

ZGreen News TAKING ACTION TODAY ... FOR A GREENER TOMORROW

CITY OF ASPEN · CANARY INITIATIVE · ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

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Green Events CALENDAR

July 2- Oct 15
Aspen Saturday Market
Downtown Aspen

Your chance to buy local!
Every Saturday through
mid-October. For more
information, [click here](#).

July 2 - Aug 6
(Saturdays)
9:30 - 11:30 am
ACES: Families in Nature
Various Locations

Your kids are born
naturalists, but are you?
Come explore alongside
your own children; little
people are big examples of
how to be in nature.
Registration required.
\$15.00. For more
information, [click here](#).

July 5, 7, 13
7:00 - 9:00 pm
July 27
5:30 - 8:00 pm
**Rare Orchid and Firefly
Walk**
Filoha Meadows, Redstone

An evening guided walk on
this amazing property!
Filoha, the Ethiopian word
for hot water, includes hot
springs that host one of
the few firefly populations
in our valley. For more
information, call
970.927.1290. To register,
[click here](#).

July 11, 25 and Aug 8
4:00 - 5:00 pm
ACES: Know Your Trees

ASPEN TAP: Better Than Bottled

In an effort to help our
local and global
environment, Aspen
City Council was
inspired to tackle the
ever-present
environmental issue of
plastic bottled water,
hoping to increase
awareness in the
community and reduce
the use of bottled
water in Aspen.



Bottled water seems
to be everywhere
these days and its
effects on the
environment are
significant. According
to the Beverage
Marketing Corp, "Americans buy 31 billion liters of water
each year, in bottles ranging from 8-ounce bottles to
multi-gallon bottles found in offices."

This growing industry creates loads of plastic waste;
consumes energy in production, packaging, and
shipping; and taps finite water resources. Most bottled
water sold in the U.S. comes in polyethylene
terephthalate (PET) bottles. To meet America's demand
for bottled water, 900,000 tons of PET is produced from
fossil fuel, typically natural gas and petroleum, every
year.

The energy consumed by the bottled water industry is
significant. Bottling 31.2 billion liters of water (2006 U.S.
consumption) requires more than 17 million barrels of oil.
To visualize these energy costs, picture a 12-ounce
bottle of water, filled a quarter of the way with oil.

Although bottled water is typically marketed as safe and
healthy, offering water from pristine mountain streams,
not all bottled water is alike, nor is bottled water
necessarily safer or cleaner than municipal tap water.
Most Americans are not aware that an estimated 40% of
bottled water is actually municipal tap water, bottled
and shipped to a different town or state. For more
information on bottled water transparency from the
Environmental Working Group, [click here](#).

What can you do?

The City of Aspen has installed three bottle filling
stations around Aspen. These stations provide easy
access to clean, refreshing Aspen tap water, sourced
from Maroon Creek and Castle Creek, both in protected
wilderness areas. [Click here](#) for a map of the filling
stations.

In addition, reusable stainless water bottles with the
Aspen Tap logo are available at the Saturday Market,
City Hall and select stores around Aspen for \$10.

For more information about bottled water, Aspen's water
sources or the local outreach efforts, [click here](#).

ACES, Aspen

ACES Director Tom Cardamone and Program Director Jim Kravitz will lead hour-long walks around the Hallam Lake neighborhood to identify the native trees. For more information, [click here](#).

**July 11, 25 and Aug 8
4:00 - 5:00 pm**

ACES: My Independence
ACES, Aspen

Natural and Human History of Independence Pass: A collaboration with Independence Pass Foundation. \$15.00. For more information, [click here](#).

**July 20
5:30 - 7:30 pm**

Green Drinks
The Lovins' Home,
Old Snowmass

FREE social event! Meet new people and enjoy snacks and drinks, as well as tour the Lovins' nearly 100% energy efficient home. ZGreen encourages all those who plan to attend to bike, ride RFTA or carpool. We will provide free shuttles from the Old Snowmass RFTA bus stop to RMI. Space is limited, so to please [click here](#) to reserve your space on the shuttle.

For more information, [click here](#).

**July 23
10:00 am - Noon**

The Hope Mine: Biochar and Mine Reclamation
ACES, Aspen

For The Forest in partnership with ACES leads an exciting field trip to the Hope Mine to learn about a cutting edge restoration project that uses biochar to reclaim toxic mine waste. For more information, [click here](#).

**Aug 3
5:30 - 7:30 pm**
Meadowlands Riverside Walk

Benedict Music Tent,
Aspen

Late afternoon walk along the Roaring Fork River and Castle Creek on the Meadowlands Open Space. For more information, call 970.927.1290. To register, [click here](#).

ZGreen
PROGRAM LINKS



Banana Farm 2.0: The Lovins' House at RMI

When Amory Lovins built his home in Old Snowmass, CO in 1984, he designed it to be radically energy-efficient and at the time, it was. In the past 25 years it's gone through more changes in an effort to capture improvements in energy efficiency.

Now, the 2011 version is nearly carbon-neutral. The home features its own internal living humidifier in the form of a tropical greenhouse. The house is also south facing, covered in photovoltaic panels and built into the side of a hill for more effective heating and cooling. Kitchen and laundry appliances use significantly less energy than standard equipment and many more ingenious design elements combine to make a most intriguingly efficient abode.

