

STATE OF COLORADO

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Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor

FULFILLING THE COLORADO PROMISE

2007

FIRST YEAR

BOOK OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

YEAR ONE 2007 BY THE NUMBERS

- Legislative Bills Signed into Law: 476
- Legislative Bills Vetoed: 8
- Appointments to Colorado Boards and Commissions: 745
 - 43 percent women
 - 43 percent aged 55 or older
 - 10 percent Latino
 - 6 percent African-American
 - 1 percent American-Indian
 - 1 percent Asian

Note: Race/ethnicity figures based on voluntary self-reporting by applicants.
- Appointments to Judiciary: 28
 - 36 percent women
 - 14 percent Latino
- Visits to Communities Outside Metro Denver: 93 venues
- Meetings with Foreign Dignitaries or Emissaries: 23
- Proclamations Issued: 308

FULFILLING THE COLORADO PROMISE: GOV. RITTER 2007 FIRST-YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Gov. Ritter, Lt. Gov. O'Brien and their administration achieved great heights in 2007, improving Colorado's public education, health care and transportation systems; establishing an internationally recognized New Energy Economy; protecting Colorado's environment; creating statewide economic opportunities, including in our rural agricultural communities; and changing the way state government does business.

We made major strides in fulfilling the Colorado Promise in 2007, including:

- Establishing Colorado as an international leader by launching a New Energy Economy that blends efficiency and conservation, sustainable energy sources such as wind, sun, geothermal and crops, and Colorado's abundant supplies of oil, natural gas and coal.
- Gov. Ritter testifying before the U.S. House Select Committee on Renewable Energy and Global Warming in support of a national renewable electricity standard and to tout Colorado's New Energy Economy.
- Earning a personal visit from Swedish Prime Minister Fredrick Reinfeldt, one of Europe's leading proponents of renewable energy as a means to address climate change.
- Crafting Colorado's first Climate Action Plan and "greening" state government.
- Overhauling the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, providing greater diversity of membership and requiring that public health, environmental and wildlife concerns be considered as part of energy-development proposals.
- Signing into law a package of consumer-protection bills to prevent mortgage fraud and home foreclosures. The legislation is now considered a national model and is being replicated in other states.
- Creating Colorado's first P-20 Education Coordinating Council to align the state's education systems into a seamless pipeline that generates the best-educated, best-trained and best-skilled modern workforce on the planet.
- Hosting a Higher Education Summit to begin formulating a long-term funding and accountability plan of action for Colorado's institutions of higher learning.
- Convening a Blue Ribbon Transportation Panel to identify sustainable funding sources in the face of declining revenues and increasing demand and construction costs.
- Working closely with the Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Care Reform and hosting a series of statewide meeting to gather input and devise a strategy to improve the cost, quality and accessibility of health care and medical coverage in Colorado.

- Changing the way state government does business by:
 - Partnering with employees;
 - Undertaking a comprehensive government efficiency review that so far has identified \$145 million in savings and benefits;
 - Consolidating the state’s splintered IT functions under one roof;
 - Strengthening the state’s Homeland Security operations;
 - Shifting to a performance-based model of leadership;
 - Making government more transparent and fiscally responsible.

In the pages that follow, you will find more detailed achievements by subject matter and executive branch department, including:

- Lt. Gov. Barbara O’Brien
- Aging and Senior Citizens
- Business Development
- Education
- Health Care
- Military and Veterans
- New Energy Economy
- Colorado Department of Agriculture
- Colorado Department of Corrections
- Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing
- Colorado Department of Human Services
- Colorado Department of Labor and Employment
- Colorado Department of Local Affairs
- Colorado Department of Natural Resources
- Colorado Department of Personnel and Administration
- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
- Colorado Department of Public Safety
- Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies
- Colorado Department of Revenue
- Colorado Department of Transportation

2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR LT. GOV. O'BRIEN

As Colorado's leading advocate for children's issues, Lt. Gov. Barbara O'Brien is a co-chair of Gov. Ritter's P-20 Education Coordinating Council and a major proponent of addressing the health needs of Colorado youngsters. Her accomplishments in 2007 also included championing American-Indian, aerospace and community-service issues. Among her achievements:

- Advocated for the inclusion of expanded all-day kindergarten and pre-school slots for at-risk children in Gov. Ritter's 2007 K-12 education reform package.
- Appointed the first Early Childhood Councils Advisory Team to elevate the discussion of early childhood issues statewide.
- Organized statewide community listening forums on education & early childhood issues.
- Established a national model for the reburial of Native American remains, working with the Colorado History Museum, Commission on Indian Affairs and Bureau of Indian Affairs and others.
- Organized the first personal trip by a lieutenant governor to the Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute reservations in more than eight years.
- Co-chaired the public-private coalition to expand childhood immunizations.
- Advocated for healthier living as co-chair of the launch of LiveWell Colorado's fight against obesity and Metro Denver Health & Wellness Commission's active living/healthier eating campaign.
- Supported Colorado's vital aerospace industry as co-chair of Colorado Space Coalition.
- Actively promoted science, technology, engineering and math curriculum to ensure Colorado students are prepared for the global, high-tech economy.
- Established "Colorado Cares Day" on July 28, 2007, when thousands of volunteers worked on community service projects across the state.
- Worked with the Colorado Council on the Arts, CU Denver Film Program, the Denver Film Society and others to jumpstart the arts as an economic development tool.

2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR AGING AND OLDER COLORADAN ISSUES

■ Governor's Initiatives & Administration Accomplishments

- **Older Coloradans Cash Fund** – Gov. Ritter signed House Bill 07-1100 (Riesberg/Morse) into law, increasing state funding to the Older Coloradans Fund from \$3 million per year to \$5 million. These funds pay for vital community-based services through 16 area Agencies on Aging around Colorado. Services include Meals on Wheels, transportation, in-home medical services, legal advice, elder abuse prevention, and information and referral services. Many of these services help seniors stay in their homes and maintain their independence.
- **Preferred Drug List** – Gov. Ritter established a Preferred Drug List for the purchase of prescription pharmaceuticals, and HCPF has taken measures to ensure that Colorado's most vulnerable Medicaid clients receive therapeutically appropriate and less expensive prescription drugs.
- **Silverprint Colorado** – This new program, including the silverprintcolorado.org website, was launched to help reduce fragmentation and duplication by acting as a clearinghouse for a wide range of materials and information about aging.
- **Senior Source** – The Colorado Commission on Aging received a \$250,000 grant from the Rose Community Foundation to support "Senior Source," a multi-media campaign to provide health and well-being information to baby boomers and older adults.
- **Seniors and Civic Engagement** – Colorado was one of just eight states selected to participate in the National Governors' Association's Center For Best Practices Policy Academy, "Civic Engagement: Engaging Seniors in Volunteering and Employment."

■ Appointments to Boards and Commissions

- Gov. Ritter appointed 745 people to boards and commissions in 2007, including the Colorado Commission on the Aging and the Governor's Blue Ribbon Transportation Panel. Of Gov. Ritter's appointees, 43 percent are age 55 or older.

■ Legislation Signed into Law

- **House Bill 07-1005 (Soper/Morse)** – Adds missing persons with developmental disabilities to the existing alert program for missing senior citizens.
- **House Bill 07-1064 (V. Mitchell/Sandoval)** – Encourages counties to implement Lifesaver Programs to assist county sheriffs' departments in locating people who wander away from home or care facilities due to a medical condition.

- **House Bill 07-1100 (Riesberg/Morse)** – Increases the amount allocated to the Older Coloradans Cash Fund from \$3 million per year to \$5 million from receipts collected from the state sales and use tax.
- **Senate Bill 07-014 (Taylor/Balmer)** – Legislative Oversight Committee on State and Veterans Nursing Homes; appropriates funds to the central fund for state nursing homes.
- **Senate Bill 07-096 (Spence/T. Carroll)** – Creates a new classification for theft from an at-risk adult or at-risk juvenile when the theft is committed by a person in a position of trust.

