



2009 Environmental Report



CopperColorado.com/Environment

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President and COO

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Letter from the President and COO

At Copper, sustainability is our goal. Environmental, social and economic success are interdependent. We recognize that the decisions we make today will affect the future sustainability of our business.

Copper manages our lands in an environmentally responsible manner to ensure enjoyment of our high alpine environment by future generations. We continue to reduce our resource consumption, reuse resources when possible, and increase recycling across the resort. Recent environmental projects at Copper include the Transportation Center solar system, resort-wide focus on energy conservation, and the Green Globes certification of the new Woodward at Copper facility. This year's upcoming environmental initiatives include powering a vehicle on vegetable oil from our restaurants, a compost pilot program at our conference center, and continued focus on energy savings.

Social sustainability is promoted through Copper's investment in its employees and the community. Each year, Copper supports community initiatives including the Ski Conservation Fund, which directly funds local conservation projects in our National Forest. In addition, the employee-driven Copper Environmental Foundation supports youth environmental and education projects.

Fiscal responsibility is required in today's business environment. Therefore, the majority of Copper's environmental programs are fiscally viable. Each project carries with it a great consideration for projected savings and return on investment, including lighting retrofits and the Woodward at Copper Green Globes energy savings initiative. Copper's energy saving programs reduce our carbon emissions and save money. This year we reduced our energy consumption by 6%.

We know Copper's success will be achieved through balancing environmental stewardship and fiscal responsibility. As a result, we will continue to select and execute projects to work towards sustainability.

Sincerely,



Gary Rodgers



Gary Rodgers,
Copper's President and COO

Copper's Environmental Mission

Copper Mountain respects the environment in which we live, work and play. We strive for sustainability through balancing environmental stewardship and fiscal responsibility. We are focused on energy conservation, reducing and recycling waste, actively participating in our community, and protecting the lands we share.





Land Stewardship

Forest Conservation

Copper, our guests and the National Forest Foundation (NFF) continue to fund local on-the-ground conservation projects in our backyard - the White River National Forest. Copper lodging guests voluntarily donate \$1 per room night to support this initiative, and these funds are then matched at 50% by the NFF. Since the program's inception in 2006, Copper and the NFF have donated over \$110,000 to nonprofits for local conservation projects. This year, over \$40,000 was granted to multiple projects to build new trails

and maintain existing trails within Summit County, Colorado.

Copper holds a special use permit with the U.S. Forest Service which allows us to operate the resort. Through this relationship, Copper works with the U.S. Forest Service to manage the forests. Many parts of Colorado, including Summit County, are experiencing a mountain pine beetle epidemic. These beetles attack and kill mature lodgepole pine trees, resulting in significant landscape changes. Copper's forests

are comprised of Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir and lodgepole pine. However, we have sprayed over 500 high value trees with protective insecticide, because some areas of the ski area and village are being impacted by the beetles.



Land Stewardship

Wetlands Mitigation

Copper is constructing a new parking lot near Union Creek. This parking lot will allow beginner skiers and families better access to Copper's beginner terrain and Ski & Ride School. Despite our best efforts to avoid wetlands, the parking lot will impact .41 acres of wetlands and impact wetland setbacks on .38 acres. As a result, Copper will create approximately 1.2 acres of wetlands to mitigate for construction impacts on existing wetlands. The new wetlands will be located near the old horse stables and around the golf course.

Ski with a Ranger

The Friends of Dillon Ranger District, in partnership with Copper and the U.S. Forest Service, started a guest education program for skiers. Each week, a volunteer ranger offered skiers and riders a free one-hour tour that highlighted local history, ecology and our high alpine environment. Guests participated and enjoyed the program, and we hope to continue it next ski season.



Employee Trail Adoption

Copper employees have adopted the Wheeler Lakes Trail, a popular hiking trail near the resort in the White River National Forest, in partnership with the Friends of the Dillon Ranger District.

Project Years

4

Feet of Trail Maintained

10,560

Days Worked

14

Employee Volunteers

128



Energy

Electricity and Natural Gas

Copper's continued focus on energy conservation yielded successful results again this year. Our resort-wide electricity use was down 7% and natural gas use was down 5% year-over-year. Excluding our new Woodward at Copper action sports facility, which opened in March, electricity use was down 8% and natural gas use was down 9%. Employee action, warmer temperatures and reduced skier visitation all contributed to reductions in our energy consumption. For the first time, each facility manager

received monthly energy reports and encouraged staff to reduce wasteful energy consumption. During our "off-season" in May and June, we made extra efforts to turn off the power in buildings not in use, shut down boilers, and other heating and ventilation systems not required at that time of year. This program resulted in a \$36,000 savings in electricity and natural gas costs year-over-year.

Copper also plans to retrofit lighting with more efficient lamps and

fixtures in our maintenance area. Most of the resort was retrofitted to more efficient lighting in 2005, but there are small areas across the resort where opportunities still exist to improve lighting. Although lighting retrofits are not the sexiest environmental project and will not garner media attention for the resort, this project will have a measurable environmental impact and offer a valuable return on investment.