But don't take our word for it! This month, Amory and his wife, Judy, are hosting ZGreen's July Green Drinks event. Green Drinks is a monthly social networking event for environmentally minded folks to converse over food and drink.

Please join us July 20th, from 5:30-7:30pm, at the "Banana Farm," as Mr. Lovins affectionately calls it. The home is also the headquarters of the Rocky Mountain Institute, a non-profit consultancy, working to "foster the efficient and restorative use of resources to make the world secure, just, prosperous, and life-sustaining." ZGreen encourages all those who plan to attend to ride bikes, ride RFTA or carpool. We will provide free shuttles from the 'Old Snowmass' RFTA bus stop to RMI.

Space is limited, so to reserve a shuttle ride at 5:40PM, please [click here](#).

Compost Pick-up Now Available in Aspen

Did you know 30% of residential waste is compostable and 60-70% of restaurant food waste could be composted? You can start reducing your impact (and saving money) today, because compost pick-up is now available at your home and business.

Fruit, meat, dairy, and vegetable waste can be separated from your trash and picked up by a waste hauler for composting at the Pitkin County Landfill. You can also compost paper waste, like cereal boxes.

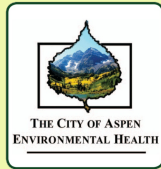
In addition to saving the planet and the life of the landfill, composting saves you money. That's because the landfill charges less to process compost than trash and this savings is passed on to customers.

Call the Aspen Environmental Health Department at 970.429.1798 to get started and learn more about what you can compost. Free collection bins are available.

Four restaurants are already composting. The City of Aspen would like to thank the **Aspen Meadows, Butcher's Block, Boogie's, and the Maroon Creek Club** for their willingness to participate in the new compost program!



Adding a Touch of Green to



Household Painting Projects

Summer is a great time for home improvement projects, but have you ever wondered if the paint you are using is safe for your health and the environment? The following are some tips on how to choose a paint that is safe for your family and the environment, how to clean up after a painting project and how to properly dispose of unused paint.

A great first step is to choose a paint that is VOC-free. VOC or volatile organic compounds are chemicals used in many popular brands of paint that can cause harm to your health. They have been linked to respiratory irritation, headaches, nausea, liver damage, and even cancer. VOCs are not only found in paint, but also lacquers, paint strippers, and cleaners. In addition to causing adverse health effects, VOCs are also detrimental to the environment as they add to the formation of ozone and smog.

What to look for:

- Buy water-based paint versus more toxic oil-based paints.
- Read the label, some paints have a lower VOC concentration than others.

Safe use and clean up:

- Follow all of the precautions on the label.
- Wear rubber gloves and wash hands with soapy water after painting to minimize exposure to carcinogenic toxins or VOCs such as benzene.
- Ventilate your work area well.
- Wear a painter's mask to prevent inhaling toxic chemicals.
- If possible, use excess paint on a second or third coat to reduce waste.
- Do not sleep in a freshly painted room until the paint odor has dissipated.
- Wash water-based paint from brushes and rollers with soapy water in the sink, NOT in a storm drain or in your lawn.
- **DO NOT** pour oil-based paint thinners, solvents, or cleaners of any kind down the sink or storm drain; allow the paint particles to settle and reuse them!

Disposal guidelines:

- Allow excess paint (less than a quarter of a can) to air dry, in well ventilated area away from children, pets, and open flames.
- Dried oil-based paint can then be disposed of at a hazardous waste collection center typically at your local landfill. Dried water-based paint can be thrown into the garbage.
- Large quantities of excess paint can be dried when mixed with kitty-litter or clay-based absorbent and then sent to the hazardous waste recycling center.

ZGreen Business Spotlight



**[Aspen Alps
Condominiums](#)**
970.925.7820

The Aspen Alps, built in 1963, is the first condominium complex in Aspen to be ZGreen certified. The Alps is an 83-unit complex on 6.5 acres with 55 condominiums available to renting guests and 28 privately owned.

SIX BIG THINGS that the Aspen Alps is doing to be ZGreen:

1. Low-flow faucets and showerheads have been installed throughout the Alps.
2. The Aspen Alps excels at land stewardship by managing walking trails, Aspen Alps Park and neighboring land owned by Aspen Valley Land Trust.
3. The Alps purchases printer paper, letterhead, parking permits, notepads, toilet paper and sticky notes made from paper with post-consumer recycled content.
4. Employees receive free bus passes, carpooling is encouraged and bikes are available for the maintenance crew to run errands. Also, Aspen Alps provides employee housing within walking distance, reducing the need for employees to commute.
5. The Alps has three electric vehicles in its fleet.
6. Aspen Alps' pool is covered when not in use, all guest rooms have recycle bins and guest units have signs to encourage towel and linen reuse.

To learn more about what the Aspen Alps Condominiums and other ZGreen businesses are doing, [click here](#).

Canary Initiative - 970.429.1831
Environmental Health Department - 970.920.5039
City of Aspen - 130 S Galena Street - Aspen, CO 81611

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