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CALENDAR

Aspen Energy Challenge February Promotion: Home Energy Assessments

Want to cut down on wasted energy in your home but not sure where to start? Get an Energy Smart Home Energy Assessment! This evaluation of how your home uses energy includes the on-the-spot installation of up to \$100 of energy saving quick-fix, recommendations on how you can lower your utility bills, and how to make your home more comfortable. This February, all Aspen residents who sign up for an assessment will be entered to win a free Nest smart thermostat - a \$250 value! The deals don't end there: the assessment is a \$400 value, but the cost to you is a subsidized \$100. [Sign up here](#), at 970.925.9775, or in person at the Aspen Environmental Health and Sustainability Department



Snowpack and SNOTEL

It's always exciting to see a winter storm blow through town, leaving fresh powder behind, but that snow is doing more than just providing fun for skiers and snowboarders. Keeping that snow on the ground throughout the winter and early spring is integral to the health of our ecosystem, and knowing how much snow is on the ground throughout the state and across the West is crucial for our ability to plan for the future.

Snowpack tells us many things about current on-mountain conditions, but also gives us insight into the anticipated spring runoff and the recreation seasons of the local rivers. Snowpack also determines if it will be a good season for wildflower viewing in the upcoming summer and whether or not an area will be at risk for big wildfire outbreaks.

In the Colorado River basin alone, 40-plus million people rely on the Colorado River to meet their basic needs. Power providers, irrigators, recreation outfitters and resource managers are consistently looking at snowpack to get an idea of what their next season might look like and how to shape plans accordingly.

How do these individuals and professionals obtain reliable information about the snowpack when it is occurring in places that

located on second floor of City Hall. Remember, February is short, so sign up now!

**Through February 14
Christmas Tree Recycling**

Be sure to remove ALL items including lights, tinsel and ornaments from the tree before going to the recycling center. Take the empty tree to the Rio Grande Recycling Center in Aspen or Pitkin County Solid Waste Center (landfill) and place onto the collection site marked "Christmas Trees". For more information, please contact Liz O'Connell with the City of Aspen Environmental Health and Sustainability Department at 970.429.1831.

**Tue. Feb. 2, 8 – 11 am
Birding with ACES: January
ACES Hallam Lake, Aspen**

Join naturalist Rebecca Weiss on the first Tuesday of the month from October through April for Morning Birding at Hallam Lake. Bring your binoculars or borrow a pair of ACES's, grab your guidebook, and dress warmly. Members \$20, Non Members \$30. [Register here](#) or call 970.925.5756 for more information.

**Wed. Feb. 3, 7 pm
Potbelly Perspectives:
Skiing Colorado's
Centennial Peaks**

ACES Hallam Lake, Aspen
Presentation by Christy Mahon, Ted Mahon, and Chris Davenport. Tea, from Two Leaves and A Bud and Paradise Bakery cookies will be offered. Members Free and Non-Members \$5. [Click here](#) or call 970.925.5756 for more information.

**Thurs. Feb. 4, 7 pm
Naturalist Nights:
Neonicotinoid Pesticides &
Their Impact on Honeybees
& Other Pollinators**

ACES Hallam Lake, Aspen
Presentation by Ed Colby. Tea,

few can access? The answer is SNOTEL.

SNOTEL, or snow telemetry, is a system of automated snowpack and climate sensors operated by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). More than 730 SNOTEL sites are located in remote high mountain watersheds in 11 Western states including Alaska. All sites measure snow-water content, accumulated precipitation and air temperature. Some SNOTEL sites also measure atmospheric pressure, humidity, wind speed, solar radiation, soil moisture and temperature, and snow depth. Because so much climate and hydrologic information can be interpreted from these measurements, the data are used to forecast yearly water supplies, predict floods and for many types of other research.

Given the remote and hard-to-reach location (especially during winter months) of various SNOTEL sites, they were designed to operate unattended and without frequent maintenance, and are powered by solar rechargeable batteries. When maintenance does need to be performed, NRCS staff might access the sites by hiking, skiing or helicopter. The sites use "meteor burst" communications technology allowing them to collect and communicate data in near real-time.

