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Eco-Cycle and Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials Moving November 26 Move Completes City of Boulder “Recycle Row” Concept Ten Years in the Making

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Boulder, CO (November 15) – For 33 years, Eco-Cycle has innovated and created new groundbreaking recycling, composting and Zero Waste programs at its facility on Old Pearl Street. On November 26, the organization will start a new chapter in its recycling history with its move to 6400 Arapahoe Ave. in Boulder.

Eco-Cycle and its Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials (CHaRM)—the first facility of its kind in the nation—will now be easier to find and located closer to other Zero Waste facilities. CHaRM will now be right next to ReSource—Boulder's nonprofit retailer of new and used building materials--and just around the corner from the Boulder County Recycling Center and the Hazardous Materials Management Facility.

The site at 6400 Arapahoe Ave. was purchased by the City of Boulder to realize a long-held vision of increasing Zero Waste opportunities, convenience, and awareness for residents and businesses, as well as to increase the amount of natural resources our community diverts from the landfill, reduce our climate impacts, keep toxic materials out of our air and water, and help create a resilient local economy.

“This process began over a decade ago,” said City of Boulder Environmental Action Project Manager Kara Mertz. “The City of Boulder wanted to create ‘Recycle Row,’ a place where all Zero Waste facilities were as close to each other as possible to make it convenient for residents and businesses to take care of all their recycling and reuse needs in one place. Moving ReSource three years ago and now CHaRM brings two vital community programs into this area. It’s an important part of our Zero Waste Master Plan, and we are excited to continue to partner with Eco-Cycle to reach our community Zero Waste goal of diverting 85% or more of our waste from the landfill.”

While the street isn’t named “Recycle Row,” the 1.2 mile stretch from 63rd Street and Valmont down to 6400 Arapahoe Ave. is now home to every current City of Boulder and Boulder County Zero Waste facility. This makes it possible for residents to easily recycle, compost or reuse almost every discard item they would have, including:

- traditional recyclables at the Boulder County Recycling Center,
- hazardous waste at the Boulder County Hazardous Materials Management Facility,
- yard waste at the Boulder County/City of Boulder Yard Waste and Wood Waste Drop-Off at Western Disposal,
- used building materials at ReSource, and
- harder-to-recycle materials at the Eco-Cycle/City of Boulder CHaRM.

When arriving at 6400 Arapahoe, residents will have a variety of Zero Waste opportunities conveniently co-located. Residents can pull up to Eco-Cycle's CHaRM and recycle electronics, small appliances like coffee makers and vacuums, plastic bags, clothing, block Styrofoam, yoga mats and many other unusual items. They can also purchase Microbe Brew worm casting tea during the growing season. Step into the Eco-Cycle offices, and residents can purchase Zero Waste Event Kits for both private and public events. Strolling over to ReSource, residents can shop for new and used building materials, and drop off used architectural salvage for reuse. They can also borrow a wide variety of tools from ReSource's Tool Library. Both entities will be providing educational programs, and both will maintain the same hours of operation.

"We are looking forward to our new roommate moving in," said Michelle Barnes, Interim Executive Director for the Center for ReSource Conservation, the nonprofit that operates ReSource. "Now that we are co-locating, Eco-Cycle and ReSource will have a chance to explore the many synergies both our organizations have long known were possible. It will be a lot easier for us to collaborate. Residents can expect to see more services and new diversion opportunities in the future due to our colocation.!"

"We're grateful to the City of Boulder for continuing its tradition of helping private, nonprofit organizations like Eco-Cycle and ReSource create and grow sustainability services to serve the public, our environment, and our local economy," said Eco-Cycle Executive Director Eric Lombardi. "Eco-Cycle broke a lot of new ground at our former Pearl St. location. I tell people that what happened there over the past 33 years should be documented for a museum of recycling since it's where a lot of "firsts" for recycling were born. It's where we unloaded bottles, cans and paper from the 33 school buses that we used to provide the first curbside recycling in the state. It's where we built the first sorting systems in Colorado to separate different types of paper and different containers, which allowed recyclers to combine these materials for the first time, and eventually gave rise to our current single-stream recycling. And it's where we incubated the concept of the CHaRM, a facility that collects more types of materials than any other that we know of, and is again a first in the state, nation and world. Eco-Cycle looks forward to continuing this tradition of innovation in resource conservation, now alongside our sister organization ReSource. Here's to a future of carpet recycling, mattress recycling, and who knows what else!"

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