

# Greening State Government Newsletter

March 2008 Issue

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## Quick Links

[www.colorado.gov/energy/](http://www.colorado.gov/energy/)  
The Governor's Energy Office has moved!

GEO's new location is:  
1580 Logan Street #100  
Denver, CO 80203

Governor's Energy Office  
Angie Fyfe  
Greening Government  
Program Manager  
303-866-2051  
[angie.fyfe@state.co.us](mailto:angie.fyfe@state.co.us)



## → RTD Eco Pass Renewal 2008



The Governor's Energy Office, the State Purchasing Office, and multiple state agencies and colleges recently completed the 2008 RTD Eco Pass renewal process. The number of organizations participating in this year's program increased from 36 to 40.

Eco Pass is an unlimited ride program, which RTD provides to employers. The program requires that the employer purchase a pass for every employee, regardless of whether the employee uses the pass or not.

The cost per employee is fixed by RTD, but fluctuates among state government organizations. Some organizations have discretionary funds available to subsidize the pass, others do not.

The Greening Government Coordinating Council is working with state agencies and RTD to develop a fee structure that will provide fee parity to state employees.

For detailed information regarding who participated and what they paid, visit the [Greening Government section of GEO's website](#).

## → State Copier Program Moves to Recycled-Content Paper

Effective February 1, each of the 280 copiers the Integrated Document Solutions (IDS) State Copier Program will be supplied with 30% post-recycled content paper. Previously, the program used virgin copier paper.

According to the paper calculator found at [www.environmentaldefense.org](http://www.environmentaldefense.org), this change will reduce the amount of wood used in the paper's production from 607 to 425 tons, the equivalent of 1,260 trees saved each year. This change will save 877 million BTUs of energy annually, enough to heat and power ten homes each year, and eliminate almost 60,000 pounds of waste.

The switch to recycled-content paper will help agencies meet the objectives of the Greening Government Executive Order and assist state agencies secure or maintain the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification, which awards one point for the use of paper containing a minimum of 30% post-recycled content.

The Office Copier Program still provides state agencies with the lowest price per copy and highest quality of equipment and supplies.

For questions about the State Copier Program, contact [Mike.StPeter@state.co.us](mailto:Mike.StPeter@state.co.us)

## Myths and Misperceptions about Recycled Paper

*Courtesy of Corinne Dubois, Boise Paper*

With the push toward a greener workplace, people have a lot of questions about their paper use. There are a number of myths around recycled paper.

**Myth:** Recycled paper isn't really better for the environment. It takes more chemicals to process recycled fiber than non-recycled paper.

**Fact:** Because we start with recovered white office paper, it takes far less energy and chemicals to return it to its original brightness. We simply separate the toner and ink from the fiber, which is done through a gentle mechanical process using non-harmful enzymes. Hydrogen peroxide is used as a final whitener.

According to Environmental Defense ([www.environmentaldefense.com](http://www.environmentaldefense.com)) and their Paper Taskforce study, recycled paper saves energy, water and landfill space. It also reduces greenhouse gases that result from paper biodegrading in landfills.

**Myth:** Recycled paper should cost the same or less than regular paper.

**Fact:** The cost of post-consumer fiber is increasing and is unlikely to go down in the future. At this point, it's still less expensive to harvest a tree to be made into paper than to collect, sort and transport post-consumer fiber back to a paper manufacturer.

**Myth:** Recycled paper is MUCH too expensive for my agency.

**Fact:** Yes, recycled paper does cost more because of

the higher cost of purchasing high-quality recovered paper. Only about half of all paper in the U.S. is recycled - and about half of that is shipped overseas for sorting and recycling.

However, there are ways to offset the extra expense. On a per-page basis, a sheet of 100% post-consumer recycled paper is around 2/10 of a penny more than a sheet of virgin paper. By reducing the quantity of paper you use and print, you can easily make up that expense.

The cost of printing includes the cost of paper, energy to run the copier, the toner that goes on the sheet (which can be anywhere from 2 to 12 cents per page, depending on coverage), and the time it takes to run the copies.

