



ecology-action.org

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### **PeopleFund Helps Non-Profit Recycling Center Increase Production**

Ecology Action, Austin's first and oldest recycling center, will increase production capacity by 20-40% with the help of a new Compacting Baler, funded by local non-profit PeopleFund. Ecology Action, also non-profit, has served the Austin community for over 30 years, promoting a healthier environment through waste prevention and recycling. With the acquisition of a new baler, Ecology Action will be able to move towards a more self-sustaining business model. In addition, Scott Crow, Operations Assistant at Ecology Action comments, "With the help of a PeopleFund loan, Ecology Action is able to further improve environmental quality in the Austin Community. This is more than a loan, it's a partnership."

Ecology Action found PeopleFund in October 2007 as a source of alternative funding. PeopleFund, a non-profit community based lender, promotes and provides financial opportunity and education in underserved populations throughout Central Texas. Ecology Action sought out PeopleFund based on its goals and mission.

Since 1994, PeopleFund has provided small, flexible business loans (ranging from \$20,000 to \$200,000), comprehensive training and mentoring services to businesses, community organizations and affordable housing ventures. These clients, supported and strengthened by PeopleFund, create jobs; provide needed goods and services; improve the physical environment; promote diversity in entrepreneurial success; and help to build individual and community assets. We have loaned out over \$16 million in Central Texas, and our clients have created 1,600 jobs and invested \$9.8 million in physical improvements in their neighborhoods.

Ecology Action has made an incredible impact in Austin's environmental quality; last year alone:

- Ecology Action recycled enough aluminum to save 232,000 kilowatt hours of electricity.
- The glass recycled saved an equivalent of 4,432 gallons of fuel oil.
- The paper recycled saved 16,924 trees and 6.9 million gallons of water as well as 3,285 cubic yards of landfill space and 4 million kilowatt hours of electricity.

In conjunction with the physical production operations, both at the downtown location as well as several satellite centers in Manor, Cedar Park and Bertram (with more coming soon), Ecology Action has an extensive Community Education Program that includes guided tours, classroom visits, hands-on volunteering opportunities and booths at various local events. Ecology Action also provides community service hours for local residents.