2007 BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

■ New Energy Economy

- Three new wind farms, a solar plant and an ethanol plant opened in Colorado in 2007.
- The National Renewable Energy Laboratory is adding 100 new jobs.
- The Collaboratory created C2B2 to advance biofuels development in Colorado.
- Vestas Blades began constructing its \$62 million manufacturing plant in Windsor.
- San Juan Biodiesel broke ground on its new facility in Dove Creek.
- AVA Solar announced plans for up to 500 new jobs in Fort Collins.
- PrimeStar Solar received more than \$3 million in public and private funding to develop thin-film solar technologies.
- Ascent Solar announced plans to build 1.5MW and 25MW production facilities.
- Abengoa Solar located its headquarters in Lakewood.
- Two wind-energy companies stated their intentions to locate operations in Colorado, with official announcements expected in 2008.

■ Four-Sector Target Strategy

- Director Elliman devised a statewide economic-development strategy that will target opportunities in four of Colorado's most-promising business sectors: biosciences, aerospace, energy and tourism.

■ Competitive Colorado Legislative Agenda

- In September 2007, Gov. Ritter and Economic Development Director Don Elliman announced a comprehensive business-development legislative package that will be introduced in the 2008 legislative session with bipartisan support. Described as the most robust economic-development proposal in a decade, legislation calls for:
 - Simplifying corporate income taxes by establishing a single-sales factor;
 - Exempting 30,400 businesses from the Business Personal Property Tax;
 - Establishing a \$3.5M Bio and Life Sciences Business Development Fund;
 - Eliminating the aircraft-manufacturing "fly-away" sales tax;
 - Making it easier for small rural businesses to obtain job-creation incentives;
 - Dedicating \$3.5M in Clean Energy Funds for economic development.

■ Business Developments of Note

- The Office helped create nearly 9,500 new jobs and retain an additional 4,500 through a number of efforts and programs, for a total of 14,000 jobs positively impacted in Colorado in 2007.
- The Office supported \$256.9 million in export sales during 2007.
- United Launch Alliance, the exclusive U.S. manufacturer of rockets, opened its company headquarters in Centennial, resulting in the creation of approximately 700 highly skilled jobs in Colorado. The Office was significantly involved with the company's relocation and expansion process.

- IBM, the state’s largest technology employer, began construction on an \$86 million “green” data center in Boulder.
- The Office and its Small Business Development Centers hosted the third annual Veterans Conference to help military veterans start or grow small businesses.
- Gov. Ritter and Director Elliman led a week-long trade mission to Canada, focusing on the bioscience and energy industries.

■ **Tourism**

- Utilizing the nearly \$20 million annual tourism budget approved in 2006, a new broadcast, print and online marketing campaign, “Let’s Talk Colorado,” was launched around the country and within Colorado in 2007.
- The Office began an analysis of tourism-promotion spending to ensure maximum return on the investment.
- Travel and tourism activity during the first three quarters of 2007 was strong compared with a record-breaking 2006. Hotel occupancy rates increased 2.8 percent, rental car sales increased 8.6 percent, and arts, entertainment and recreation sales increased 7 percent. Total air passenger traffic increased 4.6 percent.

■ **Partnering with the Community**

- The Office embarked on a number of strategic partnership and stakeholder outreach initiatives in 2007, including:
 - Hosting “Business Breakfasts” for Gov. Ritter and Director Elliman to meet informally with different groups of business executives and business owners.
 - Participating in Gov. Ritter’s new Innovations Council, which is spearheading hi-tech business-development opportunities across the state.
 - Establishing and serving on Gov. Ritter’s Jobs Cabinet, which will ensure that Colorado’s economic- and workforce-development strategies are aligned and best-serving each region of the state.

■ **Helping Colorado Businesses**

- The Colorado Venture Capital Authority invested \$2.6 million in Colorado businesses.
- Six companies were approved to receive film incentive funds totaling \$800,000 upon their completion of specified production in Colorado.
- The Performance Incentive Fund approved incentives totaling \$444,500 to eight Colorado companies. These companies created and maintained 190 new full-time jobs statewide.

- The Colorado First Customized Job Training Program agreed to offer training assistance to 52 Colorado companies for a total of 5,152 employees/citizens.

■ **2007 Legislation**

- HB07-1009 (White/Isgar), Repeal Tourism Funding Limitation
- HB07-1027 (Witwer/Taylor), Enterprise Zones
- HB07-1060 (Riesberg/Shaffer), Bioscience Research Grants
- HB07-1135 (Witwer/Shaffer), Business Account Entity Financial Institutions
- HB07-1202 (Borodkin/Romer), Economic Development Fund Min. Standards
- HB07-1206 (Massey/Hagedorn), Increase Gaming Money for Film Commission
- HB07-1208 (Jahn/Johnson), Changes to the Unfair Practices Act
- HB07-1209 (Borodkin/Sandoval), Bonds for Historically Underutilized Businesses
- HB07-1277 (Jahn/Veiga), Sales and Use Tax Exemption for Cleanrooms
- HB07-1279 (McKinley/Romer), Machinery Exempt from Sales and Use Tax
- SB07-101 (Kerr/Butcher), Foreign Capital Depositories
- SB07-246 (Fitz-Gerald/Buescher), Create Clean Energy Fund

2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR EDUCATION

■ P-20 Education Coordinating Council

- Gov. Ritter established the P-20 Education Coordinating Council to undertake ongoing reform efforts. The Council is co-chaired by Lt. Gov. Barbara O'Brien, business leader Bruce Benson and CSU-Pueblo President Joe Garcia. The Council's mission is to align Colorado's education systems from pre-school to graduate school so that they serve as a seamless pipeline that produces the nation's best workforce.

■ K-12 Education

- Education Commissioner Dwight Jones launched "Forward Thinking," redefining the Dept. of Education's primary mission to serve Colorado's 178 local school districts.
- Commissioner Jones announced the first evaluation of the state's education content standards in 13 years, to be followed by a review of CSAP.
- Telluride High School math/science instructor Seth Berg named Teacher of the Year.

■ Higher Education

- Gov. Ritter and Higher Education Executive Director David Skaggs hosted the first Colorado Statewide Higher Education Summit.
- Began developing a strategic plan that: closes the funding gap that puts Colorado's institutions of higher learning far below their national peers, and establishes clear measures of improved productivity and outcomes.
- Initiated several efforts to break down silos, including building partnerships with the Department of Education, creating a higher-ed Business Advisory Council, and working with the Department of Corrections and the Governor's Energy Office.
- Commissioned an economic-impact study that found Colorado's 28 public colleges, universities and community colleges are educating 213,956 students, more than 190,000 of whom are Colorado residents. Higher education in Colorado supports 97,563 jobs, which contribute \$4.25B in wages and salaries and almost \$387M in state and local taxes to the Colorado economy annually.

■ Legislation

- SB07-097 (Fitz-Gerald/Madden), Tobacco Settlement Money for Higher Education
- SB07-140 (Spence/Benefield), Quality Teachers Commission
- SB07-148 (Romer/Casso), Fast College, Fast Jobs Pilot Program
- SB07-199 (Windels/Pommer), School Finance Act
- SB07-215 (Windels/T. Carroll), On-Line Learning Education
- HB07-1014 (Curry/Schwartz), Graduate Programs at Western State College
- HB07-1048 (Merrifield/Windels), Longitudinal Analysis of Assessments

- HB07-1066 (Massey/Schwartz), On-Line Education Course Reimbursement
- HB07-1118 (Todd/Tupa), High school Graduation Requirements
- HB07-1163 (McNulty/Kopp), In-State Tuition for Military and Dependents
- HB07-1232 (Merrifield/Tapia), Military Dependent Supplemental Pupil Aid
- HB07-1270 (Stephens/Shaffer), Education Data System Review and Study
- HB07-1320 (Benefield/Bacon), State Education Data Technology System
- HB07-1345 (Massey/Windels), School Accountability

■ **FY08-09 Budget Requests**

- Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12
 - \$25 million to expand full-day kindergarten
 - \$10.5 million to eliminate Colorado preschool program waiting list
 - \$5 million for Colorado Counselor Corps
- Higher Education
 - Additional \$59.5 million, an increase of 8 percent over FY07-08, including \$9.8 million for increased financial aid, a 10 percent increase from FY07-08.
 - \$107.5 million for 12 construction projects at institutions of higher education.

