



**PLATTE RIVER  
POWER AUTHORITY**

Estes Park • Fort Collins • Longmont • Loveland

# Community and Environment

Limited printed quantities of this report are available. It is also available in an ELECTRONIC VERSION at [www.prpa.org/environment](http://www.prpa.org/environment).

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FOR ADDITIONAL COPIES

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## ...from the General Manager



*Brian H. Mosch*

General Manager  
Platte River Power Authority

As a municipally-owned utility, Platte River Power Authority is a reflection of its communities. This is especially true in the areas of community involvement and environmental stewardship.

According to [www.volunteeringinamerica.gov](http://www.volunteeringinamerica.gov), an official website of the U.S. Government, residents of Estes Park, Fort Collins, Longmont and Loveland are among the most active community volunteers in the United States. The website states that between 2007 and 2010, the Fort Collins-Loveland Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which also includes Estes Park, had an average annual volunteer rate of 42.2 percent. That's the fifth highest rate of all 75 "mid-size" areas evaluated. The Boulder MSA, which includes Longmont, ranked fourth with a 44.8 percent volunteer rate.

I'm proud to say Platte River and its employees share this dedication to community service and have demonstrated it by contributing time and money to causes and individuals in need. To support our employees' desires to become even more involved, Platte River joined the United Way of Larimer County's *Business Cares Program* in 2010. Among other things, the Program provides participants with help identifying and responding to volunteer opportunities. As a result of Platte River's membership in *Business Cares*, our employees have already completed projects requested by two local non-profit organizations.

A clean environment is also a priority for residents of Platte River's four communities, and therefore, a priority for us. You can find this reflected in our Board of Directors-approved environmental policy and procedures as well in the way our facilities are operated. For example, the Rawhide Energy Station is consistently ranked as one of the cleanest coal-fired electricity generation plants in the U.S. based on sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emission levels. In the past year, Platte River made its latest investment in environmental innovation at Rawhide—a state-of-the-art system to reduce mercury emissions. While operation of the system is still being perfected, it has been effectively reducing mercury emissions since October 2010, more than a year earlier than planned.

It's my pleasure to present Platte River's 2011 Community and Environment Report. Within its pages, you can read more about Platte River reflecting the interests and desires of its owners through community service and environmental stewardship. I hope you find this Report both informative and gratifying.

## *Platte River Power Authority...*

...is a not-for-profit utility that generates and delivers reliable, low-cost and environmentally responsible electricity to its owner communities—Estes Park, Fort Collins, Longmont and Loveland, Colorado—where it is distributed by each municipal utility to residents and businesses.

Platte River's Headquarters is located in Fort Collins and its generating and transmission facilities are located along Colorado's Front Range in addition to northwestern Colorado and southern Wyoming.

*Owned by and serving the communities of...*





# Environmental Policy and Principles

All decisions and operations are guided by Board-approved *Environmental Policy and Principles* that benefit the health and well-being of individuals both inside and outside of the organization.

## Environmental Policy

It is the policy of Platte River in carrying out its mission of providing reliable, low-cost, environmentally responsible electric energy to its customers...

- ...to use state-of-the-art air quality control systems at its power generation stations,
- ...to meet or exceed all applicable environmental laws and regulations,
- ...to participate in public process as new legislation and regulations are proposed,
- ...to support additional emission control requirements where costs are commensurate with measurable environmental benefits, and
- ...to be proactive in evaluating and implementing improvements in its power operations that balance environmental and other socio-economic concerns.

## Environmental Principles

The following principles are to be used to guide the organization in its decision-making and operations:

1. Platte River will consider environmental factors as an integral part of planning, design, construction, and operating decisions.
2. Platte River will reinforce environmental compliance through program reviews, training, and by communicating environmental values throughout the organization.
3. Platte River will encourage public participation in planning for the location of major facilities as a means of avoiding and resolving conflicts and to achieve a balance between the need for economic electric supply and environmental quality.
4. Platte River will conserve natural resources such as water, soils, grasslands, and wetland areas through efficient use and careful planning. Where needed, Platte River will restore land disturbed by its operations or construction.
5. Platte River will encourage employees to bring environmental issues forward to assure Platte River's compliance with applicable laws, rules, regulations, and permits.
6. Platte River will strive to reduce environmental health and safety risks to its employees and the communities in which it operates by (i) maintaining safe and healthful working conditions, (ii) the design and operation of its facilities, and (iii) being prepared for emergencies.
7. Platte River will manage the disposal of waste material in an environmentally responsible manner, will recycle the materials it uses whenever possible, and will use recycled materials where appropriate.
8. Platte River will work with its customers to support cost-effective programs to conserve energy.
9. Platte River will coordinate its generation and transmission planning with neighboring utilities to minimize over building or under utilization.
10. Platte River will consider environmentally progressive technologies such as wind, solar power, or other renewable technologies to meet its future generation needs.

