

**Q2**  
**2011**

# Sustainability Progress

The Q2 report provides a snapshot of the City's sustainability activities from April – June 2011. The full report is available on the sustainability website: <http://citynet.fcgov.com/sustainability/qtr.php>

PROJECTS	SOCIAL IMPACTS	ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS	MONTHLY SAVINGS
Give a Watt: Pedal it Forward	Healthier employees and community members Public education	5 metric tons CO2e reduction	\$1,440
Neighborhood Energy Outreach	Community empowerment	32,775 kWh reduction and 29 metric tons of CO2e reduction	\$2,950
Bike to Work Day	Healthier employees	1 metric tons of CO2e reduction per month	\$ 225
Expansion of the Affordable Housing Community Gardens	Gardens were implemented again at five Affordable Housing Units and the program was expanded to the single resident occupancy housing units (SRO). According to SRO case managers, the community gardens are a great way for residents to feel part of a group working toward a common goal.	25 metric tons of CO2e per month reduction Healthier air, water and soils	\$160
Collindale Golf Efficiency Upgrades	Better air quality – healthier community members	Projected - 60,133 kWh and 5,535 therms avoided per year	\$789

## 2005-2011 INDICATORS OF SUSTAINABILITY IN MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS

Indicators are measures to track if performance is improving or declining in select areas. They also can inspire behavior changes and data driven decisions. One indicator that improved during the second quarter of 2011: comparisons to sister cities. An in-house training seminar was presented to staff and senior administration.

### IMPROVING SUSTAINABILITY TRENDS

- Alternative fuel use
- Cost and use of natural gas
- Outdoor water use
- Well Day participation
- Percentage of LED traffic lights
- Electricity use
- Number of LEED buildings
- **Comparisons to sister cities**

### INSUFFICIENT TREND DATA

- Water use in buildings
- Average vehicle ridership
- Adherence to Environmentally Preferable Policies
- Energy consumption related to water use

### OPPORTUNITY FOR IMPROVEMENT

- Percentage of renewable energy purchased by the City (.0001%)
- Volumes of office solid waste generated

### NEUTRAL SUSTAINABILITY TRENDS

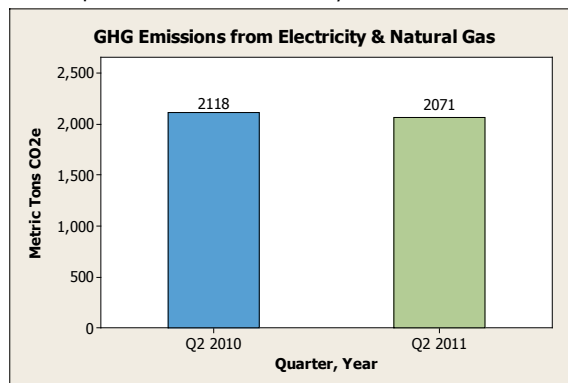
- Diversion rate for office solid waste
- 30% forest canopy goal
- Number of LEED employees
- Number of sustainability scholarships awarded in 2009

## GOAL 1: REDUCE GHG EMISSIONS

**Reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from municipal operations at least 2%, or approximately 998 tons GHG annually, in order to achieve a reduction of 20% below 2005 levels by 2020; ultimately achieve carbon neutrality for the municipal organization.**

**Progress: The City's overall GHG emissions from electricity and natural gas usage at Utility Manager (UM) sites dropped 1% in the second quarter, which does not meet the goal. <sup>1</sup>**

- The multi-departmental GHG Task Force streamlined data collection and reporting for the Utilities Report (GRI), Climate Action Plan Community Updates and City Operations' GHG Annual Report. A greenhouse gas database was developed using Energy Efficient Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) funding for greenhouse gas accounting. Staff will begin using it to archive GHG data. The database project included third party validation for the community inventory.
- Environmental Services staff prepared a Municipal Operations Emission's Inventory Quality Assurance Report. The report is available at citynet/sustainability.
- Streets and the Water Treatment Plant are in the process of implementing an Environmental Management System.
- Environmental Services staff developed a carbon cost analysis on select 2010 sustainability projects.



