

Reducing Landfill Methane Emissions

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Landfills are a major source of methane—a potent greenhouse gas—generated when organic waste like food scraps and yard debris break down without oxygen. This invisible pollutant leaks into our atmosphere, driving global warming at an alarming rate.

- Landfills in Colorado produce the same amount of CO₂ and methane as 1 million passenger vehicle miles every year.
- Food waste accounts for 24% of material in landfills and 58% of the methane generated.
- Methane has 80 times the warming power of CO₂.
- Methane is an ozone precursor and is co-emitted with other hazardous pollutants such as benzene, toluene, ethyl-benzene and vinyl chloride
- Of the 3.2 million people who live within one mile of a municipal solid waste landfill in the U.S., 46% are Black, Indigenous, or people of color.

Methane harms health by:

- Increasing prevalence and severity of lung disease.
- Worsening global warming, which results in
 - extreme weather events, like fire, produce a vicious cycle of more warming and pollution
 - worsening infectious disease outbreaks
 - higher rates of depression and anxiety

Tackling landfill methane emissions is one of the quickest, most effective ways to slow warming and reduce climate pollution. The State of Colorado's Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment (CDPHE) is currently rewriting the rules on Landfill Emissions. Eco-Cycle and allies are building a statewide awareness and action campaign to encourage the state of Colorado and the Air Quality Control Commission to adopt the strongest possible update to the state's landfill methane control requirements. Together, we can set a precedent for the nation.

Here's what you can do to help:

Get a compost bin and use it!

Help with door-to-door canvassing in Erie and Commerce City to alert residents who live close to landfills so they can take action [Sign up here](#)

Write a letter to CDPHE's Air Pollution Control Division climatechange@state.co.us to support a strong rule using the subject line: Landfill Methane Reduction