# 2009 Campus Sustainability Awards

## Office of Orientation for Departmental Achievement

The Office of Orientation has made great strides towards minimizing the waste that is normally generated every summer during new student orientation. They have implemented a switch from 9,000 plastic bags to reusable, recycled-material tote bags for students and parents. The Office has opted to go electronic for the entire orientation sign-up process, eliminating the need to print out and send thousands of papers describing the orientation process. During new student orientation, in previous years, students received a folder with several sheets of paper, pamphlets, and coupons. This year, all of those papers are being eliminated and the information is being added to the already-existing Ralphie's Guide, which will be half the size it was last year. In summer 2008, the mailings that went out were one quarter the size they were in the previous year.

The paper traditionally given to each student and parent who comes to orientation is significant. The pre-confirmation guide, the confirmation guide, the folder (and all the papers inside), and the informational pamphlets all come to about one pound of paper per student and parent. Each summer, about 6000 students and 3000 parents attend our orientation program and receive this paper. The reduction measures are saving approximately 4.5 tons of paper waste!

## Lisa Lampe for Individual Achievement in Energy Conservation

In her role as Hall Director, Lisa Lampe initiated the “Radiator Reflectors” program which was implemented by the Farrand staff in February 2009. The primary purpose was to educate Farrand residents about the importance of energy conservation and to distribute radiator reflectors that were originally designed to minimize the dissipation of heat generated by radiators. Built from recycled cardboard and aluminum foil, each radiator reflector was crafted by individual Farrand staff members. Approximately 80 reflectors were initially built. The typical radiator reflector featured one side that was completely covered by reflective aluminum foil and a size that allowed for easy placement between radiators and adjacent walls. The radiator reflectors were handed out at the end of concurrent programs that also emphasized environmental responsibility through engaging lectures and informative handouts.

Ultimately, the program was successful on several levels. Thus far, residents who have received radiator reflectors have shown genuine interest in using them for the purpose of retaining heat and lowering energy consumption. The Farrand staff was able to collaborate on an extensive program that had far reaching benefits for both residents and the campus community. The project was inexpensive, fun, and will help us understand if these reflectors will decrease heat loss. Farrand has reduced their steam consumption steadily since September 2008. Farrand won the fall EcoStar Challenge for steam reduction by 30% in the Fall Semester. In February 2009 Farrand reduced steam consumption by 18% over February 2008.

**Julie Hayes for Student Achievement in Environmental Justice and Social Equity**

Julie Hayes is a senior Environmental Studies major and an employee of the CU Environmental Center where she is Manager of the CU Community Energy Connections (CEC). http://cucec.org . She is also an active participant of the Environmental Center's Environmental Justice team. Julie came to the Environmental Center as a Puksta Scholar returning from a semester in Chile where she was studying Spanish and Latin American culture. Her interests in working at the Environmental Center were to develop programs that reach out to communities that are traditionally under-served by conventional environmental programs and campaigns. Low-income and Latino individuals and families often live in inexpensive and inefficient rental properties that with older, inefficient equipment and buildings are not well-maintained. This leads to heating and electric bills that are a percentage of household income, compared to other income groups. Too often the targeted educational and involvement needs of these communities are overlooked in conventional energy efficiency outreach programs. Julie's interests were to develop programs that enable CU students to help individuals and families in these communities reduce energy bills through education, involvement and direct installation of energy efficient equipment.

Immediately Julie identified and established contacts at key community groups. Julie's key accomplishments include: Establishing an outreach and education program working with community groups. Specific events include "Energy Efficiency Awareness Day" at OUR Center in Longmont. This event educated over 40 low-income families on how to affordably reduce their energy bills. Julie applied for and received a diversity grant from CU Office of the President that paid for energy efficiency equipment and educational materials given to attendees. Similar events have included: an energy audit and education for residents of the Inn Between Halfway House and residents of other low-income properties. She laid the foundation for an energy audit program which employs 21 students who conduct energy audits, conservation education and make energy efficiency equipment upgrades in low-income households in Boulder County. She has extended the program goals into areas unanticipated by her managers. Julie is currently establishing a program to introduce Latino Middle School students to career possibilities in the much-anticipated "green jobs" fields. This program will pair current CU student auditors with the middle school students who will help them deliver efficiency services to low-income homes. They will also learn about the significance and benefits of their actions not only on their local communities but also the world – through reduced carbon emissions.

