

# Climate Wise Reaches Milestones; 10th Year and 200th Business Partner



GREEN TEAM AND STUDENTS OF TEACHING TREE

## Climate Wise Welcomes United Way of Larimer County

A decade ago, Climate Wise was a fledgling program that began with 13 business partners and a small team of City staff from multiple departments who saw the potential to co-create a mission of environmental stewardship and cost reductions within company operations.

Today, Climate Wise is still staffed by a small crew of dedicated experts in energy savings, water conservation, solid waste reduction and recycling, transportation, outreach and administration. And in partnership with Fort Collins industry leaders who experience the benefits of reduced greenhouse gas emissions while saving money, Climate Wise has grown in membership.

Commemorating its partner successes that included operational savings of \$8.4 million and greenhouse gas reductions by 116,000 tons last year alone, Climate Wise welcomes its 200th business partner, *United Way of Larimer County*.

United Way and its building neighbor Teaching Tree Early Childhood Learning Center created a "Green Team" to improve building and behavioral sustainability. As new Climate Wise partners, United Way has been busy with Teaching Tree in retro-fitting lighting, replacing heating and air conditioning equipment for more efficient options

and making sunscreen shades to cover large window areas that have made a 10-degree difference in indoor temperatures and occupant comfort.

United Way takes an active role in improving environmental practices in its regional buildings. In Fort Collins, the Sister Mary Murphy Center is now LEED Silver certified. And in Loveland, the 102-year old Community Services Building is participating in the Partnering with Power Program which cycles their central air conditioning unit off during peak usage times while fans continue to circulate cool air throughout the building.

United Way and Teaching Tree are benefitting from shared energy efficiencies, savings and brainstorming on new projects. Their Green Team is inspiring their employees to participate in upcoming behavior-related challenges. Among the action-based eco and social behaviors they're considering are in the areas of increased energy efficiency, solid waste diversion, water consumption, best sustainable building practices and continued excellence in delivery of human services in the community.

**United Way of Larimer County and Teaching Tree, Climate Wise welcomes you!**



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