

Sustainability





CityCenter Englewood
Transit-Oriented Development



RTD's sustainability guidelines
strive to improve air quality

RTD's Sustainability Program: Promoting Sustainability within FasTracks and the RTD District

Sustainability has become one of the latest buzzwords. From homes to offices to cars to developers, “going green” seems to be the name of the game. So what exactly is “sustainability”? The World Commission on Environment & Development defines it as *development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.*

Transit by itself is a cornerstone of a community's sustainable development and good environmental policy. Transit reduces the number of cars on the road, thereby reducing emissions and the use of fossil fuels. As a recognized leader in the transit industry, the Regional Transportation District (RTD) seized the opportunity to take its sound environmental practices a step further and set the

bar on sustainability. RTD is making it a priority in its FasTracks transit expansion program.

While the FasTracks system will serve as a foundation for widespread community sustainability once completed, RTD's district-wide guidelines also weave sustainability into the design, construction, operations and maintenance of the program. These guidelines identify areas of potential environmental improvement and encourage the most environmentally sensitive approach possible.

The sustainability guidelines, including RTD's Greener Rides Program, establish measurable goals for incorporating green design and other sustainable approaches into RTD projects.

The goal of sustainable transportation is to ensure that environmental, social and economic considerations are factored into decisions affecting transportation activity.

GREEN CHECK



+ **22 million trips** **=** **26,000 tons of CO₂ saved**

RTD takes cars off the road and averages 22 million light rail trips per year. Those trips alone save approximately 26,000 tons of CO₂, the major contributor to greenhouse gases. RTD ridership overall has reached an all-time high of approximately 98 million passenger trips in the past year, including buses and light rail.

RTD Sustainability Efforts

RTD has a history of sound environmental decisions and programs that have helped make the metro area's environment cleaner.

RTD's conservation efforts include:

- Use of alternative fuels, including electric propulsion and ultra low sulfur diesel fuel
- Use of hybrid-electric bus technology
- Emissions and fuel reduction strategies
- Heating, lighting and energy reduction projects at RTD facilities
- Recycling programs for motor oil, fluids, tires and bus wash water
- Recycling of copy/printer machine toner bottles and cartridges
- Environmentally friendly building and site design in new RTD maintenance facilities

FasTracks Sustainability Efforts

As the implementation of RTD's FasTracks program progresses, sustainability measures continue to be utilized by incorporating the latest in green technology to ensure long-term sustainability among all aspects of the project.

FasTracks conservation efforts include:

- Use of clean diesel technology for commuter rail
- Adoption of the Responsible Rail Amendment requiring the purchase of fuel efficient, environmentally responsible and sustainable commuter rail vehicles
- Investigation of the continued use of newer, cleaner and less polluting construction equipment and materials
- Promotion of Transit Oriented Development and community connectivity near stations
- Efforts to reduce urban sprawl by promoting density at Denver Union Station and other high-density Transit Oriented Development transit station areas
- Re-use of existing rail on applicable commuter rail corridors
- Participation in Quality of Life study, which aims to gauge how the metro region is changing as a result of the FasTracks project across three geographic scales – regionally, within existing and future rapid transit corridors and at transit station areas.

RTD's sustainability guidelines include efforts in the following objectives:

Environmental Sustainability

- Improve air quality and lower emissions
- Enhance water quality and reduce water use
- Reduce reliance on fossil fuels
- Promote efficient use of non-renewable resources
- Recycle materials
- Foster other sustainable design features

Travel Choices and Accessibility

- Offer balanced transit access
- Facilitate easy transfers between buses and trains
- Encourage new housing development near stations
- Promote new office development near stations

Livable Cities and Communities

- Stimulate economic growth with safe, affordable transportation available to all
- Promote healthy mobility habits, healthy cities and cleaner air
- Provide better access to education, jobs, leisure, health care and services



RTD's new hybrid electric buses

**For more information
on RTD's sustainability
guidelines, visit
www.RTD-Denver.com.**

Sustainability in Transit

As sustainable practices in the United States continue to become mainstream, public transportation is leading the way by proving to be one of the most powerful tools for reducing an individual's carbon footprint. Research shows that using public transportation is 10 times better at limiting carbon dioxide emissions when compared to other household sustainability efforts. RTD continues to encourage and promote transit ridership as part of its ongoing mission to achieve a cleaner and more sustainable region.

TRANSIT FACTS AND FIGURES

- Automobiles and light duty trucks account for about 61 percent of the total mobile source of greenhouse gas emissions.
- An individual switching to public transit can reduce their carbon footprint by about 4,800 pounds in a year. By comparison, replacing five incandescent light bulbs to lower wattage florescent lamps saves about 445 pounds per year.
- If two drivers in a household switch to public transportation, they can reduce their carbon emissions up to 30 percent.
- Automobiles are the largest contributor to a household's total carbon footprint, accounting for about 55 percent of its carbon emissions.
- Public transportation saves more than 855 million gallons of gasoline annually, the same amount of energy used to heat, cool and operate ¼ of all American homes in a year.
- Greenhouse gas emissions from mobile sources grew 27 percent from 1990 to 2004.
- Public transportation produces 95 percent less carbon monoxide and 50 percent less carbon dioxide per passenger mile than private vehicles.
- A full transit bus can take as many as 60 cars off the road and a commuter rail car can take as many as 200 cars off the road.

(Sources: American Public Transportation Association, U.S. Department of Transportation, Center for Transportation Excellence, New York Public Transit Association, American Public Transportation Association)

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Web site: www.RTD-FasTracks.com
FasTracks Information Line: 303-299-2000
For a presentation, call 303-299-6990.