

## 10/6/11 – Gary Horton, Awarded 24-Karat Gold Challenge Award

Gary Horton, Environmental Coordinator at Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mining Co. (CC&V) was awarded the 24-Karat Gold Challenge Award, sponsored by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. The award is selected annually by the Gold Level members of the Colorado Environmental Leadership Program for the leadership member who sets precedence in Colorado's environmental arena and makes significant environmental achievements through their environmental commitments and actions.



Gary established a community garden in Victor, Colorado. With some monetary support from CC&V, Gary worked on his own time. Gary's vision for the garden is two-fold: (1) create an attractive place where citizens can grow healthy food, and (2) provide a place where local folks can congregate and share gardening ideas or simply "contemplate" a unique environment.

The Victor Community Garden has been planned and implemented according to the guidelines of the American Community Gardening Association. By utilizing discarded pallets from the mine, locally salvaged topsoil that would have been disturbed by mining operations, and creating the garden site on a vacant lot in town, Gary has demonstrated a well thought out plan of resource conservation and resource utilization. By locally growing some of their own vegetables in the Community Garden, Victor residents will be reducing their carbon footprint by eliminating trips to the grocery store.

In addition to the community Garden, Gary has been instrumental in fostering CC&V's Employee Recycling Program, which provides for all employees a choice of two locations to bring their household recyclables. The effort is a single stream, and that has provided a terrific incentive by making separation of recyclables a moot point. Approximately 10 tons of household wastes were collected in 2010 through this program. Also, working with the Victor Community, Gary initiated a June 2011 tire recycling event which resulted in the collection 1,000 tires that were shipped to Eco-Cycle for energy recovery. That is more than two tires for every man, woman and child in Victor!

Previous winners of the 24 Karat award include Vail Resort (2006), Roche Colorado Corporation (2007), Denver International Airport (2008), Goodrich Corporation (2009), and Aircraft Service International Group (2010). Nominees for the 2011 award included the Anheuser-Bush Ft. Collins Brewery, Ball Aerospace & Technologies, Denver International Airport, New Belgium Brewery, and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. Quite prestigious company for Gary!