



COLORADO
 Environmental Leadership Program
 Department of Public Health & Environment



Colorado’s Environmental Leadership Program has awarded Blue Star Recycling the 2020 24-Karat Gold Award for its extraordinary commitment to protecting the environment while employing and advocating for individuals with autism and developmental disabilities.

Denver, Roaring Fork Valley and Illinois, their efforts have resulted in the reduction of 32 million pounds of greenhouse gas emissions and diverted more than two million pounds of toxic materials from landfills and other illegal disposal sites.

Founded in 2009 in Colorado Springs, Blue Star Recyclers is a nonprofit social enterprise with a mission of recycling electronics to create jobs for people with disabilities. With over fifty employees and five operations in Colorado and Illinois, the fulfillment of their mission to date has produced significant social, environmental, and economic impacts to date.



While the organization prides itself on helping the environment through its ever expanding recycling efforts, company officials are most invested in creating jobs for people with disabilities. They have partnered with numerous companies and organizations, including Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation, the May & Stanley Smith Charitable Trust, and the James Emmett Company, to provide workforce development and inclusion training for ten other certified electronics recyclers in the United States. They expect to create more than 200 jobs for people with disabilities by the end of the year.

Blue Star Recyclers pledged that that 40 percent of its activities would involve the employment of people with disabilities, 40 percent would involve the certified recycling of electronic waste, and 20 percent would involve public education about both aspects of the company’s mission. They’ve more than accomplished their goals.

Blue Star has now expanded its efforts internationally. They have replicated their mission and model through a partnership with Kyklos, a B-Corp in South America and the US Embassy in Santiago, Chile. Currently, they are collaborating with the Triple-A Project (All About Autism) in Penrith, Cumbria and the US Embassy in London to bring their mission and model to the United Kingdom.

As of July 1, Blue Star Recyclers has created permanent employment for 50 adults with disabilities through the recycling of more than 23 million pounds of electronic waste and other materials, including batteries and fluorescent bulbs. With locations in Boulder,

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