



City of Lakewood
Sustainability Planning Division
North Building
480 South Allison Parkway
Lakewood, CO 80226

Some **ways** your neighborhood can **participate:** hold a green living workshop, sign up for curbside recycling, organize a food drive, **plant** trees, help a neighbor shovel snow, install low flow fixtures, adopt-a-street, remove noxious weeds, **insulate** your attic, **compost**, learn about **efficiency** upgrades and rebates, repair a leaky faucet, **xeriscape**, get a home **energy** audit.



Facebook.com/BelmarSustainable

This newsletter was made
for Belmar residents, by Belmar residents.

Please take a few minutes to check it out!

Neighborhood Newsletter:

This newsletter was produced by the Belmar Community Connection registered neighborhood organization in partnership with the City of Lakewood Sustainable Neighborhoods Program. We welcome your ideas support and participation.

Stay Informed
'Like' us on Facebook

www.Facebook.com/BelmarSustainable

Contact us

BCCconnection@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 6, 2013

Tomato Gardening

11 a.m. to Noon

Belmar Community Garden

April 20, 2013

Earth Day

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Lakewood's Heritage Center

April 27, 2013

Bike to Light Rail Grand Opening Celebration

Bike from Belmar to the Garrison Street Station

Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Virginia Ave. Transit Station, Belmar
(or just meet us at the Garrison Street Station for the festivities)

Lakewood Sustainable Neighborhoods Program

Neighborhoods participating in this unique certification program use guidance from City staff to organize workshops, projects and events that enhance the livability of their neighborhood.

Belmar Sustainable Neighborhood Information

Facebook.com/belmarsustainable

BCCconnection@gmail.com

City of Lakewood Sustainable Neighborhood Program Information

www.lakewood.org/
GreenNeighborhoods/

LesLan@lakewood.org



Facebook.com/BelmarSustainable

BELMAR'S COMMUNITY GARDEN A DELICIOUS EXPERIENCE

By COLBY HATFIELD, Belmar Resident

What a bounty! And, what a surprise! Last summer we began planting close to the end of June under the least desirable conditions: High temperatures, no rain, and untested soil. Yet by August we were reaping pumpkins, watermelons, squash, and for a fortunate number, incredible tomatoes.

strolling through the plots, witnessing the growth spurts of zucchini, the scents of geranium and lavender, sniffing the pungent aromas of the compost bins, sharing stories with fellow gardeners and occasionally welcoming exploratory grandkids pulling up beets as they learned the delights and tribulations of horticulture.

After three years of planning, the Belmar Community Garden became a reality last year through a joint effort of Denver Urban Gardens and the Learning Source. Belmar residents cultivated 18 plots and the results were amazing. By the end of June all but one of the plots were beginning to sprout. In addition to the pleasures of harvesting our produce, an unforeseen reward of membership was the opportunity to end a hot tiring day resting at the picnic table under the tree or

Towards the end of the season many of us gathered for a workday, which ended in a sumptuous self-congratulatory potluck, many of the dishes having been prepared with garden crops. Even in winter, a walk through the garden in slumber is a pleasure, as is making plans for spring. This year we have plans for more community involvement, workshops, crop sharing, and a garden journal, among others.

Would you like to get involved?

You do not have to be an experienced gardener to participate. Two workshops are being slated for this spring, best practices for flourishing tomatoes and container gardening. We are considering a third, dealing with water conservation in gardening. We also plan to have our gardener group for this year identified by April and planting in May. If you are interested in learning more about our events and joining the workshops or becoming a Belmar gardener, please email Colby Hatfield, hatfieldcc@earthlink.net.

SAVE \$\$\$ ON ENERGY

New or old, multiunit residential buildings use 22% of the energy in the US. There is a huge opportunity for savings within your building! By completing an energy audit you can identify some inexpensive ways to improve your bottom line and have safer, more comfortable spaces for residents. Energy efficiency improvements will save money for the next 20 years and pay for themselves! Contact iCAST to find out how easy it is for you to save money and reduce energy use! Contact Brian Firestone at brianf@icastusa.org or 303.462.4100 X 824 to learn more.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 6



MASTER GARDENER PRESENTATION

Tips on growing tomatoes (no cost—RSVP to attend)

Join us at the Belmar Community Garden (east of South Quay adjacent to the Learning Source) from 11 a.m. to noon and learn more about growing tomatoes in your garden.

Presented by Jefferson County Master Gardener Shelley Taylor.

- Tomato plant selection
- Transplanting
- Water Walls
- Fertilizer
- Disease recognition/prevention/remedy
- Pest recognition/prevention/remedy

RSVP to valmanzi49@gmail.com or call 303.904.2861 if you would like to attend.

