



Welcome to the August, 2011 Colorado Carbon Fund e-News

Heading Back In Order To Move Forward

Despite the record temperatures that we've felt throughout the summer months, we'll quickly be reminded of the impending fall as leaves change color, mornings become crisp, and students once again fill the halls of schools across the country. While we're all able to conjure up recollections of school years' past, we can also recall the opportunities bestowed upon us by being simply part of a student body. In this August e-Newsletter, we'll explore a Colorado university whose empowered students seem to acknowledge and fulfill every opportunity they see to make both their school, and the world around them, a better place to be a part of. We'll also check in on two recently completed projects that the CCF has helped bring on-board with the help of its generous supporters. And yes, there will be a quiz at the end, but its "open-book" so no need to get anxious. Simply "take note" of the many ways that Colorado's students and communities continue to "set the curve" in energy and resource conservation!



A late Summer Colorado sunset

Project Groups:

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Course 231: Social Studies

University of Colorado at Boulder - A Lesson in Sustainable Leadership



While few organizations have the agenda, energy, or means to delve into uncharted territory, many colleges and universities have seemed to be the exception to this. With an ever-present impetus to provide cutting-edge knowledge and opportunities to the students, these institutions are bound only by the creativity of those they serve. This is genuinely the case when one looks at the [University of Colorado at](#)

[Alliance for Sustainable Colorado](#)

[Alpine Bank](#)

[Boulder Outlook](#)

[CU-Boulder](#)

[GO Alpine](#)

[Great American Beer Festival](#)

[Greenride Colorado Shuttle](#)

[TerraVision Consulting](#)

[Tolin Mechanical](#)

Extracurricular Activities

Looking for more opportunities to become environmentally educated and informed? Check out the events below!

[Sustainable Living Fair](#)

September 17, 2011: Fort Collins, CO: September 17 - 18, 2011

[Boulder Green Streets](#)

September 18, 2011: Boulder, CO: Sunday, September 18th, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

[Brighton Eco Fair](#)

September 24, 2011: Brighton, CO: Saturday, September 24, 2011

[ACEEE: National Conference on Energy Efficiency as a Resource](#)

Sept. 25th-27th, 2011: Hyatt Regency Denver Tech Center, Denver, CO

[Windstar Foundation Highway Cleanup](#) Oct. 8th, 2011:

Windstar Land Conservancy, Snowmass, CO

[A Colorado Global Climate Conference for Colorado High School Students](#) Oct. 17th, 2011:

[Boulder \(CU Boulder\)](#) and its sustainability initiatives. This institution, while notable on a variety of fronts, has attained awards and levels of sustainability throughout its campus and programs to have earned it the title of the nation's "Greenest School" by the Sierra Club. As one will quickly realize when looking into this standing, CU Boulder has a laundry list of accomplishments, a bounty of ongoing programs, and just as many goals for its future.

It should be noted that CU Boulder has been making progress in this arena for many decades. Whether it was shown with students creating the [CU Boulder Environmental Center](#) shortly after the first Earth Day, to initiating what is currently the largest U.S. campus recycling program way back in 1976, the ongoing development of CU Boulder's environmental initiatives continue to set "the bar" throughout the academic world. CU Boulder's benchmark *Blueprint for a Green Campus* comprehensive plan, which has received extensive praise, continues to be developed to identify the many avenues through which the CU Boulder community can reduce its impact and continue to improve its environmental, fiscal, and social assets. Despite the sheer scale of sustainable measures being taken, these programs and their ongoing achievements are readily transparent to anyone who chooses to explore them further through CU Boulder's Environmental Center website. From real-time tracking of building energy use, to water consumption, carbon offsetting, campus composting, green transportation, to environmental justice, CU Boulder has, and continues, to explore the realm of reducing its environmental impact through its extremely comprehensive, yet user-friendly databases and website. And the beauty of all these efforts is that they are driven by the student body and encouraged by the faculty and surrounding Boulder community.



Recycling at CU Boulder

Of particular interest is *The Conceptual Plan for Carbon Neutrality at the University of Colorado at Boulder*. This landmark plan was conceived in 2007 and has resulted in both detailed analyses of CU Boulder's carbon emissions, as well as short and long term projects and programs to be used

to help the University become carbon neutral. It outlines four progressive phases of actions and activities that are to be implemented over time to help them reach their carbon neutrality point as soon as possible. The integrated guidance and input from the entire CU Boulder community will also help ensure that these initiatives will be implemented and the overall goal achieved.

The student body at CU Boulder is unique in that it wields an incredible amount of influence on how the campus evolves. Not only does the student body own and manage three of the campuses buildings, but in doing so, it must also manage the finances and pay the utility bills,

Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO

[World Climate Research Programme \(WCRP\) Open Science Conference Oct. 24th-25th, 2011](#): Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel, Denver, CO

Use the calculator at the [Colorado Carbon Fund](#) website and offset your carbon footprint today!

Course 281: Statistics - CU Boulder by the Numbers



Recycling efforts on CU Boulder's campus

With all of the remarkable work that CU Boulder has accomplished in the field of carbon, energy, and sustainability, we've chosen to highlight some of the numerics surrounding these topics. Let's take a look at what we found!

