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# Colorado Waste Tire Disposal and Recycling Program



## 2007 Report

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## ***Cleanup and Processing Grant Program for Counties and Municipalities***

The Colorado General Assembly passed legislation in 1995, HB 95-1238, C.R.S. 24-32-114 (1) (a), concerning the cleanup of stored or illegally disposed waste tires. The General Assembly further amended the Waste Tire Cleanup Program in 2001, HB01 1018. The Cleanup Program is designed to provide grants for the removal of waste tires that have been disposed of, and to encourage recycling and reuse of these waste tires. Grant funds can be used to pay for the removal, recycling and transport of waste tires to a state or county approved storage, disposal or recycling facility.

The Cleanup Program will provide funds to counties and municipalities for expenditures associated with removing disposed or stored waste tires. **The funds must be used solely for the removal of waste tires from any site deemed illegal by local or state law within counties and municipalities, and for disposal or recycling of the removed tires at a state- or county-approved storage, disposal or recycling facility.**

The purpose of the grant program is twofold:

1. To clean up and remove the maximum number of illegally disposed tires in Colorado, using the best methods available, preferably recycling or reuse; and
2. To provide partial reimbursement that encourages the processing of raw waste tires that are located at either a state, county, or municipal owned and operated or approved storage or disposal facility. Financial assistance is distributed to county or municipal grantees by the state to support these efforts.

From 1998 through 2007 over 5 million tires across eight counties have been removed/reused/recycled in Colorado through the Clean-up grant program.



Before (*above*) and after (*right*) photos  
of the  
Larimer County Cleanup project  
(A.K.A. "Alps Tire Pile")



# ***Recycling Incentives for Purchasing and Using Recycled Waste Tire Products in Public Projects***

The Colorado General Assembly passed legislation in 1998 (SB98-198), C.R.S. 24-32-114 (1) (b) (I) concerning tire recycling and re-use programs. Specifically, the legislation provides incentives for state agencies and local governments to purchase products made from recycled or reused waste tire material in their public projects. The legislation authorizes that funds be made available to counties, municipalities, special districts (including school districts), and state agencies, as a financial incentive to purchase products that contain recycled or reused Colorado waste tires.

The purpose of this program is to encourage the beneficial reuse and recycling of Colorado waste tires by providing incentives to counties, municipalities, special districts, and state agencies to purchase products made from Colorado-generated recycled or reused waste tires in their public projects.

From 1998 through 2007 over 1.3 million tires have been reused/recycled in Colorado through the Recycling Incentives grant program. In fiscal year 2007 alone, this program funded synthetic surfacing using Colorado recycled tires for 19 school playgrounds, 2 running tracks, 3 athletic fields, and 8 park playgrounds in local governments throughout Colorado.

Anecdotal comments from grantees:

*“It is very exciting to see children enjoying the new playground equipment and also satisfying knowing they are safe from injury with the new protective surfacing in place.”*

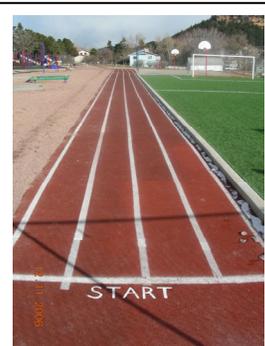
*- Primero RE-2 School District, Las Animas County*

*“This type of surfacing (poured rubber) is the premium surface to use for these amenities, as users of all ages and abilities, including wheelchair users, are not limited in their ability to travel through a playground. Moreover, this surface is an excellent critical fall surface when playground and climbing sculpture users do slip and fall.”*

*- Town of Crested Butte, Gunnison County*



Before (left) and after (right) photos of synthetic turf surfacing at Sargent Early Learning Center in Rio Grande County.



Synthetic poured-in-place surfacing for Palmer Lake Elementary School playground and running track projects in El Paso County.

## *End User and Processor Partial Reimbursement Program*

The Colorado General Assembly passed legislation in 1998, HB 98-1176, creating the End User Program, C.R.S. 24-32-114 (1) (c), as amended. The General Assembly further amended the Waste Tire Statute with HB 01-1018 and again with HB 03-1329 which added \$0.25 for the End User and Recycling programs and HB 07-1288 which added \$.25 for the End User and Cleanup programs. The intent of this program is to assist businesses that employ tire recycling and reuse technologies to become economically viable. Helping to sustain end user businesses through partial reimbursements reduces both the possibility of illegal tire dumping and the legal disposal of such tires in landfills.

From 1998 through 2007 over 26.9 million tires have been reused/recycled through the End User and Processor Partial Reimbursement program.



Tire derived fuel is used for energy recovery at the Holcim Cement Plant in Fremont County.



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Total tires removed/reused/recycled in Colorado from 1996 through 2007:

**Over 33.2 million**