A quick look at data from the seven SNOTEL sites in the Roaring Fork Basin showed that as of January 1, 2015, Basin-wide snowpack was at 108 percent of median. The Basin average reading is based on individual percentages at each of the seven Roaring Fork sites which are in locally-loved alpine locations including Lost Man, Schofield Pass, and Hagerman Tunnel.

This amazing resource is worth exploring to get a sense of what's going on in your watershed. Anyone with a computer can create an up-to-date precipitation, snowpack or reservoir-basin data report and forecast by [clicking here](#). Additionally, the Roaring Fork Conservancy has generated a map of the SNOTEL sites in our basin and uses the data to provide [weekly snowpack reports](#).

Photo: A SNOTEL site in Cordoba, Alaska. Provided by NRCS.

HEAR THE VALLEY ROAR:
Basalt Green Team

from Two Leaves and A Bud and Paradise Bakery cookies will be offered. Free. [Click here](#) or call 970.925.5756 for more information.

**Mon. Feb. 8, 5:30
Meatless Monday Potluck
and Cowsspiracy Screening.
Private home in
Meadowood, Aspen**

Join Dawn Shepard, coordinator of Aspen's Meatless Monday initiative, for this free potluck, conversation, and a screening of the documentary Cowsspiracy. Bring a meatless appetizer, entree, or dessert to share. Space is limited. [RSVP here.](#)

**Mon. Feb. 8, 7:30pm
Monday Night Docs: Les
Voyageurs Sans Trace
Wheeler Opera House,
Aspen**

This film uncover what happened to three French adventurers who became the first to kayak down the Green and Colorado rivers in 1938, but then disappeared into obscurity. Tickets: \$15, [Purchase here](#) or call 970.920.5770.

**Wed. Feb. 10, 7 pm
Potbelly Perspectives:
World Loppet Nordic Skiing
around the Globe**

ACES Hallam Lake, Aspen
Presentation by Dawn Barton Welles. Tea, from Two Leaves and A Bud and Paradise Bakery cookies will be offered. Members Free and Non-Members \$5. [Click here](#) or call



This month, ZGreen reached out to learn more about the Basalt Green Team. Founded in 2007, the Basalt Green Team is a volunteer environmental committee made up of citizens that care about the environment and strive for a more sustainable community.

In 2015, they successfully passed Phase 2 of the town's Green Building Code which applies to all types of buildings. Within this code, points are awarded to building sites for sustainable improvements such as rain garden installation to help manage stormwater. "Points are also awarded for reducing construction waste, reducing travel distance of materials, and installation of sustainable energy mechanisms" said Green Team member, Ben Roush. In addition to the Green Building Code, other successes include the leaf drop program, micro-hydroelectric plant, and photovoltaic panels on municipal buildings.

Moving forward into 2016, the Green Team plans to convert all streetlights in Basalt to LED bulbs. The committee is starting work on a waste stream management project in which they hope to create a feasible strategy for managing waste that reflects the needs of the town.

Using Aspen's Community-wide Greenhouse Gas Inventory as an example, the Basalt Green Team wants to create a greenhouse gas emissions inventory for Basalt. "An emissions inventory could give us a better understanding of Basalt's most intensive energy sectors and energy usage breakdown across town, so we know where to make improvements" said Roush. Other current projects include a recycling ordinance, community solar program, and resiliency planning for the future.

The Basalt Green Team is dedicated to enhancing sustainability with these continued efforts. For more information, call Town of Basalt Planning at 970.927.4702.

Photo: Presentation at Basalt Middle School on photovoltaic panels.

970.925.5756 for more information.

Thurs. Feb. 11, 7 pm

Naturalist Nights: The Biggest Global Change You've Never Heard of

ACES Hallam Lake, Aspen

Presentation by Dr. Jill Baron.

Tea, from Two Leaves and A Bud and Paradise Bakery

cookies will be offered. Free.

[Click here](#) or call 970.925.5756 for more information.

Mon. Feb. 15, 7:30pm

Monday Night Docs: 180 Degrees South/ The Fisherman's Son

Wheeler Opera House, Aspen

Two films exploring the life of

the Chilean surfer Ramón

Navarro and the waters he

calls home. Tickets: \$15,

[Purchase here](#) or call 970.920.5770.

