

ENTREPRENEUR

ENERGY

PARTNERSHIPS

# INNOVATION ECONOMY



FORT COLLINS, CO

Innovation in Fort Collins is nothing new. Our city's settlers were trailblazers and visionaries, setting new standards for agriculture, education, and community building. That pioneer spirit is alive and well in Fort Collins. Today, people must be agile, innovative, and creative across business sectors and industry.

The City of Fort Collins and its residents value the innovative companies and agencies that make their home here.

# INNOVATION ECONOMY

What IS Fort Collins' special sauce? We like to say that the community has big city ideas and small town relationships. Innovation occurs across industry sectors in Fort Collins. Craft brewers, bioscience, software, hardware, and clean energy companies contribute ideas, inventions, and products that positively affect the local economy.

Colorado State University's innovation culture directly benefits Fort Collins economy through technology transfer and globally focused research on disease prevention and treatment. Other research and development strengths at CSU include developing biofuels from algae, cleaner air solutions for second and third world countries, and discovering cancer treatments for animals.

## SAMPLE COMPANIES

- Advanced Regenerative Therapies
- Clear Path Labs
- CZero, Inc
- Solix
- Sprig Toys
- VanDyne SuperTurbos

## STRENGTHS

- Rocky Mountain Innovation Initiative
- Highly educated workforce, 48.2% of population have a four year degree or higher
- Creative class
- A patents rate of 11.45 per 10,000 residents, one of the highest ratios in the nation and world

## ENRICHING THE ECONOMY FORTZED

- Zero energy district in Downtown Fort Collins and the CSU campus
- Locally produced clean, renewable energy using Smart Grid technology
- Innovation created through research at the Engines and Energy Conversion Lab
- Hundreds of industry and spin-off jobs will be created
- Replicable in other communities across the country

***fortzed.com***

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN INNOVATION INITIATIVE

- Accelerating the success of new business
- Matches mentors to startups
- Hosts regional networking events
- Provides assistance with capital funding

***rmi2.org***

### **RMII 1998-present**

- 27 companies
- 133 primary jobs
- \$54 million capital raised
- \$71,000 average salary
- \$36,000 average Larimer County salary

### **Five year Goals**

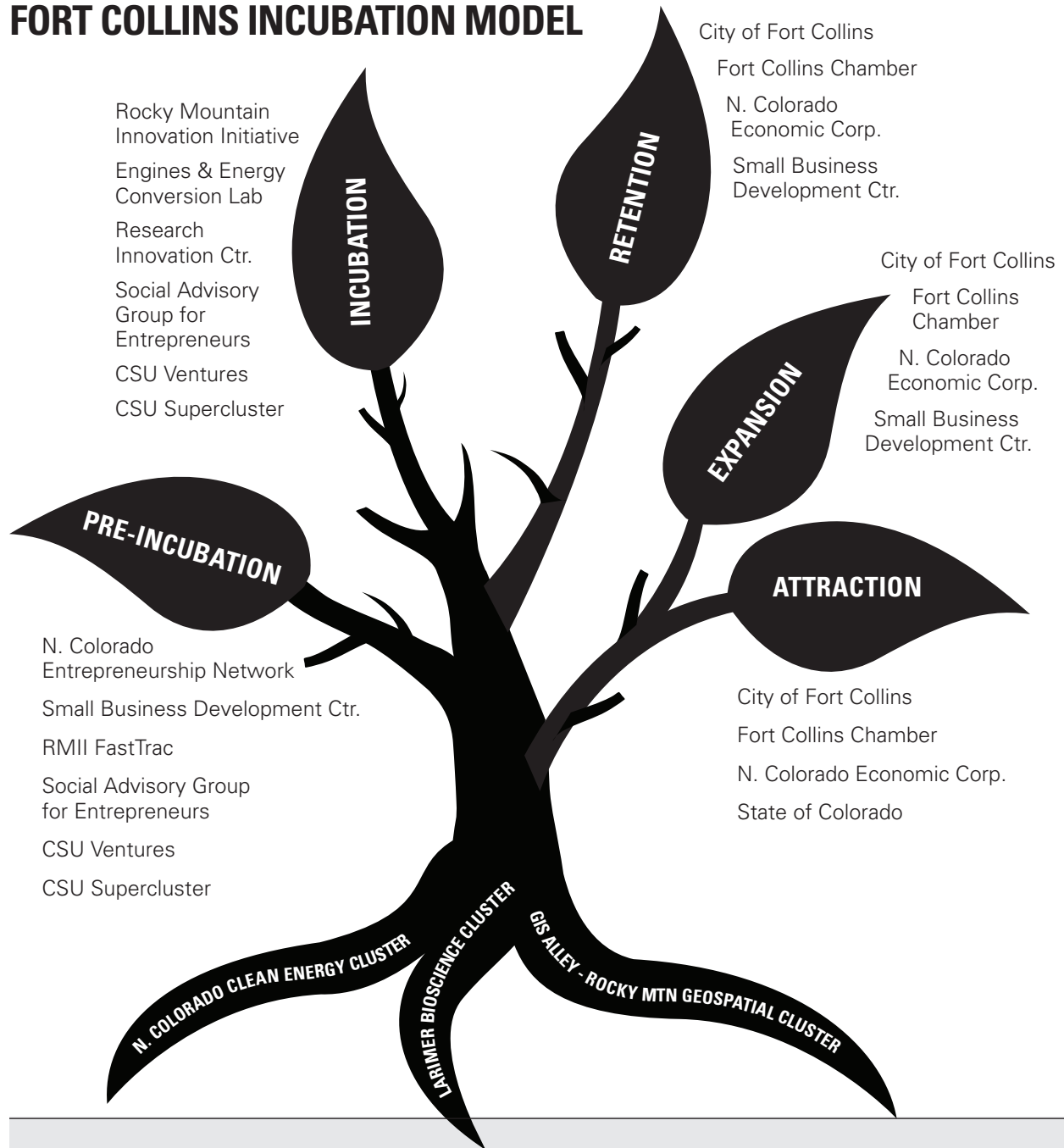
- 40 new startup companies
- \$120 million in capital
- 400 new primary jobs
- >\$70,000 salaries
- >\$20 million in direct payroll in local economy
- 800 spinoff jobs