■ **Appointments**

- Gov. Ritter made:
 - 33 appointments to the P-20 Council;
 - 31 appointments to higher education boards;
 - 60 appointments to seven additional education-related boards.

■ **Events**

- Gov. Ritter sponsored or attended 46 education-related events in 2007, including:
 - P-20 Council 2007 kick-off and closing meetings
 - Colorado Statewide Dropout Summit
 - Colorado Higher Education Summit
 - Impact Now: Your Voice for Our Kids Forum
 - Colorado Parent Teacher Association Conference
 - Pueblo Hispanic Education Foundation Annual Banquet
 - Douglas County School District Leadership Conference
 - University of Colorado School of Law Commencement Speech

GOV. RITTER'S 2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR HEALTH-CARE REFORM IN COLORADO

■ Governor's Office and Ritter Administration Milestones

- Established a Preferred Drug List for the purchase of prescription pharmaceuticals, ensuring Colorado's most vulnerable Medicaid clients receive appropriate and less expensive prescription medicine.
- Enrolled 10,000 more children in the Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) program.
- Enrolled 2,500 more low-income parents in Medicaid.
- Expanded insurance coverage for CHP+ clients with mental health disorders.
- Created a pilot program involving 11,000 children that provides continuous, comprehensive and accessible medical and non-medical care in a medical home setting.
- Announced \$16 million funding increase by Kaiser Permanente for LiveWell Colorado, a public-private initiative to combat obesity.
- Released the first-ever Colorado Hospital Report Card, an online consumer information tool that makes hospital data more accessible and transparent.
- Division of Insurance processed 4,782 complaints, recovering \$14.3 million in claims payments, overturned denials of benefits & reinstatement of coverage for consumers.
- Implemented disease management programs for heart disease, lung disease, weight management, high-risk pregnancy and diabetes using telehealth to improve health outcomes. Approximately 6,000 clients will be served in these programs.
- Gov. Ritter appointed three members to the Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Care Reform, and his office and state agencies worked closely with the panel.
- Gov. Ritter launched a statewide series of 11 meetings with 400 civic, business and health care leaders to gather input for health care reform.
- Gov. Ritter established a Nurse Workforce and Patient Safety Task Force to develop standards for measuring nurse contributions to patient care and assess how nurse-staffing decisions impact patient care.
- Gov. Ritter established a Rural Health Care Grant Council to oversee the distribution of \$7.5 million from United HealthGroup for rural health-care needs.

■ **Legislation**

- SB07-36 (Keller/Stafford), Mental Health Benefits in Private Insurance
- SB07-79 (Fitz-Gerald/Madden), Provider Contracts
- SB07-130 (Boyd/M. Carroll), Medical Home
- SB07-211 (Hagedorn/McGihon), Covering All Children by 2010
- HB07-1347 (A. Kerr/Shaffer), Immunization Tracking System and Registry
- HB07-1355 (McGihon/Hagedorn), Small Group Insurance Rating
- HB07-1022 (Butcher/Sandoval), Rural Health Care Needs
- HB07-1101 (Butcher/Tapia), Pueblo Health Insurance Costs Study
- SB07-232 (Romer/Massey), Loan Repayment for Health Pro's in Underserved Areas

■ **FY 08-09 Budget Request Highlights**

- \$24 million to provide health care for an additional 12,000 eligible but not enrolled children in CHP+ and Medicaid.
- \$800,000 reduction from implementation of the Preferred Drug List.
- \$300,000 for tuberculosis protection, control and treatment.
- \$670,000 for Colorado Immunization and Information System (CIIS).
- \$1 million to expand the Tony Grampas Youth Services Program.
- \$73,000 for Board of Medical Examiners complaint management to expedite high priority complaints of incompetent, unethical, and unsafe practitioners.

■ **Appointments**

- 18 appointments to Health Information Technology Advisory Committee
- 9 appointments to Advisory Committee on Covering All Children
- 5 appointments to the State Board of Health
- Nearly 100 appointments to 20 other health-care related boards and commissions

2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR NATIONAL GUARD, VETERANS ISSUES & MILITARY AFFAIRS

As commander-in-chief of the Colorado National Guard and leader of a state that is home to many active-duty installations and 425,000 veterans, Gov. Ritter places a high priority on supporting the needs of Colorado's veterans and military personnel. Gov. Ritter's December 2007 visit to Iraq for a first-hand look at the work of Colorado Guard, reserve and active-duty personnel was a clear demonstration of that commitment. Other 2007 accomplishments:

■ Activities

- Gov. Ritter attended funerals for five fallen personnel and frequently honors their service. Their names:
 - Staff Sgt. Joshua Ryan Hagar (Army)
 - Pfc. Jeffrey Avery (Army)
 - Sgt. Nicolas Walsh (Marines)
 - Sgt. Ryan Baum (Army)
 - Corpsman Charles Luke Milam (Navy)
- Board of Veterans Affairs completed a long-term Strategic Plan for veteran services.
- Gov. Ritter participated in 23 veteran & military events.

■ Emergency Response

- National Guard deployed 270 personnel, 70 vehicles and 7 aircraft to southeast Colorado in response to blizzards.
- Civil Air Patrol conducted 73 searches for overdue/crashed aircraft, saving two lives.

■ Army National Guard

- Trained and deployed forces to the Middle East, including:
 - 136-person Security Force Company
 - 28-person Aero Medical Evacuation Unit
 - 247-man Special Forces Unit
 - 9-person Space Support Team
- Returned the following forces from the Middle East:
 - 299-person Aviation Battalion
 - 128-person Artillery Brigade Headquarters
- Improved recruiting and retention in Army National Guard to reach 108% strength.

■ **Air National Guard**

- Trained and deployed 240 personnel in the 140th Wing to the Mideast.
- Maintained 24/7 Air Sovereignty Alert with 2 F-16s and crews at Buckley AFB.
- Improved recruiting and retention in Air National Guard to reach 102% strength.

■ **Funding Items**

- Requested \$2.3M for Veterans Trust Fund as part of FY08-09 budget request.
- Requested \$585,000 (or 10.6 percent) increase in FY08-09 for Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, including a \$250,000 increase for armory maintenance and repairs and \$125,000 for County Veterans Service Officer Payments to help veterans claim earned benefits from the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Administration.
- Provided grants to 13 Guard and Reserve families from the Military Family Relief Fund (funds come from Colorado Income Tax Check-Off).
- Administered 3,000 applications for the Disabled Veterans Property Tax Exemption, as authorized by 2006 voter-approved Referendum E

■ **Legislation**

- Gov. Ritter signed 16 bills into law, including:
 - HB07-1050 (A. Kerry/Williams), Concerning the Display of Flags
 - HB07-1105 (Roberts/Penry), Eligibility Dates for Korean War Plates
 - HB07-1200 (Liston/Tochtrop), Creation of Air Force License Plate
 - HB07-1211 (Jahn/Tochtrop), State & Vet Nursing Home Commission
 - HB07-1212 (Jahn/Penry), Local Advisory Boards for Nursing Homes
 - HB07-1251 (Gallegos/Wiens), Prop. Tax Exemption for Disabled Vets
 - HB07-1275 (Rice/Penry), National Guard to Receive Forfeited Property
 - HB07-1352 (Rice/Ward), Armed Forces/Special Forces License Plates
 - SB07-014 (Taylor/Balmer), Appropriation of Funds for Nursing Homes
 - SB07-027 (Tupa/Witwer), U.S. Coast Guard Specialty License Plate
 - SB07-042 (Kopp/Hodge), Enrollment in Motorcycle Safety Program
 - SB07-086 (Kopp/Balmer), Fallen Heroes Memorial
 - SB07-146 (Morse/Rice), Mental Health Services for New Veterans
 - SB07-183 (Romer/Weissman), Continuation Board of Veteran Affairs
 - SB07-195 (McElhany/Rice), Limited License Preference Programs

COLORADO'S NEW ENERGY ECONOMY IN 2007

Upon taking office, Gov. Ritter immediately set about creating a New Energy Economy for Colorado. Now internationally recognized, this New Energy Economy blends efficiency and conservation measures, renewable sources such as wind, solar, geothermal and corn and sunflower crops, and the state's abundant supplies of oil, natural gas and coal.

