



# Greenprint News

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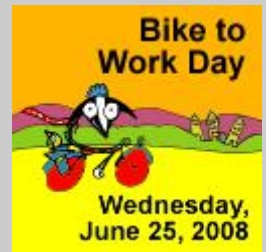
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## Bike to Work Day a huge success

Bike to Work Day, held on June 25, was a huge success! Participation in the event exceeded everyone's expectations, with close to 30,000 people biking to work, including Mayor Hickenlooper and Governor Ritter.

More than 10,350 first time riders pedaled to work. This year's number of cyclists is a 43% increase over last year's total. One hundred twenty breakfast stations were set up throughout the city, offering cyclists healthy and energy-boosting snacks before they biked off to work.

Greenprint Denver had a booth at Civic Center Park, along with numerous other vendors. Overall, Bike to Work Day couldn't have gone better!



## Groundwork Denver's Green Team jumps into the new energy economy

Groundwork Denver's youth "Green Team" began its summer of environmental work on June 2. The Green Team consists of youth age 14 to 16 who are employed 20 hours a week to accomplish various environmental tasks in the neighborhood. So far, the Green Team has helped organize and promote free lead testing for young children, cleaned up two community gardens, weeded and planted at Camp Rolland natural area, and served up breakfast and snacks at Bike-to-Work day.

On June 23 and 30 the youth and a few adults from northeast Denver attended training in photovoltaic installation in advance of a real installation they will work on in a few weeks. One of the goals of the Green Team program is to introduce young people from Denver's inner city neighborhoods to green job opportunities for their future.



*Groundwork Denver's youth "Green Team" installs solar panels on a roof. The Green Team works each week to accomplish various environmental tasks.*

## 25,000 reusable bags to lessen use of plastics

Greenprint Denver is working with grocery stores, Councilman Doug Linkhart, the Denver Public Library, Earth Force, and others to expand the use of reusable bags in Denver. A total of 25,000 reusable bags have been ordered for distribution later this summer..

Denver Public Schools, will sell reusable bags as fundraisers. The Denver Public Library will eliminate the use of plastic bags in all of their branches and have reusable bags available for a minimal fee. Grocery stores are also making the use of reusable bags easier every day, offering bags for sale, and providing incentives to customers who bring their own bags.

# Big blue bear gets a makeover

A forest of trees and shrubs that produce food for bears in the high country is being installed at the feet of Lawrence Argent's 40-foot-tall sculpture, "I See What You Mean," which is the big blue bear that serves as an official greeter at the Colorado Convention Center. Autumn Gold Landscaping of Wheat Ridge began installing the forest July 1. A long, narrow grove of serviceberry bushes, thornless hawthorns and gambel oaks planted along a meandering flagstone path replaces a swath of grass. The trees and 1,057 1-gallon perennials are being installed by hand because water mains and electrical lines crisscross the planting area.

The serviceberry trees, which will bloom white in the spring, will be located in the interior of the groupings of trees to minimize the amount of fruit that falls on the flagstones. The gambel oaks, which turn red and orange in fall, will be located on the sides of the forest path to take advantage of their color.

"It should be very nice walking around the path in the spring," Autumn Gold President Rich Hoverman said. "When people think of low-water landscapes, this isn't what they picture. This is going to be very densely

planted, but all of the Xeriscape principles are in place."

A collaboration between the convention center, city agencies such as Denver Water, green-industry companies and the Colorado Garden Show, the new landscape is expected to reduce water usage by about 80% once the plants have sunk their roots.

The 77 new trees that will fill the four plots around the bear will count toward Mayor John Hickenlooper's "Mile High Million" tree goal.



Above: The grass around the big blue bear will be replaced by a Xeriscape garden.

Left: A Xeriscape garden outside the City and County building.

## City employees help out in mini Paint-A-Thon

More than 200 City of Denver employees volunteered at sites across the city, painting and performing energy saving measures on the homes of 10 low-income seniors as part of a summer-long celebration for Brothers Redevelopment's 30th Anniversary Paint-A-Thon.

Volunteers from the city's volunteer group, Denver Employees Volunteer Opportunities (DEVO), visited several neighborhoods as part of the effort, including Clayton, Elyria-Swansea and Northeast Park Hill.

At the same time that DEVO volunteers were painting smiles on seniors' faces, a crew from the city's Green-

print Denver initiative instituted a variety of improvements designed to save the seniors money and conserve energy.

The city also picked up potentially hazardous household waste items from the properties, including old paint, CFLs, pesticides and other common chemicals. All services were completed free of charge.

DEVO regularly participates in the Paint-A-Thon, an effort that helps up to 100 homeowners each year and that has become one of the state's largest volunteer events that serves seniors.

Brothers Redevelopment decided to

help DEVO stage an early 'mini' version of the Paint-A-Thon because many city employees will be unavailable in the weeks leading to and during the Democratic National Convention—precluding them from participating in the actual Paint-A-Thon, which will take place on August 16.

Brothers Redevelopment plans to paint 100 homes during the August 16 Paint-A-Thon. Volunteer groups wanting to paint a home during the upcoming event, as well as seniors who want to find out if they qualify for the program, are encouraged to call 303-202-6340 or visit [www.brothersredevelopment.org](http://www.brothersredevelopment.org).

# Mayor announces a cool idea

At a June 26 press conference, Mayor John Hickenlooper and Governor Bill Ritter announced "Cool Biz," a new energy saving program in City buildings. The program, initiated by Greenprint Denver, will be instituted in the City's seven office buildings—the City and County Building, the Wellington E. Webb Municipal Building, the Castro Building, the Family Crisis Center, the Arie P. Taylor Municipal Center, the McNichols Civic Center Building and the Minoru Yasui Plaza.

