## University of Colorado **Boulder** Sustainability Tour

## For more information: www.colorado.edu/sustainability



The University of Colorado Boulder has a long history of global leadership in sustainability. From being the first university to establish a recycling program, to being the first university to rank "gold" through the Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System. Our history is rich with progressive thinking and productive partnerships. It is nearly impossible to list every sustainability initiative, effort and success on campus. We've done our best to capture some of the most tangible items, and we hope you take it on yourself to feel how the culture really drives these initatives. Partners on the campus include the Environmental Center, the Office of Campus Sustainability, Facilities Management, Housing & Dining Services, students, faculty, staff and community members.

Wolf Law: Wolf Law has been home to the CU-Boulder Law School since 2006. This building was one of the first LEED Gold certified buildings on campus. The building, compared with an average building of its size, has seen cost savings of up to \$250,000 per year because of energy and water efficient technologies, building systems and controls. Also, in the parking lot, you'll see the first electric car charging station on campus.

Center for Community: The Center for Community is LEED Gold certified. The building includes LED lighting, low-flow bathroom fixtures, evaporative cooling, maximal use of natural lighting, regional materials, materials made of recycled content or rapidly renewable materials, Energy Star rated kitchen equipment, a pulper used to capture food waste for composting. Also, 83 percent of C4C construction waste was recycled.

University Memorial Center: The student-run UMC is a great example of students driving sustainability initiatives here on campus. When renovated in 2002, the UMC became the first LEED certified building on campus. Additionally the Environmental Center is located here, and the whole building strives to reach zero-waste goals. There are composting and recycling bins

throughout the entire building.

Did You Know? Research labs are one of the largest users of water and energy on campus? CU Green Labs is a program that is improving environmental performance one lab at a time. Retiring old refrigerator and freezer units, installing low-flow faucets, and identifying Eco Leaders for each lab are just a few things that are being done. The Porter Biosciences building has infrastructure in place to capture heat for reuse in the building.



Bike Station: The bike station is a great resource for cyclists on campus. The student staffed station is open March through October, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. You can check out a Buff Bike, register your bike on campus, receive bicycle maintenance and assistance, and take a look at bike and pedestrian path maps.

**Power Plant:** CU-Boulder retrofited the existing power plant in 1990 to accommodate cogeneration. Cogeneration allows the power plant to simultaneously generate electricity and heat. The power plant has been on campus since 1910 and continues to serve the majority of campus.

Folsom Field: CU-Boulder has been recycling at Buff home games since 1994. In 2008, Folsom Field became the first major sports stadium in the nation to collect all materials in recycling or compost containers, eliminate trash cans and transform its materials systems into a zero-waste process. Virtually all public food and beverage services in Folsom Field have been converted to recyclable or compostable materials or containers. Intermediate Processing Facility: Recycling at CU-Boulder diverts over 30 percent of solid waste from the county landfill. Collection crews deliver recyclables from locations across campus to CU-Boulder's recycling facility where student staff process materials and prepare them for shipment to market.

Macky Auditorium: In the next few years over 50 percent of our campus buildings will reach the age of 50 years or older. An important element of sustainability is reviewing our existing building inventory and improving each building's energy and water efficiency. Also, campus rooftops were recently assayed by an infrared camera on a helicopter for leaks and weak areas. This information will help us proactively seal roofs and make improvements.

Old Main Tree: This Plains Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*) tree was planted by Mary Sewall in 1876 in an attempt to add to the barren landscape the university occupied. Since then, the campus has grown many enviable species. In 2010, the CU-Boulder campus was certified as a Tree Campus USA by the Arbor Day Foundation.

## Did You Know? CU-Boul-

der is in the practice of designing and constructing buildings to a LEED Gold Plus standard, focusing on water and energy efficiency. Key features you'll find in LEED buildings on campus include recycled materials, low VOC materials, LED lighting, tighter building envelopes, low-flow fixtures, native landscaping, regional materials, improved indoor air quality, natural day lighting, focus on alternative transportation options and on-site renewables,



University Lake: CU-Boulder has owned shares in Anderson Ditch for decades and uses this non-potable water for irrigation. The ditch water flows into the lake for holding and then is distributed throughout the main campus. Raw water has a far smaller embedded CO2 footprint. The irrigation system is controlled and connected to a weather station, which takes into account the soil moisture and outdoor temperatures, to minimize water consumption. CU-Boulder also began using compost tea, a "brew" of organic materials, in 2011 to reduce synthetic pesticides on campus turf.

Williams Village North: Williams Village North is a residence hall on the Williams Village campus just southeast of the main campus. The residence hall - completed in 2011 - is the first LEED Platinum building on campus and one of the first LEED Platinum residence halls of its size in the nation. The building is home to two sustainability oriented residential academic programs for students, and also boasts native landscaping, water re-use, and a solar panel carport.



Bear Creek Carport Solar Array: Installed in 2011, this 100kW solar array produces approximately 140,000 kW/h per year. That's enough energy to supply 20 average sized homes!

**Did You Know?** 74 percent of students bike, bus or walk to campus? The CU-Boulder Buff Bus uses biodiesel fuel. The city of Boulder also has more than 300 city miles dedicated to bikeways. The Boulder Creek Path that runs adjacent to the campus is a great example of a natural area in which you can enjoy a bike ride or a walk.



Did You Know? CU-Boulder's leadership in sustainability spans nearly six decades with rigorous academic offerings in the Environmental Studies Program, as well as in architecture and planning, business, law and other fields. CU-Boulder offers 14 degree programs, nine majors, and four certificate programs in or related to environmental studies. The university was ranked the "greenest" school in the nation by Sierra magazine in 2009.

