

# STATE OF COLORADO

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Bill Ritter, Jr.  
Governor

## 2007-2008 Ritter Administration Accomplishments

Two years into their term, Gov. Bill Ritter, Lt. Gov. Barbara O'Brien and their administration have made significant progress on a number of fronts, including:

- The New Energy Economy
- Business and economic development
- Education reform and funding
- Health-care reform
- Natural resource protection
- Better government

### **2007-2008 By the Numbers:**

- Legislative Bills Signed into Law: 958
- Legislative Bills Vetoed: 15
- Appointments to Colorado Boards and Commissions: 1,398
- Appointments to Judiciary: 66
- Visits to Communities Outside Metro Denver: 162 different venues
- Proclamations Issued: 638
- Foreign Countries Visited: Canada, Afghanistan, Iraq, Spain, Norway, Japan and China.
- Meetings in Colorado with Foreign Dignitaries or Emissaries: 36

Over the past 24 months, Gov. Ritter, Lt. Gov. O'Brien and their administration have fought hard to improve Colorado's public education, health care and transportation systems; establish an internationally recognized New Energy Economy; create statewide economic opportunities; protect Colorado's natural resources; and improve the way state government does business and delivers services to the public.

These wise investments and sound strategies of the past two years will help Colorado navigate through the current economic crisis and allow the state to create new opportunities in the future.

In the pages that follow, you will find detailed achievements by subject matter and executive branch departments, including:

- Lt. Gov. Barbara O'Brien
- Aging and Senior Citizens
- Business Development
- Criminal Justice
- Education
- Environment
- Health Care
- Homeland Security
- Military and Veterans
- New Energy Economy
- Technology
- Colorado Department of Agriculture
- Colorado Department of Corrections
- Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing
- Colorado Department of Human Services
- Colorado Department of Labor and Employment
- Colorado Department of Local Affairs
- Colorado Department of Natural Resources
- Colorado Department of Personnel and Administration
- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
- Colorado Department of Public Safety
- Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies
- Colorado Department of Revenue
- Colorado Department of Transportation

## LT. GOVERNOR BARBARA O'BRIEN

As Colorado's leading advocate for children's issues, Lt. Gov. Barbara O'Brien is a co-chair of Gov. Ritter's P-20 Education Council and an advocate for health and wellness. She also chairs the Colorado Commission on Indian Affairs, is the state's spokesperson for the aerospace industry and oversees community service issues. Among her achievements:

- Co-chairs the P-20 Education Council, leading the development of recommendations that are improving Colorado's education system.
- Advocated for the inclusion of expanded full-day kindergarten and pre-school slots for at-risk children in Gov. Ritter's K-12 education reform proposals.
- Created the first Early Childhood Councils Advisory Team to elevate the discussion on early childhood issues statewide.
- Promotes Colorado's aerospace industry, the second largest in the country, as co-chair of the Colorado Space Coalition.
- Administered \$5.1 million in *AmeriCorps* operating grants, technical assistance and training funds to support early childhood development, pre-school education, foster care youth transition, youth development, tutoring, mentoring and energy conservation and environmental protection programs across the state.
- Serves on the board of LiveWell Colorado, a new nonprofit organization focused on reversing obesity rates. Also chairs the Metro Denver Health & Wellness Commission's active living/healthier eating campaign.
- Led a group of Colorado educators to Harvard to create a Colorado plan for early childhood education. Colorado is one of only five states selected to continue working with Harvard on the plan.
- Lt. Gov. O'Brien's office became home to Creative Capitol, a permanent rotating exhibit of artwork by Colorado artists, organized by the Colorado Council on the Arts.
- Led a group of education leaders to Chicago for a National Endowment for the Arts education leadership forum.
- Organized the first personal trip by a lieutenant governor in 2007 to the Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute reservations in more than eight years.
- Worked with the Colorado Commission on Indian Affairs to help negotiate a national model to respectfully rebury American Indian remains.
- Colorado Commission on Indian Affairs helped negotiate an agreement with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe that allows members to exercise their year-round hunting rights under the 134-year old Brunot Treaty, while respecting their neighbors and Colorado's wildlife management practices.

# AGING AND OLDER COLORADANS

## ■ Governor's Initiatives & Administration Accomplishments

- **Older Coloradans Cash Fund** – Gov. Ritter signed House Bills 07-1100 and 08-1108 (Riesberg/Morse) into law, increasing state funding to the Older Coloradans Fund from \$3 million per year to \$8 million. These funds pay for vital community-based services through 16 area Agencies on Aging around Colorado. Services include Meals on Wheels, transportation, in-home medical services, legal advice, elder abuse prevention, and information and referral services. Many of these services help seniors stay in their homes and maintain their independence.
- **Silverprint Colorado** – This new program, including the silverprintcolorado.org website, was launched to help streamline services, materials and information.
- **Senior Source** – The Colorado Commission on Aging received a \$250,000 grant from the Rose Community Foundation to support “Senior Source,” a multi-media campaign to provide health and well-being information to aging adults.
- **Seniors and Civic Engagement** – Colorado was selected as one of just eight states to participate in the National Governors Association Center For Best Practices Policy Academy entitled Civic Engagement: Engaging Seniors in Volunteering and Employment. The year-long policy academy sought to help states improve the health and lives of older adults by creating a climate that increases opportunities for seniors who wish to engage in employment, life-long learning and volunteer activities. The state team accomplished the following:
  - ***EngAge Your Future: Planning for the Second Half of Life.*** A week-long celebration of events highlighting the ongoing work provided to improve the lives of older adults throughout Colorado.
  - ***Colorado Experience Bank.*** This site is a catalyst and entry point of a web-based, virtual community and navigational tool to connect boomers/older adults to employment, volunteer and educational opportunities.
  - ***Employer Toolkit.*** This toolkit provides an overview of best business practices gathered from successful companies and organizations throughout Colorado and the nation. These strategies have helped employers address their skilled labor shortages by adopting innovative hiring, training, retention, and benefit package policies.

