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Earth Day Compost Completes True 'Full Recycling Circle'

Alpine Waste, Renewable Fiber partner with Whole Foods Market to close food-waste-to-compost loop

COMMERCE CITY, Colo. (April 19, 2011) — Distribution of compost material at three [Whole Foods Market](#) stores on Friday's Earth Day April 22 and Saturday, April 23, will mark the culmination of efforts by three local companies to help preserve the environment.

Anyone who wants a free, 20-gallon burlap bag of compost material for gardening can pick one up at on Friday, April 22 at Whole Foods Market Washington Park and Cherry Creek; and at the Westminster store on Saturday, April 23 from 12 p.m. – 4 p.m., as long as supplies last.

For several months, Commerce City-based [Alpine Waste & Recycling](#) has been picking up food waste at 10 different Whole Foods Markets in the Denver area, delivering the waste to its own transfer station, and decontaminating the material of any non-compostable materials such as plastic and aluminum. Alpine Waste then delivers the decontaminated product to Ft. Lupton, Colo.-based Renewable Fiber, which adds wood, water and air to turn it into useable compost during a 12-week process. Alpine then picks the material up and delivers it back to the stores, where the retailer gives it away to shoppers as part of its commitment to "green" and the community.

The compost distribution began early this month, with a total of 188 cubic yards (about 75 tons) available. About three cubic yards will fill the back of an average pick-up truck. In conjunction with Renewable Fiber, Alpine Waste has coordinated the drop-off times and provided containers for the compost material, along with signage.

“This has been a particularly satisfying project because you can see exactly how we are benefiting the environment from beginning to end,” said John Tovado, vice president of roll-off services for Alpine. “We’re involved in all stages of the process except for the part where the compost gets tilled into a guy’s backyard garden.”

Alpine Waste has received numerous awards over the years for its environmental engagement, and Alpine recently unveiled a new, environmentally friendly natural gas fueling station at its Commerce City headquarters. Alpine is in the process of converting its fleet from diesel to natural gas.

Media outlets interested in filming/photographing the compost distribution should plan to show up at one of the two Whole Foods Market stores Friday: Cherry Creek, 2375 E. 1st Ave., Denver; or Washington Park, 1111 S. Washington St., Denver; or at the Westminster store, 9229 N. Sheridan Blvd., anytime after noon. Call Steve Caulk, 303-410-4971, to arrange to meet some of the project principals at the preferred location.

About Alpine Waste & Recycling

Alpine Waste & Recycling is the largest privately held commercial waste and recycling collection company in the Denver area. Founded in 1999 as a single-truck operation, the company has parlayed a customer-service focus into a compound annual revenue growth rate of greater than 40 percent. With more than 50 trucks and more than 170 employees, Alpine hauls more than 130,000 tons of waste and recycle products per year. In early 2009, the Colorado Association for Recycling named Alpine as the state’s most outstanding business for its recycling/diversion program. That division of Alpine is called Altogether Recycling.™ Colorado Biz Magazine in 2008 named Alpine as the state’s Top Company (Service Category); and in 2010 named Alpine as a “Colorado Company to Watch.” Commerce City named Alpine as its 2010 Small Business of the Year. Call 303-744-9881 or go to www.alpinewaste.com.

About Renewable Fiber

Based in Ft. Lupton, Colo., Renewable Fiber is a family-owned business with roots in the 1880s, originally called Wes Moser & Sons, Inc. By the late 1970s, the company had a fleet of trucks that hauled sawmill by-products and created animal bedding and landscape products. Renewable Fiber received a composting facility permit in 2001. Today Renewable Fiber has Colorado sales yards in Greeley, Ft. Lupton, Englewood, and Broomfield, with the Greeley site also serving as a nursery and a greenhouse. A truck dump is located in Ft. Lupton, and a railroad car unloading site is located south of Johnstown, Colo. For information call 303-857-0763.