These efforts have established Colorado as a New Energy Economy leader, led to creation of Colorado's first Climate Action Plan, resulted in bipartisan legislation, and stimulated economic opportunity throughout the state, including rural agricultural areas.

The New Energy Economy is securing Colorado's energy future, providing jobs and economic opportunities, and benefiting Colorado's environment and communities for generations to come. Among the 2007 highlights:

■ **New Energy Sources**

- Three new wind farms opened on Colorado's Eastern Plains in 2007 – in Cedar Creek, Grover and Peetz – generating nearly 650 megawatts of electricity, enough energy to power 250,000 homes.
- SunEdison opened one of the largest solar plants in the country in the San Luis Valley. The 8.22MW photovoltaic facility will generate power for 1,500 homes.
- A groundbreaking ceremony was held for Colorado's first sunflower biodiesel plant in Dove Creek.
- One new ethanol plant opened in 2007, bringing the total in Colorado to five. The state also quadrupled the number of E-85 ethanol fuel pumps available to consumers in 2007, with more than 50 pumps now operational.
- The Senate Bill 91 Task Force completed a comprehensive mapping of the state's renewable energy resources. This will serve as a roadmap for the integration of renewables such as wind and solar as electric power generation resources.

■ **New Energy Businesses and Jobs**

- Vestas Blades began building a manufacturing plant in Windsor (464 jobs).
- AVA Solar announced plans for a manufacturing plant in Ft. Collins (500 jobs).
- PrimeStar Solar of Golden received more than \$3 million in public and private funding to develop thin-film solar technologies.
- Ascent Solar in Lakewood announced plans to build 1.5MW and 25MW production facilities.
- Abengoa Solar located its headquarters in Lakewood.
- The National Renewable Energy Laboratory began adding 100 new jobs.
- Two wind-energy companies stated their intentions to locate operations in Colorado, with official announcements expected in 2008.

■ **Colorado Climate Action Plan**

- Gov. Ritter issued Colorado's first Climate Action Plan. The plan calls for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent by 2020 and 80 percent by 2050. Strategies include expansion of energy efficiency and renewable energy, reducing vehicle emissions, reducing emissions from utility power plants, establishing an agricultural carbon-sequestration program for ranch and farmlands, expanding the Greening of State Government efforts to include a solid waste diversion goal, and calling on individual actions to conserve energy today.

■ **National and International Honors**

- Colorado's New Energy Economy earned Gov. Ritter an opportunity to testify before the U.S. House Select Committee on Renewable Energy and Global Warming in support of a national renewable electricity standard and to tout the work being done in Colorado.
- Gov. Ritter accepted the prestigious Charles H. Percy Award for Public Service on behalf of the Western Governors Assoc. from the Alliance to Save Energy.
- Colorado received a personal visit from Swedish Prime Minister Fredrick Reinfeldt, one of Europe's leading proponents of renewable energy.

■ **Greening of State Government**

- Gov. Ritter issued two executive orders that will lead to greater energy efficiencies in state government. The orders call for reducing energy consumption in state facilities by 20 percent by 2012, cutting the use of paper products by 20 percent, reducing water consumption by 10 percent, and cutting the use of petroleum products in state vehicles by 25 percent. A prime example of how state government is leading by example: the installation of solar panels at the Governor's Residence and compact fluorescent lights at the Capitol.

■ **Legislative Accomplishments**

- The signature New Energy Economy achievement from the 2007 legislative session was passage of House Bill 1281, which doubled the renewable energy requirements for Colorado utilities as initially established by voters in Amendment 37 in 2004. Twenty percent of the electricity provided by major utilities, and 10 percent from rural electric providers, now must come from renewable sources by 2020. Other legislation:
 - HB 1037 (Levy/Fitz-Gerald), Energy Efficiency Rebates for Consumers
 - HB 1060 (Riesberg/Shaffer), Bioscience Research Grants
 - HB 1087 (A. Kerr/Romer), Wind for Schools Grant Program
 - HB 1145 (Merrifield/Gordon) Renewable Energy Dev. on State Lands
 - HB 1146 (Levy/Gordon), Energy Conservation Building Codes
 - HB 1150 (C. Gardner/Kester), Clean Energy Authority
 - HB 1169 (Solano/Shaffer), Net Metering

- HB 1203 (Fischer/Romer), Energy Management Conservation Studies
- HB 1228 (C. Gardner/Shaffer), Renewable Fuel Crops
- HB 1279 (McKinley/Romer), Tax Credits, Renewable Energy Machines
- HB 1309 (Weissmann/Tupa), School Energy Efficiency
- HB 1379 (Weissmann/Tupa), County Enviro. Sustainability Program
- SB 51 (Gordon/Witwer), High Performance State Buildings
- SB 91 (Schwartz/Massey), Renewable Resource Generation Areas
- SB 100, (Fitz-Gerald/McFadyen), Energy Transmission Development
- SB 126 (Keller/Pommer), Funding for the Collaboratory
- SB 145 (Tupa/Gibbs), Local Incentives for Renewable Energy
- SB 246 (Fitz-Gerald/Buescher), Clean Energy Fund

■ **Community Partnerships**

- The PUC partnered with the Governor’s Energy Office for a joint conference, “Colorado’s New Energy Economy,” which attracted 550 participants.
- The Governor’s Energy Office (GEO) entered partnerships with many communities to implement programs such as Insulate Colorado and ENERGY STAR for New Homes. These programs increase insulation, retrofit lighting, install solar energy and increase efficiency in new and existing homes.
- GEO has made it easier for municipalities and schools to have higher-performing, more energy-efficient buildings through energy performance contracting.
- GEO helped provide energy assistance to 25,000 low-income families in 2007 in the form of financial aid and energy efficiency and weatherization upgrades that will permanently lower consumers’ energy bills. GEO also helped deliver additional low-cost energy efficiency measures to thousands of more homes, including compact fluorescent light bulbs and programmable thermostats.
- GEO hired three new regional outreach representatives to work directly with local organizations to help deliver direct services that best meet local needs.
- GEO began creating a Colorado Carbon Fund, a voluntary carbon offset program to provide high quality, credible offsets for individuals, businesses and government agencies interested in mitigating their carbon footprint.
- GEO’s biomass program began working with mountain communities to develop strategies to handle pine-beetle forest waste and to identify methane gas capture systems for landfills and agriculture waste.
- GEO began creating an energy efficiency & conservation education campaign.