## ■ Appointments to Boards and Commissions

- Gov. Ritter appointed nearly 1,400 people to boards and commissions in 2007 and 2008. Of those, 40 percent are age 55 or older.

## ■ **Legislation Signed into Law**

- House Bill 07-1005 (Soper/Morse), adds missing persons with developmental disabilities to the existing alert program for missing senior citizens.
- House Bill 07-1064 (V. Mitchell/Sandoval), encourages counties to implement Lifesaver Programs to assist county sheriff's departments in locating people who wander away from home or care facilities due to a medical condition.
- House Bill 07-1100 (Riesberg/Morse), increases the amount allocated to the Older Coloradans Cash Fund from \$3 million per year to \$5 million from receipts collected from the state sales and use tax.
- Senate Bill 07-014 (Taylor/Balmer), Legislative Oversight Committee on State and Veterans Nursing Homes; appropriates funds to the central fund for state nursing homes.
- Senate Bill 07-096 (Spence/T. Carroll), creates a new classification for theft from an at-risk adult or at-risk juvenile when the theft is committed by a person in a position of trust.
- Senate Bill 08-058 (Boyd/Riesberg), establishes the Alzheimer's Coordinating Council to identify policy and program responses to address the growing impact of Alzheimer's disease on Colorado.
- Senate Bill 08-131 (Morse/Buescher), increases funding to the Supplemental Old Age Pension Health and Medical Care Fund by \$2.1 million.
- House Bill 08-1108 (Boyd/Riesberg). This bill will increase state funding to the Older Coloradans Fund to \$8 million. These funds pay for vital community-based services through 16 area Agencies on Aging all around Colorado. Services include Meals on Wheels, transportation, in-home medical services, legal advice, elder abuse prevention, and information and referral services.

# BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Gov. Ritter is aggressively addressing the global economic crisis by focusing on protecting existing businesses and jobs and actively recruiting new companies to Colorado. He has established Colorado as an international leader in the New Energy Economy and crafted an overall economic-development strategy focused on modern, knowledge-based industries of the future such as aerospace, the biosciences, energy and technology as well as tourism.

## ■ **Business Attraction, Retention and Expansion Projects**

- **Vestas Wind Systems** – Denmark-based Vestas is building four manufacturing plants in Windsor, Brighton and Pueblo, bringing 2,500 new jobs and a \$700 million capital investment to Colorado.
- **ConocoPhillips** – Announced it will open its global corporate training and alternative fuel R&D center in Louisville, which will bring thousands of new jobs and visitors to Colorado.
- **Siemens Power Generation** – Locating its Wind Aerodynamics R&D facility to Boulder.
- **Renewable Energy Systems - RES** – Locating its new corporate headquarters in Boulder.
- **Hexcel Corp.**, a Connecticut-based supplier to Vestas, will locate its new carbon fiber manufacturing facility in Windsor and employ up to 50 people.
- **United States Olympic Committee** – The Governor’s Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) assisted with a retention package for the USOC Headquarters in Colorado Springs.
- **Leprino Foods** – Announced a new cheese processing facility in Greeley that will employ up to 500 people and invest up to \$400 million in an urban renewal area.
- **Abengoa Solar** – Located its headquarters in Lakewood.
- **Ascent Solar** – Expanded its PV solar manufacturing facility in Thornton, which will employ up to 300 people and invest significantly in capital equipment and facilities.
- **AVA Solar** – Expanded its PV solar manufacturing facility in Firestone, which will employ up to 400 people and invest significantly in capital equipment and facilities.
- **PrimeStar Solar** – Expanded its PV solar manufacturing facility in Arvada, which will employ up to 100 people and invest in capital equipment and facilities.
- **Tri Zetto** – Expanded its software development facility, which will employ up to 200 additional people at the Greenwood Village facility.

- **Lewis Engineering** – Expanded its manufacturing facility in Grand Junction, creating 14 jobs and representing a \$3.5 million capital investment.
- **United Launch Alliance** -- The exclusive U.S. manufacturer of rockets opened its company headquarters in Centennial, resulting in the creation of approximately 700 highly skilled jobs in Colorado.
- **IBM** – The state’s largest technology employer began construction on an \$86 million “green” data center in Boulder.
- **Dragon Manufacturing/Modern Group** – Purchased the former Neoplan Bus facility in Lamar and is producing components for the oil-and-gas industry, and soon will begin manufacturing wind towers.