In Cool Biz, these buildings will raise their thermostats a few degrees and encourage short sleeves, open-collared shirts, and the removal of ties and suit jackets whenever possi-

ble. This way, employees can remain comfortable while the City cuts back on its energy consumption.

Governor Ritter is encouraging but not requiring state offices to participate in the program wherever they could, and he expects many will. Businesses throughout Denver are invited to join as well. Xcel Energy, Suncor, Coors Brewing Co. and Qwest Communications have committed to the program.

Mayor Hickenlooper borrowed the idea for Cool Biz from Japan where buildings there have raised their thermostats to as much as 82.4 degrees.

"I'm not going that far," the mayor said. "I want people to be comfortable."



## In Brief

### Greenprint partners with the Sierra Club

Across the U.S., more than 250 parties were held in July as part of the Sierra Club "Lightbulbs to Leadership" campaign. Greenprint participated in a Denver block party on July 17. Denise Stepto, Marketing Manager for Greenprint Denver, spoke about the impact one person can make to prevent global warming.

### Recycling event collects almost 1000 electronics

In partnership with Channel 8, Denver Recycles and Comcast, Greenprint Denver held an electronic recycling event on June 28. Almost 1000 TVs, VCRs, computers and other electronics were collected and will be responsibly recycled. The partnership is planning an education campaign and at least one further recycling event.

### Greenprint and Parker begin seminars

On June 27, Greenprint Denver and the City of Parker held the first in a series of seminars on "Building Better Homes with ENERGY STAR New Homes." Future sessions will be offered to the general public, builders/trades industry, builder sales staff and realtors.

### Update your home for winter and make some money

Rebates are available to Denver residents for insulation and air sealing upgrades made to existing homes. See the Greenprint website for more details.

### Denver One Team

Denver One Team (DOT) is a resource for agencies and employees to access important city information online. On DOT, Greenprint Denver will post helpful tips and services for green initiatives geared toward employee participation. DOT will also serve as a tool to cultivate policy initiatives by determining the barriers employees face in making sustainable choices.

### EMS impacts determined

The City's environmental management system (EMS) consultant, Five Winds International, is working with six City agencies to determine the environmental impacts of their operations. Other agencies will be added each year through 2011. Denver is on track to be the first U.S. city to have an ISO 14001-certified EMS covering all municipal operations.

### Performance workshop leads to partnerships

On June 26, the Southwest Energy Efficiency Partnership, the Governor's Energy Office, and Greenprint Denver hosted building officials for a workshop on "High Performance Residential and Commercial Buildings." Strategies to promote and implement energy efficiency and advanced building energy codes were presented.

The workshop concluded with partnerships forged between several metro local governments committed to exploring high performance building code strategies for the region to provide consistency between jurisdictions.

# City adds hybrid truck to its Green Fleet

In the early 90s, the City of Denver started purchasing the most fuel-efficient vehicles possible resulting in the nation's first municipal "Green Fleet." Hybrids came in 2000 and biodiesel followed in early 2006. And on July 16, the hydraulic hybrid trash truck became the newest part of the City's Green Fleet. The new Green Machine will cover a route in Montbello and Green Valley Ranch, and will burn less diesel fuel, and thus have fewer harmful emissions.

In recognition of the City's achievements, in 2007 SustainLane ranked the Green Fleet as the 6<sup>th</sup> most alternatively fueled fleet in the U.S. The new hybrid trash truck will contribute to the Mayor's Climate Action plan goal of 10% reduction in carbon emissions by 2012. The City's greenhouse gas inventory demonstrated that 30% of greenhouse gas emissions come from the transportation sector. The Green Machine will help reduce these emissions and is a critical component of a truly Green Fleet.



*Michele Weingarden, director of Greenprint Denver, speaks at the unveiling of the hydraulic hybrid trash truck.*

## Projects of Solar America Cities Grant moving

Greenprint is continuing to engage our partners to launch each project of our Solar America Cities grant award:

**Residential:** We are working with Boulder County, City of Boulder, Environment Colorado, and Metro Mayors Caucus to increase the number of residential solar installations in the region.

**Governmental:** We are collaborating with Aurora and Boulder on a best practices/frequently asked questions document for municipal solar installations.

**Outreach:** The Smart Energy Living Alliance will participate in community outreach to educate Denver residents on the benefits of solar energy.

**NREL:** The National Renewable Energy Lab in Golden will be providing technical assistance for the duration of the grant award. Possible activities include supporting solar mapping software development, evaluating City facilities for solar installations, reviewing Denver's updated zoning code and green building guidelines, and training City staff.

## Voice of America visits Denver

Voice of America producer Roseanne Skirble visited Denver last month to do a story on the sustainability projects and programs in the City and County of Denver.

Skirble interviewed Greenprint Denver Director, Michele Weingarden about the City's achievements toward the Denver Climate Action Plan, and John Powers, board president and founder of Alliance for Sustainable Colorado about the Alliance Center's green building status and the environmental partnerships amongst its tenants. While in Denver Ms. Skirble also visited the Denver Museum of Nature and Sciences' new solar installation, and the green Stapleton neighborhood.

## Weingarden gives keynote at Earthworks Expo 2008

On June 22, Michele Weingarden, director of Greenprint Denver, gave a keynote speech at Earthworks Expo 2008, Denver's premier "green" event.

Weingarden described how Greenprint programs seek to engage residents and businesses in efforts toward making Denver a better, greener place to live, work and play.

The Earthworks Expo, held on June 21 & 22, 2008, brought an estimated 150 exhibitors, dozens of workshops, world-class keynote speakers and special programs for young people to the Denver Merchandise Mart. It's the largest sustainable-living event ever offered in the Denver metro area.

2008 DENVER



EARTHWORKS EXPO

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