2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The Colorado Department of Agriculture provides services to Colorado's \$16 billion a year agriculture communities and industries. Accomplishments in 2007 included:

- The Department responded to blizzards in southeast Colorado with hay drops and by securing a federal disaster designation and helping coordinate the Operation Blizzard Benefit Concert.
- The Department sought and secured Congressional disaster assistance for livestock producers affected by the 2007 blizzard and for farmers affected by 2005 drought.
- Markets Division staff traveled to Russia for the first time to market beef cattle genetics to Russian livestock producers. A delegation traveled to Mexico for a similar trade mission.
- The Department expanded its "Colorado Proud" public awareness program promoting produce and food products grown and processed in Colorado. The campaign received the 2007 Marketing Excellence Award from *Produce Business* magazine.
- The 2007 Colorado State Fair was substantially more profitable than in 2006. The 2007 fair set an all-time attendance record and a record for proceeds at the Junior Livestock Sale.
- Commissioner John Stulp co-chaired Gov. Ritter's South Platte River Basin Task Force to explore water and well issues in northeast Colorado.
- Fees assessed for services under five programs within the Inspection and Consumer Services Division were lowered in 2007 under a general fund appropriation of \$1.3 million.
- Gov. Ritter issued and extended an executive order to help alleviate the truck shortage in rural Colorado during the harvest season.
- The Department successfully implemented EPA-delegation authority for regulating private pesticide applicators.

2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

■ Crime Prevention and Prison Recidivism

- The Department of Corrections (DOC) is responsible for 23,000 prison inmates and 10,000 parolees. In 2007, the DOC assumed a leading role in Gov. Ritter's crime-prevention efforts, specifically programs aimed at reducing the high rate of offenders who return to prison within three years of their release. DOC is partnering with the Departments of Public Safety and Human Services in these efforts, which include 12 programs that provide education, vocational and job training, mental health, substance abuse, youth diversion and other services. DOC also restored 12 contract positions to drug and alcohol treatment programs and added 10 employees to the sex offender treatment program. These programs will increase social stabilization and assist in successful re-entry into society, thereby keeping communities safer and saving tens of millions of dollars in reduced prison and other costs.
- DOC restored nine parole and community corrections re-entry positions to teach life skills and other courses to offenders to assist with successful community re-entry.
- DOC partnered with the Department of Revenue on a pilot program that makes valid state identification cards available to eligible inmates upon release. Proper identification is necessary for obtaining work and housing, key factors in successful community re-entry and reducing recidivism.

■ Prison Development

- DOC broke ground on the new 948-bed Colorado State Penitentiary II in Fremont County, a high-security facility that will provide a state-of-the-art behavioral modification program.

■ Economic & Workforce Development

- DOC's Youthful Offender System is collaborating with the Colorado Buildings and Trades Council to offer apprenticeship programs in the construction trades to young offenders. Programs are offered for electrical workers, general laborers, iron workers/welders, plumbers/pipefitters and sheet metal workers.
- DOC partnered with local farmers to provide female inmate labor from the La Vista Correctional Facility to several family farms in the Pueblo area. The pilot program was expanded to Delta County and may be replicated around the nation.
- The Division of Adult Parole and Community Corrections partnered with Aurora Community College Peace Officers Standards and Training Academy to offer a discounted rate for community and parole officer candidates who complete the 16-week academy.

- Working in partnership with the Corrections Training Academy, the Division of Adult Parole and Community Corrections developed a Community-Parole specific Training Academy – The RECLA Academy (Resource for Education/Career/Leadership/Advancement).

■ **Community Partnerships**

- DOC partnered with Park County Jail to provide bed space at the Buena Vista Correctional Facility for offenders waiting to participate in the Colorado Correctional Alternative boot camp program.
- DOC partnered with Pueblo Community College to provide college courses to offenders in the Youthful Offender System and female inmates at La Vista Correctional Center.

■ **Energy Conservation and Government Efficiency**

- DOC hired a certified energy manager and undertook energy audits at several DOC facilities.
- DOC updated its fleet to include 61 E-85 flex-fuel and 14 hybrid vehicles.
- DOC developed and began implementing an automated information system to electronically manage personnel files for 6,000-plus employees, dramatically reducing the need to generate and store paper files.
- The parole board has begun using electronic forms to increase efficiency in the parole process, a suggestion generated by employees as part of Gov. Ritter's Government Efficiency and Management (GEM) Performance Review.

2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY AND FINANCING

- Established a Preferred Drug List for the purchase of prescription pharmaceuticals, ensuring that Colorado's most vulnerable Medicaid clients receive therapeutically appropriate and less expensive drugs.
- Enrolled 10,000 more children into the Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) program and 2,500 more low-income parents into Medicaid.
- Created pilot program involving 11,000 kids that provides continuous, comprehensive and accessible medical and non-medical care in a medical home setting.
- Created a forum engaging individual providers and managed care plans to improve health care delivery systems and assure that health care is developed collaboratively.
- Implemented disease management programs for heart disease, lung disease, weight management, high-risk pregnancy and diabetes using telehealth to improve health outcomes. Approximately 6,000 clients will be served in these programs.
- Approved the use of consumer directed attendant care services for all clients in home and community based care programs, allowing clients to direct their own care and foster personal responsibility.
- Lifted the limit on speech, occupational and physical therapy visits for children in CHP+ up to the age of 3 for those who have developmental delays.
- Expanded substance abuse treatment for pregnant women up to 12 months after delivery.
- Developed a plan to fix communication and re-enrollment processes involving the Colorado Benefits Management Systems, thereby improving customer service.
- Entered into a public-private partnership to provide affordable and quality long-term care insurance options and make Medicaid more cost-effective.
- Changed the way the Department does business through improved customer service, improved communication and improved accountability with clients, providers, advocates, counties and other partners.

2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

The Colorado Department of Human Services, with a staff of more than 5,000 employees and a network of thousands of community-based providers, oversees the state's 64 county departments of social/human services, the state's public mental health system, Colorado's system of services for people with developmental disabilities, the state's juvenile corrections system, and all state and veterans' nursing homes. The Department's 2007 accomplishments included:

■ Office of Adult, Disability and Rehabilitation Services

- The Division for Developmental Disabilities and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation collaborated on the *Employment Services Pilot Project* -- a project intended to increase opportunities for citizens with developmental disabilities to obtain gainful and timely employment. During the first year of the two-year pilot, the project served 441 customers, and 160 people became employed.
- The Department created a new system to coordinate payments from multiple sources for early intervention services, including local, state and federal governments, private insurance, Children's Health Plan Plus and Medicaid. This new system reduces the dependency on the General Fund for early intervention services, improves ease of access for families who have Medicaid or private insurance, and streamlines the administrative process for Community Centered Boards.
- The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation's Transition Program was recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as one of the top three programs in the country for providing transitional services to young people with disabilities who need help planning for life after high school. During FY06-07, DVR helped 721 youth aged 21 and younger to find and maintain stable employment.
- The Department successfully transferred the Disability Navigators from the *Department of Local Affairs* to the *Division of Vocational Rehabilitation*, where they continue to provide individualized service to people with disabilities who need help navigating the complexities of the workforce, DVR and Social Security systems. Navigators also educate public and private employers about the benefits of hiring people with disabilities and have joined with DVR's Business Outreach Specialists to create strong relationships with prospective employers.
- Colorado was one of eight states selected to participate in the National Governor's Association Center for Best Practices Policy Academy entitled "Civic Engagement: Engaging Seniors in Volunteering and Employment."
- The Department helped launch the new SilverprintColorado.org website. The site is designed to reduce fragmentation and duplication by acting as a clearinghouse for a wide range of materials and information about aging.

- The Colorado Commission on Aging received a \$250,000 grant from the Rose Community Foundation to support “Senior Source,” a multi-media campaign to provide health and well-being information to baby boomers and older adults.

■ **Office of State and Veterans Homes**

- Improved operations at the State Veterans’ Nursing Home at Fitzsimons. The facility had a net profit of \$1.1M at the end of FY07, compared with \$120,000 for FY06.
- Celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Veterans’ Nursing Home in Rifle.
- Initiated design plans to renovate 25 historical domiciliary cottages on the campus of the Colorado State Veterans Center at Homelake in the San Luis Valley. Upon completion, the Department hopes to obtain LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification for the renovated cottages from the U.S. Green Building Council. This would be the first assisted living facility to achieve LEED certification in the state.
- Welcomed members to the new State and Veterans Nursing Home Commission, including longtime veteran advocates, former state Sen. Lew Entz and former Rep. Bill Sinclair. The commission was established by HB07-1211 (Jahn/Tochtrop).

