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Green Events

CALENDAR

Spring begins our time outdoors and we at the Environmental Health office want you to be tick aware and safe. Please come by our office on the 2nd floor of City Hall to learn more about tick safety.

Aspen Energy Challenge April Promotion: Turn off the heat tape

This month, the Aspen Energy Challenge is encouraging you to turn off your heat tape and turn off appliances to save energy. As part of your spring cleaning, add "turn off heat tape" to the to-do list to save big on utility bills. Turn off the power strip or unplug those appliances and electronics that are not in use.

To join the Aspen Energy Challenge or to learn more, [click here](#) or call 970.925.9775.



HOW IT ALL WORKS: Noise and Sound

This month ZGreen is taking a closer look at the topic of noise to share the public health significance of noise exposure and offer insight into how sound really works.

Many jurisdictions, including the City of Aspen, have ordinances or policies that are designed to reduce noise exposure and protect public health in the process. In addition, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has regulations that set limits for acceptable noise exposure in the workplace. The impacts of noise ranges from physical effects such as hearing loss and increased heart rate to other effects such as increased stress levels, sleep loss and aggressive behavior. Factors such as these are the driving force behind most noise regulations.

Cities and towns often find themselves in the delicate position of trying to balance a vibrant and prosperous community with the need to protect the public from the effects of undesired noise exposure. One person may be enjoying some live music while another can be up all night all from the same noise level. For more information on the City of Aspen's noise ordinance [click here](#).

Sound Measurement

Let's take a closer look at how sound measurement works. Sound is measured in units called decibels. Decibels are a measure of the level of sound

Tue. Apr 5, 5:30 pm
Aspen U: Why Natural History Matters
Limelight Hotel, Aspen
 Dr. Chris Filardi is Director of Pacific Programs at the Center for Biodiversity and Conservation of the American Museum of Natural History in New York, New York. Chris will talk about the way basic natural history can help us live better lives, and can fuel the social engines for confronting big issues like ecosystem degradation and climate change. For more information, [click here.](#)

Tue. Apr 12, 6 - 7:15 pm
RBR Kitchen: Pizza
Rock Bottom Ranch
 Rock Bottom Ranch Director and former Little Nell chef, Jason Smith, will demonstrate cooking in our new multi-purpose kitchen at Rock Bottom Ranch. Pizza is one of America's favorite foods and is fun and easy to make at home. \$20 for members, \$25 non-members. For more information, call ACES at 970.925.5756 or [click here.](#)

Wed. Apr 13, Time TBA
WildWords Poetry Slam
Justice Snow's, Aspen
 This is the first ever WildWords Poetry Slam, presented by Justice Snow's and Wilderness Workshop. Poems from the perspective of a local animal will be read. For information, [click here.](#)

Thu. Apr 14, 5 - 7 pm
Recycling in the Roaring Fork Valley
Basalt Public Library
 Local experts, including Scott Eden, President of Mountain Waste and Recycling, will talk to the public about where our

pressure produced by the sound which is heard by the ear. The decibel scale is logarithmic, this means for every increase of 10 decibels on the scale, the sound level doubles.

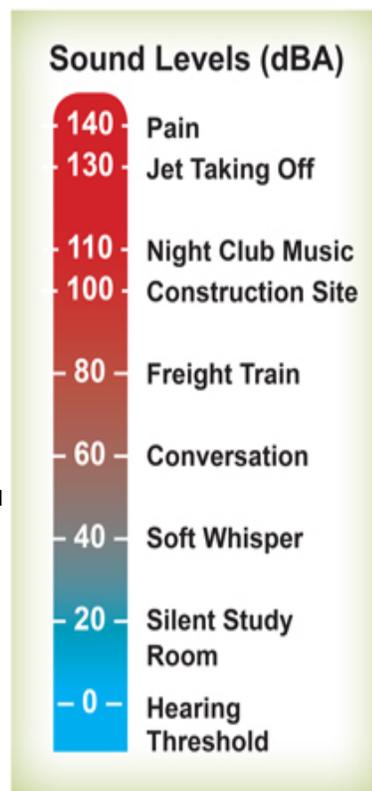
As an example, a sound measured at 60 decibels would be twice as loud as a sound that measured 50 decibels. In short, this means that a small change on the decibel scale represents a large change in how loud the sound is perceived by the ears.

There are simple to use meters which measure sound in decibels. These meters are often used by event producers, music venues, and other sound sources to verify compliance with local noise ordinances. The devices are also used by regulatory agencies while investigating complaints related to noise.

Sound levels produced by a particular source change in relation to the distance from the source. For example a two way conversation between people on the sidewalk would typically measure around 60 decibels at a distance of three feet away from the conversation. When the distance is elongated to 50 feet away, that same conversation may produce a sound level of only 40 decibels.

Advancements in technology allow sound engineers to design sound systems that keep sound fairly well contained to a venue while having a minimal impact on the surrounding area or neighbors. High tech speakers that produce a focused and adjustable amount of sound along with proper acoustical insulation help in this process. This technology and the dissipation of sound over distances are what allow for noisy events like concerts and activities such as construction to take place in the downtown core with minimal disruption or threat to public health.