Wed. Feb. 17, 7 pm

Potbelly Perspectives:

Cycling Ethiopia

ACES Hallam Lake, Aspen

Presentation by Ben and Nils

Koons. Tea, from Two Leaves

and A Bud and Paradise Bakery

cookies will be offered.

Members Free and Non-

Members \$5. [Click here](#) or call

970.925.5756 for more

information.

Thurs. Feb. 18, 7 pm

Naturalist Nights: Do Spruce Beetles Make Forest Fires More Severe?

ACES Hallam Lake, Aspen

Presentation by Robbie Andrus.

Tea, from Two Leaves and A

Bud and Paradise Bakery

cookies will be offered. Free.

[Click here](#) or call 970.925.5756 for more information.

Wed. Feb. 24, 7 pm

Potbelly Perspectives:

Biking through Italy on a

POINT-COUNTERPOINT

Dual Stream vs. Single Stream Recycling



This month, ZGreen introduces a new segment of our newsletter: **Point-Counterpoint**. Use this section to help you understand more about the controversial and sometimes confusing environmental topics of our time.

In the Roaring Fork Valley, there are two systems for curbside recycling, depending on the company picking up the recycling.

Dual stream:

- Requires that the paper products be separated from the co-mingled items (metal, glass and plastic).
- Materials are transported to the Eagle County Materials Reclamation Facility
- Has less contamination, but also less participation and limited materials are accepted.

Single stream:

- Allows all the recyclable items to be together in a single container (no separation).
- Materials are taken to either the Waste Management or Alpine Waste and Recycling facilities near Denver.
- Facilities accept a wider variety of materials (paper board, milk cartons, and phone books) for recycling, but costs more and has a higher rate of contamination.

There are advantages and disadvantages for both systems and there is not a definitive answer as to what is best. [Click here](#) to read an article which concludes dual stream recycling advantages outweigh the advantages of single stream systems. [Click here](#) to read an article which concludes single stream recycling advantages outweigh the advantages of dual stream systems.

Budget

ACES Hallam Lake, Aspen

Presentation by Peter Westcott and Kat Friesen. Tea, from Two Leaves and A Bud and Paradise Bakery cookies will be offered. Members Free and Non-Members \$5. [Click here](#) or call 970.925.5756 for more information.

Thurs. Feb. 25, 7 pm

Naturalist Nights: The Gold King Spill: Impacts on the Animas River

ACES Hallam Lake, Aspen

Presentation by Marcie Demmy Bidwell and Scott Roberts. Tea, from Two Leaves and A Bud and Paradise Bakery cookies will be offered. Free. [Click here](#) or call 970.925.5756 for more information.

Mon. Feb. 29, 6:30 pm

Astronomy Night

ACES Hallam Lake, Aspen

ACES invites you to join Anna Kate Belinski at Hallam Lake this season to learn about the winter night sky. Dress warmly, as the tour will be taking part outside. Please RSVP as space is limited to 50 people. \$5 suggested donation or free for members. [Click here](#) or call 970.925.5756 for more information.

Mon. Feb. 29, 7:30pm

Monday Night Docs:

Unbranded

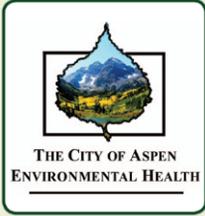
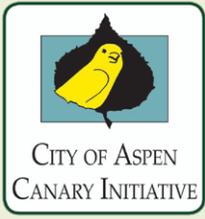
**Wheeler Opera House,
Aspen**

A film about the 50,000 wild horses waiting adoption in government holding facilities in the U.S. Tickets: \$15, [Purchase here](#) or call 970.920.5770.

Since the waste hauling companies in the Roaring Fork Valley are free to decide what type of recycling system makes the most sense for their business and their customers, you can use that information to help you decide which company to use.

ZGreen Programs
LINKS & INFO







Canary Initiative - 970.429.1798
Environmental Health & Sustainability - 970.920.5039
City of Aspen - 130 S Galena Street - Aspen, CO 81611

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