■ **Office of Behavioral Health and Housing**

- Opened a 20-bed competency evaluation/restoration unit at the Colorado Mental Health Institute at Pueblo, settling a contempt of court action and ensuring that people in need of these services receive them within the agreed upon 28-day timeframe.
- Secured \$28 million in federal grants to expand access to substance abuse early intervention and treatment programs, including:
 - A 5-year, \$14 million grant to develop and implement a screening, brief intervention and referral to treatment model where a multi-disciplinary team will provide universal screening for substance abuse in certain hospital emergency departments and school and community health clinics.
 - A 3-year, \$14 million Access to Recovery grant to establish a voucher system to provide clients choice among treatment and recovery support services.
 - A 3-year, \$300,000 grant from the MacArthur Foundation for the “Models for Change: Mental Health and Juvenile Justice Action Network,” which specifically focuses on enhancing Colorado’s response to youth with mental health needs who have had contact with the juvenile justice system.

■ **Office of Children, Youth and Families**

- Successful adoptions increased by 10 percent. Within 24 months of removal from their homes, settings often involving abuse or neglect, 610 Colorado children found safe, caring “forever families.” The improvement is largely due to stepped up outreach for older, harder to place children and children with disabilities.
- The Division of Youth Corrections continued the “Continuum of Care Initiative” to improve services, including assessment of risk, residential treatment, and transition services for youth on parole. The initiative has resulted in a 6 percent reduction in the youth inmate population (the first in more than a decade), a reduction in recommitments to the system and is eliminating overcrowding.
- Youth committed to DYC have engaged in a unique opportunity to participate in the national Robotics Building Competition. The success of these youngsters catapults them into new arenas of learning and expertise in math, science and engineering as well as relationship building and teamwork. This opportunity provides a pathway for successful re-integration with their communities.
- Adoption staff in the Child Welfare Division have worked closely with the faith community to assist in permanency for children through adoption. A senior CDHS child welfare manager was a speaker at the White House “Compassion In Action Roundtable Faith and Community Solutions.” During the national Adoption Month of November a focus on children waiting to be adopted and their “forever families” resulted in the finalization of adoption for 120 children in November.
- Early Childhood Development Councils have been expanded from 12 counties in a pilot status to statewide development of Councils. Currently there are 31 Councils serving 56 of Colorado’s 64 counties in the development of community services and integrated programs to assure children are ready to succeed and provided with early quality care and education.

■ **Office of Self Sufficiency**

- The Department received a \$2 million grant to strengthen and increase the involvement of fathers in the lives of their children. Grants were awarded to 23 programs in Colorado and a “Be There for Your Kids” public awareness campaign and website was developed.
- The Child Support Enforcement Division was nationally recognized for its utilization of websites to assure children receive the support ordered. Colorado was the second in the nation to allow more than 1,000 child support professionals in other states to register to access Colorado case information via the website.
- The Department’s Child Support Enforcement program is the first in the nation to have authority to intercept gambling winnings as a way of assuring that child support obligations are met for Colorado children.
- Settled a 3-year-old lawsuit concerning the Colorado Benefits Management System.

2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

■ Workforce Development

- The Department launched an energy-sector workforce initiative that coordinates efforts with representatives from industry, education, economic development, local communities and the workforce system. The program recruits and trains skilled workers to meet current energy-industry workforce needs, and will establish a pipeline of workers to meet future needs. Partners include the Colorado Oil and Gas Association, Northwest Forum, Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, Workforce Centers and economic development representatives from around the state.
- The Department began administering a \$2 million federal grant that provides employment training to spouses of military personnel transferred from Fort Hood to Fort Carson. The state also received a \$2.1 million federal grant that provides Career Advancement Accounts to new Colorado job-seekers whose military spouses have been reassigned to a Colorado military base.
- Colorado received a \$1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Community and Faith-Based Initiatives, to provide criminal offenders with employment and training services through partnerships with community and faith-based organizations.
- The Colorado Workforce Centers partnered with Fremont County to help pay salaries for 16 new detention guards needed to open a 96-bed expansion at the county jail. Funds were provided from the Workforce Investment Act (WIA).
- The Workforce Center in Jefferson County partnered with Red Rocks Community College to use WIA funds to train prospective employees for Coors Brewing Co. The program is so successful that Coors may replicate it at its facility in Virginia.
- Workforce Centers in Larimer and Boulder counties partnered with agencies in Weld County and Wyoming to better meet the needs of employers in Northern Colorado and Cheyenne. They hold employer roundtables, job fairs and other events.

■ Workers' Compensation

- Adopted rules for implementation of HB07-1176 (M. Carroll/Tochtrop), which gives injured workers additional physician choices.

■ City-State Partnership

- At Denver's request, the Department assumed responsibility for 8,000 city and county boiler and pressure-vessel inspections.

■ **Division of Oil and Public Safety**

- The Petroleum Storage Tank Fund Section processed a record 2,319 applications, providing a record \$30.5 million towards reimbursement of costs for assessment and cleanup of petroleum contamination.
- Issued 268 “No Further Action” letters for previously contaminated sites.
- Developed a standardized reporting format for use by remediation consultants to provide complete, accurate and consistent information necessary to determine remedial actions at contaminated storage tank sites.
- Formed stakeholder group to develop rules to implement Elevator and Escalator Certification Act.
- Began stakeholder work to implement SB 07 031 and the underground storage tank provisions of the federal Energy Policy Act of 2005.

■ **Division of Unemployment Insurance**

- Entered into a contract with JP Morgan Chase to distribute unemployment insurance benefits via an automated payment (debit) card instead of paper checks. This will allow for increased efficiencies, reduced administrative costs and faster distribution of benefits while claimants transition from unemployment to work.

2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS

■ Grant Awards

- Distributed \$120 million in Energy and Mineral Impact Program grants to local agencies, such as:
 - \$500,000 each to Trinidad State and Northeastern junior colleges to renovate and install energy-efficiency improvements in their residence halls. Both colleges provide affordable energy-sector educations and career paths.
 - \$600,000 to Mesa County to expand a county-owned site into a Regional Public Safety and Industrial Training Facility. The facility will allow energy companies and education institutions to utilize an accessible, centrally located and professionally designed facility to meet the requirements for safety, industrial and driver training certifications.
- Distributed \$34.2M in Homeland Security grants to Colorado communities, including \$14.3M for a public-safety communications system for first responders.
- Awarded \$6.2M in Local Government Limited Gaming Impact Program grants to offset impacts from gambling in Cripple Creek, Black Hawk and Central City.

■ Foreclosure Hotline (1-877-601-HOPE)

- DOLA's Division of Housing continued to lead the state's efforts in addressing Colorado's foreclosure crisis, bringing together housing organizations, lenders and others to help homeowners avoid foreclosure. Successful conclusions have been reached for 5,000 households.

■ Emergency Response

- Coordinated state and local responses to the Holly tornado & SE Colorado blizzards.

■ Legislative Interim Committee on Severance Tax (Working Group)

- DOLA provided leadership to a working group of citizens, local officials and community members to improve the process for addressing energy-industry impacts.

■ Energy Efficiency in Affordable Housing

- The Colorado State Housing Board adopted an Energy-Efficient Affordable Housing Policy and is working on new standards for state-funded affordable-housing projects. Sustainable building practices and lowering utility and water bills increases affordability for occupants and owners, decreases energy consumption and benefits the environmental.