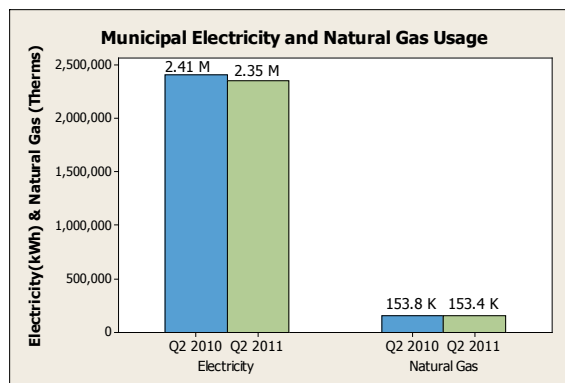
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## GOAL 2: ELECTRICITY & NATURAL GAS REDUCTION

**Reduce City energy consumption by 20% below the 2005 baseline by 2020 (2% annually), and reduce peak demand use 15% by 2020.**

**Progress: The City's second quarter progress does not meet the goal.**

- Electrical and natural gas use at UM buildings was reduced by 1% during the second quarter of 2011. Below is a comparison of Q2 2010 and Q2 2011 energy use:



- Operation Services completed lighting upgrades in the Pro Shop and banquet room at Collindale Golf Club.

<sup>1</sup> Utility Manager (UM) is the internal management energy system for non-utility buildings. It tracks over sixty buildings.

## GOAL 3: FUEL REDUCTION

**Reduce traditional fuel use by the City's vehicle fleet 20% by 2020 and reach a 1.5 average vehicle ridership by 2020 for City employees.**

**Progress: The City's Operations Services have consistently reached the fuel goal. 2011 efforts will concentrate on the average vehicle ridership goal.**

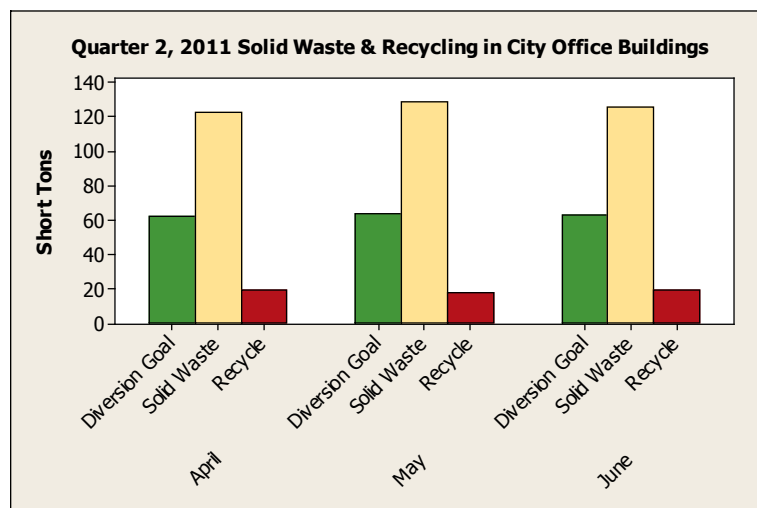
- Operations Services installed electrical vehicle charging stations at 300 LaPorte.
- Operation Services purchased an Escape hybrid.



## GOAL 4: SOLID WASTE REDUCTION

**Reduce solid waste generated by 50% of overall waste stream by 2012 and 80% by 2020.**

**Progress: The City has not met the goal for office building diversion. Office diversion is approximately 18%.**



- The City recycled approximately five tons of electronics, books and shredded paper in addition to conventional materials recycled in "single stream" office recycling program.
- The City held an Earth Day celebration at City Hall; employees recycled electronic waste from home and 1,500 pounds of clothing and shoes.
- Environmental Services provided 2010 data to all departments regarding their diversion rates. The best recyclers in 2010 were: Utilities Customer Service – 117 Mason Street, Equipment – 835 Wood Street, and South Ridge Golf Club. Several fire stations continue to make progress at recycling especially stations 8, 6, 10 and 14. The most improved departments from 2009 to 2010 were: Fleets, City Hall West and the Senior Center. Parks maintenance shops continue to be leaders in reducing their solid waste.
- Environmental Services staff hosted an educational session about the Solar BigBelly at the Oak Street Plaza breakfast station on Bike to Work Day.
- Utilities started a pilot CD/DVD recycling project at 700 Wood Street and signed up for a food composting service, which collects material by bike courier for composting in the "Earth Tub."

