

CRITICAL RESOURCE

INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION

LOCAL INNOVATION

WATER INNOVATION

CLUSTER PROFILE FORT COLLINS, CO



The Water Innovation Cluster focuses on water-related issues and innovation. The future of water safety, water supply and water management is a global issue; Fort Collins area companies, Colorado State University and industry partners around the state are ready to take on water challenges and discover solutions that are best for the planet, for business and our societies.

The newly organized industry cluster unites these companies and organizations as they contribute to the economic vitality of our areas and beyond.

WATER INNOVATION



WHY HERE? WHY NOW?

By 2050 a third of the people on Earth may lack a clean, secure source of water.

2.5 percent of all water on Earth is freshwater. About two-thirds of that is frozen.¹

The facts and figures of water on Earth fill journals and textbooks. Humans have an insatiable need for fresh, clean water—for agriculture, for consumption, for manufacturing. Scientists, researchers and business people are creating innovative ways to deal with many of these issues including how to desalinate water on an affordable, large scale; how to get water supplies closer to people's homes; how to use less water in irrigation and agriculture; and more. The problems are fixable for the most part, yet there's a sense of urgency to develop solutions in a timely way, before it's too late for some communities.

EXPERTISE

Businesses and research institutions in Fort Collins are on the leading edge of solving some of water's most challenging problems. The City of Fort Collins, along with a variety of private sector companies and Colorado State University, formed the Colorado Water Innovation Cluster (CWIC) to leverage expertise in the area and collaborate on regional and global water issues. Combined with initiatives already underway in clean energy, bioscience and location-based decision support systems, the CWIC will allow regional stakeholders to collaboratively design and showcase innovative solutions, which in many cases are much larger and have far more impact than any stakeholder could achieve on their own.

¹National Geographic magazine, April 2010

STRENGTHS

- Headwater state
- Abilities of Water Innovation Cluster members to produce long-term solutions to global water issues.
- Hydraulic engineering programs at CSU, which attract international students for implementation in their home countries.

SAMPLE COMPANIES

- Aqua Engineering, Inc.
- Hach
- In Situ, Inc.
- OptiEnz
- Regenis
- Riverside
- Rubicon
- Stewart Environmental
- Symbios

ENRICHING THE ECONOMY

37 Water Innovation businesses employ more than 1,400 people.

A main focus of the Water Innovation Cluster is to create initiatives that highlight the region's capabilities, involve the innovative use of technologies and contribute to the economic vitality of the community.

COLLABORATION & RESOURCES

Local resources provide industry expertise such as:

- hydrologic and hydraulic engineering
- water planning and systems management
- water policy development and governance
- ecosystem sustainability

Colorado Water Institute

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Colorado State University's International School for Water Resources

Colorado Water Innovation Cluster

GRANTS AND RESEARCH FUNDING

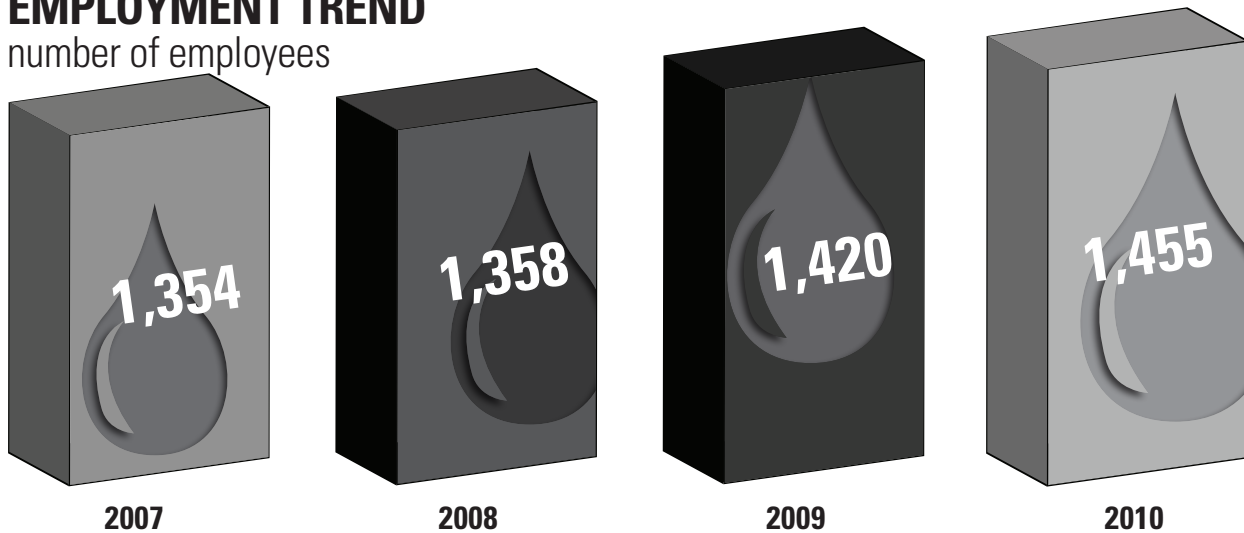
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture	National Science Foundation
Urban Drainage and Flood Control District	Office of Naval Research

