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

A Warm and Hearty "Hello" to Fall.

Isn't it impressive how dramatically the season seem to find a way of changing. In some ways, the changes occur slowly, as with the leaves and their subtle adjustments day after day from green, to soft yellow, to a freckled, cardinal red. In other ways, it seems to take place seemingly overnight, as was our recent experience with eighty degree temperatures followed only days later by snowfall across the state.

Regardless of how the autumn season welcomes itself, it always carries with it beautifully crisp sunrises and nostalgic sunsets, strolling winds, thick sweaters, runny noses, and that ubiquitous desire to gather around and ladle up bowls of thick and rich goodness. From chili, soups, and stews, to breads, casseroles, and roasts, the Fall season has a way of reviving our culinary tendencies as the last bounties of the year are harvested and we prepare for many months of holiday feasts and evening get-togethers. And more and more often, we find ourselves looking to our food not only as a way to celebrate the holidays but support local companies, express our support for environmental responsibility, and eat nutritious, delicious food.



One of Fall's most familiar sights!

In this newsletter, we'll look at how Colorado agriculture, restaurants, and stores are helping to green the food we know and love. We'll also delve into the growing realm of urban gardens and other innovative growing techniques. So head to the kitchen, make yourself a warm helping of your favorite fare, and settle back in as we get a taste of where Colorado is headed!

Stay In Touch!

A Smorgasbord of Reasons to Dine Out in Denver!

Sponsors

[Alliance for Sustainable Colorado](#)

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[Boulder Outlook](#)

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[Communikey: Festival of the Arts](#)

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[Eat Greener Denver](#)

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[Great American Beer Festival](#)

[Greenride Colorado Shuttle](#)

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Extracurricular Activities

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

[America Recycles Day](#) Nov 15th, 2011: Nationwide

[Southern Colorado Sustainability Conference](#) Nov. 17th-18th, 2011: Antlers Hilton Hotel, Colorado Springs, CO

[Colorado ENERGY STAR Summit](#) 2011 Dec. 6th-7th, 2011: Marriott Denver Tech Center,

It looks as though we've turned a page for the better in recent years.

We as consumers and the places we frequent are acknowledging our interests in keeping ourselves and our environment healthy. While it is easy to track down a business that mentions its "green" or "sustainable", its often times harder to understand just how far this claim goes. Thankfully for anyone who lives in or visits Denver, there's an organization that's highlighting, as well as encouraging, dining establishments all across the city to be more responsible eateries through environmental, employment, and community involvement.

"[Eat Greener Denver](#)" a member of the larger Independent Restaurant Network "Eat Denver", has put together a series of goals that not only help restaurants be more responsible, but allows you to enjoy your meal even more knowing your supporting a great cause via great food!

"Eat Greener Denver" is a partnership of restaurants that was formed in 2009 and worked with the EPA Region 8 to develop a 12-month plan to encourage restaurants to make more environmentally sound decisions. Members of the partnership agree to nine principles that "Eat Greener Denver" has developed which involve a variety of reductions including greenhouse gas emissions through a variety of actions as well as supporting their local community and economy.

Composting, reducing waste, integrating energy and water efficient appliances and practices, food donations, and purchasing local food and products whenever possible are just a few actions that support these principles. As if those steps weren't enough "Eat Greener Denver" restaurants pledged to participate in the U.S. EPA's partnership programs, [Energy Star](#) and [WaterSense](#), which integrate even more energy-saving and waste reductions strategies into the fold. What's the "icing on the cake" you might ask? How about annual waste reduction audits from partnership members to convey their ongoing efforts as well as fork-shaped bike racks outside of multiple member restaurants to encourage bicycling.

With so many restaurants doing their part to enhance your dining experience on a multitude of levels, you owe it to yourself to check out their [website](#), find out more, and figure out where your next Denver dining excursion will be. And remember, even if you don't opt for dessert, you will have already "had your cake and eaten it too" through your simple act of supporting a local restaurant that serves up a wholesome experience!

Next Year's Harvest

Oh, the places you will grow!

Denver, CO

[Solar Power Colorado 2012](#)

February 8th-10th, 2012:

Embassy Suites Conference Center, Loveland, CO

[Energy Forum and Expo Feb.](#)

24th, 2012: Two Rivers

Convention Center, Grand Junction, CO

[2nd Annual Green Schools](#)

[National Conference Feb. 27th-29th, 2012:](#) Colorado Convention Center, Denver, CO

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

Advisory:

Ready for the Road Ahead



Snow tires? Check. Shovel? Check. Ice scraper? Check. "Advancing Clean Energy" License Plate? . . .

While it is not an essential component to helping keep you safe and on the road this coming winter, it sure will bring comfort knowing that by making a contribution to the Colorado Carbon Fund and earning your license plate, you will likely help keep yourself and others warm this winter. It will also be a comforting thought to know that on those bitter cold and snowy nights, the clean energy systems you helped promote, are working.

While you may see your

All across the state, and the nation for that matter, gardens of every variety have been springing up. From backyard gardens, to shared community plots, to community shared agriculture (CSA) farms, more and more people are turning to their green thumbs to turn both produce and savings from the soil.



Gardening has long been a characteristic of the American lifestyle, but for many years it has become less and less of a household priority. With the 2008 economic turmoil, as well as changing ideals, there has been a renewed interest by individuals and communities to grow their own produce. According to the National Gardening Associations' 2011 National Gardening Survey, nearly 80 million households participated in lawn and garden activities in 2011. Any number of reasons from saving money, to eating healthier, to getting exercise, to pursuing a hobby, helped to motivate individuals, families, and friends to get back to nature. And undoubtedly, they enjoyed the "fruits of their labor" in the process.

As demographics have changed, so have the ways in which people garden. As mentioned above, community gardens have found a place in open fields, vacant lots, and reclaimed lands throughout towns and cities across the state. It is here that a specified number of garden plots are allocated and members of the community, through various means such as lotteries, are given seasonal access to these plots in which they can grow crops for themselves. In other cases, such as with community shared agriculture (CSA's), consumers pledge to support a local farm in producing crops from which a share of the harvest is given to each one of these consumers. In this way, consumers provide upfront financial support to a local farm that then provides fresh, quality, often organic, produce throughout the season. Taking this idea a step further is the growing trend of building green roofs within cities. These structures are located on roof tops and provide a two-fold benefit of naturally cooling the structures, while providing both a habitat and a medium for growing food for tenants and restaurants.

With winter already bearing down on us, now is a great time to look further into these opportunities for next year, as they can fill up fast! A wide variety of resources can be found online regarding where, when, and how these practices take place right here in Colorado!

contribution to the CCF as a finite gesture, your contributions feed programs that continue to give for years to come. Now is a great time to support the CCF and get your [certificate](#) and your [license plate](#) today!