Number of Current Photovoltaic (PV) Systems on Campus: 6

Annual Estimated PV Production (kWh/year): **Approximately 497,350**

Estimated Annual Savings from PV Systems:
Approximately \$49,375

Number of LEED Buildings on Campus: 14

Percentage of CU Boulder Power Supplied by Wind: 5%

Percentage of Waste/Material

which means that students are keen to how and where they spend their money. In 2000, the CU Boulder students were the first in the nation to purchase renewable energy credits (RECs) for 100 percent of the buildings' electrical loads. In 2007, with the student government setting a precedent of becoming climate neutral, these REC funds were reallocated to purchase carbon offsets and CU became the Colorado Carbon Fund's first customer back in January of 2008. Following this initial investment, CU Boulder has continued to work in conjunction with the Colorado Carbon Fund to continue supporting climate mitigation projects here within Colorado.

The University of Colorado at Boulder has, and continues to be, a resource and role model for individuals, businesses and organizations who are looking for ways and means to further develop their environmental repertoire. [Click here](#) to discover how they attain their objectives, as well as explore more of their efforts and goals, both past and present.

Course 311: Fundamental Thermodynamics **Two Boulder Recreation Center Solar-Thermal Projects Are "Bringing the Heat"!**

The City of Boulder, along with the CCF, are proud to announce the completion of two solar-thermal water projects at both the East and South Boulder Recreation Centers. These projects will not only help keep the pools at their idyllic temperatures, but will also help supply hot water for each of the facilities needs.



Boulder Rec. Center's solar-thermal project harnessing the power of the sun!

Prior to the installations, all of the hot water needs for both the East and South Boulder Recreation Centers were being met through natural gas usage. This included heating the pools, which have significant heating requirements and consume large quantities of natural gas energy. With the installation of solar-thermal collectors on both the roofs and south sides of both facilities, these natural gas energy demands will be reduced dramatically. On top of helping with energy demands, the solar-thermal projects will help reduce the current 410 metric tons of CO₂ produced by the pool and hot water systems each year by nearly 152 metric tons of CO₂ per year. That's nearly a 40% reduction in carbon emissions from these systems and over a 20% reduction in both of the facilities overall carbon emissions!

Course 451: Pop Quiz

that is Diverted from Landfills
Annually: **Approximately 70%**

Water Consumption Reduction
from Baseline 2005 to 2010:
Approximately 22%

Carbon Offsets Purchased
through the CCF Since Its
Inception in 2008: **10,952**

Reminder:

Still Moving Forward Long After You Park



With all this talk of summer days becoming shorter and shorter, there's no doubt that your opportunities to walk, hike, longboard, bike, etc. to your favorite destinations will likely be replaced by driving to some of these same spots. Keeping in mind all of the benefits you've been reaping in return for your efforts, the "Advancing Clean Energy" license plate is a great way to ensure that both you, and all Coloradans, benefit from you're proactive approach!

Think of it this way - long after the hiking boots are shelved for the season, or while the skis are being waxed, or even when your planting your garden for next season's crops, you can glance at your "Advancing Clean Energy" license plate and be reminded that your CCF contribution has supported projects that have and continue to make measurable impacts behind-the-scenes, every single day throughout Colorado.

A Compendium Pertaining To The "Crimson" Carbon Repository's August Periodical

Directions: 1.) Keep your eyes on your own newsletter.
2.) Use your web-browser if you have a question.

3.) Enjoy the novelty of feeling like you're a Sophomore in High School all over again! (Answer located lower left-hand corner of newsletter)

- 1.) The combined carbon offsets of both Boulder Recreation Center solar-thermal systems is equivalent to taking how many cars off the road for a year? (**hint**) a.) 14 cars b.) 61 cars c.) 24 cars d.) 30 cars
- 2.) In what year was CU Boulder's recycling program initiated?
a.) 1973 b.) 1969 c.) 1976 d.) 1974
- 3.) Which CCF sponsor(s) can help you take to the skies?
a.) Shuttle Green Colorado b.) Mile High Mountain Shuttle
c.) Greenride Colorado Shuttle d.) GO Alpine e.) Both c. and d.
- 4.) If you want to discover more ways to live sustainably here in Colorado, where should you ideally be on Sept. 17th-18th? a.) On an arctic expedition b.) Fort Collin's Sustainable Living Fair
c.) Watching television d.) Waxing your skis/snowboard
- 5.) What is the minimum donation amount needed to earn your "Advancing Clean Energy" License Plate Certificate? a.) 13 quarters and 435 nickels b.) 498 nickels and 10 pennies c.) 100 quarters d.) \$25 dollars e.) All of the above
- 6.) The Windstar Foundation was greatly influenced by which famous individual? a.) Football legend John Elway b.) Musician John Denver c.) Photographer Robert Adams d.) "The Unsinkable" Molly Brown e.) Astronaut Jack Swigert
- 7.) Alpine Bank has achieved what certification based on their effective and ongoing environmental efforts? a.) International Organization for Standardization 14001 Certification b.) United Nations Sustainability Certification - Gold Standing c.) North American Sustainability Management Certification d.) American Environmental Steward Award
- 8.) On average, what percentage of an airliner's fuel consumption occurs during take-off and landing? a) 80% b.) 95% c.) 45% d.) 13% e.) 65%

So with the get-after-it attitude of summer still prevalent, now is a great time to check one more item off of your list of "Things to do this summer" and get your [certificate](#) and your [license plate](#) today!

Pop Quiz Answers: 1.) d. 2.) c. 3.) e. 4.) b. 5.) e. 6.) b. 7.) a. 8.) a.