Julie has defined the position of CU CEC Outreach Coordinator and has demonstrated, beyond EC expectations, what is possible from this position. Her efforts have garnered tremendous amounts of trust, cooperation and goodwill with representatives from community organizations and local human services agencies. The connections she has made between the University and community groups and government agencies will be enduring and sustainable for future students in her position. Although modest about her accomplishments, Julie has given presentations at national and regional sustainability conferences on the program she initiated.

**Athletics Department, Facilities Management, Centerplate, White Wave and Environmental Center for Ralphie's Green Stampede**

Fans of the University of Colorado at Boulder's football team are used to seeing a lot of black and gold, but now they can take pride in another color: green. The 2008 football season saw the CU-Boulder Buffaloes embark on Ralphie's Green Stampede, the first zero-waste and carbon-reduction program ever launched at an NCAA Bowl Championship Series stadium. The goal of Ralphie's Green Stampede is to move toward zero-waste at Folsom Field during the football season and invest in local carbon-reduction projects to match energy used to power the stadium, for team travel and other football-related energy use

The first season shattered all previous recycling records, drastically cut our sports events environmental footprint, and set the stage for continuous improvement towards a completely sustainable process. CU and the entire Boulder community can be proud of the collaborative efforts being made on the field and in the stadium from the entire campus community in pulling this inaugural nationally recognized effort together.

The numbers are impressive. CU-Boulder collected more than 40 tons of recyclables and compostables from football games, a 199-percent increase over the previous year. About 80 percent of all materials generated inside Folsom Stadium during most home games – an unprecedented amount for a major sports venue -- were diverted from landfills whether through reuse, recycling or composting. Some of the compost generated by the program will even be used on the CU-Boulder campus during landscaping operations.

More than 300 gallons of fry oil from food preparation was re-refined into biodiesel fuel for CU-Boulder's bus fleet. The program also replaced public-area trashcans throughout the stadium with recycling and composting containers, allowing the university to divert more than 14 tons of compostable food and biodegradable material away from landfills.

To help match the energy used in the stadium and for travel, CU invested in local carbon reduction offsets from the Colorado Carbon Fund, a program of the Governor's Energy Office, as well as through renewable energy credits with the help of Broomfield, Colo.-based White Wave Foods, a partner in the zero-waste program.

As part of the zero-waste effort, food service contractor Centerplate Inc. converted nearly all food and beverage containers in Folsom to recyclable or compostable materials. Also, to encourage people to ride bikes to the stadium, a special valet bike parking and storage facility was setup.

The efforts of staff, students, all the fans, CU's vendor Centerplate, and CU's sponsor White Wave were tremendous and inspiring. Everyone worked incredibly hard to solve the inevitable startup issues and change the way we do business. The 2009 season will build on this year's success, with new innovations coming to get CU even closer to its zero-waste and carbon neutrality goals.

## Paul Tabolt for Legacy Achievement

Paul Tabolt, vice chancellor for administration at the University of Colorado at Boulder who played a role in every major building project since arriving on campus in 1991, retired in Fall of 2007.

Tabolt joined the campus as director of Facilities Management and was named vice chancellor for administration in 1997. This division employs about 650 people and manages 9.2 million square feet of building space on more than 1,000 acres.

His leadership and vision for the campus and the vast responsibilities he undertook in service to it have transformed the University of Colorado at Boulder forever. During his time at CU-Boulder, an additional 15 percent of campus square footage was added with great care and deliberation.

He helped with several campus environmental improvements, including two recently completed buildings, the ATLAS and Wolf Law buildings, that received coveted LEED certification for green building design.