**Resort-wide
Electricity Use
Down 7%**

Fuel

Fuel usage was also down year-over-year; diesel consumption was down 4% and gasoline consumption was down 16%. Employee efforts to reduce unnecessary driving, a

decrease in skier visits, along with warmer temperatures and average snowfall, contributed to the decreased fuel usage at the resort.



Copper's First Solar Project Transportation Center

- 4.2 kilowatt system
- 24 3x5' panels
- One hour of sun on all panels will power 42 100-watt light bulbs for an hour.

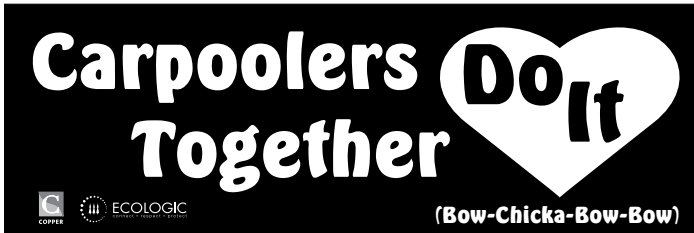


Energy

Carpooling

Copper initiated our first annual carpool celebration program last winter. On five days, guests and employees with four or more people in their vehicle were rewarded with bumper stickers, a chance to enter to win season passes, and great lunch deals. In addition, guests with

four or more people could park free all season long at the base of Alpine Lift. The program was so successful that we plan to continue it for the 09/10 ski season.



Renewable Energy Credit Changes

After three years of purchasing wind renewable energy credits (RECs) to offset our annual electricity consumption, Copper has decided not to purchase RECs for the upcoming year. While we believe

RECs support the generation of renewable energy, we know that our money will have a greater environmental impact if spent directly on Copper-based environmental programs. Copper

will utilize funds toward improving lighting efficiency and adding a vegetable oil filtration system to power one of our vehicles.



Green Building

The new Woodward at Copper action sports facility was awarded two Green Globes in December 2008. The Green Globes certification required a third-party verification of green building practices during the design and construction of the building. Areas of focus included an energy-efficient heating and ventilation system, recycled materials, low volatile organic compounds (VOC), high-efficiency lighting, and facility orientation. Additional measures to further reduce energy consumption are now being considered, including thermal equalizers that will push hot air from the high ceilings down to the lower portion of the building.



Energy

Sustainability Through Action

As Copper’s facilities maintenance manager, Lonnie Lacome is responsible for the maintenance of all Copper-owned buildings. Lonnie recognizes the value of saving energy, and took it upon himself and his team last winter to improve our lighting efficiency. Although much of the resort has efficient lighting, Lonnie identified multiple areas where we could be using compact fluorescent or other high-efficiency lighting.

A lifelong Leadville, Colorado resident, Lonnie embodies the Copper spirit. He doesn’t allow

challenges to stop him in his tracks. Instead, Lonnie embraces new ideas and finds ways to make positive contributions to the resort.

One of Lonnie’s colleagues said it best, “whenever I approach Lonnie on a new or different direction, the first words out of his mouth are ‘we can do that’. He has never said ‘we can’t’.” Perhaps Lonnie is motivated by his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, or his love for the outdoors. Regardless, his commitment to sustainability is clear.



*Lonnie Lacome,
Copper’s Facilities
Maintenance Manager*

Copper Mountain Natural Resource Consumption

	08/09 Usage	07/08 Usage	Annual Change*	CO2 Emmissions Conversion	08/09 CO2 Emissions (metric tons)	07/08 CO2 Emmissions (metric tons)
Electricity (kWh)	17,727,342	19,157,696	-7%	.000854 metric tons CO ₂ /KWh	15,139	16,361
Natural Gas (MMBTU)	52,323	54,908	-5%	.0677 metric tons CO ₂ /1MM BTU	3,542	3,717
Diesel (gallons)	187,627	194,972**	-4%	.01012 metric tons/gallon	1,914	1,989
Unleaded Gasoline (gallons)	54,636	65,201**	-16%	.00859 metric tons/gallon	469	560
Propane (gallons)	1,069	948	11%	.00575 metric tons/gallon	6	5
Total including RECs					21,071	22,632

Data is from July through June, and includes all Copper-owned facilities, snowmaking and lifts. All conversion factors based on World Resources Institute conversions.

*Our new facility, Woodward at Copper, opened in March 2009 and natural gas and electric consumption is included in this report. When comparing existing facility usage year-over-year, electricity was down 8% and natural gas was down 9%.

**In the 2008 Copper environmental report, 07/08 fuel usage was overstated and has been corrected here. 2008 figures incorrectly included usage by non-Copper owned entities.



