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CALENDAR

**EHS April Giveaway:** Help remind yourself to check the [Air Quality Index \(AQI\)](#) before heading out on that hike or trail run by picking up a FREE Aspen Air Quality compass! Compasses will be available while supplies last at Environmental Health and Sustainability, 2nd floor of Aspen City Hall.

**Fri. Apr 3, 11 am and 1 pm**  
**Ski History Tour on Aspen Mountain**  
**Guest Service Hut on the top of Aspen Mountain, Aspen**

Learn about the mining era and the early days of skiing in Aspen given by longtime local and rancher Tony Vagneur. Free with a lift ticket. [Click here](#) or call 970.925.3721 for more info.

**Sun. Apr 5, Noon**  
**Community Easter Egg Hunt**  
**Yellow Brick Park, Aspen**



## NEWS FROM THE

# Pitkin County Landfill

### SCRAPS makes national news

SCRAPS, a waste diversion program designed to increase residential and commercial food composting is featured on the cover of this February's BioCycle Magazine. This is a huge recognition in the waste industry, similar to a Vanity Fair cover for a celebrity or Skiing Magazine for a ski town.

Published since 1960, BioCycle is known worldwide for its authoritative coverage on composting and organics recycling. This national recognition of our community's environmental stewardship is truly remarkable. [Click here](#) to read the article.

### Talkin' Trashy on Local TV

Liz O'Connell, Waste Reduction Specialist for the City of Aspen, and Jack Johnson, Outreach and Education Coordinator for the Pitkin County Solid Waste Center, have teamed up to bring a new show to the viewers of Grassroots TV.

"Talkin' Trashy" is an effort to address our community's solid waste disposal programs with humor. The half-hour show airs on channel 11 CGTV and channel 12 Grassroots TV. [Click here](#) to check the schedule or view past episodes.

Free family fun on Easter Sunday. Over 2,000 toy filled eggs for kids ages 0-8. Bring your own basket for collecting. Meet the Easter Bunny and take photos.

**Mon. Apr 6, 11 am and 1 pm  
Ski History Tour on Aspen Highlands**

**Guest Services Hut, mid-mountain by Merry-Go-Round, Aspen Highlands**

This tour will have an emphasis on Highlands' "Maverick" reputation. Given by longtime local and Aspen Historical Society docent Jane Click. Free with a lift ticket. [Click here](#) or call 970.925.3721 for more info.

**Wed. Apr 22, 5 – 7 pm  
Earth Day Drinks**

**ACES Hallam Lake, Aspen**  
Join this fun green networking event in celebration of Earth Day. The Aspen Center for Environmental Studies, the Community Office for Resource Efficiency and the City of Aspen team up to host a FREE, fun event for anyone interested in environmental topics. Light snacks and beverages are provided. Call 970.920.5039 for more information.

**Sat. Apr 25, 8:30 -11 am  
Frying Pan Clean-up  
Volunteer Event**

**Lyons Park, Basalt**  
Help Roaring Fork Conservancy clean up one of the most beautiful stretches of river in the country. Meet at Lyons Park and then head out to the Frying Pan. Free breakfast and prizes for various trash collection categories including Best of Trash. [Click here](#) for more info.

**ZGreen Programs**  
LINKS & INFO

The team dives deep into the challenges and how-to of recycling, composting and other topics related to waste reduction and disposal. So far, episodes have addressed holiday packaging disposal, proper preparation of Christmas trees for composting, and holiday lights. A two-part episode was devoted to single stream recycling in Pitkin County and at the Rio Grande Recycling Center.

Email questions you might have about the topic or suggestions for future episodes to [Jack Johnson](#) or [Liz O'Connell](#).

**Calling for Cell Phone Recycling**

The Pitkin County Solid Waste Center (SWC) Hazardous Waste team has started a new cell phone collection program and now offers FREE disposal to the general public. Cell phones can be dropped off at either of two locations: Pitkin County SWC (landfill) or the City of Aspen City Hall on the first floor.

If you would like to suggest another location to place a collection box, email [Aurelio Rubio](#). Cell phones are collected for ethical and environmentally conscious disposal and proceeds from the recycling effort will be donated to charity by the PaceButler Corporation.

**Free "Dirt"**

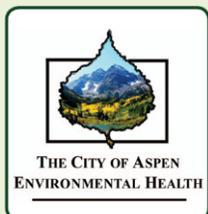
This spring the landfill will open the "Materials Depot" where citizens can sample our wood chips, potting soil and finished compost for free. The depot will be in our recycle yard and the public will be limited only by what they can load, with their own shovels, in their own containers in their enclosed passenger cars. The depot is not open to professionals engaged in landscaping or other gardening endeavors. Commercial entities are encouraged to purchase our locally produced products.