#### ■ **Legislation**

- Announced legislation to be considered in the 2009 legislative session that will:
  - Provide tax credits to companies that create at least 20 new jobs.
  - Provide thousands of businesses with immediate access to capital and credit through a Colorado Credit Reserve Program.
  - Expand Colorado First workforce training programs at community colleges, particularly for New Energy Economy jobs
  - Invest in New Energy Economy companies, projects and jobs through the Colorado Clean Energy Fund.
- In 2008, enacted the most robust economic-development legislation in a decades, which will:
  - Exempt 30,400 businesses from the Business Personal Property Tax.
  - Simplify the corporate income tax burden for multi-state companies.
  - Make it easier for small rural businesses to obtain job-creation incentives.
  - Eliminate a “fly-away” sales tax on aircraft-manufactured in Colorado.
  - Increase investments in clean-energy and bioscience projects and companies.
  - Map the state’s broadband Internet network, identifying gaps in service.

#### ■ **Other Economic-Development Initiatives**

- Gov. Ritter has strengthened the state’s relationship with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, engaging the lab by creating a Colorado Renewable Energy Collaboratory that partners NREL with the University of Colorado, Colorado State University and Colorado School of Mines. The Collaboratory focuses on R&D and transferring technology to the marketplace.

- Declared Nov. 20 “[Keep Colorado Working Day](#),” which featured job fairs and hiring events around the state, as well as open houses at all 62 Colorado Workforce Development Centers.
- Advised President-elect Obama, his transition team and Colorado's delegation on the need for transportation and energy infrastructure investments in the economic recovery package to create jobs and spur long-term economic growth.
- Hosted a series of statewide “Surviving Tough Times” workshops to give small businesses direct access to federal, state and local assistance.
- Embarked on economic-development and trade missions to California, Canada, Spain, China and Japan.

#### ■ **Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) Activities**

- OEDIT provided major marketing support for Colorado’s space industry at the 2008 National Space Symposium and for Colorado’s bioscience industry at Bio2008
- OEDIT provided funding for the Center for Space Entrepreneurship, which assists in the development and growth of Entrepreneurial Space Companies.
- The International Trade Office provided ongoing assistance to 68 companies, which resulted in \$279 million in sales in 2008. Combined with our 2007 numbers, ITO has supported \$536 million in export sales.
- The Office and its Small Business Development Centers successfully revised and put out to the general public the updated Small Business Resource Guide that included the new section of start up information for Energy, Bio, Information Technology and Aerospace companies.
- Over the past two years, the Colorado Council on the Arts increased the number of grants awarded by 138 percent, number of communities reached by 74 percent, number of individuals served by 200 percent and number of youth served by 116 percent.

#### ■ **Tourism**

- Colorado welcomed a record 28 million domestic overnight visitors in 2007, the state’s fourth year of consecutive growth and a 4 percent increase over 2006.
- Spending by visitors also grew to a record \$9.8 billion, a 10 percent increase over 2006. For every dollar the Colorado Tourism Office invests in promoting travel, \$13 is returned to state and local coffers.
- The Colorado Tourism Office also redesigned and launched the official travel and tourism website, [www.Colorado.com](http://www.Colorado.com), creating a more dynamic, premiere travel planning website.

## ■ **The Colorado Jobs Cabinet**

- Created the Colorado Jobs Cabinet to align the state's economic development, workforce development and education programs so that Colorado is producing a 21<sup>st</sup> century globally-competitive workforce.
- The Cabinet has hosted numerous outreach and input sessions across Colorado, and is currently compiling a business survey and asset/resource map, as well as working on strategies to enhance regional partnerships and web-based communication tools. These activities are scheduled to be completed by December 2009.

## ■ **Helping Colorado Businesses**

- In 2008, the Colorado First Customized Job Training Program and Colorado Existing Industry Program offered training assistance to 7,791 employees. In two years, these programs have worked with more than 100 companies to train or retrain 12,953 employees.
- In 2007 and 2008, the Venture Capital Authority invested \$5.9 million in Colorado businesses.
- Six companies were approved to receive film incentive funds totaling \$800,000 upon their completion of specified production in Colorado.
- In 2008, the Performance Based Incentive Fund approved job creation funds totaling \$963,250 to seven companies, resulting in the creation and retention of 457 jobs in Colorado. Total funds granted by this program in 2007 and 2008 total \$1.3 million, with over 650 full-time jobs created or retained.
- Seven certified capital companies' funding requests were approved by OEDIT, with approximately \$5.8 million invested in Colorado businesses.
- In 2007 and 2008, the Business Loan Funds made 150 loans totaling \$7,975,000, and created 296 jobs.

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE & PUBLIC SAFETY

As a former prosecutor, Gov. Ritter initiated a crime-prevention and anti-recidivism effort upon becoming Governor to reduce the number of crime victims and lower the percentage of offenders who return to adult prison or the juvenile corrections system. The effort is expected to save the state ten. The effort is expected to save the state tens of millions of dollars.

Other criminal-justice accomplishments:

## ■ **Reform Efforts**

- Established the Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice to analyze and recommend evidence-based reforms to the state's criminal justice system. Gov. Ritter is reviewing the Commission's recommendations, many of which are intended to increase the success rate for offenders re-entering the community after prison.
- Created a task force to examine and propose changes to the state's DNA- and evidence-preservation policies and procedures.
- Convened a working group to study gaps in federal immigration and local law-enforcement laws, and recommend changes to close those gaps.

