



# OCIO OCFO Connections



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### OCIO / OCFO Calendar

May – July 2010

Financial Management Training	5/26-28
Memorial Day	5/31
Summer Begins	6/20
Cyber Security Summit	6/22-23
Independence Day	7/4

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## FORT COLLINS LARGE OFFICE RECEIVES GREEN AWARD

by Sheila Greene, Steve Spector, and Tawana Waller

For more than 2 years, the Natural Resources Research Center (NRRRC) Building A Green Team in Fort Collins, Colorado, has been devising innovative ways its USDA community could reduce its environmental footprint. NRRRC is a 30-acre campus on property of Colorado State University that is leased to the Federal government. Building A is one of three office buildings used by USDA. It is shared by Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Farm Service Agency, U.S. Forest Service (FS), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), and the USDA Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO).

The current Green Team has eight members: Chairman - Matt Oberle, FS; Sue Brungardt, APHIS; Dave Cawrse, FS; Marcia Patton-Mallory, FS; Andy Piszkin, NRCS; Frank Sapio, FS; Kathy Sleavin, FS; and Robert Smith, OCIO/International Technology Services (ITS).

“Building A, as the oldest structure on the campus, lacked the green technology and design of newer buildings,” Matt Oberle explains, “consequently there are many opportunities to make an impact. The Green Team was formed in 2008 to come up with practical and fun ideas to be more energy efficient. Talk about forming a green team actually started in Washington, D.C. Our team emerged from that, well before the mandate to go green. It was the right thing to do and we wanted to be ahead of the game.”

Together they brainstorm ideas, get input from colleagues in Building A, and then get the projects rolling. These include creating additional parking for bicycles and motorcycles; assessing energy saving opportunities and installing them (i.e. motion sensors for lighting); a Green Office Practices Checklist and

Web site (under construction); and organizing the Building A Green Challenge: the various offices fielded teams that earned points for green activities at work and home, with prizes awarded to those getting the most points.

The Green Team can also be a catalyst for improvements outlined in the *USDA Green IT Strategic Plan*. Bob Smith represents ITS on the Team, and also the ITS commitment to energy efficiency. “We have developed ideas together during our meeting. ITS is especially interested in what can be done to improve the efficiency of our computer room as it represents a large consumer of both power and cooling within the building. We are going to be working with the National Renewal Energy Lab, located in Boulder Colorado, to see what ideas they may have that we can possibly use or implement to help us reduce our energy and cooling requirements for the computer room.”

The Green Team is, in many ways, fundamental to the long-term success of the USDA Green Plan. It builds interest, excitement, and follow-through in ways where people can work together doing things that have a great impact.

On April 8, 2010, the City of Fort Collins recognized the efforts of the Team and the people who work in Building A. The City gave them a ClimateWise Silver Award. ClimateWise is a voluntary program that helps Fort Collins organizations reduce greenhouse gases by promoting waste reduction, energy savings, alternate transportation, water

conservation, and pollution prevention.

A ClimateWise technical assessment found the Green Team’s initiatives had improved Building A’s environmental footprint significantly.



Photo of ClimateWise plaques by Barbara Menzel