The Upper Blue Elementary School Green Team's reusable bag campaign

Community

Copper Environmental Foundation

Copper's employees show their commitment to our community through participation and support of many organizations. Copper's local environmental focus remains the Copper Environmental Foundation, founded in 2007 by Copper's employees. Currently, more than 150 employees contribute to the Foundation, and these donations are then matched at 100% by Copper. To date, the Foundation has granted more than \$30,000 to support local youth environmental projects. In 2009, the Foundation is supporting school composting programs, a youth pine beetle coalition, and the creation of an educational "Garbage Garage" to teach kids about recycling and waste at our landfill.

2008 PROJECTS COMPLETED

\$5,000 Granted

- Upper Blue Elementary School Green Team - Reusable Bag Campaign
- Full Circle of Lake County - Community Recycling and Education
- Keystone Science School - Lake County Scholarships
- Summit Day Camps - Environmental Program

2009 GRANTS AWARDED

\$25,000 Granted

- Breckenridge Elementary School - Photovoltaic Installation
- Cub Scouts Pack 186 - Officers Gulch Service Project
- Frisco Elementary School - Vermicomposting
- Keystone Science School - Youth Pine Beetle Coalition
- Mountain Mentors - Summit Waste Warriors
- Silvana's Community Garden - Children's Garden
- Summit County Landfill - Garbage Garage
- Summit County Preschool - Compost and Garden

Waste Reduction

Vegetable Oil Fuel

Waste vegetable oil from Copper's restaurants will now be reused at the resort to fuel a vehicle used for village operations. Thanks to a grant from the National Ski Areas' Association, Copper has purchased a filtration system to allow us to pump straight vegetable oil (SVO) into the vehicle. Utilizing vegetable oil as fuel will generate significantly

less nitrous oxide and particulate emissions than diesel. Once we are able to run one vehicle successfully on SVO, then we hope to convert several more vehicles. We also plan to use the vegetable oil to provide heat in our Transportation Center.



1. Select a diesel vehicle and easily convert it to run on SVO.



2. Collect waste vegetable oil from restaurants.



3. Filter vegetable oil and pump SVO into vehicle.

Recycling and Composting

Copper continues to increase our single-stream recycling across the resort, which allows guests to put all recyclables; including paper, plastic, cans, glass and more; into one bin. Cardboard and scrap metal are also recycled.

The Copper Conference Center recently began a pilot composting program. Employees are now composting all food scraps, and we hope to be able to continue the program this winter. Copper's compost will be taken to the

Summit County landfill, which is now commercially composting using food scraps, wood chips from beetle-killed trees and biosolids.

	08/09	07/08
Recycled Materials	297 tons	253 tons
Trash	1100 tons	1269 tons
Landfill Diversion Rate	21%*	17%

*Recycling collection method changed significantly this year. During 07/08, much of our commingled recycling was picked up in a large roll-off container. During 08/09, single-stream recycling was collected throughout the resort in 96-gallon totes. As a result, estimated recycling weights were calculated differently year-over-year. In addition, we recycled 42 more tons of scrap metal this year than last year, largely because we recycled two haul ropes from our chair lifts weighing 35 tons.

Waste Reduction

Dedicated to Sustainability

Few people exemplify Copper's environmental vision more than Mark Graham. As our mechanical maintenance manager, Mark is in an ideal position to increase efficiency and generate innovative ideas that will reduce our environmental impacts. Mark, a Colorado native, and his team have been instrumental in saving energy across the resort. Mark has also extensively researched renewable energy and its potential applications throughout the resort.

Thanks to Mark's efforts, Copper is considering several renewable energy applications; including biomass boilers using local beetle-killed trees, solar thermal and vegetable oil boilers. This year, Copper will install a vegetable oil boiler which will use fryer grease from our restaurants in order

to provide heat for the Transportation Center. Mark's team will also increase energy efficiency at our conference center through upgrading the energy control system and retrofitting some refrigerators to use outdoor air on cold, winter days.

Mark's innovations are hardly limited to his work at Copper. At home, Mark will eliminate the use of fossil fuels to heat his home by using waste vegetable oil from local restaurants, and he hopes to ultimately use solar and wind energy for his home's electricity needs. Mark and his wife have been composting for over 20 years and produce only one small bag of trash a month! Mark's dedication to sustainability continues to accelerate Copper's environmental programs.



*Mark Graham,
Copper's Mechanical
Maintenance Manager*

Closing from the Environmental Manager

This is Copper's 3rd annual environmental report, and my fourth year as Copper's environmental manager. While we still have a ways to go to become a truly green company, we continue to make progress towards our goal of sustainability. Since I began in this role, I have had significant support from both upper management and employees across the resort. In the past year, that support has begun shifting from "talk" to "action". Since I am only one of 1,800 resort employees, creating a culture of environmental action

is critical to the success of our environmental programs.

The Copper Green Team has been instrumental in fostering this environmental culture, and encouraging action across the company. Although Copper has been executing many environmental projects, we recently developed a written environmental mission (see the first page of this report). Our current areas of focus include energy conservation, reducing and recycling waste, actively participating in our community,



and protecting the lands we share. I am increasingly encouraged by the actions of our employees to make our business and community more sustainable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J Schenk".

Jen Schenk

