

Colorado residents harness the power of recycling in 2012

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

In 2012, recycling and composting in Colorado saved enough energy to power 112,654 homes for a year. It eliminated enough carbon dioxide to equal the emissions from 348,370 cars. It saved 2.2 million barrels of oil.

“Recycling and composting reduces the waste sent to landfills, prolonging the life of our landfills and salvaging materials for beneficial reuse,” said Patrick Hamel, sustainability program manager at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. “Coloradans are recycling 10 percent more today than they were five years ago.”

Recycling and composting kept approximately 2.1 million tons of municipal solid waste from reaching landfills in the state in 2012. That’s more than 166,000 garbage truckloads, enough to fill two lanes of I-70 border-to-border and bumper-to-bumper and still have about 200 trucks left over.

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