



NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS

When landlords elsewhere in Colorado pass out annual rent increases this year, Jeff Feneis won't be one of them. Feneis, housing supervisor for Maple Terrace Apartments in Loveland, won't be increasing rent this year or anytime soon, he says. That's because his 325 residents—100 of them single moms with kids—are the beneficiaries of energy cost savings after 53 solar panels were installed at the affordable housing community last summer. The panels are heating as many as 2,320 gallons of water per day and the annual \$5,000 in cost savings are being passed to the residents. Feneis points out that these are residents for whom "every dollar counts."

The Maple Terrace solar system was made possible by the Colorado Carbon Fund, which worked with project developer The Atmosphere Conservancy to give the project a financial boost.

"Their utility bills will be covered for years to come. On top of that, the Maple Terrace project will keep over 4 tons of carbon per year out of our atmosphere," said Alex Blackmer of The Atmosphere Conservancy.

In similar fashion, the Colorado Carbon Fund has helped build 4 other community projects that benefit residents and minimize energy costs and pollution. One is a community center in Steamboat Springs that provides 6,000 meals annually to seniors on a tight budget. Another project provides 30% of the energy at a large community recreation and sports complex in Arvada that includes an aquatic center and skating rink.

The problem is that the long list of potential community clean energy projects in Colorado dwarfs the Colorado Carbon Fund's capability to fund them. "The Colorado Carbon Fund has a strong list of potential

"My family and business have been carbon-neutral for 6 years now. We support the Colorado Carbon Fund to minimize our contribution to climate change, and keep our carbon credits funding local clean energy projects here in Colorado." -- **Aron Ralston, Aspen mountaineer, author of *Between A Rock and A Hard Place*, subject of movie, *127 Hours*, and motivational speaker**

"If you would like to do something for Earth Day, consider purchasing offsets for your energy use for one week through the Colorado Carbon Fund. Every dollar that comes into the fund goes right back out to help finance clean energy projects that bring Colorado's new energy economy that much closer to reality. And that's something I strongly support." - **Bill Ritter, director of the Center for the New Energy Economy and Senior Scholar within CSU's School of Global Environmental Sustainability**

carbon offset and renewable energy projects in the pipeline for review and funding, including innovative projects such as coal mine methane gas capture and anaerobic digestion plants,” said Hillary Dobos, program manager. “These projects are, and always will be, located throughout Colorado. We just need the funds to develop them.”

So CCF is inviting Coloradoans to invest in Colorado through a campaign called, [*Earth Week Offsets: Invest in Colorado’s Clean Energy Future*](#). The campaign asks individuals and businesses to offset their energy use for one week, the week of Earth Day, April 18—24.

“The Colorado Carbon Fund is an example of how Colorado citizens and businesses have come together to voluntarily support clean energy in Colorado,” said T.J. Deora, executive director of the Governor’s Energy Office. “It’s a buy-local, support-local program that creates clean energy and green jobs here in Colorado communities. We all want more of that. That’s why I’m endorsing the Colorado Carbon Fund’s campaign and why I’m encouraging Coloradoans to support it as well.”

It doesn’t cost that much to offset a week’s worth of energy use. Organizers ran average calculations to simplify participation: \$10 for the average Coloradoan offsets one week of work and home energy use, travel and food-to-plate energy use. For businesses, the cost to offset a week of energy use is about \$100 for an office of 15-20 employees. Organizers are banking on broad participation from both individuals and the business community throughout Colorado, and will announce results and acknowledge participants at a reception at the Governor’s mansion in Denver on June 24.

CCF was started in 2007 as a mechanism to help Colorado reach its target of 30% renewable and clean energy by 2020—and also as a response to recent bipartisan legislative polls that show 79% of Coloradoans say they want more renewable and clean energy in Colorado as soon as possible. The Fund sells tax-deductible offsets and currently puts 100% of proceeds toward helping build clean energy projects in Colorado. Since its start in 2007, the Colorado Carbon Fund has reduced greenhouse gas emissions in Colorado by more than 54 million pounds by funding 5 clean energy projects made possible by tax-deductible donations from more than 1,000 contributors.

The campaign is supported by a number of citizens and businesses who believe it will help create green jobs and spur innovation in an industry in which Colorado already leads the nation.

For more information and to participate, visit www.coloradocarbonfund.org or email ccf@state.co.us or call (303) 866-2264.