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Nonprofit spotlight: Center for ReSource Conservation

Our Mission: To empower our community to conserve natural resources.

We Serve: A thriving community that understands the finite nature of natural resources and acts to conserve them.

Brief History: The Center for ReSource Conservation (CRC), formerly the Boulder Energy Conservation Center (BECC), was founded in 1976 by a group of community-minded citizens seeking ways to help reduce our dependence on non-renewable resources. The organization has since developed extensive expertise in the areas of residential green building, renewable energy, energy efficiency, waste reduction, and water conservation. The environmental nonprofit shares practical solutions for environmental living through print and online communications materials, direct services, events, workshops, one-on-one conservation counseling, demonstration projects, tours, and walk-in/e-mail/phone requests for information. CRC's goal is to tackle resource conservation issues close to home, provide accessible and affordable conservation solutions, and reduce the negative environmental impacts associated with non-sustainable norms and habits. The CRC's objective is to provide programs and services that empower individuals to turn natural resource conservation beliefs into action in their daily lives.

Proudest Accomplishment: Each year, the CRC empowers more than 30,000 individuals to live a more sustainable life. The CRC reaches out to and engages these individuals through programming in its energy, water, and waste/deconstruction divisions:

The CRC's Energy Division inspires action that advances energy efficiency, renewable energy, and energy conservation technologies and approaches. The energy division operates the energy and green building hotline, provides information on insulation and solar thermal rebates available, provides residential energy action counseling, and hosts educational seminars, conferences, and tours, including the annual Boulder County Tour of Solar and Green Built Homes. During 2008, the residential energy audit program alone will prevent

approximately 50,000 tons of greenhouse gases from entering the atmosphere.

The CRC's Water Division develops and implements educational programs and services that help residents increase outdoor water use efficiency, adhere to best management practices, and reach water conservation goals. The water division offers educational seminars on irrigation systems and xeric gardens, provides free sprinkler system inspections through its Slow the Flow program, and sells professionally designed, low cost xeric gardens to the public through its popular Garden-In-A-Box and Trees Across Boulder programs. Each year, the xeric garden program helps to convert 40,000 square feet of high-water-use landscape to xeriscape.

The CRC's Waste Division, ReSource, promotes waste reduction through innovative landfill diversion programs. ReSource retail locations in Boulder and Fort Collins along with the ReSource Deconstruction Program salvage used building materials and resell them to the public (\$700,000 in revenues annually), making it possible to reuse and recycle 2 million pounds of materials annually that would otherwise have been discarded during construction and demolition and basic remodeling projects.

Greatest Need: To continue the work of empowering Boulder County residents the CRC relies on the generosity of community members through contributions and volunteer efforts. With a significant increase in demand for the nonprofit's practical and cost savings-oriented programs, the CRC aims this year to increase by 50 percent the amount of support the CRC receives from individuals within our community to meet the demand. By contributing your time or financial support to the CRC you will play an important role in leading our community toward a more sustainable future.

Future Plans: 2009 CRC Program Goals:

ReSource will divert more than 2.35 million pounds of reusable building materials from landfills, thus reducing CO2 emissions by about 300,000 pounds.

Slow The Flow will conduct approximately 1,250 free residential and light commercial sprinkler system inspections, resulting in up to a 40 percent reduction in outdoor water use for each of the properties inspected.

Insulate Colorado, a rebate program aimed to incentivize homeowners to make energy efficiency improvements to their existing homes, will build on its success in 2008.

The Solar Thermal Rebate Program will continue to offer rebates to allow homeowners and businesses to affordably harness Colorado's abundant solar resources.

REAP will grow from an audit program into an energy action program to assist each REAP participant to action through energy counseling by helping residents to understand the energy

audit reports outcomes, identify efficiency measures the homeowner owner wants to install, provide for general consultation on rebates and contractors available per measure and assist with bulking measures for financing under the new ClimateSmart Loan Program.

ReNew Our Schools will install photovoltaic systems at three Boulder County Schools and work with teachers to help them educate students about energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Garden-In-A-Box will facilitate the conversion of 40,000 square feet of high-water-use landscape to xeriscape gardens.

Contact information: 303-999-3820 or www.conservationcenter.org

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