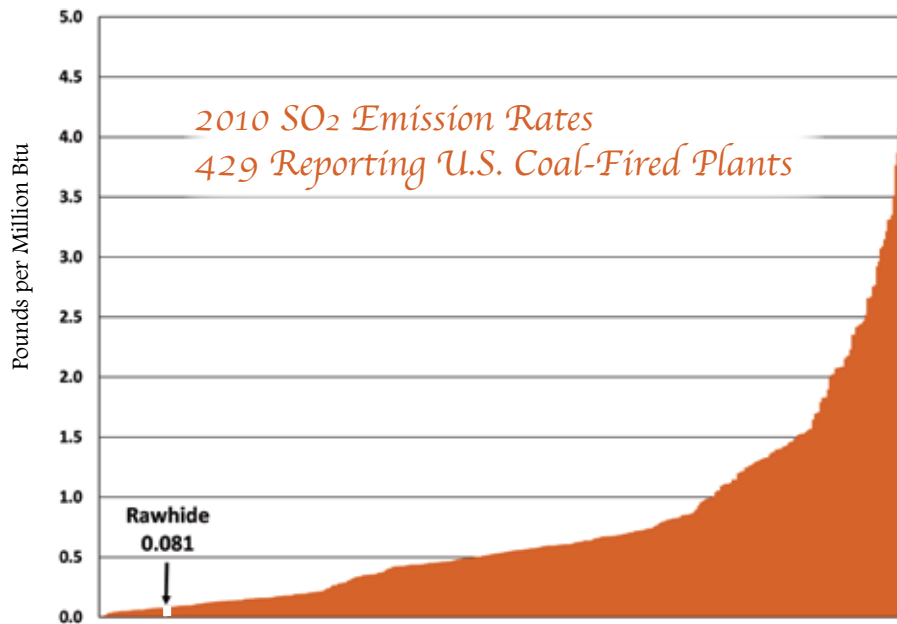
# Environmental Stewardship

Platte River Power Authority is committed to preserving the environment. This commitment is deeply ingrained in the utility's culture and influences all aspects of operations.

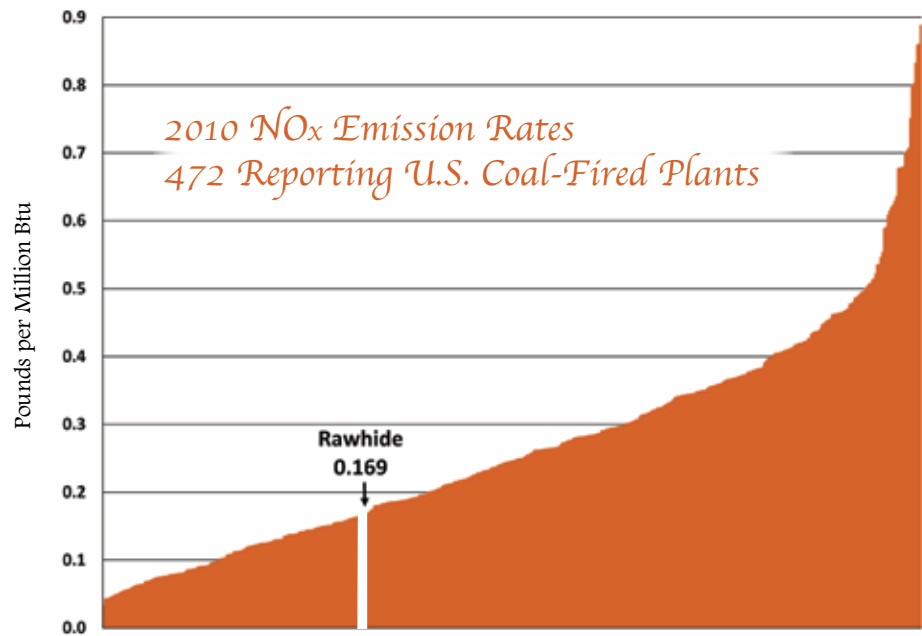
## Responsible Generation

Platte River is a leader in the implementation of state-of-the-art environmental controls at its Rawhide Energy Station. A sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) removal system was incorporated into the plant's design more than 26 years ago and in 2005, a new separated over-fire air combustion system was voluntarily installed in the boiler to reduce nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) emissions. As a result of these and other enhancements, Rawhide is consistently among the cleanest coal-fired plants in the United States based on data filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.