In 2001, the Division of Administration launched campus energy and water conservation efforts that have saved $2.4 million in energy costs and 110 million gallons of water during the past three years. During that period, the campus also invested $1.4 million in energy and water conservation projects.

Paul supported and fostered the CU Recycling partnership – a program which diverts 1,600 tons of waste annually. Hazardous wastes generated by the campus have decreased by 15 percent since 2001. The campus's integrated pest management program reduced the amount of herbicides and pesticides used on campus.

In his efforts toward a green transformation, Paul has infused his staff with a sustainability mindset. He has doggedly pursued the provision of green renewable power for campus. He supported solid environmentally preferable purchasing policies campus wide. He helped enable Athletics leadership on zero waste and carbon neutrality. He opened the door to increased student leadership integration within the Administration's sustainability discussions. He has shown great leadership and navigated a path forward for CU's effort to plan a carbon neutral future.

## Honorable Mention Awards

**Distribution Center for Departmental Achievement**

The UCB Distribution Center (DC) includes Mailing Services, Materiel Management and Property Services. The DC provides many services that help the Boulder campus reduce waste and maximize its use of resources. The DC managers and staff make concerted, consistent efforts to reduce waste and consumption at the DC and across the campus. The DC plays a vital role in reducing truck traffic on campus and managing surplus property to maximize its potential for re-use and/or recycling.

Here are a few examples of the DC's sustainability accomplishments:

- Mailing Services reduced mail delivery to once per day instead of twice, reducing fuel consumption by approximately 346 gallons per year.
- Elimination of the bulk mail work unit reduced Mailing Services' electrical use by half and eliminated one trip per day to the post office, saving 2080 miles per year.
- Replaced propane forklift with electric forklift, which will be powered in part by solar array to be implemented on the roof of the DC.
- Consolidated "Just-in-Time" ordering for custodial supplies for campus-wide custodial services, reducing carbon emissions and paper use.
- Delivers dry ice to campus departments three days per week, eliminating the need for on-campus energy consumption for solid $CO_2$ storage freezers and/or dry ice manufacturing equipment.
- Centralized campus receiving of liquid nitrogen, specialty gases, hazardous material and other goods drastically reduces the carbon footprint of multiple vendors delivering to campus, and ensures that campus deliveries are made in smaller, more energy-efficient, bio-diesel vehicles.
- 100% of excess pallets are sold for re-use; approximately 1200 pallets per year.
- Replaced propane forklift with electric forklift, which will be powered in part by solar array to be implemented on the roof of the DC.
- 100% of packing materials are recycled and recyclable.
- Implemented web-based surplus property system, drastically reducing the amount of paper and faxes used.
- On an annual basis, 2400 surplus property items are re-used (redistributed for use on campus or to the general public) instead of going to the landfill.
- Property Services handles all surplus electronics for CU Boulder. Annually, Property Services processes over 100 tons of surplus electronics, including universal hazardous waste. Property Services de-manufactures computers so that components can be sold to a secondary recycler instead of entering the waste stream.

Some programs have been in place for a number of years, while others are new initiatives. The DC staff is constantly seeking ways to further improve resource efficiencies, both at the DC and on the campus as a whole.

**Kelly McGregor for Energy Conservation**

In his role as Farrand Hall Director, Kelly McGregor supported the completion of "Radiator Reflectors" program. The primary purpose was to educate Farrand residents about the importance of energy conservation and to distribute radiator reflectors that were originally designed to minimize the dissipation of heat generated by radiators. Built from recycled cardboard and aluminum foil, each radiator reflector was crafted by individual Farrand staff members. Approximately 80 reflectors were initially built. The typical radiator reflector featured one side that was completely covered by reflective aluminum foil and a size that allowed for easy placement between radiators and adjacent walls. The radiator reflectors were handed out at the end of concurrent programs that also emphasized environmental responsibility through engaging lectures and informative handouts.

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