

# Group collects turkey oil

BY NATE TAYLOR • NateTaylor @coloradoan.com • November 30, 2008

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Jean Charney saved her turkey oil from last year's Thanksgiving dinner for an entire year, not knowing what to do with it, until she heard about the Holiday RecycOil drop-off location in Fort Collins.

The second annual project is an effort of Boulder-based Rocky Mountain Sustainable Enterprises to provide residents in 13 cities across the Front Range with convenient locations to recycle their holiday cooking oil used to deep-fry the birds.

"I just didn't know what to do with it, so I kept it," said Charney, 66, of Fort Collins, about the couple of gallons of oil she brought Saturday morning to the Fort Collins Recycling Drop-off Facility, 1702 Riverside Ave.

Charney was among about 20 people who dropped off their turkey oil at the Fort Collins location Saturday, said Susie Gordon, a senior environmental planner for the Fort Collins Natural Resources Department.

Gordon helped residents dump their oil for the second year in a row. She estimated people dropped off about 100 gallons of oil, which is more than 150 gallons less than last year's effort.

Despite a smaller turnout, Gordon said by recycling oil, which is made into bio-diesel fuel known as commodity grade yellow grease, residents are saving the city maintenance costs for its sewer system.

"If people flush the oil down the drains, it will end up clogging the drains," Gordon said. "This saves taxpayers money in repairs to the sewer system. Besides, it's just gross how it accumulates in the sewers."

Stacey and Troy Harnisch of Fort Collins dropped off their turkey oil Saturday morning while running errands. This is the second year they've used the drop-off site.

"Before, we didn't know what to do, and I can't even remember what we did do," Stacey Harnisch said. "We never had a place to put it before, but this has been really nice."

Rocky Mountain Sustainable Enterprises CEO Aaron Perry said his company supplies commercial cooking oil recycling services to more than 2,000 restaurants in Colorado and Wyoming, but the idea to offer the service to residents has been a big success.

"Some of the municipalities have chosen to go to a year-round RecycOil," he said. "That's a neat complement to our commercial RecycOil program."