
Fact Sheet: Campus green efforts

Water conservation and water quality protection

- The university has implemented numerous strategies and devices to conserve water. Since 1990, the student population has increased by 25 percent and the square footage of buildings has increased 19 percent, water use on campus decreased 22 percent – 180 million gallons.
- Several existing resident halls and all new resident halls under construction are fitted with high-efficiency toilets, showerheads and faucets, saving more than a million gallons of water a year.
- A wetland on university grounds removes pollutants and sediments from water runoff before the water is released into the city's sewer system. Two additional wetlands are under construction.
- More than 95 percent of university grounds are irrigated with raw water from a lake on campus, eliminating the need for water to be chemically treated and increasing efficiency of water use.
- The university's 25,000 sprinkler heads and 1,200 water stations are ran with computerized irrigation controls, increasing water efficiency.

Energy conservation and carbon dioxide reduction

- Since 2004, energy conservation at the university has reduced emissions by more than 15 million pounds of carbon dioxide, the equivalent of the annual emission of 1,500 automobiles or the planting of more than 2,000 acres of trees. These efforts also saved the university about \$550,000.
- The university has retrofitted vending machines to save energy by turning of the machine's lights and compressor when the area is unoccupied for 15 minutes or longer. This has decreased carbon dioxide emissions by more than 230,000 pounds per year.
- All university facilities vehicles run with biodiesel, reducing emissions by 15 -75 percent.
- University students currently ride the Fort Collins bus system, Transfort, for free, further reducing vehicle emissions.

- The university recently began retrofitting multiple buildings for more efficient lighting, which will reduce energy use, with about 20 buildings scheduled to be retrofitted within the next fiscal year.
- Steam heat for university buildings is distributed through pipes in tunnels or buried underground. The pressure difference between the steam boilers and the underground distribution piping is used to spin a turbine generator. The steam turbine generator produces enough electricity to meet 5 percent of the main campus peak electrical load. This previously unclaimed form of energy is enough to power over 150 homes and reduces CO2 emissions by more than 6.5 million pounds per year.

Recycling and reducing solid waste

- The university will use more than 650 tons of wood chips each year, obtained from fire mitigation efforts by the U.S. Forest Service, to fuel a boiler that heats buildings on campus. Completion for this project is slated for summer 2007.
- Although the total amount of waste produced on campus has remained relatively stable over the last 10 years, the amount of trash sent to landfills has decreased by more than 50 percent.
- When competing against other universities, Colorado State stacks up. The university placed fourth last year in Recycle Mania, a national recycling competition among 140 universities, by diverting more than 58 percent of our solid waste from landfills.
- Colorado State donates thousands of pounds a year of un-served food left over from dining halls to the Larimer County Food Bank.
- When trees are trimmed on campus, the grounds department makes mulch from the waste to use on campus grounds. This diverts more than 2,000 cubic yards from landfills.
- More than 40 pounds of food waste a day are sent to off-campus sites where worms make compost.

Additional green efforts

- Classrooms in Guggenheim Hall and the new Transit Center meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, standards for high-performance, sustainable buildings.