## ■ **Appointments**

- Gov. Ritter has named approximately 85 people to criminal-justice-related boards and commissions.

## ■ **Legislation**

- HB 07-1010 (Marostica/Morse), streamlining search and arrest warrant processes.
- HB 07-1129 (Merrifield/Morse), strengthening restorative justice programs.
- HB 07-1147 (Garcia/Spence), strengthening witness-protection confidentiality.
- HB 07-1161 (LaBuda/Boyd), strengthening juvenile risk assessment.
- HB 07-1317 (Primavera/Tupa), increase website information regarding sex offenders.
- HB 08-1082 (Ferrandino/Bacon), sealing of records.
- HB 08-1397 (Jahn & King, Kopp & Gordon), DNA and evidence retention.
- SB 08-001 (Morse/Stephens), creating a School Safety Resource Center.
- SB 08-208 (Gordon and Mitchell/King and Jahn), DNA retention sanctions.

# EDUCATION

In his first State of the State Address, Gov. Ritter declared ambitious 10-year goals for education: cutting the high school dropout rate and achievement gap in half, and doubling the number of college degrees awarded to Colorado students. He is undertaking multiple efforts to achieve those goals:

## ■ **P-20 Education Council**

Gov. Ritter established a P-20 Education Council to serve as the primary vehicle for education reforms from pre-school to grad school. The Council, co-chaired by Lt. Gov. Barbara O'Brien, is aligning Colorado's education systems so they serve as a seamless pipeline that produces the nation's best workforce. The Council has produced nearly 40 policy recommendations, many of which have become law or policy, including expanding early childhood education opportunities, expanding full-day kindergarten, developing a first in the nation "P-20" data system, and deploying more than 75 new college counselors in high schools across Colorado.

## ■ **Colorado Achievement Plan for Kids**

Gov. Ritter initiated and signed the Colorado Achievement Plan for Kids (CAP4K; SB08-212), groundbreaking education reform legislation that, for the first time in the state's history, expands and connects instructional standards and assessments from preschool into college, establishes "postsecondary and workforce readiness" as the default program of study in all high schools, and charges the State Board of Education and the Department of Higher Education to make conforming adjustments to PK-12 and postsecondary education policies.

## ■ **PK-12 Education**

Gov. Ritter works closely with the Department of Education and State Board of Education to achieve long-term improvements in student learning. Efforts include:

- Improving support and service to school districts.
- Utilizing the data-driven "Colorado Growth Model" to help educators and parents better understand how individual students and groups of students progress from year to year, and what those students need to do to improve.
- Piloting an intensive effort to close achievement gaps in six districts.
- Improving the quality and access to online learning, especially important to rural Colorado.

## ■ **Higher Education**

Colorado's 28 public colleges, universities and community colleges educate more than 200,000 students a year, the vast majority of whom are Colorado residents. Higher education in Colorado supports nearly 100,000 jobs and contributes \$4.25 billion in wages and salaries and almost \$387 million in state and local taxes to the Colorado economy annually.

Gov. Ritter works closely with the Department of Higher Education and the Colorado Commission on Higher Education to ensure that college graduates are workforce-ready. Efforts include:

- Investing more state funds into higher education, \$120 million, than at any other time in state history, including an additional \$18 million for financial aid. As a result, the funding gap between Colorado's public institutions and their national peers has started to close.
- Enacting legislation that makes Federal Mineral Lease revenue available to capitalize higher education construction projects. This is allowing 12 projects totaling \$231 million to move forward at colleges and universities around the state.
- The Colorado Higher Education Competitive Research Authority, created by legislation enacted in 2007, pledged matching funds that were instrumental in winning National Science Foundation awards totaling over \$16 million to the University of Colorado at Boulder and the Colorado School of Mines for two highly-sought-after Materials Science Research Engineering Centers. The Centers are designed to move critical national technologies from research to market application and thereby are engines of job creation and economic development.
- The Department received a major competitive grant from the Lumina Foundation to advance goals of increased degree completion and productivity at Colorado higher education institutions.

#### ■ **Legislation**

Since taking office, Gov. Ritter has signed dozens of education-related bills into law. The 2008 legislative session was widely hailed as "The Education Session." Highlights from 2007 and 2008 include:

- SB07-097 (Fitz-Gerald/Madden), Tobacco Settlement Money for Higher Education
- SB07-140 (Spence/Benefield), Quality Teachers Commission
- SB07-148 (Romer/Casso), Fast College, Fast Jobs Pilot Program
- SB07-199 (Windels/Pommer), School Finance Act
- SB07-215 (Windels/T. Carroll), On-Line Learning Education
- HB07-1014 (Curry/Schwartz), Graduate Programs at Western State College
- HB07-1048 (Merrifield/Windels), Longitudinal Analysis of Assessments
- HB07-1066 (Massey/Schwartz), On-Line Education Course Reimbursement
- HB07-1118 (Todd/Tupa), High school Graduation Requirements
- HB07-1163 (McNulty/Kopp), In-State Tuition for Military and Dependents
- HB07-1232 (Merrifield/Tapia), Military Dependent Supplemental Pupil Aid
- HB07-1270 (Stephens/Shaffer), Education Data System Review and Study
- HB07-1320 (Benefield/Bacon), State Education Data Technology System
- HB07-1345 (Massey/Windels), School Accountability
- SB08-130 (Groff, Spence), Innovation School Zones Act
- SB08-212 (Romer, Penry/Witwer, Scanlan) CO Achievement Plan for Kids (CAP4K)
- SB08-218 (Schwartz & Penry/Buescher & Balmer) COPs for higher-ed projects

