



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

County ‘Flips the Switch’ on Earth Day ‘17, Several Initiatives Begin

April 18, 2017 – **Clear Creek County Communications, Colo.**—The Clear Creek County Board of Commissioners officially ‘flipped the switch’ to celebrate Earth Day 2017, highlighting the County’s recent efforts in terms of energy efficiency, recycling programs, wildfire mitigation, land conservation, and more. Touting this year’s Earth Day theme, “Environmental & Climate Literacy”, several things are happening around the County that everyone can get involved with and learn more about.

For starters, the County began its \$2.6M energy performance contract with Iconergy and the Colorado Energy Office, August 2016—funded with a \$1.4M Energy/Mineral Impact Fund grant from DOLA, a County initial investment of \$672K and subsequent financed loan of \$516K. The initiative includes energy conservation measures and capital improvement projects such as lighting optimization, heating and cooling equipment replacement, solar panels on some County building roofs, building envelope sealing and appliance improvements and several upgrades. So far, all refrigerators in all County facilities have been replaced with high energy-efficient models; LED dimmer switches and other lighting upgrades have been completed in most buildings; replacement of windows and overhead garage doors in identified County spaces are replaced; HVAC upgrades are underway; and, solar panels on certain County buildings are being installed this month.

Within 15 years, the expected savings are: \$1.6M in utility costs, and some \$400K in other savings (rebates, Operations & Maintenance, etc.), and at least \$50K in utility costs savings each year.

“This is a truly great opportunity for our County to not only do the right thing today, but save valuable tax payer money and energy for generations of County residents,” said Keith Montag, County Manager.

WHAT COMES AROUND

Free Recycling..Reduced Household Hazardous Waste Disposal..Half Price Slash!
Starting April 15-Sept. 30, the Clear Creek County Transfer Station & Recycling Center hosts its 2017 Fire Mitigation Program, offering half price tree branches and pine needles (\$6.00 per cubic yard) for County residents only, to drop off—normally \$12/cubic yard.

On Saturday, June 11th, 8:30am-3pm, a Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Program will be offered to County residents. While some program products (certain paints, deck coatings, stains, etc.) may be accepted free of charge, a nominal charge may apply to others. See attached flier for more information: <http://www.co.clear-creek.co.us/DocumentCenter/View/7669> .

In addition to these programs, the Transfer Station offers year-round free recycling for things such as: Plastics #1-7, Glass Food & Beverage Containers, Cardboard, Scrap Metal, and items such as grass, leaves and clean dirt.

“We’re happy to offer these programs and services to our neighbors, because we know it helps the environment and lets people get involved with cleaning up their community the right way,” said Karl Schell, County Public Works Director.

LOTS OF SPACE

CCC Open Space recently partnered with JeffCo Open Space, Great Outdoors Colorado, and others to realize ‘Floyd Hill Open Space’—a 108-acre Joint venture that will eventually connect nearly 13,000 acres of open space land, access to the Peaks to Plains Trail, and provide additional hiking and mountain biking opportunities for County residents and visitors.

“I can’t thank our great team enough for their hard work, contributions and vision for Colorado,” said Martha Tableman, CCC Open Space Coordinator.

But Wait...There's More!

Wanting to get involved or learn more? Here's how:

<http://www.co.clear-creek.co.us/index.aspx?nid=844> --Hike a Trail

<http://www.naco.org/counties/national-county-government-month> --Celebrate Your County

<http://www.co.clear-creek.co.us/index.aspx?nid=192> --CCC Open Space

<http://biketoworkday.us/> --in Denver, June 28th.

<http://www.co.clear-creek.co.us/index.aspx?NID=857> --Take the Prospector Bus, Save Gas! Runs from GATown - IDSprings, M-F.

<http://www.earthday.org/about/the-history-of-earth-day/> --Earth Day 2017

Mountain Gardening Workshop, Apr. 22, Dumont christine.crouse@colostate.edu

“The County has so many things going on this month (and more), and Earth Day just highlights that we do our part for the environment, for our communities and for our future,” said John Bryan, County Director of Communications.

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Official Clear Creek County website: <http://www.co.clear-creek.co.us/>

Connect with us on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Clear-Creek-County-Colorado/130701711250>

Or, follow our tweets at: <https://twitter.com/ClearCreekCoGov>

For more information or questions, please contact John Bryan, Director of Communications, at 303-679-2307, or jbryan@co.clear-creek.co.us .