

Neighborhood Sustainability Meeting **Monday, 3/12/12, 5-7pm in 13th St Conf Room**

Introductions: Name; neighborhood; methods for dispersing information to neighbors

In attendance:

- Cathy Conery – Newlands Greenlands. Newlands has an email contact list & website
 - o Cathy.conery@indra.com
- Kay Bingham – Newlands Greenlands. Same methods as above. Newlands is also hosting a Garden Talk on April 15, providing information and expert input on getting your garden started
 - o kayabingham@gmail.com
- Jamie Shuey – Boulder Meadows. Can pass out information to neighbors
 - o Jamie_shuey@yahoo.com
- Brain Crawford – South Boulder. Missed introductions.

Presentation from Russ Sands & Curry Rosato from the City of Boulder's Water Quality and Environmental Services department

Water Conservation – Why do we conserve?

- Water rights & prior appropriation
- Low snowpack year, could contribute to a slight drought this summer
 - o State snowpack 147% in March 2011; 81% in March 2012
- We can only use our allotment of water or reservoirs may run dry
- The arid west = 18-20" (11" in AZ; 36+ in West Coast)
- Boulder gets only 8" more rainfall than a desert, with an average of 15"-18" per year
- Jonathan Waterman: an artist & activist
 - o Tried to paddle down the Colorado River out to the ocean but couldn't make it through; CO River does not even run to the ocean
- One of the city's main focuses is to decrease commercial & industrial water use
- Boulder & Denver Water are participating in a study to determine how much of an acre/ft decrease in water usage can be attributed to a drought
- SWSI (Surface Water Supply Index) 2010 says that we could have up to a 630,000 AF gap in water by 2050

What can you do?

- We can affect our individual water use
- Toilets represent the highest water usage in a home, followed by washing machines
 - o Pre-1994 could be up to 7 gpf (gallon per flush)
 - o Leaky toilets can waste up to 500 gallons/day
 - *Use a toilet leak tab to determine if your toilet is leaking*
 - There was recently a house in boulder that used 362,000 over 33 days (billing cycle) due to a leak
 - o 0.8 gpf toilets are being tested; can provide a significant decrease in water usage
 - o *Look into replacing your toilet* (you can get several rebates: City of Boulder [Water Conservation Rebates](#) and [EnergySmart](#) [one from the City of Boulder's CAP tax funds, and one from the EnergySmart program])
- *Consider upgrading your washer & shower head to save both water and energy*
 - o There are currently Water Conservation rebates for toilets, washing machines, irrigation audits, drip systems, and [more](#)
- The largest waste of water is outdoor water use
 - o Xeriscape where possible: save water, reduce impacts to rivers from run-off
- Center for ReSource Conservation (CRC) offers:

- [Garden-in-a-Box](#): intended to simplify water-wise gardening by providing professional “plant-by-number” designs, a selection of xeriscape plants, and planting and care instructions all below retail costs
- Free sprinkler inspections through [Slow the Flow](#)
- [Free Water-wise Landscape Seminars](#), April 9-14
- And [more!](#)
- Programs may be changing to include a more collaborative partnership and programs between the city and CRC, which will allow leaks and inefficiencies to not only be identified during an audit, but also fixed.
- Look for opportunities to save and reuse water in your home
- Bring your household hazardous waste to the Hazardous Materials Management Facility. They offer free drop off & many free items. More info [here](#)
- Pick up your pet waste. Boulder Creek is currently on the state list for high levels of e. coli; pet waste contains high levels of bacteria & could be contributing to this issue
- Don't wash your car in your driveway, as chemicals run into storm drains. Use a carwash instead, which routes water and chemicals to the waste water treatment plant
- Take the [Keep It Clean pledge](#) & help foster and build your community around education and engagement with the pledge
 - *Contact Curry if you're interested in sharing the pledge with your neighborhood*
- The city can help support a creek clean up in your neighborhood anytime.
 - *Contact Curry if you're interested in organizing a clean up*

Educational Programs

- [Keep It Clean Partnership](#) (KICP) – Boulder is a partner in this county-wide program (along with 6 other communities) engaging in stormwater pollution prevention
 - KICP offers shared programs encouraging stormwater protection
 - There are 13 tributaries throughout Boulder that our community needs to protect; KICP is working to increase awareness through increased signage
 - There are over 4,000 stormdrains in Boulder, with over 800 outfalls into creeks. Markers can be found on storm drains, posted on by the community, creating a fun activity for neighbors and families to participate in
 - Also the option to hang door hangers on doors in the neighborhood while posting up storm drain markers
 - *Contact Curry if you're interested in helping post up stormdrain markers*
- Much work in boulder schools, providing part-time education and training teachers
- Also educating on erosion control, particularly around construction areas, and its contribution to stormwater pollution
- 2012 is the Colorado Year of Water: <http://water2012.org/>
 - Offers book clubs, museum exhibits, community events, and a statewide collaboration
 - The City of Boulder will be hosting various events around town in recognition of the 2012 Colorado Year of Water

What's next?

- Curry and/or Russ would love to come out and talk to your neighborhood about water conservation options
 - Curry Rosato: rosatoc@bouldercolorado.gov, 303-413-7365
 - Russ Sands: sandsr@bouldercolorado.gov; 303-413-7401
- For more resources:
 - Center for ReSource Conservation (CRC) programs & customer service: <http://conservationcenter.org/>
 - City of Boulder information & rebates: <http://bouldersaveswater.net>

Neighborhood Sustainability & Energy Future Speaker Series Event

- Sunday, May 6; 2-4 pm at the West Boulder Senior Center
- From 2-3 pm, [Al Bartlett](#) will address the connection between arithmetic, population, and energy consumption and their relation to non-renewable resources, particularly petroleum
- Stick around following Dr. Bartlett's speech for an update on [Boulder's Energy Future](#) and to learn how you can conserve energy in your home with [EnergySmart](#)
- **Can you help us promote the event?** We're having flyers printed up (special thanks to Mary Pettigrew for creating these!)
 - *Please let Kristen know if you can distribute flyers to your neighborhood or put out a blurb on your website or email list*

Upcoming Meetings

- Monday, April 9 - Informal discussion & open networking
 - 5-6 pm; 13th St Conference Room (1720 13th St)
 - Please send Kristen any discussion topics you would like to cover during this meeting
- Monday, May 14 - Update on [Boulder's Energy Future](#): the future of climate action in Boulder and how you can get involved
 - 5-7 pm; 13th St Conference Room (1720 13th St)