Source: U. S. Environmental Protection Agency



In January, 2011, The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment adopted its State Implementation Plan (SIP) for complying with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Regional Haze Rule (RHR). The RHR was promulgated to improve visibility conditions in important areas such as Rocky Mountain National Park.

Compliance with the RHR and SIP will require expensive new equipment at many Colorado coal-fired generation plants to achieve large reductions in NOx and SO2 emissions. Due to already-low emission levels, compliance at Rawhide will require only minor changes to its existing environmental control systems. While compliance with new RHR/SIP emissions limits must be achieved no later than December 31, 2017, Platte River has already begun activities that are expected to reduce emissions to 2017 compliance levels in 2012.

Installation of a state-of-the-art brominated powdered activated carbon injection system to reduce mercury emissions at Rawhide was completed in October 2010. Mercury emissions will be reduced to less than 0.0174 pounds per gigawatt-hour of electricity generated by 2012, two years earlier than the majority of coal-fired units in Colorado. By 2018, Rawhide mercury emissions will be reduced to less than 0.0087 pounds per gigawatt-hour.

## *Looking at* nature's energy®

Platte River owns and operates the Medicine Bow Wind Project located near Medicine Bow, Wyoming. This wind project supplied 22.7million kilowatt-hours of electricity to Platte River's communities in 2010.

Platte River purchases a portion of the electricity produced at Duke Energy's Silver Sage Windpower Project located near Cheyenne, Wyoming. Over 36.5 million kilowatt-hours of Silver Sage wind energy was provided to Platte River's communities during 2010—the first full year of the Project's operation.

Platte River has long-term contracts (through 2024) for the purchase of renewable hydropower generated at dams located in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. In 2010, this power represented 19.2 percent (612.3 million kilowatt-hours) of the energy delivered by Platte River to its owner communities.

Platte River supports the development of cost-effective, regional, renewable generation facilities through the purchase of Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs). RECs represent the title to environmental benefits associated with energy produced from a renewable energy generation facility and are sold separately from the electricity commodity. RECs are combined with energy produced by Platte River's other resources to form a more affordable renewable energy product. In 2010, Platte River utilized RECs to deliver





74.3 million kilowatt-hours of renewable energy. In total, 745.8 million kilowatt-hours of renewable energy, enough to power over 85,000 homes for a year, were delivered by Platte River to its owner communities in 2010 (the average household in Platte River's service territory used about 725 kilowatt-hours of electricity per month in 2010). As a result, approximately 513,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions were avoided.

## *Effective Energy Efficiency Programs for Customers*

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Wise investments in energy efficiency can pay back in energy savings, cost reductions and improvements to the productivity and comfort of building occupants for many years. Platte River and municipal utility staffs continued working together in 2010 to offer a number of efficiency programs.

- *The Electric Efficiency Program* and **LIGHTENUP** provide commercial and industrial customers with funding for a variety of peak demand-reducing and energy-saving projects.
- *Building Tune-up* provides funding for building retro-commissioning—diagnosing and fixing operational issues of building energy systems not performing to the original design intent or the owner's operational needs.
- *Lighting with a Twist* (called “Energy-Efficient Lighting Program” in Fort Collins) provides rebates directly to compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) retailers, enabling them to sell energy-saving CFLs to residential customers at discounted prices.

A special *Lighting With a Twist* promotion—*The Great Light Bulb Round Up*—took place in Estes Park, Longmont and Loveland in October. Platte River and municipal utility employees were available at several retailers to collect and recycle working incandescent light bulbs from customers in an effort to encourage them to replace incandescents immediately, rather than wait until the bulbs burn out. In exchange, customers received coupons for discounts on CFL purchases. A similar promotion took place in Fort Collins in November. A total of 4,291 incandescent bulbs were collected and recycled in the four municipalities.

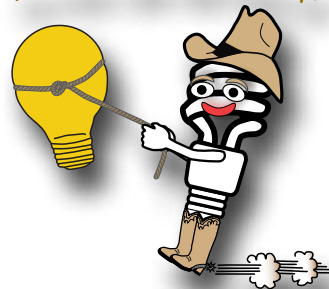


Energy savings captured through these programs reached an all-time high in 2010. Platte River and the four municipal utilities invested a total of \$2.7 million in projects that will save an estimated 15.7 million kilowatt-hours of electricity, reducing electric bills of participating customers by about \$1 million. As much as 11,500 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions could also be reduced per year.