- SB08-233 (Windels & Williams/Reisberg & Marostica), Lease purchase agreements
- SB08-245 (Windels/Buescher), Higher Education Intercept Act
- HB08-1335 (Romanoff/Schwartz, Groff), Building Excellent Schools Today
- HB08-1364 (Benefield/Windels), Colorado Interdepartmental Data Sharing Protocol
- HB08-1370 (Middleton/Bacon), Colorado Counselor Corps
- HB08-1388 (Pommer/Windels), School Finance Act

## ■ Appointments

- In 2007-08, Gov. Ritter made:
  - 39 appointments to the P-20 Council
  - 46 appointments to higher education boards
  - 92 appointments to seven additional education-related boards

## ■ Events

- In 2007-08, Gov. Ritter sponsored or attended more than 60 education-related events, including:
  - P-20 Council kick-off and closing meetings
  - Colorado Statewide Dropout Summit
  - Colorado Higher Education Summit
  - Impact Now: Your Voice for Our Kids Forum
  - Colorado Parent Teacher Association Conference
  - Pueblo Hispanic Education Foundation Annual Banquet
  - Douglas County School District Leadership Conference
  - University of Colorado School of Law Commencement Speech
  - Colorado Student Achievement Program Annual Conference
  - Colorado State University Commencement Speeches
  - Trinidad State Junior College Commencement Speech
  - Telluride High School Commencement Speech
  - Strong American Schools event with Governors Romer and Lamm
  - STEMpalooza (University of Colorado Denver)
  - National Middle School Association Conference

# ENVIRONMENT

Gov. Ritter and his administration are enacting greater protections for Colorado's forests, mountains, water, air, wildlife and communities. Major initiatives include:

## ■ Climate Action Plan

Colorado's first Climate Action Plan calls for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent by 2020 and 80 percent by 2050 through:

- Expansion of energy efficiency, conservation and renewable energy
- Reduced vehicle and utility power plant emissions
- An agricultural carbon-sequestration program
- Expanded "Greening of Government" efforts

## ■ Balance

Gov. Ritter is creating a better balance between natural-resource protection and energy-development and mineral-extraction industries by:

- Diversifying membership of the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission and signing legislation (House Bills-07 1298 and 1341) to encourage responsible oil-and-gas drilling while protecting other natural resources.
- Calling for a thoughtful approach to oil shale development, and a responsible approach for drilling in the Roan Plateau and Vermilion Basin.
- Advocating for a Colorado roadless-area plan that responsibly addresses the state's unique economic, conservation and community protection needs.
- Creating more transparency for mining operations such as uranium.
- Restructuring Federal Mineral Lease revenue and severance tax dollars to increase protections for local communities.
- Building a New Energy Economy that encourages a greater diversity of traditional and renewable resources.

## ■ Water Quality and Supply

- Updating Colorado's uranium mining regulations.
- Protecting minimum instream flow rights and signing the "Healthy Rivers Act of 2008."
- Fighting the spread of zebra mussels and other aquatic invasive species.
- Requiring proof of sufficient water supply before developments of 50 or more single-family homes are built.

- Facilitating a seven-state, state-federal Colorado River apportionment agreement.
- Loaning more than \$90 million to farmers, ranchers and small communities for water infrastructure and augmentation projects.
- Hosting a Governor’s Drought Summit to examine the effects of climate change on Colorado’s water supplies.
- Working with stakeholders to resolve water supply issues around the South Platte River, the Republican River Basin, and the Arkansas River Compact.
- Signing legislation that allows water court judges to consider environmental impacts and water quality along with water quantity as part of the determination on large permanent transfers.

■ **Forests**

- Establishing a Forest Health Advisory Council to protect Colorado’s forests from drought, wildfire and insect infestations such as the pine beetle epidemic.
- Creating a five-year program that allows landowners to deduct costs of wildfire mitigation up to \$2,500 from their state income tax from 2009 to 2014.
- Providing a sales-tax exemption for the sales, storage and use of wood products made from beetle-kill trees.
- Creating a voluntary fund for the removal of beetle-infested trees from state-owned land.
- Establishing funds to help communities implement forest health and wildfire-protection programs to safeguard homes and protect watersheds.

■ **Lands**

- Strengthening accountability for the Conservation Easement Tax Credit Program.
- Allowing communities to expand their open space programs.

■ **Wildlife**

- Providing emergency winter feed for deer, elk and other big game.
- Strengthening protections for bald eagles.
- Dedicating funding to species recovery.

■ **Air**

- Establishing Colorado’s first Climate Action Plan.

- Urging the Regional Air Quality Council to fast-track a plan to reduce ozone air pollution in metro Denver.
- Adopting new requirements for mercury reductions from power plants.
- Developing a comprehensive, long-term plan to reduce nitrogen pollution in Rocky Mountain National Park.