2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

■ Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission

- Under HB07-1341, the Dept. of Natural Resources undertook a major restructuring of the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. Membership is now more diverse, and public health, environmental and wildlife needs are balanced against energy development needs.
- The Department, Commission, Division of Wildlife and Department of Public Health and Environment began drafting new rules and regulations required to implement HB07-1341 and 1298 and holding meetings with stakeholders statewide.

■ Land Management

- **Roan Plateau:** Upon reviewing the federal government's land-management plan for energy development on the Roan Plateau, Gov. Ritter and the Department are working with the federal government to expand Areas of Critical of Environmental Concern and implement phased leasing for energy extraction on federally owned lands on the Roan.
- **Roadless Areas:** The Ritter administration submitted changes to the federal government that would protect more than 4 million acres of roadless areas.
- **Vermillion Basin:** Gov. Ritter proposed no new drilling within the Vermillion Basin.
- **Healthy Forests:** Gov. Ritter signed HB07-1130 (Gibbs/Fitz-Gerald) into law, which provides \$1 million for pine-beetle mitigation and forest restoration.

■ Conservation Easements

- Gov. Ritter signed HB07-1361 (Madden/Isgar) as a first step toward preventing abuse of this valuable program.

■ Colorado State Land Board

- Surveyed state lands for wind energy potential. Some 50,000 acres found to have the potential to generate \$825,000 in annual revenues. Five wind energy lease applications are now pending on 7,000 acres, with additional applications expected.

■ Water Resources

- Studied long-term Colorado River availability.
- Used a \$40 million state grant program for river basins to meet water needs.
- Awarded \$1.2 million in grants to local entities to increase water storage.
- Added six new stream segments to in-stream flow protection program.
- Facilitated a seven-state, state-federal Colorado River apportionment agreement.

- Executive Director Harris Sherman co-chaired Gov. Ritter’s South Platte River Basin Task Force to review and recommend policy changes governing ground water well pumping issues along the basin.
- Created draft enforcement & well measurement rules for Republican River Basin.
- Met Arkansas River Compact delivery obligations under *Kansas v. Colorado*.
- Gov. Ritter signed HB-07-1132 (McFadyen/Schwartz), which allows allow water court judges to consider environmental impacts and water quality along with water quantity as part of the determination on large permanent transfers.

■ **Colorado State Parks**

- Opened new facilities at St. Vrain and Cheyenne Mountain State Parks, and improved campgrounds, trails and picnic areas at many other state parks.
- Worked as a lead partner on the Colorado Front Range Trail.

■ **Colorado Geological Survey**

- Completed report on Colorado’s carbon sequestration potential.
- Completed statewide Geothermal Heat Flow and Geothermal Gradient Maps to assess the potential for an alternative source of energy.

■ **Colorado’s Endangered Species Programs**

- Elkhead Reservoir re-opened with greater capacity to augment Yampa River flow.
- Developed a Greater Sage Grouse Management Plan.

■ **Colorado Division of Wildlife**

- Expanded public access to 87,000 private acres to hunt pronghorn and deer through the Big Game Access Pilot Program.
- Expanded the popular Walk-In Hunting Access Program to 225,000 acres.
- Obtained fishing access to 3 miles of cold water streams and 600 acres of lakes.
- Extended the funding mechanism for the Habitat Partnership Program.
- Received the 2007 National Great Blue Heron Award from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for wetland conservation.

■ **Reclamation, Mining and Safety**

- Completed a landmark settlement of the California Gulch Superfund claims.
- Completed 21 abandoned mine reclamation projects, 2 underground mine investigations, 2 waste reclamation projects, and 4 coal mine fire investigations and fire control projects; and safeguarded 150 hazardous mine openings.
- Provided safety education, training and certification to more than 7,000 mine operators and contractors.

2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION

The Department of Personnel and Administration is responsible for the largest workforce in Colorado – 60,000 employees – and for managing most state government facilities and real estate holdings. The Department also provides a range of business services to other state agencies, including telecommunications and computing, administrative hearings, financial accounting, state archives, purchasing, collections, insurance, printing and motor vehicles.

■ Engaging State Employees

- The Department made a concerted effort in 2007 to better engage state employees by holding town hall meetings around Colorado, including the Western Slope and southern areas, to listen to the concerns of state employees.
- The Department created the Ombuds Office to provide employees with another resource to voice workplace concerns, resolve conflicts and recommend changes that will contribute to a healthier work environment.
- The Department updated rules, policies and procedures to provide a more employee-centered approach to governance, including changes to bereavement leave, the grievance process and travel rules.
- The Department initiated a pilot program with the Departments of Transportation, Human Services, Corrections, Public Safety and Judicial to reduce workers' compensation claims.

■ Transparency in State Government

- The Office of State Controller, which is within the Department of Personnel and Administration, in cooperation with the State Treasurer and the Governor's Office, published and released the first ever STAR (State Taxpayer Accountability Report).
- The Office of the State Controller has completed a project to remove social security number as the primary employee identification number from the state's payroll and accounting systems. A new state-assigned employee ID number will replace social security numbers as the primary identification number for paying and reimbursing employees. This will reduce the chance for identity theft and brings the state into full compliance with state and federal laws related to securing social security numbers.

■ Greening of State Government

- The Department initiated the replacement of hundreds of state fleet vehicles to higher-efficiency, flex-fuel or hybrid vehicles.
- The Office of the State Architect obtained LEED EB (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design – Existing Buildings) certification for three state buildings from the U.S. Green Building Council. These high-performing buildings were only the 13th, 16th and 17th structures in the country to be recognized in this fashion.

- The Department's energy performance contract with Chevron resulted in a higher level of energy savings than originally anticipated. As a result, the Department was able to fund several additional energy savings projects worth almost \$500,000, including the installation of solar panels at the Governor's Residence.

■ **Value-Added Service**

- The Department's Division of Central Services moved the Integrated Document Solutions into a new state-of-the-art facility in Pueblo. The facility houses: scanning, mail services, data entry, scan and microfilm prep, and microfilm conversion.

2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

- The Department played a leading role in developing Colorado's first Climate Action Plan, which calls for reducing greenhouse gases by 20% by 2020 and 80% by 2050.
- Gov. Ritter urged the Regional Air Quality Council to fast-track a plan to reduce ozone air pollution in metro Denver.
- The Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC) adopted new regulations that go beyond EPA requirements for mercury reductions from power plants.
- AQCC worked with the U.S. Park Service and stakeholders to adopt a comprehensive, long-term plan to reduce nitrogen pollution in Rocky Mountain National Park.
- Colorado was ranked No. 1 in the region for the percentage of the state's population served by public water systems that comply with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.
- The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ranked Colorado's pandemic flu plan as one of the best in the country.
- Colorado earned a spot among the top 10 states in terms of low cigarette smoking after a dramatic decrease in tobacco use.
- Gov. Ritter signed SB07-242, which created the Office of Health Disparities to identify and address issues that result in differences in health care among communities of color.
- Gov. Ritter signed HB07-1347, which supports the expansion of the Colorado Immunization Registry to enhance its usefulness to pediatric care providers, and SB07-097, which will provide ongoing tobacco-settlement funds for immunization programs. Colorado also won a CDC award for most-improved vaccination rates for kids up to 35 months, and launched a new "Give Your Child a Shot at Success" public awareness campaign that focuses on expanding the number of children who receive immunizations. The department also provided grant funding to 20 local public health agencies for community outreach clinics to ensure families have access to immunizations.