Through the first half of 2011, about \$2 million has been paid or committed for projects that should save customers an estimated 16 million kilowatt-hours of additional electricity annually.



*The Great Light Bulb Round Up!*

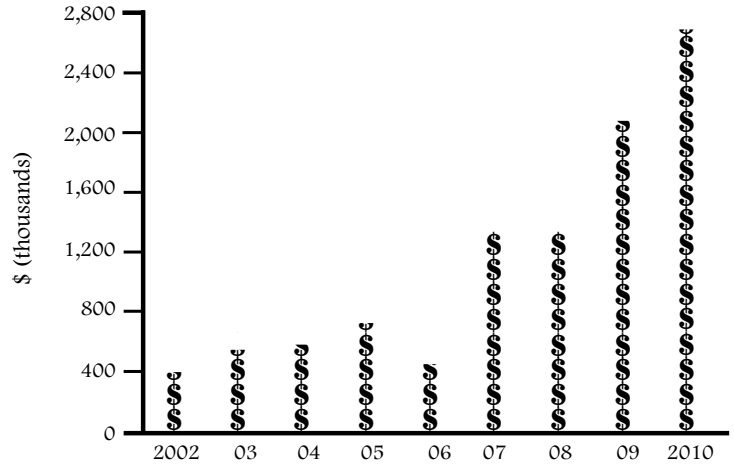


## Energy Efficiency Yearly Investments

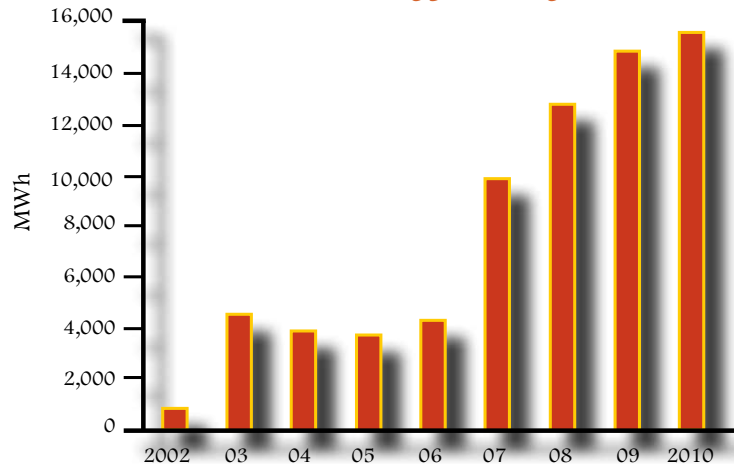
Billions of kilowatt-hours are wasted each year in the United States due to incorrectly installed and underperforming heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment. To help consumers choose a highly skilled contractor, Platte River and Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association jointly offer the SELECT HVAC Program. The central component of the program is a referral list that includes highly skilled local HVAC contractors. In addition to a source of referrals, SELECT HVAC provides participating contractors with access to utility-sponsored training in advanced efficient HVAC technologies and processes.



In 2010, SELECT HVAC's first year, twelve contractors were accepted into the program after signing agreements to abide by a code of ethics; adhere to industry standards for sizing, installation and repair; maintain proper licenses and insurance; allow third party inspections of their work; and be an accredited member of the Better Business Bureau. Also in 2010, [www.select-hvac.com](http://www.select-hvac.com) was created to promote the program.



## Energy Efficiency Annual Energy Savings



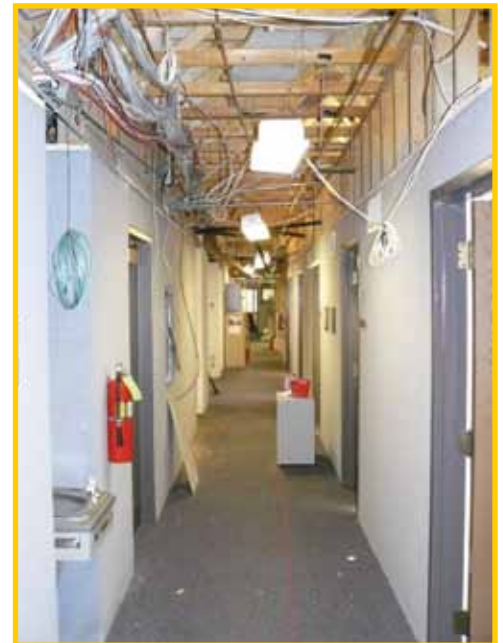
## GEO Grant Awarded

Platte River, Estes Park Light & Power, Fort Collins Utilities and Loveland Water and Power, as a group, was awarded a \$100,000 grant from the Colorado Governor's Energy Office for 2011. The grant is for the development and implementation of a program providing commercial customers with energy audits and assistance for completing projects that will improve energy efficiency.