■ **Legislation**

- HB-07 1130 (Gibbs/Fitz-Gerald), Forest Restoration Pilot Program
- HB-07 1156 (Looper/Gordon), Disclose Source Residential Water Supply
- HB-07 1168 (White/Fitz-Gerald), Forest Improvement Special Districts
- HB-07 1180 (White/Isgar), Measure Wellhead Oil and Gas Accurately
- HB-07 1252 (Roberts/Isgar), Oil and Gas Surface Owners and Operators
- HB-07 1298 (Gibbs/Tochtrop), Conserve Wildlife Habitat Oil/Gas Development
- HB-07 1305 (Massey/Schwartz), Extend Arkansas River Water Bank Program
- HB-07 1341 (Curry/Isgar), Modify Membership Oil and Gas Community
- SB-07 008 (Taylor/Curry), Expand Water Efficiency Grant Program
- HB-08 1026 (Fischer/Schwartz), Colorado Water Institute
- HB-08 1069 (Curry/Tochtrop), Motor Vehicle Public Land Prohibition
- HB-08 1083 (Curry/Penry), Mineral Revenue Local Government Distribution
- HB-08 1141 (Curry/Bacon), Require Sufficient Water Supply
- HB-08 1161 (Fischer & Kefalas/Johnson), Mining Reclamation Standards
- HB-08 1269 (White/Gibbs), Sales Tax Exemptions for Beetle Killed Trees
- HB-08 1280 (Fischer/Schwartz), Protect Leased Instream Flow Water Right
- HB-08 1304 (Solano/Schwartz), Illegal Taking & Possessing Bald Eagles
- HB-08 1318 (Lundberg/Taylor), Mitigate Pine Beetle Infestation
- SB-07 122, HB-08 1346 (Curry/Isgar), Water Conservation Construction Fund
- HB-08 1353 (Madden/Isgar), Verify Conservation Easement Tax Credits
- HB-08 1414 (Buescher/Penry), Regulate Oil & Gas Waste Disposal Pits
- SB-08 071 (Gibbs/Scanlan), Extend Forest Restoration Pilot Program
- HB-07 1182 & SB-08 168 (Curry/Isgar), Species Conservation Trust Fund
- SB-08 218 (Schwartz & Penry/Buescher & Balmer), FML Revenues
- SB-08 221 (Romer/Scanlan), Watershed Bonding for Forest Health
- SB-08 226 (Isgar/Buescher), Aquatic Nuisance Species Prohibition

# HEALTH CARE

## ■ Governor's Office and Ritter Administration Milestones:

- Increased the number of insured Coloradans by covering 30,000 more children and 10,000 more parents in Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+).
- Launched a comprehensive “Building Blocks to Health Care Reform” initiative to contain costs, improve quality and expand access to health care.
- Established the Center for Improving Value in Health Care to ensure a better value for the \$30 billion spent on health care in Colorado each year.
- Provided comprehensive health care and access to food, clothing, shelter and other services by enrolling more than 60,000 children in a “Medical Home” setting.
- Awarded more than \$2 million to 10 health care providers to expand access to health care to Colorado’s low-income residents.
- Recovered \$45 million of Medicaid payments through estate recovery efforts.
- Reached agreement with Kaiser Permanente Colorado for Kaiser to provide \$155 million in financial relief and other benefits to Colorado consumers.
- Selected 20 agencies to receive almost \$400,000 for child abuse prevention programs through the Colorado Children’s Trust Fund.
- Awarded \$1.9 million in Rural Health Care Grants to rural providers.
- Commissioned a study of care models that may enable practice nurses, physician assistants and dental hygienists to better meet the needs of rural and underserved communities.
- Released the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment’s first Health Facility Acquired Infections Bulletin, leading to improved patient care at Colorado hospitals.
- Completed outreach tours in 2007 and 2008, gathering input from more than 700 community leaders in 16 cities across the state about their priorities for health reform.
- Led the response to the City of Alamosa’s salmonella outbreak, which sickened more than 400 people in March 2008.
- Led efforts to decrease the number of cigarette smokers among Colorado high school students from 18.2 percent to 14.6 percent — exceeding the *Healthy People 2010* goal of 16 percent.

## ■ **Budget Highlights:**

- More than doubled funding for outreach and enrollment efforts for public insurance programs.
- Helped ensure the availability of doctors and dentists who will provide care to children in Medicaid by increasing reimbursement rates for primary and oral health care.
- Increased investment in community mental health services by an additional \$3 million.
- Invested \$8.3 million to provide better services to people with developmental disabilities.
- Invested in health information technology through the Colorado Regional Health Information Organization to help improve the quality of care and address cost issues.

## ■ **Legislation:**

- SB-07 036 (Keller/Stafford), Mental Health Benefits in Private Insurance
- SB-07-079 (Fitz-Gerald/Madden), Provider Contracts
- SB-07 130 (Boyd/M. Carroll), Medical Home
- SB-07 211 (Hagedorn/McGihon), Covering All Children by 2010
- SB-07 232 (Romer/Massey), Loan Repayment for Health Pro's in Underserved Areas
- HB-07 1347 (A. Kerr/Shaffer), Immunization Tracking System and Registry
- HB-07 1355 (McGihon/Hagedorn), Small Group Insurance Rating
- HB-07 1022 (Butcher/Sandoval), Rural Health Care Needs
- HB-07 1101 (Butcher/Tapia), Pueblo Health Insurance Costs Study
- SB-08 003 (Boyd/Riesberg), Medicaid Family Planning
- SB-08 135 (Mitchell/Gagliardi), Health Insurance Standardized Benefits Card
- SB-08 153 (Boyd/Ferrandino), License Home Care Agencies by CDPHE
- SB-08 160 (Hagedorn /McGihon), Children's Health Care
- SB-08 161 (Boyd /Merrifield), Medicaid and CHP+ Enrollment
- SB-08 194 (Hagedorn/McGihon), Public Health Reorganization
- SB-08 196 (Boyd & Tochtrop/Pommer), Nursing Quality Measures Hospital Report
- HB-08 1228 (Green/Gordon), Insurance Responsibility Unfair Bus. Practices
- HB-08 1385 (Primavera/Schwartz) Increased Health Insurance Transparency