## INVESTMENT DOLLARS / GRANTS AND RESEARCH FUNDING

Colorado State University	Governor's Energy Office
Department of Energy	Urban Renewal Authority
Federal Transit Authority	

# INNOVATION ECONOMY

## FORT COLLINS INCUBATION MODEL



## COLLABORATION

Colorado State University's Engines and Energy Conversion Lab [eecl.org](http://eecl.org)

GIS Alley, Rocky Mountain GeoSpatial Cluster [gisalley.com](http://gisalley.com)

Larimer Bioscience Cluster [larimerbioscience.org](http://larimerbioscience.org)

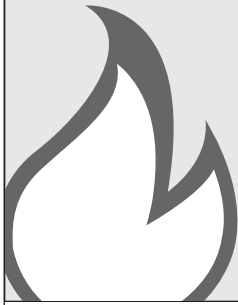
Northern Colorado Be Local [belocalnc.org](http://belocalnc.org)

Northern Colorado Clean Energy Cluster [nccleanenergy.com](http://nccleanenergy.com)

Northern Colorado Economic Development Corporation [ncedc.com](http://ncedc.com)

Rocky Mountain Innovation Initiative [rmi2.org](http://rmi2.org)

# INNOVATION ECONOMY



## WHAT'S HOT

1. Solix receives first Series A funding
2. Bryan Willson, co-founder of Solix and Enviorfit International, "Scientific American 10", honor roll for innovation assisting humanity, *Scientific American*
3. Colorado HB1105: innovation investment tax credit for angel investors

## COMMUNITY AWARDS

*Following your passions and pursuing your career don't have to be mutually exclusive.*

- **Best Places for Businesses and Careers, 2nd;** *Forbes Magazine* March 2009
- **Best Quality of Life for Mid-sized Metropolitan Areas, 7th;** *bizjournal.com*, March 2009
- **Best Place to Live in the Nation, 2nd;** *Money Magazine*, July 2008
- **Best-Educated Cities in America, 10th;** *Forbes magazine*, November 2008
- **One of the Best Places to Raise Your Kids;** *Business Week*, November 2008
- **100 Best Places to Live and Launch, 39th;** *Money Magazine* March 2008
- **One of 30 Fast Cities, due to innovation and creativity of workforce;** *Fast Company Magazine*, July 2007

## INDUSTRY AWARDS

- Integware, Inc. and Otterbox, **two of 50 Colorado Companies to Watch:** Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade.
- Tim Bauer, Co-founder and VP of operations of Envirofit International, honored with the **2008 Rolex Awards for Enterprises.**
- VanDyne SuperTurbos named **Commercial Product of the Year** at the Da Vinci Institute's 2008 Colorado Inventor Showcase.

## CONTACTS

For more information on Innovation in Fort Collins  
Director of the Rocky Mountain Innovation Initiative, **Mark Forsyth** [mark.forsyth@rmi2.org](mailto:mark.forsyth@rmi2.org), 970.221.1301.

Contact the City of Fort Collins for questions on retention, expansion, incubation or relocation  
**Mike Freeman**, City of Fort Collins, Chief Financial Officer 970.416.2259, [mfreeman@fcgov.com](mailto:mfreeman@fcgov.com)

**Entrepreneurial resources** [fortcollinsinnovation.com](http://fortcollinsinnovation.com)

**Rocky Mountain Innovation Initiative** [rmi2.org](http://rmi2.org)

**Doing business in Fort Collins** [fcgov.com/business](http://fcgov.com/business)

**Community information** [ftcollins.com](http://ftcollins.com)