## Energy Efficiency Project Completed at Headquarters

In addition to helping customers conserve energy, Platte River completed a project in 2010 to reduce electricity consumption at its Headquarters building by about 40 percent.

Built in 1978 and expanded in 1980-1981, the main Headquarters building was neither well-sealed nor insulated and contained an outdated and poorly functioning heating and cooling system. Throughout the spring and summer of 2010, Platte River's facilities staff managed work that included re-insulation of the building's attic and roofline using spray-foam and installation of a new heating and cooling system featuring a water-cooled condenser and state-of-the-art Variable Refrigerant Flow (VRF) technology. The VRF system, the first of its kind installed in Colorado, is highly efficient yet gives employees the ability to control the temperature of their individual work spaces.





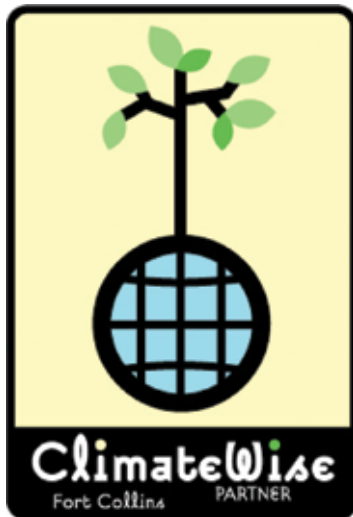
## Climate Wise Activities

A key component of the Platte River's emphasis on sustainability is its Sustainability Team made up of individuals throughout the organization who look for ways to conserve resources, reduce waste and educate employees. Another is Platte River's continued membership and expanded participation in the Fort Collins Climate Wise program. Climate Wise provides a format for businesses to review sustainability practices, set goals and track those goals over time. Platte River has been a Climate Wise partner since the program's inception in 2003.



In April 2011, Platte River achieved the highest level of Climate Wise partner –Platinum. To reach the Platinum level, Platte River and its employees accomplished the following in 2010:

- Upgraded HVAC equipment and controls at Platte River's Headquarters building.
- Hosted a Fort Collins *Bike to Work Day* breakfast station where 197 bicycle riders stopped for refreshments compared to 173 in 2009. Platte River has participated in this annual event since 1994.
- Held an inaugural Platte River *Bike to Work Day Employee Challenge* resulting in 135 commutes totaling 247 miles one-way to work and 38 gallons of gasoline saved.
- Recycled 5,295 pounds of mixed office paper.
- Recycled 104 cubic yards of mixed office material.
- Recycled 90 cubic yards of yard waste.
- Recycled 10 pallets of electronic equipment.
- Generated 2,559 kilowatt-hours of electricity from an existing on-site photovoltaic system.
- Utilized hybrid fleet vehicles that reduced gasoline consumption by 7,092 gallons.
- Participated in the SmartTrips™ VanGo™ program reducing gasoline consumption by 3,652 gallons.
- Distributed tree seedlings to employees on Arbor Day.
- Provided compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs to employees in exchange for working incandescent bulbs on Earth Day.
- Utilized Rawhide fly ash as a cement replacement in concrete products reducing CO2 emissions by 3,744 metric tons.
- Reported greenhouse gas emissions for Platte River's Fort Collins facilities to Climate Wise and The Climate Registry.