## ■ **Appointments:**

- 18 appointments to Health Information Technology Advisory Committee
- 9 appointments to Advisory Committee on Covering All Children
- 5 appointments to the State Board of Health
- Nearly 100 appointments to 20 other health-care related boards and commissions

# HOMELAND SECURITY

## ■ Accomplishments:

- Gov. Ritter reorganized and consolidated multiple homeland security operations under one Governor's Office of Homeland Security, providing stronger oversight, coordination and leadership.
- Developed a new state homeland security strategy focused on capabilities-based preparedness planning with assigned goal leaders responsible for each objective, which are accountable and measurable.
- Implemented new annual Risk Analysis and Capabilities Assessments with each of the state's all-hazard regions through a state-driven process that then uses these assessments to establish priorities for investments, training and exercises.
- Developed a Homeland Security Grants Policy and Procedures Manual to ensure standardization throughout Colorado in administration and monitoring of all homeland security grants. Streamlined entire grant review process adding transparency and accountability.
- Allocated communications funding throughout Colorado with standardized equipment by use of homeland security grant funding and state funding, resulting in over 90 percent coverage of the state with interoperable communications capability.

# MILITARY, NATIONAL GUARD & VETERANS

## ■ Activities:

- Gov. Ritter visited Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait to support Colorado National Guard and active-duty military personnel.
- Hosted families of deployed National Guard members at the Governor's Residence for Christmas, Easter and other occasions.

## ■ Joint Operations and Emergency Response:

- **DNC**
  - After 18 months of training, deployed more than 1,500 Colorado National Guard members and 300 members from Utah, Wyoming, Nebraska and Georgia to assist during the Democratic National Convention in August 2008.
- **Emergency Responses**
  - Activated 345 Guard members in support of Hurricane Gustav, the Alamosa salmonella contamination, Pinon Canyon wildfires, the Windsor Tornado and the blizzards of 2006 and 2007.
  - Supported 22 Search and Rescue missions, the California wildfires of 2007, and support to USNORTHCOM for Hurricanes Gustav and Ike.
- **8th Civil Support Team (WMD)**
  - Responded to: Democratic National Convention, Sodium Cyanide incident, Senator McCain's visits to Durango and Grand Junction, and white powder incident at campaign headquarters for Senator McCain.
- **Critical Infrastructure Protection – Mission Assurance Assessment**
  - Conducted 115 assessments and conducted 35 classes.
- **National Guard Communications Element**
  - Responded to the Windsor Tornado and the DNC.
- **Colorado Joint Counterdrug Task Force**
  - Assisted in 350 arrests and seizure of \$6.6 million in currency and drugs valued at \$71.8 million.
  - Received approximately \$105,000 in federally forfeited assets, to be used in the fight against drug abuse and related crime and narco-terrorism.
  - Provided drug abuse prevention education to over 78,000 Colorado youth.

- **State Partnership Program**

- One of only three states with two international partnerships (Slovenia and Jordan), providing partner countries with access to experts within Colorado on military-to-military, military-to-civilian and civilian-to-civilian activities.

- **Army National Guard**

- Currently supporting 58 deployed members in support of OEF, OIF, and the Horn of Africa.
- Returned 970 members from support of OEF, OIF, and the Horn of Africa.
- The “Grow the Army” initiative will increase strength by 810 new jobs.

- **Air National Guard**

- Trained, deployed and returned 350 personnel in the 140th Wing in support of combat air power operations to OIF, where they hosted Gov. Ritter’s visit of the troops.
- Other Deployments include more than 44 members supporting operations in Afghanistan, Curacao, Guantanamo Bay, Iraq, and Kuwait.
- Maintained 24/7 Air Sovereignty Alert with 2 F-16s and crews at Buckley AFB.
- Increase from 15 to 18 F-16 aircraft resulting in growth of 120 new jobs.
- Broke ground on a \$7.3 million Fighter Squadron Operation building, utilizing a local contractor and creating local civilian jobs.

- **Civil Air Patrol**

- Received two new Cessna Aircraft.
- Conducted 173 search and rescue missions, saved three people and located 20.

- **Funding Items**

- Requested \$200,000 in FY09-10 for the Department of Human Services to begin planning for a proposed residential care facility for veterans on the Fitzsimons campus in Aurora.
- Requested an additional \$220,354 for the Colorado National Guard Tuition Assistance Program for FY09-10.
- Board of Veterans Affairs worked with Governor and Legislature restoring \$2.9 million to the Veterans Trust Fund.
- Increased funding for County Veteran Office Payments in Arapahoe, Denver, El Paso, Jefferson, and Mesa counties.