2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

The Colorado Department of Public Safety, with 1,250 employees, is responsible for keeping Colorado's highways safe, partnering with local law enforcement agencies to keep Colorado's communities safe, and providing myriad other public safety services. In 2007, the Department:

- Initiated efforts to launch a new School Resources Center to assess and enhance safety measures in schools across Colorado. An initial pilot program will involve three to five schools for vulnerability assessments, teacher and student safety training, and additional violence prevention measures. Also increased use of the Safe2Tell school safety hotline.
- Partnered with the Depts. of Corrections and Human Services to enact Gov. Ritter's initiative to lower Colorado's high rate of prison recidivism.
- Launched a new Immigration Enforcement Unit within the Colorado State Patrol.
- Received a \$560,000 federal grant to create COPLink, a new database that will allow local agencies in metro Denver to search other local, state and federal databases for information about criminal suspects.
- Expanded the Colorado Information Analysis Center's partnership with local agencies by training a network of local Terrorism Liaison Officers throughout the state.
- Implemented a new assessment tool and enhanced training programs for local prosecutors to access the state's Witness Protection Program.
- Established the new 26-member Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice, as mandated by House Bill 07-1358 (T. Carroll/Gordon).
- Created a new consumer-protection unit within the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to combat identity theft and financial fraud.
- Guided construction of a new CBI criminal justice center in Grand Junction, scheduled to open April 1, 2008.
- Provided research and assistance to Gov. Ritter's DNA Evidence Preservation Working Group in making recommendations for changes to evidence collection and preservation policies in criminal justice cases.

2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF REGULATORY AGENCIES

- DORA changed its mission in 2007 to emphasize consumer protection, the common thread that links all nine agencies within the department. This fundamental shift in culture means DORA will be more accessible to consumers and will enhance its outreach efforts to educate consumers about their rights.
- DORA created a consumer protection calendar, equipped with monthly protection tips as well as statewide resources for consumers, and is available for free on its website as well as in printed form for consumers.
- DORA, primarily through its Division of Real Estate, has aggressively pursued action against abusers of conservation easements to protect this valuable program.
- DORA saved Colorado consumers more than \$162 million, or \$34 per capita, in 2007 through enforcement, settlement agreements, and rate review and approval.
- The Division of Insurance processed 1,417 consumer complaints regarding health insurance, recovering \$7.5M for consumers based on complaints against health insurers.
 - The Division of Insurance saved Colorado consumers and businesses more than \$77 million by reducing workers' comp rates and through other reviews of insurance rates.
 - The Division of Insurance completed five market conduct exams, resulting in the largest individual fines from insurance companies in Colorado history, totaling \$900,000.
 - The Division of Registrations launched a prescription drug database, which will allow pharmacies and the medical profession to track potential drug abusers.
- Gov. Ritter and DORA Executive Director Rico Munn officially re-opened the Civil Rights Southern Regional Office in Pueblo. Funding cuts closed the office in 2004. The Office will serve the community by protecting against discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations.
- The Colorado Civil Rights Office received a federal grant from HUD, which will be used to crack down on fair housing discriminatory practices and discriminatory predatory lending.
- The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and the Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) hosted a listening tour in eight locations around the state. More than 300 people shared concerns and hopes about Colorado's New Energy Economy.
- The PUC and OCC partnered with the Governor's Energy Office and Energy Outreach Colorado to host a joint conference, "Colorado's New Energy Economy," which included 550 participants from around the state.

- The Division of Real Estate initiated a mortgage broker task force of industry representatives and consumer groups to help draft the rules that implemented four new laws that require licensing an estimated 20,000 mortgage brokers.
- Colorado joined 23 other states in a nurse compact, allowing free movement of nurses to practice without having to register or renew a license in those states. This will help in reducing Colorado's nurse shortage.
- Colorado welcomes four new banks regulated as state-chartered banks by the Division of Banking, which resulted in 300 new jobs and an additional \$4 billion in holdings.
- Colorado was ranked in the top 10 states in which to do business by Forbes Magazine, due largely to the favorable regulatory environment. One example of Colorado's favorable regulatory environment on a Colorado company was seen when Standard & Poor's raised its corporate credit rating for Xcel Energy due to firm but supportive regulation.

2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

■ Division of Motor Vehicles

- Renewed license plates for 120,000 vehicle owners via on-line services.
- Began hiring 53 new employees for three new driver's license offices that will reduce wait times and travel distances for customers.
- Doubled the number of Rapid Screen vans, to 18, providing a more convenient alternative to the traditional fixed-site emission inspection stations.
- Initiated a \$1.2 million annual savings by moving the state's Motorist Insurance Identification Database from an outside vendor to an in-house host.

■ Division of Taxation

- Increased the number of on-line tax payments. The Netfile Tax processing system experienced a 14% increase in the number of income tax filers, and the number of electronically-filed individual income tax returns increased by more than 50 percent.
- Enabled corporate taxpayers to file their income tax returns on-line.

■ Central Department Operations

- Issued more than 90% of all income tax refunds within 14 days of receipt.
- Received 61% of the record \$10.9 billion in deposits electronically.

■ Information Technology Division

- Entered into a contract with Fast Enterprises for the Colorado Integrated Tax Architecture (CITA) project. This project will replace the state's nearly 50-year-old tax systems with a state-of-the-art, commercially available solution that is currently operated in multiple states and jurisdictions.
- Received initial certification of the Commercial Driver's License Information System from the federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration. Failure to comply would have put federal highway construction dollars at risk.
- Completed a department-wide Cyber Security Plan, implemented enhanced intrusion detection, performed numerous external vulnerability scans, and encrypted 93% of all department laptop computers.

■ **Enforcement Division**

- The Division of Racing collected more than \$2M in taxes on the \$100M wagered.
- The Liquor and Tobacco Enforcement Division issued, renewed or transferred more than 7,200 licenses.
- The Hearings Division conducted more than 23,000 hearings (motor vehicle, liquor, tobacco, racing, automotive salesperson, ID and tax).
- The Division of Gaming completed major revisions to the minimum internal control procedures that casinos must follow to ensure adequate security and accounting of gaming revenues.

■ **Lottery Division**

- Partnered with 2,900 retailers around the state who sold \$455.9 million worth of tickets in 2007. Retail outlets earn commissions for every ticket sold. In 2007, \$33.5 million was paid out to retailers.
- Directed \$119 million in Lottery proceeds to Great Outdoors Colorado, The Conservation Trust Fund, State Parks and the Contingency Fund in the Colorado Department of Education.

2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

The Colorado Department of Transportation is responsible for a 9,156-mile highway system, including 3,714 bridges. Each year, this system handles more than 26 billion vehicle miles of travel. Other agencies within CDOT include the Division of Aeronautics, Transit Unit and Office of Transportation Safety. In 2007, the Department:

- Supported Gov. Ritter's Blue Ribbon Transportation Panel, which was created to review future revenue streams to replace declining funding sources as demand and maintenance and construction costs increase. With technical and staff expertise provided by CDOT and Gov. Ritter's Office of Policy and Initiatives, the panel began its work with a statewide transportation summit in April, and then held 13 meetings around the state. The panel's work is expected to form the basis for sustainable transportation-funding discussions in the 2008 legislative session and beyond.
- Launched a new collaborative effort to build consensus around improving the I-70 mountain corridor. This 25-member group includes representatives from many stakeholder groups along the 144-mile corridor, including local governments, highway users, transit, environmental, business and recreation groups, as well as state and federal agencies.
- Neared completion of the \$150 million Colorado Springs Metro Interstate Expansion (COSMIX) Project, which will widen I-25 to six lanes between Circle Drive and North Academy Boulevard through the heart of the city. Project is on time and within budget.
- Expanded efforts to assist transit programs across the state. Seven transit projects, including two on the Western Slope, were targeted to receive \$23 million in 2007.
- Began crafting the 2035 Statewide Transportation Plan, which will guide the state's transportation vision and investments into the future. The plan will be finished in 2008.
- CDOT snowplow operators cleared 5.5 million miles of highway in the winter of '06-07.
- Responded quickly to major incidents to keep highways safe and open, including emergency repairs to the 26.5 Road bridge over I-70 in Grand Junction following a tragic crash that damaged the bridge, and repairing the eastbound bore of the Hanging Lake Tunnel along I-70 in Glenwood Canyon after a major crack in the tunnel caused safety concerns.