

GREEN POWER *Local*

Colorado Carbon Fund Provides New Way to Support Clean Energy

SUSAN INNIS

Have you thought about buying carbon offsets but weren't sure how?

Do you know your carbon footprint?

Would you like to know how energy-efficiency measures can reduce carbon dioxide emissions?

Would you like to support new clean energy projects here in Colorado?

The Colorado Carbon Fund is helping individuals and businesses reduce their carbon footprint by supporting new clean energy projects in our state. You can participate in a three-step process to help stop global warming, at the Fund's Web site, www.ColoradoCarbonFund.org.

First, you can measure your own personal impacts. When you use energy in your home, or when you drive or fly, you create carbon dioxide emissions. Estimating your carbon footprint is a great way to learn how your daily choices can impact the environment.

Second, you will learn how to reduce your emissions through energy efficiency and renewable energy. There are many simple steps you can take that will add up to significant savings - both in your wallet and for our climate.

Third, you can offset unavoidable emissions through the Colorado Carbon Fund. Your tax-deductible donation will go to new, local clean energy projects that reduce emissions. By taking these three steps, you will help Colorado meet our state's Climate Action Plan goal to reduce emissions 20 percent by 2020.

Many people wonder whether carbon offsets really have any environmental benefits. The Colorado Carbon Fund is unique because it supports new, verifiable greenhouse gas reduction projects that are developed right here in Colorado. In this way, consumers can see firsthand

the benefits of new clean energy projects in their communities.

The types of projects that could be supported include:

- Generating energy from renewable sources, like biomass or solar water heating.
- Capturing methane from animal waste and using it to generate energy at farms.

Before the Colorado Carbon Fund accepts a project, it makes sure the project is reducing emissions. First, the project receives a rigorous, third-party review to validate its current performance and the expected results. Once the project is part of the fund, it is monitored, usually each year, to verify that it is achieving its performance objectives and that offsets are delivered.

Quality Control is an important issue for carbon offsets. To be sure it is benefitting the environment, every offset project must:

- Provide new or additional benefits. A high-quality offset project would not have happened without the specific funding provided by the purchase of offsets.
- Be rigorously measured and verified. The benefits of the offset project must be measured and verified by an independent third party over the entire length of the project.
- Have lasting benefits. The effects of the offset project must be long-lasting, not temporary.

Susan Innis is the Colorado Carbon Fund Program Manager for the Governor's Energy Office. For more information, visit www.ColoradoCarbonFund.org

The Art of Recycling

ALICIA ARCHIBALD

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO - City employees have been recycling paper for years. At the same time, many employees have cared enough to take recycling a step further by collecting and sorting the recyclables generated in their office areas for recycling at home. Now that all of the community's waste providers offer single-stream recycling, the City is embracing this new way to recycle—with a creative twist. Single-stream recycling and recycling bins can come with a cost. So, the City has launched an employee volunteer-driven effort to make the change, despite current budget constraints.

These recycling bins are created out of shipping containers from a company in Longmont. SBM Site Services, LLC, issued a notice in the Colorado Association for Recycling list-serve, stating that a company in the Broomfield area that is generating a large amount of Fiber Barrels on a regular basis. SBM was interested in finding a reuse opportunity for these fiber barrels, rather than just recycling them into cardboard and metal. Local recycling leader Alicia Archibald, of BETTR Recycling, suggested creating a "new beginning" for the bins - decorating the bins in order to create a common theme for recycling in the City's facilities. In

essence, highlighting the "Art of Recycling" as a way to generate enthusiasm and support for doing the right thing.

This strategy included an art contest to jumpstart the program. Bins were decorated by City employees, professional artists and a local community youth group. While functional, the bins don't start out all that attractive—in fact, they resemble an artists "blank canvas". The City of Colorado Springs Green Team, a group of passionate volunteers, worked with the Cottonwood Center for the Arts to find professional artists willing to volunteer their services and decorate a bin. City employees also took these bins home to decorate, encourage team building and put employee creativity on display.

The winners of the art contest were revealed on Thursday, July 16, 2009. The City's Stormwater Enterprise shared first place with the youth of Hillside Community Center. BETTR Recycling paid for the bin delivery and information decals. Nearly 100 employees agreed to "adopt" a recycling bin, meaning that they'll decorate the bin and take their area's recyclables to one of a few single-stream roll-off bins located strategically throughout the City. Not only are the containers made from recycled materials, but once they serve their second life as a recycle bin, they can also be recycled.



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of BUSINESS*

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