WATER INNOVATION

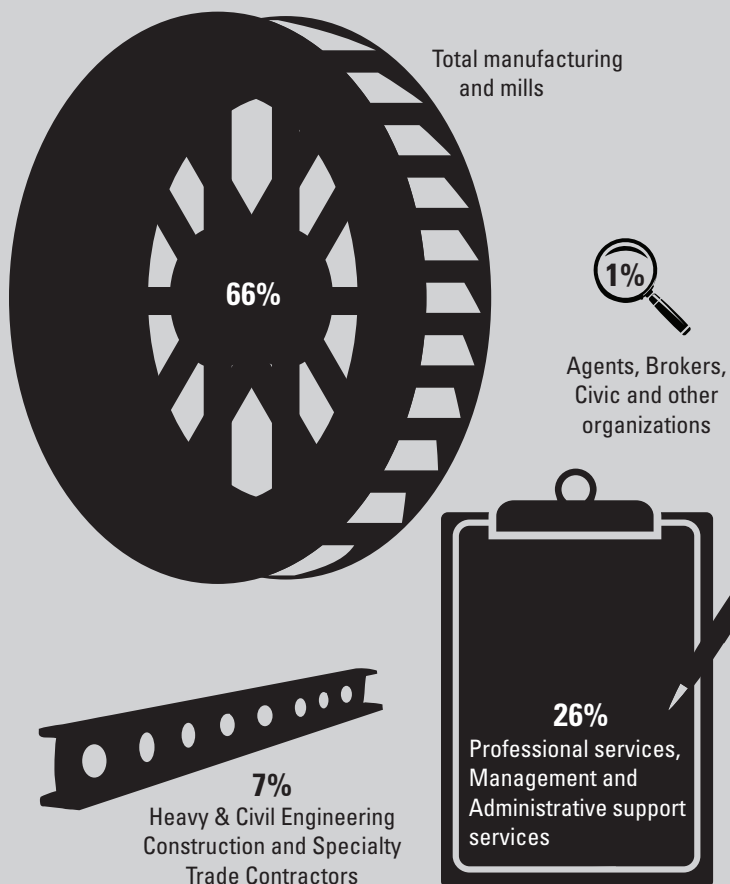


EMPLOYMENT TREND

number of employees



2010 Q4 EMPLOYMENT COMPOSITION



2010 Q4 EARNINGS



\$17 M
Total manufacturing and mills



\$8 M
Professional services, Management and Administrative support services

\$1.8 M
Heavy & Civil Engineering Construction and Specialty Trade Contractors

\$123 K
Agents, Brokers, Civic and other organizations



WHAT'S HOT

1. Aqua Engineering, Inc., earned two Merit Awards from the American Society of Irrigation Consultants for Excellence in Irrigation. The program recognizes quality of project planning, design functionality and environmental responsibility. The projects recognized include the Denver Botanic Gardens irrigation system renovation and water conservation analysis for Denver Water.
2. In an effort to spur water-based businesses, Imagine H2O and the Colorado Water Innovation Cluster, or CWIC, signed a Memorandum of Understanding to jointly provide entrepreneurs with opportunities, tools and resources to build successful water businesses. The partnership permits access to each partner's programming resources to provide a greater depth of resources for entrepreneurs, according to a news release. The City of Fort Collins is a founding member of the CWIC.

COMMUNITY AWARDS

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

- **One of America's 20 Most Economically Vibrant College Towns:**

TheAtlanticCities.com - September 2011

- **Ranked First, Safest Drivers in America:**

Allstate Insurance Company - 2011

- **Ranked 3rd on the Best Bicycle Cities list:**

League of American Bicyclists and TheStreet.com - August 2011

- **Ranked 5th Best Places for Business and Careers:** *Forbes* - June 2011

- **Fort Collins, One of the Top 10 Cities Adopting Smart Grid Technology:**

U.S. News and World Report - May 2011

- **Top Colorado City for Job Growth, Fort Collins-Loveland:**

2011 Best Cities for Job Growth, newgeography.com - May 2011

- **Third Happiest Metro Region, Fort Collins-Loveland, CO:**

Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index - 2011

- **2011 Governor's Arts Award:** *Colorado Creative Industries and the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade* - March 2011

- **6th Best Place to Live in the Nation:**

Money Magazine - July 2010

CONTACTS

For more information on Water Innovation in Fort Collins

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Contact the City of Fort Collins for questions on retention, expansion, incubation or relocation

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Colorado Water Innovation Cluster co-waterinnovation.com

Doing business in Fort Collins fcgov.com/business

Community information ftcollins.com

Fort Collins Cluster performance report available on
fcgov.com/business/target-industries.php