**Let's Have a Field Day!**

The county, city, Aspen TREE and Colorado State University Extension are partnering with Patti Watson of Cozy Point Ranch and ACES' Rock Bottom Ranch to host a Field Day at Cozy Point on June 13. We'll be offering something for everyone, including the kids. Centered on soil health and proper small acreage management techniques, topics will also include pests and weeds, traditional and alternative methods of composting, permaculture and city, county and extension programs for the home gardener and ranch and farm managers.

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CITY SPOTLIGHT:  
**AspenAirQuality.com**



Aspen has a new Outdoor Air Quality website found at [aspenairquality.com](http://aspenairquality.com). It features real-time outdoor air quality information for the Aspen area compiled into an easy to understand format.

The driving force behind this new site is to provide a place where people can find pertinent information to make real time decisions and observations regarding air quality. For example, a person with a chronic respiratory illness can see the current particulate matter pollution levels during a wind event before making a decision about whether it is safe to go on a long bike ride. The information can also be used to gauge the effectiveness of pollution control measures such as street sweeping in response to high levels of particulate pollution generated by vehicle traffic.

Currently, [aspenairquality.com](http://aspenairquality.com) displays levels of ozone, coarse particulate (pm10), and fine particulate (pm2.5). On the main page there is a comprehensive [Air Quality Index \(AQI\)](#). The AQI value takes into account all three pollutants as well as a raw hourly average for each parameter.

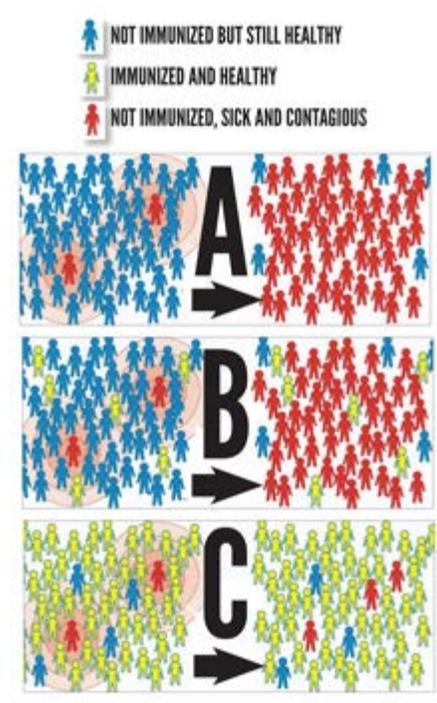
The AQI format is designed to help the user understand the health indication of the raw data. For example an AQI value of 17 falls into the "Good" category. You can learn more by clicking on each of the parameters. Each parameter has its own page with specific AQI information as well as a weekly trend of the raw data.

The real-time data for the website has been made possible through upgrades to Aspen's air quality monitoring program improvements in 2014. The improvements included a new particulate monitor that monitors both pm10 and pm2.5 as well as website enhancements which capture and display the data with minimal delay.

For more information on air quality in the Aspen area, contact the Environmental Health and Sustainability Department at 970.920.5039.

## WHAT'S IN A NAME: Herd Immunity

*At left: (A) No one is immunized; contagious disease spreads through the population. (B) Some of the population gets immunized; contagious disease spreads*



*through some of the population. (C) Most of the population gets immunized; spread of contagious disease is contained.*

With the recent focus on vaccinations in the news, it is important to understand the concept of **herd immunity** and how it provides protection against disease.

**Herd immunity** (also called community immunity) is a term that describes how high immunization rates protect the vulnerable, unvaccinated individuals in a community

This means that when the majority of a population is vaccinated, the spread of a contagious illness is broken. This reduces the chances of a large outbreak occurring. It also provides a level of protection to those who are not vaccinated by reducing their contact with infected individuals. This is especially important because many vulnerable people are not able to be vaccinated due to a health condition. This includes infants, pregnant women, and immunocompromised individuals.

In today's modern world, disease transmission is at an advantage due to increased travel and human interactions compared to the past. Whereas before, geography limited the spread of disease now the only way to stop the spread of disease is by creating breaks through immune individuals.

In order for herd immunity to work, a critical percentage of individuals need to be vaccinated. This percentage is called the herd immunity threshold and is calculated by epidemiologists (scientists that study the spread of disease in a population) based on how contagious the disease is. Polio, for example, requires 80-86 percent of the population to be vaccinated in order to stop the spread of disease and provide herd immunity protection. Because measles is much more infectious, it requires a level of 83-94 percent.

The take home message from the concept of herd immunity is that by maintaining a level of vaccinated individuals, communities are protecting babies, the elderly, and those with serious medical conditions.

For an interesting look at the realities of the flu vaccine, check out this [Freakonomics podcast](#).



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