



Greenprint News

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Denver Calculates Its Carbon Footprint

Greenprint Denver Advisory Council Provides Climate Action Recommendations for Public Feedback

An early signatory to the U.S. Mayor's Climate Agreement aiming for a 10 percent per capita reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2012, the City and County of Denver has completed its most comprehensive inventory of local greenhouse gas emissions to date. Prepared by the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center's Sustainable Infrastructure Engineering Project, this inventory - or calculation of Denver's "carbon footprint" - informed the proposed climate action plan from the Greenprint Denver Advisory Council released this week for public consideration and feedback.

"Understanding where we're starting from in terms of local greenhouse gas emissions is critical to the success of our short- and long-term sustainability strategies," said Mayor John Hickenlooper, who signed the U.S. Mayor's Climate Agreement in June 2005 and launched the Greenprint Denver program in July 2006. "We appreciate the hard work of the Greenprint Council in identifying opportunities for local residents, businesses and government to be a part of the climate change solution. This is a bold vision, and we hope Denver residents and businesses will take the time to study the Council's recommendations and provide us with feedback."

Denver's greenhouse gas emissions come primarily from transportation, residential-commercial-industrial energy use, and the use of key urban materials. The inventory reveals that local greenhouse gas emissions have increased in almost direct proportion to the significant population growth Denver has experienced over the past decade, with both population and annual greenhouse gas emissions increasing 24 percent between 1990 and 2005. Denver's per capita greenhouse gas emissions have remained nearly constant at about 25 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents per person per year from 1990 to 2005, with total annual greenhouse gas emissions increasing from 11.8 million carbon dioxide equivalents in 1990 to 14.6 million in 2005.

The Advisory Council's draft climate action plan focuses on government, corporate and residential energy efficiencies; market incentives for energy conservation and waste reduction; promotion of density and transportation options; and opportunities for regional, state and federal action. The full draft of recommendations and details on the greenhouse gas emissions inventory are is available at www.greenprintdenver.org.

Additionally, feedback can be submitted online at the pilot blog available on www.greenprintdenver.org/blog or by e-mail to greenprint@ci.denver.co.us.



Greenprint Denver . . . at work

- ❖ **Water Conservation:** With support from Denver Water, installation of water efficient fixtures and retrofits in the City and County Building is underway, which will result in 800,000 gallons annually in water savings.
- ❖ **Tree by Tree/The Mile High Million Initiative:** Denver Parks and Recreation Department and Greenprint Denver, together with regional partners and community, planted almost 13,000 trees in the metro area, nearly doubling the first goal of “7000 Trees in Seven Days” The program is extremely popular throughout the region. Currently over 38,000 trees have been planted.
- ❖ **July 11:** In partnership with Waste Management, Inc., Denver will break ground on a **3.2 megawatt renewable energy landfill gas to energy plant at the Denver Arapahoe Disposal Site (DADS)**. Scheduled to be in operation this fall, the renewable energy power plant will produce enough energy to meet the electrical needs of 3000 Colorado homes. This beneficial reuse of a landfill waste by-product will also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollution emissions in support of Greenprint Denver’s goals.
- ❖ Greenprint Denver is working with the **Democratic National Convention** host committee to “green” the August 2008 DNC - and make it the greenest National Convention to date. Plans are underway to showcase Denver’s sustainable development efforts and advance legacy projects to integrate lasting positive changes for our businesses and community.
- ❖ **July 2007:** The City’s first comprehensive “**Sustainable Development**” **Executive Order** will be presented to the Mayor for signature. The executive policy addresses green fleets; energy efficiencies; green building design, construction and operation; paper reduction and other resource conservation efforts to demonstrate city leadership.
- ❖ **Annual Progress Report:** July 2007, Greenprint Denver will release its first report to the public on its efforts to meet the Action Agenda goals. The Progress Report is designed to provide transparent and accountable feedback to the public and communicate successes. The Action Agenda calls for ambitious annual goals, benchmarked through 2011.
- ❖ **Business and Public Engagement:** Working with the Downtown Denver Partnership’s Executive Leadership Forum, a Corporate Climate Challenge is being designed to recognize and reward businesses that take key steps to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. In partnership with the Environmental Health Department, a pilot program to advance home energy efficiency, with assistance targeted at low income neighborhoods, is also planned.

Greenprint Denver bids a fond farewell To Beth Conover

Beth Conover's last day with the Mayor's Office and Greenprint Denver was June 8. She plans to enjoy some time off with her family and pursue new endeavors.

Mayor Hickenlooper, Benita Duran and Daniel Yohannes, co-chairs of the Mayor's Greenprint Denver Advisory Council, the Alliance for Sustainable Colorado, and the Greenprint Denver team extend their gratitude to Beth for her dedication and service to the city.

Beth was instrumental in nurturing Greenprint Denver: planting the seed and helping it grow into a citywide initiative staffed by seven full- and part-time personnel, raising over \$750,000 in support of its programs, and establishing the city of Denver as one of the top 10 greenest cities in the nation.

Beth joined Mayor Hickenlooper's administration as a policy aide in 2003 and became Special Advisor for Sustainable Development in 2005.



Conover is a graduate of Denver Public Schools (1982), has a B.A. from Brown University (1987) and dual master's degrees in environmental studies and public/private management from Yale University (1994). She lives in Denver with her husband, Ken Snyder, and two sons.

Upcoming Events

- June 26, 2007
[Rocky Mountain Land Series w/William deBuys](#)
- June 27, 2007
[Bike to Work Day](#)
- June 27, 2007
[Climate Action Plan Business Conference](#)
- June 30, 2007
[Etown Rocks: The Concert for a Better World](#)
- July 12, 2007
[Next Solar Wave: Advancing Colorado's Solar Energy](#)

Upcoming Neighborhood Forum to discuss Denver's Climate Action Plan
Saturday, July 14, 2007, at the monthly InterNeighborhood Cooperation (INC) Meeting
Meeting starts at 9 a.m. // Climate Action Plan presentation and discussion from 10 – 10:30 a.m.
Location: The Village at Loretto Heights Apartments, 3400 South Lowell Boulevard, Denver CO 80236



Greenprint Denver is a long-term, citywide program to promote the importance of sustainable development and ecologically-friendly practices throughout the community. Greenprint Denver's efforts center around energy and emissions, green building and industry, urban design and transportation, water and the environment, and waste reduction. More information is available at www.greenprintdenver.org