

Contact:
Andy O'Riley
andy@bluestarrecyclers.com
719.494-4238

For Immediate Release

Governor Hickenlooper Discusses Job Creation At Blue Star Recyclers

October 27, 2011, Colorado Springs, CO – Working with the Colorado Springs Regional Economic Develop Corporation (CSEDC), Governor Hickenlooper came to Colorado Springs to gather information about boosting job growth. The Governor visited Blue Star Recyclers, an organization that has grown from one employee to sixteen in only a year and a half. Blue Star Recyclers provides ethical recycling of electronics as a way to create jobs for people with developmental disabilities.

The Governor used the visit to Blue Star Recyclers to identify avenues to expand the state's economy. The business model developed by Blue Star Recyclers is a dynamic job creator for a sector of the Colorado economy facing well over 80% unemployment. "I'm just here to learn more," Hickenlooper commented. Anytime an organization produces jobs it has a positive ripple effect on the economy.

At Blue Star Recyclers, the economic benefits to the local economy are amplified because of its mission to employ individuals with developmental disabilities. "When we employ someone with a disability it has a positive impact on the individual's sense of value. But it also benefits taxpayers by reducing the level of dependence on Social Security benefits and other government funded services," Andy O'Riley, Vice President of Blue Star, told the Governor. "Our employees go from being almost entirely dependent on government support, to becoming taxpayers and consumers. Everybody wins."

The jobs growth in Colorado Springs is directly correlated to the volume of electronics material recycled by the local community. "The more electronic material we collect for recycling, the more jobs we can create for people with autism and other types of disabilities," state Bill Morris, President of Blue Star Recyclers. The company is now expanding their program by establishing local recycling partners in La Junta, Canon City, and Pueblo. As those communities begin recycling electronics, jobs for individuals with disabilities will be added in those locations.

Blue Star Recyclers is a 501(c)(3) social enterprise with a mission to ethically recycle electronics as a way to create jobs for adults with developmental disabilities. Employees de-manufacture and separate computer components for further processing by Certified electronics recycling organizations. Since its launch in November of 2009, Blue Star has ethically recycled over 1.5 million pounds of potentially hazardous electronic waste. More information at www.bluestarrecyclers.com, or call Andy O'Riley at 719.494.4238.