APRIL 20



EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

Moving Forward

Celebrate Earth Day at Lakewood's Heritage Center (801 S. Yarrow Street) from 10:00AM to 3:00PM. Come check out exhibits, games for the kids, and ideas. Belmar's Sustainable Neighborhoods group will have a booth offering biking and transportation information.

Don't miss the free climbing wall, museum tours, and monster trikes!

For more information: www.Lakewood.org/Green
Or call: 303.987.7836

APRIL 26



WEST LINE GRAND OPENING

For Lakewood and Belmar the biggest event in decades is happening on April 26th when the new *W Rail* line will open to the public. The Wadsworth Station is just a mile north from Belmar and will provide easy access to downtown Denver and the rest of the system. Belmar was designed as a sustainable community with easy access to mass transit so you can leave your car at home. This is a huge step toward that vision.

Grand opening ceremony at Jefferson County Government Center – Golden Station approximately 10:30 a.m. Free rides on West Rail Line following the ceremony (approximately noon).

APRIL 27



BIKE TO LIGHT RAIL CELEBRATION

To celebrate W Line there will be a community bike ride on Saturday April 27th. We will leave from the transit center on Virginia Ave. at 9:30AM and ride through Belmar Park and up the bike route to the new Garrison Station. Dust your bike off, enjoy a ride, meet your neighbors, and be a part of this historic event.

Or just meet us for the festivities at the Garrison Station and enjoy free rides on the entire light rail system metro wide!

STAY INFORMED ON THESE AND OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS BY LIKING US ON FACEBOOK:

www.Facebook.com/belmarsustainable OR EMAIL: BCConnection@gmail.com

- Community Workshop – creation of Belmar film presentation
- NREL Tour
- Container Herb Gardening presented by Jeffco Master Gardener
- Community Workshop – Lakewood Connectivity group

every trip counts



The Every Trip Counts Program asks participants to pledge to reduce two car trips per week from Memorial Day to Labor Day—when ozone pollution is highest.

How you choose to reduce two car trips is entirely up to you! Everything counts as long as you are not driving your car at least two days per

week. You can bike, walk, take the bus, carpool, work from home, or just relax at home. The program offers incentives to those who participate, i.e., bike shop gift certificates, bus passes, restaurant gift certificates and random prize drawings.

In the years 2010 and 2011, the Regional Air Quality Council partnered with the City of Arvada. In these two years, 1,300 people participated in the program and reduced nearly 500,000 vehicle miles. This translates to a reduction of 2,900 lbs of carbon monoxide, 96,000 lbs of carbon dioxide, 220 lbs of oxides

of nitrogen, and 1,000 lbs of volatile organic compounds. Just think— all of those good benefits to our summer air happened by leaving a car at home at least two days a week. The Every Trip Counts program is brought to you by a partnership between the Regional Air Quality Council and the cities of Arvada, Wheat Ridge and Lakewood. During the summer of 2012, 1,200 people participated.

<http://everytripcounts.org/>

(For additional information or questions, contact Kate Cooke, Transportation Program Manager, Regional Air Quality Council)

BELMAR SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

Belmar residents have been working together to identify sustainability initiatives for 2013. Now is your chance to join your neighbors in building a sustainable community. If you are passionate about one of the topics below, contact BCConnection@gmail.com to offer your help and expertise.



Belmar Community Garden
Roots, Shoots, and First Fruits

Goal: Promote local foods, urban agriculture and Belmar's new community garden.



Recycling & Compost
Re-hash the Trash

Goal: Reduce waste



Air Pollution
Belmar's Share for Cleaner Air

Goal: Reduce emissions from vehicles, promote alternative transportation, etc...



Energy Efficiency
You Deserve to Conserve

Goal: Identifying current energy use and ways to reduce consumption.



Health & Wellness
Witness Our Fitness

Goal: Promote active and healthy lifestyles.



Communication & Community Building
Share-Tag-Mail-Like-and-Ping

Goal: Identifying current energy use and ways to reduce consumption.

Want to join the leadership team for one of these initiatives?
Do you have expertise that you'd like to share with your neighbors?

Contact: BCConnection@gmail.com



GOT IDEAS?



Help keep Belmar **SUSTAINABLE**. Let us know your thoughts on events or workshops to continue our goal of making Belmar one of Lakewood's premier sustainable neighborhoods.

Like us on Facebook (www.Facebook.com/belmarsustainable) to send a message, or email BCConnection@gmail.com