For more information on noise, stop by the City of Aspen Environmental Health and Sustainability Department.



recyclables go beyond our curbside and the challenges of recycling in the Roaring Fork Valley. Sponsored by USGBC Roaring Fork Interest Group. For more information, [click here](#).

Thu. Apr 20, 5 - 7 pm
Earth Day Party
ACES Hallam Lake, Aspen
Join ACES, CORE, and the City of Aspen for an Earth Day Party. For the second year in a row, this free community event will celebrate Earth Day and kick-off the 2016 Green Drinks season! Come enjoy a fun, interactive evening featuring snacks and drinks, games and activities, and opportunities to get involved in environmental initiatives in our valley. For more information call 970.420.1798.

Sat. Apr 23, 8:30 am
Fryingpan River Cleanup
Lion Park, Basalt
Help clean up one of the most beautiful stretches of river in the country. Join us for a free breakfast before cleaning up a 1-mile section of the river. Prizes for: Best of Trash, Most Toxic, Most Useful, Most Unusual Trash. For more information, [click here](#).

ZGreen Programs

LINKS & INFO



HOW TO: Protect Yourself from Hanta Virus

As we begin spring cleaning, we may find ourselves cleaning up a lot of mouse droppings, and consequently putting ourselves at risk of exposure to hantavirus. Hantavirus is a virus that can be found in the urine and feces of deer mice, and it can cause serious and potentially fatal respiratory disease in humans.

Here are five ways to protect yourself from hantavirus:



Keep mice OUT. Rodent-proof buildings by plugging holes or other mouse entryways. Conduct year-round rodent control and remove rodent hiding places near your home, such as wood, junk, and brush piles.



NEVER vacuum or sweep. When cleaning up mice feces, never use a vacuum or stir up dust with a broom.



Use wet clean-up methods. Spray the droppings liberally with a disinfecting mixture of bleach and water (1.5 cups household bleach with 1 gallon of water).



Wear gloves. Protect yourself when cleaning up droppings by wearing disposable rubber gloves.



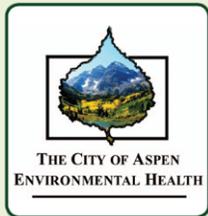
Air out buildings. If you are cleaning out a barn or shed that has been closed for the winter, open all of the windows and let the building air out for at least 30 minutes before beginning to

clean.

For more information, click on the following resources.

[Take Precautions to Avoid Hantavirus](#) [end link]

[CDC Factsheet: Hantavirus](#) [end link]



BY THE NUMBERS:

Pitkin County Municipal Solid Waste



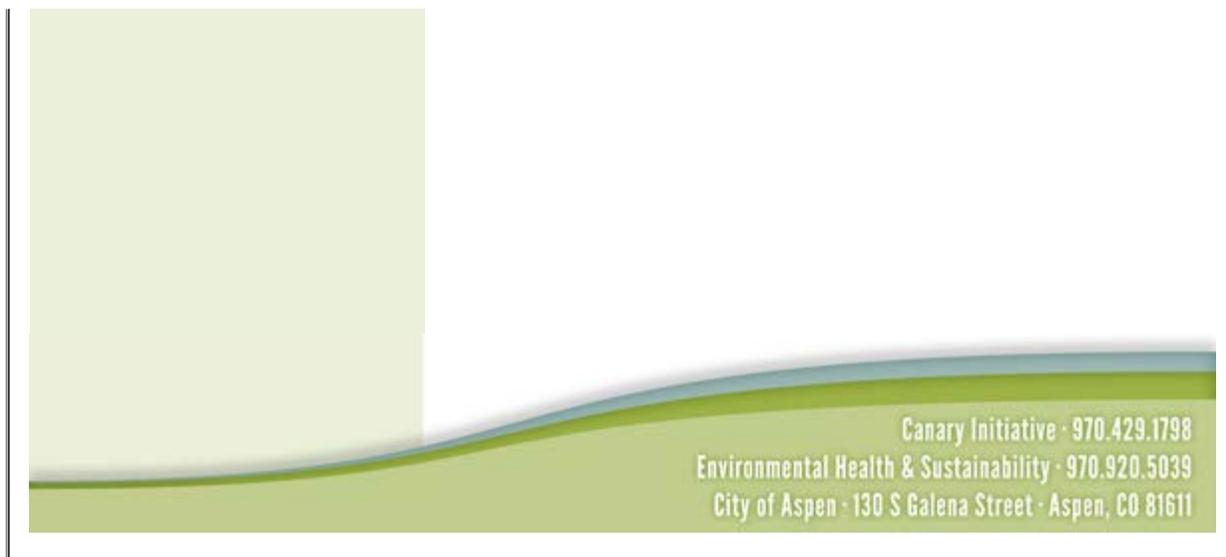
The City of Aspen and Pitkin County are examining ways to reduce waste. The preliminary results show us we can all make efforts to reduce waste through reducing what we buy, reusing what we have and recycling when possible.

Composition of Pitkin County Municipal Recycling:

- Glass: 33 percent
- Commingled paper and containers: 31 percent
- Cardboard: 28 percent
- Contaminants: 8 percent

Composition of Pitkin County Trash:

- Organics: 36 percent
- Paper: 20 percent
- Plastics: 19 percent
- Residue: 9 percent
- Glass: 6 percent
- Hazardous or special waste: 6 percent
- Metals: 4 percent



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