

## Green Tour of Building E

The Bldg E Green Team hosted a tour of Bldg E for Arapaho & Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland employees in the Supervisor's Office on April 1<sup>st</sup> and again on April 25<sup>th</sup> for employees of the Canyon Lakes Ranger District.

The tour began with an update on forest-wide sustainability actions that have been accomplished to date and others in the works. Forest-wide energy and water consumption information was shared with employees, including consumption specific to Bldg E. Next, the participants rotated thru four stations manned by Green Team members that focused on different environmental footprint areas.

### Station 1 (Fleet & Transportation)

Employees who passed through the Fleet and Transportation station were treated as if they were on the showroom floor of a car dealership. Arrangements were made with the local Chevrolet dealership, Dellenbach Motors, to bring over and showcase the 2013 Chevrolet Volt. The Volt is a full-performance and full-speed electric vehicle with extended range. It has a gasoline generator that serves as a backup power supply and for extending driving range. The estimated driving range with a fully charged battery is expected to be over 35 miles. The Forest has ordered its first Volt which is due for delivery later this spring. It takes between 7-10 hours to charge the vehicle using a regular 110 outlet. A level 2 charging station will reduce that recharge time in half. A level 2 charging station will be installed over the summer in cooperation with the building owner of Building E. For electric only operation, the Volt will average over 90 miles per equivalent gallon of gas. For gas only operation, the Volt is expected to average over 37 miles per gallon. Check out and drive the new Chevrolet Volt. It will be available through the ELM vehicle checkout calendar.



In addition to drooling over the shiny new car, employees visiting the Fleet and Transportation station were treated to a guided tour of the bike garage and learned about the benefits of bicycle commuting in general, bike commuting as a Forest Service employee, and biking to work here in Building E, specifically. Information was available pertaining to the Agency's Commuter Choices Subsidy Benefits Programs, as well as general information about GHG reduction and monetary savings associated with bike commuting. Employees were psyched to learn that Building E has locker rooms and showers on the building's Garden Level! Who knew, right?

### Station 2 (Green Purchasing)

Several items were discussed in the business centers concerning what we are doing well and what items we could do to improve our green purchasing and business practices. We discussed:

- How to create double sided copies (instructions posted on the printers)
- Placing GOOS (good on one side) paper in the designated box by the copiers. Encouraged others to create notepads out of GOOS paper by cutting a small stack of paper into fourths and stapling it to create notepads. This is a great thing to do if waiting for others to finish their copying job.
- Our everyday copy paper is made of 30% post-consumer content.

- Discouraged the purchasing of neon/fluorescent paper, including notepads and post-its, as they are not recyclable.
- Ideas received from employees included encouraging reuse of items such as binders by placing supplies no longer needed back in the cupboards and encouraging the purchase of ink cartridge replacements for pens.
- Business and Kitchen schedule and duties for S.O. folks is located on the business center door.
- It costs less money to make color copies using the copy machine than printing several copies on the color printer.

### Station 3 (Sustainable Leadership)

We discussed topics regarding two themes, building design elements and irrigated water usage.

#### Building Design Elements:

- Colocation of FS offices
- Located near alternative transportation routes (Bus Line on Centre, Bike trail along Spring Creek Trail and Mason and future Mason Street Corridor!)



- High visibility for visitors with appropriate directional signage
- Storm water management and detention with “canyon” out front to retain runoff and it and other runoff conveyed to retention pond across Bldg A parking lot in Spring Creek floodplain planted with wetlands vegetation
  - Vegetation around building mostly native and low-water
  - Building built to approximate “Rustic” and “Lodge” architecture style with sloped roof and angled elbow beams
  - Light reflectors to bring sunshine in
  - Water conserving features inside
  - Lights on motion detectors and timers
  - Building built with certified sustainable wood and recyclable materials

#### Irrigated Water Usage:

- The Green Team is taking steps to reduce our irrigation water consumption by up to 40% primarily by updating the irrigation schedule and run-times. We hope to secure some funding to update the irrigation equipment to make it more efficient.
- We discussed watering restrictions that were put in place by the City of Fort Collins. Two days per week between the hours of 10pm and 6am.



### Station 4 (Waste Prevention & Recycling)

Information and activities were presented in the Break Room/Lunchroom and in an employee's cubicle.

In the lunchroom, information was posted on the energy savings of "Energy Star" appliances. Water saving ideas were discussed, including running only a full load in the dishwasher, and not having water running when washing dishes by hand, washing vegetables, etc. and keeping a pitcher of water in the refrigerator so you don't run water excessively to get it colder.

One of the main recycling areas for the building is also in the break room, so we went over a poster that describes what can and cannot be recycled, and how to correctly prepare items for recycling. Several items were "staged" and the group was asked whether or not the items could be recycled and if not, why not.



The use of cleaning supplies was also discussed - using no or low phosphate cleaning supplies, and using more natural supplies, like vinegar and water for cleaning, baking soda for deodorizing, etc.

In the cubicle several "non-green" circumstances were staged. The group had to look around the cubicle and come up with items that weren't green - these included printed papers on the desk that were only printed one sided, papers in the trash can, a styrofoam cup and other non-reusable eating utensils, the computer monitor and a space heater left running even though the cubicle was unoccupied, and other non-green items.

The idea for the tour evolved from a Forest Leadership Team tour of New Belgium Brewery. New Belgium Brewery is a well-known local Sustainability champion where the culture and core values of sustainability are clearly evident within their employees and their business practices. The Green Team's mission was to motivate our fellow employees to think about our own business practices and make sustainable choices.