

Larimer County Government

Incorporating Environment into County Government

Larimer County is the seventh largest county in Colorado and encompasses 2,640 square miles. The Larimer County Government is currently working toward reducing its impact on the environment. In 2006 the County formed a green practices committee to address environmental issues and help the county fulfill its mission statement of reducing the environmental footprint of County government.

AWARDS & POLICIES

- **Garbage Garage Environmental Achievement Award**

The Larimer County Garbage Garage was awarded the Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Achievement Award for its efforts in waste and recycling education.

ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION

- **Bike to Work Day**

One hundred and sixty Larimer County employees participated in Bike to Work Day 2008 and rode a total of 2,295 miles.



- **Bike to Work Any Day**

To promote cycling to work year round, the County placed bike racks at all county buildings and partnered with the City of Fort Collins to put a bike cage in the parking garage.

- **Promotion of Public Transit**

Larimer County has partnered with Transfort to offer bus passes at a discounted rate for employees. They have become participants in the GO GREEN Campaign, which rewards employees who use alternative modes of transportation for work related travel. County employees also make route recommendations to Transfort to help meet employee needs.

- **Alternative Fuels**

In 2007 Larimer County began using alternative fuels, such as ethanol and biodiesel (B20), in all applicable vehicles and heavy equipment.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- **Energy Audit**

The County has started collecting energy data for all of the Fort Collins facilities to set a baseline to help track improvements.

- **New Energy Alternatives**

Larimer County is currently researching the potential to utilize methane gas from the landfill as an energy source.



Facility

Larimer County Government
Colorado

Size

~1,500 employees

Climate Wise Partner

Since 2007

Partner Level

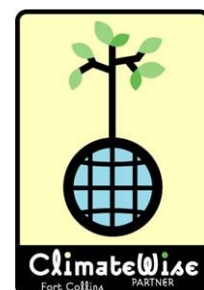
SILVER level partner
2007 award

Web

www.larimer.org

Contact

Deni LaRue
Community Information
Manager
(970) 498-7150
dlarue@larimer.org



Climate Wise Partner Profile

SOLID WASTE REDUCTION & RECYCLING

• Larimer County Recycling Facility

In order to increase the availability of recycling options in Larimer County, a public/private partnership between Recycle America and Larimer County was formed. This partnership allowed the County to build a recycling facility at the Larimer County Landfill to help facilitate recycling throughout the entire county.

• Drop and Swap Facility

In addition to offering a recycling center, the County Landfill also has a “Drop and Swap” facility to collect household hazardous waste and keep it out of the landfill.

• Recycling

Larimer County has been working to increase their recycling efforts. In 2007 they recycled over 76,000 lbs of materials via single stream recycling. They also recycled over 19,000 lbs of cardboard and 136,000 lbs of office paper.

• Low-Waste Employee Appreciation Lunch

The County is working towards making their 2008 employee appreciation lunch a low-waste event. They are ordering food from a local vendor, serving food in bulk and composting/recycling materials. In addition, they are asking employees to bring in a can of food to donate to the Food Bank in exchange for lunch.

• Going Re-Usable

Several departments throughout the County have started purchasing reusable china and silverware for break rooms and meetings.

• Responsible Recycling

In addition to their regular recycling efforts, the County also makes it a point to recycle toner cartridges, batteries, phone books, electronics and books.

WATER CONSERVATION

• Irrigation Sensors

To help reduce water use, the County installed irrigation moisture and wind sensors at several County buildings.

GREEN BUILDING

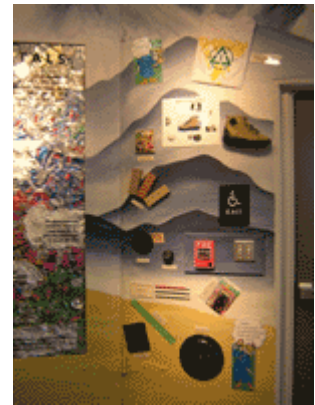
• Green Building Initiative

In 2006 Larimer County built a new building for the Solid Waste Department. This building incorporated several green building principals, including the use of recycled materials, day lighting, solar orientation and a geo-thermal heat-pump system.

EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY

• Community Education

The Garbage Garage Education Center was built in 2003 and was designed to educate the community about how the landfill works and why it is important to recycle. In 2007 over 3,200 visitors toured the site.



• Employee Education

To help educate employees and encourage them to help the County ‘green’ its operations, an internal education campaign was created which included the addition of a monthly ‘Green Column’ to the employee newsletter.

Climate Wise

Climate Wise is a voluntary City of Fort Collins program that recognizes and assists businesses in quantifying and reducing their environmental impact. Climate Wise provides free assessments to business partners and includes expert staff from the City of Fort Collins Utilities, Natural Resources and Transportation departments.

Phone: (970) 221-6312
Web: fcgov.com/climatewise
E-mail: climatewise@fcgov.com