## GOAL 5: EDUCATION & OUTREACH

**Information about the municipal sustainability program will be available to all levels of the community, students in grades K-20 and university, the general public - as well as internal customers.**

**Progress: The City's educational programs continue to attract interested businesses and residents.**

- In conjunction with Climate Wise (CW) partners and CSU, the City sponsored a "Give a Watt: Pedal It Forward" event. Over 500 people tried the new energy harvesting bikes, which were powering computers with energy-saving tips. The additional energy generated was tracked and donated to the Fort Collins Bike Coop and Bicycle Pedestrian Education Coalition. The event was the kick-off for a month long Transportation Challenge and participants had the choice of trying ten different alternative transportation activities.
- Climate Wise partners and City staff presented a seminar about alternative transportation to community members and students at CSU.
- Environmental Services presented two technical training seminars for City staff and Climate Wise businesses - Communicating about Climate Change, and Sister City Comparisons. Films about environmental issues (The Economy of Happiness, Food Inc., and Carbon Nation) were screened, followed by group discussions with employees, business and community members.
- Natural Areas staff hosted five classes on native plant identification and published a newsletter for the Colorado Native Plant Society.
- Environmental Services staff made non-toxic garden, lawn and house sprays for City employees who were winners in the Alternative Transportation Challenge drawing.
- For the second year, gardens were implemented at five affordable housing units and the program was expanded to single-resident occupancy housing units (SRO). SROs were provided with supplies and information about gardening. These residents are in treatment for mental illness and substance abuse. All plant materials were donated and ES staff donated their time for this project.



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## GOAL 6: FUNDING

**In addition to reporting on the annual GHG inventory, cost savings that directly result from energy and waste conservation will be tracked.**

**Progress: The City's progress at establishing a special fund in which energy savings are deposited has been completed. Several sustainability projects have been selected for funding.**

- The Innovation Task Force provided funding for the Collindale Golf Course's insulation, lighting upgrades, parking lot lights retrofits and energy management system projects, as well as parking lot lights retrofits at the Senior Center.
- The annual savings from 2Q projects will be approximately \$66,288.

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## GOAL 7: PARKS/NATURAL AREAS

**Achieve a 30% forest canopy density in suitable areas of City Parks by 2020, and a specific percentage of native and non-native vegetative cover in Natural Areas restoration sites.**

**Progress: Steady progress is being made.**

- Natural Areas staff created three acres of newly established wetlands.
- Staff planted 248 trees and 445 shrubs at McMurry, Running Deer, Soapstone and Pelican Marsh Natural Areas. 212 volunteers assisted on the projects.



## GOAL 8: WATER

**Reduce municipal operations water irrigation use and increase efficiency per acre. Reduce building water use (normalized to account for weather conditions) by 20% by 2020.**

**Progress: The City has reached its' irrigation use goal at Parks. Further research is needed on indoor water use and setting a numerical goal for City-owned and leased property.**

- Parks has conducted several water audits at City parks.
  - Utilities staff has installed low flow aerators at 700 Wood Street.
  - Utilities staff determined that the Service Center xeriscape conversion will save the City at least 90,000 gallons of water annually.
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## GOAL 9: GENERAL PURCHASING

**Implement Environmentally Preferable Purchasing practices (EPP) throughout the City organization and establish means to verify departments' compliance with purchasing policy.**

**Progress: The City's progress is positive.**

- The City selected a local consulting firm called Green Purchasing to perform an Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Compliance Audit.
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## GOAL 10: EMPLOYEE SAFETY & HEALTH

**Incorporate a City-wide program fostering a culture of health and safety. Increase the number of employees that participate in the Wellness Program from 45% to 75% by 2020 (i.e. 3% increase annually) and increase the number of employees that earn their first Well Day from 414 to 500.**

**Progress: The City is making steady progress.**

- 199 employees participated in the mini-incentive program "Leafy Greens and Tangerines."
  - 406 employees earned their first Wellness Day as of June 30, 2011, which is a 29% participation rate.
  - There was a 81% participation rate in the Mayo Clinic Health Assessment.
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## EXTERNAL PROJECTS

- Environmental Services staff presented a seminar about the 2010 innovative sustainability projects at the Climate Wise Envirovation Event. The City of Fort Collins earned a Platinum award.
- Neighborhood Services and ES assisted Groundwork Colorado with a Community Energy Outreach event on April 16th. 376 residents received energy and sustainability information, 160 volunteers worked, and 475 CFL bulbs were exchanged.
- Bike Library staff assisted with Community and Ram Classic Bike tours.
- The Bike Library now has 8,000 members.



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