

The CHaRMed Second Life of Your Hard-to-Recycle Materials

Here's a quick overview of what happens to the items collected at the Eco-Cycle Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials (CHaRM) facility in Boulder!



Eco-Cycle partners with a local chapter of **Blue Star Recyclers** for **electronics recycling**. We accept cell phones, assorted electronics, TVs and monitors, laptops and computer towers, and small appliances. From e-waste, valuable metals such as gold and copper, and hazardous materials like lead, are safely recovered.

By recycling your e-waste at the Eco-Cycle CHaRM, you're supporting Blue Star Recyclers, a social enterprise that employs people with disAbilities, and is e-Steward Certified—the highest standard of certification globally for environmentally and socially responsible electronics recycling.



Bicycles, books, and textiles are reused locally.

Gently used books are recirculated to schools and other organizations. Damaged or out-of-date books are turned into cellulose insulation.

Working bicycles are donated to **Community Cycles**. Otherwise, metal is scrapped. Worn bike tubes and tires are used to make playground turf and asphalt base.

Textiles are distributed locally to **Pig and Pearl Thrift Store**.

Plastic bags, bubble wrap, and other film plastics

collected at the CHaRM are sent to **Trex**, where the material is recycled into composite lumber for decks, outdoor furniture, and other uses.



Organic waste (such as food scraps) gets composted by **A1 Organics**, the largest commercial compost facility in the Front Range. Some of the food scraps we collect go to feed Eco-Cycle's population of red wiggler worms and eventually become Microbe Brew Compost Tea!

Printer cartridges and **fire extinguishers** are both materials that are evaluated for reuse by industry experts, then refilled!

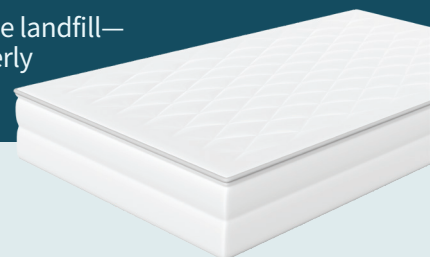


Documents for shredding are safely stored in a secure vault on-site until our next regular visit from our local partner, **Altitude DocuShred**, in their mobile document-shredding truck! These paper fibers become brown paper bags, toilet paper, tissue, and newsprint.



Eco-Cycle partners with **Spring Back Colorado** to recycle **mattresses**. After mattresses are dropped off at our CHaRM facility in Boulder, they're taken to Spring Back's warehouse in Commerce City, where employees deconstruct them into their core components. The foam and fibers are used to create carpet padding. The metal from springs and frames gets recovered as scrap metal, likely to become new kitchen appliances and car parts.

An important aspect of this company is not only its recovery of valuable materials from the landfill—it also intentionally hires people in recovery from addiction, or who may have been formerly incarcerated, creating green jobs supportive to those with barriers to employment.



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For hours of operation, prices, and more information, visit ecocycle.org/charm