## Beneficial Use of Fly Ash

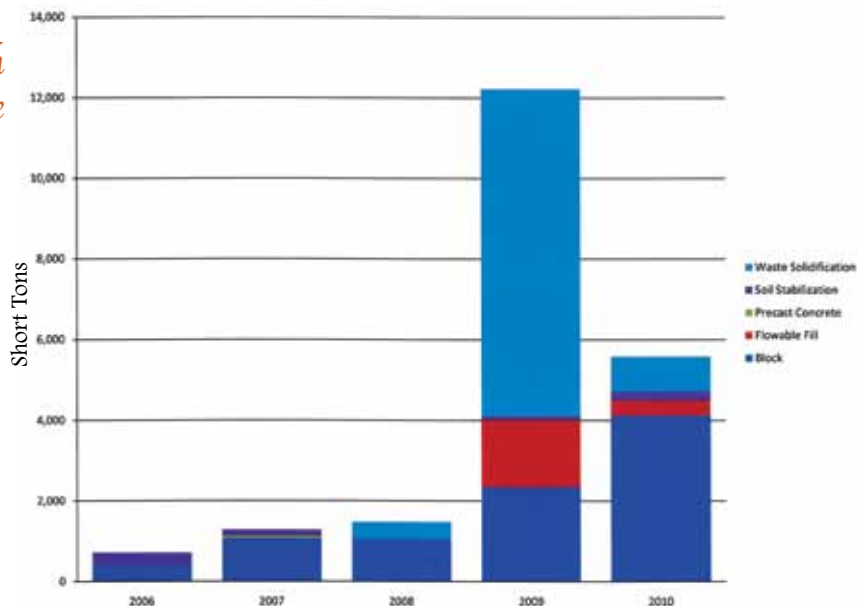
Fly ash is a powdery material and the main byproduct of the coal combustion process at the Rawhide Energy Station. Finding beneficial uses for Rawhide's fly ash has presented a challenge due to changes in its chemical properties caused by the sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) removal process at the plant.

However, with continued focus on reducing disposal costs and saving natural resources, Platte River has been successful at finding the following uses for Rawhide fly ash:

- **Architectural block production**—Block makers reduce their costs by substituting Rawhide fly ash for cement. Lower demand for cement reduces the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> released into the atmosphere (approximately one ton of CO<sub>2</sub> is emitted during the production of one ton of cement).
- **Liquid waste solidification**—Waste management and oil field services companies utilize Rawhide fly ash to solidify liquid waste, allowing it to be disposed of with minimal hazard to land and ground water.
- **Soil stabilization**—Feedlot operators use Rawhide fly ash to provide stable footing for their animals. The ash hardens into a durable substance when mixed with the right amount of moisture and compressed. The result is fewer hoof problems and bacterial infections that can develop from standing in mud and manure.
- **Flowable fill**—Construction companies use Rawhide fly ash to backfill trenches dug for laying pipe. The ash is self-leveling and forms a substance that is not too hard to excavate if it becomes necessary to repair the buried pipe in the future.

About eight percent of the fly ash produced at Rawhide in 2010 was sold. This was down from 16 percent in 2009 due to less use for liquid waste solidification and flowable fill. Block makers use of fly ash increased in 2010.

*Annual Ash Sales By Use*



# Top 10 Advantages — Platte River and Public Power

There are over 2,000 community-owned electricity providers—including Platte River and its member municipal utilities—serving over 20 million customers in the United States. In addition to being community-owned, public power utilities are locally controlled and operated on a not-for-profit basis. Here are some of the key advantages of public power:

**Community Focus** — Because we are community-owned and not-for-profit, we exist solely to provide a service that benefits local residents and businesses—not to provide a return on investment for stockholders who may live very far away.

**Excellent Reliability and Service** — Net income that might otherwise be distributed to stockholders can be reinvested in infrastructure and equipment to maintain an exceptional level of electrical reliability.

**Jobs** — Our offices and operations are based in our communities—we provide jobs for local people.

**Environmental Stewardship** — As local residents, our employees are personally dedicated to preserving northern Colorado's beautiful environment.

**Custom-Built Infrastructure** — Local control guarantees the selection and installation of new generation and transmission resources that are best suited for the unique electricity needs, environmental interests and aesthetic preferences of our communities.

**Low Rates and Great Value** — Our not-for-profit status, efficient operations and tax exempt financing allow us to offer electric rates that are among the lowest in Colorado.

**Responsive Service** — We can respond quickly to problems or customer needs because our work crews are stationed within our communities.

**Economic Development** — High-quality and reliable electric service, in addition to low rates help attract new businesses and retain existing ones.

**Dollars Remain In Our Communities** — Our low rates mean that our customers are free to spend more of their money on other goods and services, which supports local businesses.

**Policies and Decisions Reflect Local Needs and Values** — Policies and decisions governing utility operations are made by community officials, not by federal or state commissions. As a result, we are uniquely able to respond to community needs, build on community strengths and reflect and advance community values.



