle analysis- what is total cost of not recycling?

If any of these ideas interest you or if you have other ideas that you would like to see implemented, you are invited to join us. Our next meeting is Monday, May 4th @11:30 am Location: TBD. Contact me if you would like to attend. 576-3366 or boatgirl@gmail.com.