

Fort Carson hosts fourth annual community sustainability conference

Fort Carson's strides in the battle for sustainable living and operating at the Mountain Post were evident at the Fourth Annual Community Sustainability Conference held at the Sheraton Nov. 9.

In its third year, the momentum behind Fort Carson's efforts to engage the installation and regional stakeholders in the effort to become sustainable has gained strength. More than 330 people from around region attended the conference, which featured national sustainability speakers, information/café booths for each of Fort Carson's sustainability goals and workshops addressing sustainability topics. The growth is significant from the first year, 2002, when the conference drew approximately 240 people.

The café booths were manned by goal proponents from Fort Carson who answered questions about the progress of the 12 sustainability goals developed at the first annual conference in 2002 and solicited input from the conference attendees. The afternoon provided an opportunity for people to select from seven workshops addressing diverse sustainability topics.

In the past year, Fort Carson has achieved significant progress in several of its goal-related initiatives.

The installation is reducing solid waste through the deconstruction of buildings and constructing new facilities to be more sustainable. The new golf course club house completed in March achieved a Gold rating through the Army's Sustainable Project Rating Tool program, which is based on Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design standards.

This fall, Fort Carson began purchasing renewable energy certificates through the Western Area Power Administration. Twenty-nine percent of installation energy purchases support renewable sources.

Significant reductions in hazardous air pollutants have been achieved from conversion to less hazardous paints used for military vehicles.

A pilot program using biofuels in some of the diesel trucks from the Directorate of Logistics has shown promising performance results, while decreasing fuel costs.

A major achievement in 2005 was the implementation of a Sustainability and Environmental Management System to train up all installation staff and Soldiers on sustainability and environmental performance management on an ongoing basis.

For more information about the Fort Carson Sustainability Program, call the sustainability planner at (719) 526-9777.

Captions for photos

L. Hunter Lovins, founder and President of Natural Capitalism Solutions, Inc. speaks about the global importance of sustainability.

Conference attendees visit the poster café sessions to learn about the progress of Fort Carson's 12 sustainability goals and to provide input.

Maj. Gen. Ronald L. Johnson, deputy commanding general of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, addresses the U.S. Army's push to build facilities sustainably.