Eared Grebe



Dark-eyed (White-winged) Junco



Dunlin

## *Birds and Bison at Rawhide*

The use of a man-made reservoir instead of cooling towers makes the Rawhide Energy Station a year-around attraction for migratory birds. Hamilton Reservoir holds recycled City of Fort Collins wastewater effluent and stays relatively warm, even during the winter. Since 1986, the reservoir has been one of the sites of the annual National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count. Three species—the Dunlin, Eared Grebe and Dark-eyed (White-winged) Junco—were seen for the first time at Rawhide during the 2010 bird count held on December 26.

The acres surrounding Rawhide are home to two herds of American bison. Since the first animals were brought to the site in 1983, bison have served as Platte River's environmental ambassadors, demonstrating that wildlife can coexist in harmony with responsibly operated power generation facilities. Platte River employees in the Facilities Maintenance Department manage the herds. Over the years, Rawhide bison have won numerous awards and Platte River has become known as a leading producer of high-quality animals. Platte River and its Rawhide bison herds continued their winning ways in 2011:

### *National Bison Association Gold Trophy Show and Sale®*

- Single Bull Calf—Gold
- Single Bull Calf—Silver
- Single Heifer Calf—Gold
- Single Heifer Calf—Bronze
- Pen of Three Bull Calves—Gold





*Rocky Mountain Buffalo Association Peak to Peak Show and Sale*

Producer of the Year

Grand Champion Male

Reserve Grand Champion Male

Single Bull Calf—Gold

Single Bull Calf—Silver

Single Heifer Calf—Gold

Pen of Two Bull Calves—Gold

More information about the birds and bison at Rawhide can be found on Platte River's Web site at [www.prpa.org/environment](http://www.prpa.org/environment).



# Community Involvement and Support

Platte River Power Authority participates in and contributes to its communities in a variety of ways.

## *Planting Trees and Cleaning Up*

Each year, Platte River provides funds to its owner communities for trees planted in parks, at schools and other public places.

Platte River employees regularly collect trash and debris as part of Adopt-a-Trail activities along the Power Trail, a segment of Fort Collins' network of recreation trails. Platte River donated land for the Power Trail in 1997.



## *Promoting Business and Economic Vitality*

Platte River supports the businesses located in its owner communities and actively participates in efforts to increase the number and quality of local jobs. Platte River maintains memberships in its owner communities' Chambers of Commerce, helps sponsor their annual meetings and provides energy efficiency services to their members. Since 1982, Platte River has made annual financial contributions to support its communities' economic development efforts.

Programs to promote energy efficiency benefit the local economy as well as utility customers and the environment. It's estimated that the energy efficiency programs offered jointly by Platte River and the municipal utilities generated over \$6 million in revenues for contractors and vendors of energy efficient equipment.

## Supporting Education

Platte River recognizes that education is a foundation for personal growth and supports the science curricula of schools (K-12) in its owner communities by providing guided tours of the Rawhide Energy Station in addition to in-class presentations on electricity generation and alternative energy sources.

Platte River is also a financial contributor to the following organizations involved with education:

- *Team Fort Collins* is dedicated to preventing the use of alcohol and drugs among youth through education and interactive events.
- *The Fort Collins Museum of Art* provides educational tours and art classes for children five through 14 years of age.
- *The Boys & Girls Clubs of Larimer County* provides an environment that helps young people reach their full potential. Platte River sponsors “The Power Hour” where youth are given the opportunity to receive one-on-one help with homework in addition to college and vocational preparation.
- *Fort Collins Museum & Discovery Science Center* is northern Colorado’s only hands-on science and technology center, featuring interactive exhibits that stimulate curiosity and make learning fun.
- *Loveland High School’s Geometry in Construction Program* is a fully integrated program in which students gain deep knowledge of geometry concepts by applying them during the construction of a single-family home.



FORT COLLINS **MOA** MUSEUM OF ART

## Helping Others Through the Workplace

In 2010, Platte River became a member of The United Way of Larimer County's *Business Cares Program*. Business Cares provides specialized services, consulting, resources and volunteer opportunities to companies committed to community service.

As a result of Platte River's membership in *Business Cares*, employees came together on two separate occasions to complete projects for local non-profit organizations. On *National Make a Difference Day*, volunteers helped the staff and clients of Elderhaus by painting rooms within its Fort Collins facility. Elderhaus provides quality, affordable day programs and services to adults with special needs. During *National Volunteer Week*, Platte River employees pitched in to improve the outdoor learning center at the Boys & Girls Club in Loveland. Volunteers pulled weeds and built planter boxes that will be used for growing flowers and teaching kids about pollination and plant growth.