**Myth:** Recycled paper will leave more dust in my printing equipment.

**Fact:** Dusting and other paper problems are usually a result of a manufacturing problem, not the recycled content of the sheet. Despite some differences in the characteristics of recycled fiber from virgin fiber, Boise engineers the paper to deliver the same reliable performance as non-recycled products. We manufacture our recycled paper to the same brightness specifications as our non-recycled paper, so it looks identical. We also third-party test our recycled paper in a variety of copiers, printers and multifunction machines to make sure it works for our customers.

*For more information, contact Corinne Dubois at [corinnedubois@boisepaper.com](mailto:corinnedubois@boisepaper.com). Boise manufactures ASPEN™ 100 Recycled Paper, marketed through OfficeMax on the State of Colorado paper agreement, item number A100 and A102. Aspen 100 is now available in matching #10 envelopes.*



## Lean and Green

Cameron Lewis from the Colorado Division of Insurance sent us this article.

Our offices are located on the 8th floor of the 1560 Broadway building. Unfortunately, until recently, the stairwells were locked, so employees who were willing to "take the stairs" were unable to enter the 8th floor from the stairwell. The Division of Insurance's "Idea Team" suggested that we get a numeric keypad lock on the 8th floor stairwell door, so we could walk up and down the stairs, enter on floor 8, and not use elevator energy needlessly.

After the keypad was installed, we saw unexpected results. Not only do many employees now walk up eight floors to start their day, but we now have a number of informal "stair clubs," where employees take their breaks walking up and down the stairwell for health benefits. There is a special camaraderie for the "Emerald City Club," because those who have made it all the way up to floors 20-22 discover the unusual and beautiful green stairwell decor at the uppermost levels. It's truly worth the effort, even though the roundtrip from our floor makes it 30 floors of walking!

It's not unusual to hear one co-worker tell another, "I used to have to stop and catch my breath at every floor, but now I can do eight flights without a rest." Importantly, we estimate we have cut the unnecessary elevator (and energy use) significantly. We are hoping to add another keypad lock on floor 15's stairwell, the main floor for the Department of Regulatory Agencies, someday. Many of our daily errands are between those two floors and they are on separate elevator banks, so it requires double the elevator usage to travel between 8 and 15. (One must take the elevator down to first floor, walk over to the second elevator bank and take one up to floor 15.) When we are able to sprint up seven flights from floor 8 to 15, and back down again, it will be good for the environment AND for our health.

Michael Lindgren, a member of the stairwalker club, got in such good shape running 22 floors each day that he completed the February 24th 53-floor "Run for the Republic" which was a fundraiser for the American Lung Association of Colorado. Lindgren finished 642 out of 1877, which is not bad for a former (now reformed) smoker.

Do you have a green tip, story, or idea? We want to hear from you. Contact [angie.fyfe@state.co.us](mailto:angie.fyfe@state.co.us).



Green Tip of the Month -  
Reducing Paper Use

- Set printers and copiers to default to 2-sided printing.
- Adjust margins and fonts to reduce the number of pages on your document.
- Ask everyone to "think before you print." Not everything deserves to be committed to paper.
- Encourage use of the Print Preview function to view a document as it will print. Also, use of the "set print area" function in Excel can help prevent unwanted spreadsheet cells or extra pages printing.
- Before running a large number of copies, print a single-sheet proof copy to check machine settings.
- Encourage electronic communication rather than printed memos, announcements, flyers, newsletters, etc.
- For presentation-quality documents, print draft copies (if necessary) on 20 lb. paper - use heavier paper (24 or 28 lb.) only for the final copy.
- Send and review shared documents electronically.
- Eliminate fax cover pages save a sheet of paper on both ends of the transaction. Instead, use a Post-it® transmittal sticker directly on the top sheet.
- Encourage employees to think of other ways to save or re-use paper and share the best ideas.
- Prefer the use of network over individual printers. If a person has to leave their desk to pick up a print job, they will be less like to print a document he or she doesn't really need.

## [Calendar of Events](#)

Wednesday, March 19, 2008  
9 to 11 a.m.  
Greening Government Coordinating Council  
Monthly Meeting  
1580 Logan Street #100  
(the new location of the Governor's Energy Office)

For a full list of events, visit the [Governor's Energy Office website](#)

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