



Vail groups aim for reduced carbon emissions

Vail joins statewide program that helps people compensate for carbon emissions

DAILY STAFF REPORT
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Ways to Cut Your Carbon

- If you have a washing machine, use cold water. It could save you up to \$40 per year.
- Install water-efficient shower heads and faucets. 1.8 gallon per minute shower heads can reduce your hot water consumption by as much as 10 percent.
- Switch to compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs. They cost a little more, but you can save about \$40 over the life of just one bulb.
- Use public transportation, carpool, ride your bike to reduce driving.
- When you do drive, be less aggressive. Avoid hard braking, fast starts, speeding and excessive idling, and combine trips.

VAIL, Colorado — A statewide organization is joining the town of Vail and the Vail Valley Partnership in a program to reduce carbon emissions and develop funding for clean energy projects.

The program allows people to compensate for the carbon emissions generated during every day activities such as driving and home-heating by helping to fund projects in Colorado, including in the Vail Valley, that reduce greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere. The funds will only be used in Colorado.

The local organizations will be working with Project C and the Colorado Carbon Fund on the program. The Eagle Valley Alliance for Sustainability

will be developing a tool to help local residents determine their own their "carbon footprint."

The alliance is also planning several events to help launch and promote the programs in the valley, including the Party for the Planet Earth Day Celebration in downtown Eagle on April 25 and the EverGreen Ball, a major August fundraiser for three local environmental organizations.

The town and Vail Valley Partnership are sponsoring "Destination Preservation," a sustainability program that encourages the local hospitality industry to use environmentally friendly business practices.

Also, organizations attending Vail-area events and staying in area hotels would be encouraged to donate to the Colorado Carbon Fund to offset the carbon generated by travel to and from the event.

Within Eagle County, 20 percent of money donated to the Colorado Carbon Fund will be spent on local clean energy projects. Two local businesses, Alpine Bank and B-Line Xpress Limo, have already contributed to the Colorado Carbon Fund to offset greenhouse gas emissions from their own operations.

"We chose the Colorado Carbon Fund because the funds invested stay within Colorado," said Michael Glass, president of Alpine Bank in Vail. "Also, a good portion of the funds make their way back to local initiatives which provide Alpine Bank a way to continue to give back to the local groups and communities which have made Alpine successful."

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