For the seventh consecutive year, Platte River participated in the Food Bank for Larimer County's *Corporate Food Fight*. The Food Fight is a competition between local organizations to see who can collect the most food and raise the most money. In 2011, Platte River employees contributed and/or collected a total of 1,070 pounds of non-perishable food items. Employees also donated \$3,290 in cash that will be leveraged by the Food Bank to provide families in need with enough food for about 13,000 nutritious meals.







At Christmas time, employees donated toys for kids active in the Boys & Girls Clubs of Larimer County.

Platte River's Headquarters and the Rawhide Energy Station are regular stops for the mobile lab from the Garth Englund Blood Center. Current Platte River employees have generously donated 200 gallons of blood that went to patients in area hospitals.

The Emergency Response Team (ERT) at the Rawhide Energy Station is made up of specially trained employees who volunteer to provide a first response to fires, hazardous material spills and medical emergencies at the power plant.

Through mutual aid agreements with other fire departments and agencies, Rawhide's ERT also provides emergency services to area residents. In 2010, the ERT responded to 31 offsite incidents including house and grass fires, motor vehicle accidents and medical emergencies, among others.



## *Sponsoring Community Events*

Estes Park hosts the *Come Catch the Glow Parade* each year on the day after Thanksgiving to mark the beginning of the Christmas season. The parade features more than 40 units including floats, marching bands and fire trucks, and attracts over 25,000 people to the town. In 2010, Platte River sponsored a brightly lit float called "Yule, the Christmas Robot."



*Bike-to-Work Day* is an annual event held throughout the United States and Canada promoting the bicycle as an option for commuting to work. Platte River has participated in Fort Collins' annual Bike-to-Work Day since 1994. In 2011, Platte River hosted a breakfast station at its headquarters where 217 bicycle riders stopped for refreshments.

# Glossary

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**ACTIVATED CARBON:** Carbon that has been processed to make it extremely porous and thus to have a very large surface area available for chemical reactions.

**BRITISH THERMAL UNIT (BTU):** The quantity of heat necessary to raise the temperature of one pound of water one degree Fahrenheit.

**BROMINATED POWDERED ACTIVATED CARBON:** A powdered form of activated carbon that has been treated with the chemical element bromine to enhance the reactive properties of the material (see Activated Carbon).

**CARBON DIOXIDE (CO<sub>2</sub>):** A greenhouse gas that is a by-product of combustion (see Greenhouse Gas).

**COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULB (CFL):** A light bulb made up of a twisted glass tube and an electronic control device - called a ballast - at the base of the tube. A CFL uses up to 75 percent less energy to generate the same amount of light as a traditional incandescent light bulb.

**GIGAWATT-HOUR:** One billion watt-hours (see Watt-hour).

**GREENHOUSE GAS:** A gaseous component of the atmosphere that traps some of the heat coming from the sun near the Earth's surface. Greenhouse gases include water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and chlorofluorocarbons.

**KILOWATT:** One thousand watts (see Watt).

**KILOWATT -HOUR:** One thousand watt-hours (see Watt-hour).

**MEGAWATT-HOUR:** One million watt-hours (see Watt-hour).

**MERCURY:** A chemical element that can be deposited into bodies of water by natural sources such as soil and rock erosion, volcanoes and forest fires, and by human activities such as mining, manufacturing and coal burning. Mercury contained in certain types of fish eaten by pregnant women or children is a health concern.

**METRIC TON:** 1,000 kilograms (2,205 pounds).

**NITROGEN OXIDES (NO<sub>x</sub>):** A by-product of combustion. If not handled properly, NO<sub>x</sub> can combine with water, oxygen and other chemicals in the atmosphere to create haze and ozone.

**SHORT TON:** 2,000 pounds

**SULFUR DIOXIDE (SO<sub>2</sub>):** A by-product of combustion. If not handled properly, SO<sub>2</sub> can combine with water, oxygen and other chemicals in the atmosphere to create acid rain.

**WATT:** A unit of electric power.

**WATT-HOUR:** The amount of energy used in one hour by a device requiring one watt of electricity for operation (see Watt).



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Pioneers of the American West lived by unwritten rules commonly referred to as The Code of the West, first chronicled by writer Zane Grey in 1934. This Code was, in essence, a gentleman's agreement to certain rules of conduct based on respect for others and the land.

Platte River Power Authority keeps this Western tradition alive while providing reliable low-cost and environmentally responsible electricity to its owner communities of Estes Park, Fort Collins, Longmont and Loveland, Colorado.

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