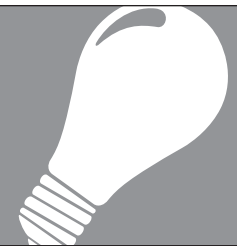


ENTREPRENEURS

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 industries. In 2010, 101 patents were registered to researchers, scientists and entrepreneurs in Fort Collins.

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.

The university's innovation culture directly benefits Fort Collins' economy through technology transfer and globally-focused research in clean energy, water innovation and disease prevention and treatment. Fort Collins City leaders and the local business community embrace an international outlook from an economic perspective; working globally across industries to build relationships and solve supply chain challenges.

## SAMPLE COMPANIES

- Advanced Regenerative Therapies
- Clear Path Labs
- CZero, Inc
- New Belgium Brewing Co.
- Solix
- St. Renatus
- VanDyne SuperTurbos

## STRENGTHS

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

## THE ENERGY BEHIND LOCAL INGENUITY

Operating in a vacuum is seldom successful. Working in a collaborative environment with highly skilled resources at your fingertips? Reaching your potential is much easier. Here's a snapshot of three local incubators where start-ups and entrepreneurs soar.

### ROCKY MOUNTAIN INNOSPHERE

- Accelerating the success of new business
- Matches mentors to start-ups
- Hosts regional networking events
- Provides assistance with capital funding
- Kaufman Foundation's FastTrac® TechVenture™ curriculum

### CSU'S ENGINES AND ENERGY CONVERSION LAB (EECL)

- Creating innovative clean energy products
- Addressing health and safety issues for humanity
- \$2 million a year in research funding
- Envirofit International, manufacturers of two-stroke engine retrofit kits, and clean-burning cookstoves
- Solix, researching and producing biodiesel made from domesticated algae
- VanDyne SuperTurbo, super turbo engines for fleet vehicles with energy efficiencies

### CSU'S RESEARCH INNOVATION CENTER (RIC)

- 72,000 square foot research center focused on developing new products to treat and diagnose infectious diseases
- Includes a bioscience business incubator
- Launching pad for scientific discoveries, which are patented and brought to market
- Faculty and students, as well as start-up companies and other private-sector scientists use the lab

# INNOVATION ECONOMY



## INNOVATION ASSETS

- |                                   |                                |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Incubators</b>                 | <b>Federal Labs</b>            |
| Rocky Mountain Innosphere         | Centers for Disease Control    |
| Engines and Energy Conversion Lab | National Renewable Energy Lab  |
| Research Innovation Center        | National Wildlife Research Ctr |
| Fitzsimmons BioBusiness Partners  | <b>Higher Education</b>        |
|                                   | Colorado State University      |
|                                   | Front Range Community College  |

## REGIONAL INNOVATION CLUSTER

- Colorado Clean Energy Cluster
- Colorado Water Innovation Cluster
- Northern Colorado Bioscience Cluster
- Colorado Engines and Transportation Innovation Cluster

## PARTNERSHIPS

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Public Sector</b>                               | <b>Higher Education</b>  |
| City of Fort Collins                               | Colorado State University  |
| Larimer County Workforce Center                    | Colorado State University: - Research Foundation - University Ventures |
| State of Colorado Office of Economic Development   | Front Range Community College  |
| <b>Economic Development</b>                        | University of Northern Colorado  |
| Northern Colorado Economic Development Corporation |  |
| Small Business Development Center                  |  |
| Fort Collins Area Chamber of Commerce              |  |

## BIOSCIENCE

Industry growth in Fort Collins: **3.1%** # of employees **1,989**  
 Industry growth in Nation: **-4.4%** Average earnings **\$75,400**  
 # of companies **50**

## CLEAN ENERGY

Industry growth in Fort Collins: **8.9%** # of employees **2,748**  
 Industry growth in Nation: **-10.6%** Average earnings **\$76,700**  
 # of companies **31**

## TECHNOLOGY: SOFTWARE

Industry growth in Fort Collins: **21.3%** # of employees **2,239**  
 Industry growth in Nation: **-4.9%** Average earnings **\$88,800**  
 # of companies **425**

## TECHNOLOGY: HARDWARE

Industry growth in Fort Collins: **26.4%** # of employees **4,651**  
 Industry growth in Nation: **-3.7%** Average earnings **\$117,100**  
 # of companies **188**

## UNIQUELY FORT COLLINS

Industry growth in Fort Collins: **-3%** # of employees **903**  
 Industry growth in Nation: **-6.1%** Average earnings **\$45,000**  
 # of companies **83**

## WATER INNOVATION

Industry growth in Fort Collins: **7.4%** # of employees **1,455**  
 Industry growth in Nation: **-11.1%** Average earnings **\$67,700**  
 # of companies **37**

Sources: QCEW and CSU, reflecting data from 2007q4 through 2010q4

# INNOVATION ECONOMY

## WHAT'S HOT

1. Rocky Mountain Innosphere is at capacity with more than 20 client and partner businesses. The Innosphere is one of the significant economic health tools in the community—it incubates and accelerates high-potential cutting edge start-ups.
2. Five Fort Collins businesses were awarded Colorado Export Development Grants (CEDG). The grants will help companies sustain and expand their businesses through exporting. Congratulations to FiberLok; Novo Energy, LLC.; NGVI North America, Inc.; Optibrand Ltd., LLC; and Wolf Robotics.
3. According to Entrepreneur Magazine, OtterBox is one of the Greatest Places to Work. OtterBox ranked 22nd on the 2011 Best Medium Workplaces list. The annual list recognizes companies that have exceptional workplace cultures.

## 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 Innovation in Fort Collins

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

**Josh Birks**, City of Fort Collins, Economic Advisor 970.221.6324, [jbirks@fcgov.com](mailto:jbirks@fcgov.com)

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

**Rocky Mountain Innosphere** [rockymountaininnosphere.com](http://rockymountaininnosphere.com)

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

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

**Fort Collins Cluster Performance Report available on** [fcgov.com/business](http://fcgov.com/business)