- Approved Department of Human Services renovations to 46 residential cottages at the Veterans Center at Homelake.
- Assisted the Department of Human Services' McCandless State Veterans Home in Florence in obtaining acceptance into the prestigious Eden Registry.
- Requested \$585,000 (or 10.6 percent) increase in FY08-09 for Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, including a \$250,000 increase for armory maintenance and repairs and \$125,000 for County Veterans Service Officer Payments to help veterans claim earned benefits from the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Administration.
- Administered 4,200 applications, qualifying 2,330, for the Disabled Veterans Property Tax Exemption, as authorized by 2006 voter-approved Referendum E.

#### ■ **Family Programs**

- Received \$509,084 from Tax Check-Off for Military Family Relief Fund and provided 56 Family grants totalling \$362,204
- Implemented a Yellow Ribbon program: Comprehensive and holistic training and support for service members and families.

#### ■ **Division of Veterans Affairs**

- 2,070 client visits, 6,605 claims pending, and \$67 million in previous claims completed by U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

#### ■ **Board of Veterans Affairs**

- Awarded 24 grants totaling \$603,250 to serve 7,717 veterans.

#### ■ **Legislation**

- HB07-1050 (A. Kerry/Williams), Concerning the Display of Flags
- HB07-1211 (Jahn/Tochtrop), State & Vet Nursing Home Commission
- HB07-1212 (Jahn/Penry), Local Advisory Boards for Nursing Homes
- HB07-1251 (Gallegos/Wiens), Prop. Tax Exemption for Disabled Vets
- HB07-1275 (Rice/Penry), National Guard to Receive Forfeited Property
- SB07-014 (Taylor/Balmer), Appropriation of Funds for Nursing Homes
- SB07-086 (Kopp/Balmer), Fallen Heroes Memorial
- SB07-146 (Morse/Rice), Mental Health Services for New Veterans
- SB07-183 (Romer/Weissman), Continuation Board of Veteran Affairs
- HB08-1078 (Buescher/Morse), Repay Colo. State Veterans Trust Fund
- HB08-1180 (Stephens/Shaffer), UI Benefits Active Military Transfer
- HB08-1252 (Rice/Shaffer), Tuition Assistance
- HB08-1317 (Gallegos/Tapia), Compact to Educate Military Children
- SB08-166 (Shaffer/McNulty), National Guard College Opportunity Fund

## NEW ENERGY ECONOMY

Gov. Ritter is building a New Energy Economy in Colorado, creating thousands of jobs, diversifying the state's energy portfolio, and establishing Colorado as a nationally recognized leader in the manufacturing, production and research of renewable energy. He has signed legislation that requires 20 percent of electricity in Colorado come from renewable sources by 2020 and allows customers to sell excess solar electricity back to their utility company.

### ■ **Wind: Colorado ranks 6th in wind energy resources.**

- In less than two years, Colorado has quadrupled the amount of wind-generated electricity. Three new wind farms opened in 2007 alone, generating nearly 650 megawatts of electricity, enough energy to power 250,000 homes.
- Denmark-based Vestas Blades opened its first North American manufacturing plant in Windsor in March 2008 and plans to open three additional production facilities in Colorado (two in Brighton and one in Pueblo). Vestas' total commitment to Colorado represents a \$700 million capital investment and 2,500 new jobs.
- Renewable Energy Systems America Inc. relocated from Texas to Colorado in March 2008. The company designs, builds and operates wind farms.
- Texas-based Dragon Wind will open a plant in Lamar to build wind towers.
- Siemens Energy, the second largest global wind turbine developer, announced Colorado will house its North American Research and Development Center.
- Woodward Governor announced in March 2008 it will add up to 100 employees in Northern Colorado. The company manufactures wind turbine inverters.
- Connecticut-based Hexcel Corp., a producer of carbon fiber and other advanced composite materials and a Vestas supplier, will build a new facility in Windsor.

### ■ **Solar: Colorado ranks 11th in solar resources.**

- Abengoa Solar has located its headquarters in Lakewood.
- Ascent Solar plans to build 1.5MW and 25MW production facilities in Lakewood.
- AVA Solar plans to build a solar manufacturing plant in Longmont.
- PrimeStar Solar of Golden received more than \$3 million in public-private funding to develop thin-film solar technologies.
- SunEdison's new photovoltaic facility generates power for 1,500 homes in the San Luis Valley and in 2008 was the nation's most productive utility-scale solar plant. SunEdison opened an operations center in Westminster in 2008, bringing new jobs to the metro area.

- Fort Carson opened the largest solar plant on a U.S. military base, and the Denver Federal Center, DIA, and Belmar shopping district all installed new solar facilities.
- Arvada's SkyFuel Inc. unveiled its new SkyTrough, a high-performing, parabolic, concentrating solar array.
- Solar Technology Acceleration Center (SolarTAC) announced it will build the nation's largest public-private partnership for solar-energy development in Aurora.
- The Governor's Energy Office is offering rebates for residential and commercial solar electric, solar domestic hot water and other systems.

#### ■ **Biofuels**

- ConocoPhillips will open a global research center for alternative fuels in Louisville.
- Colorado is now home to five ethanol plants and more than 100 E85 or biodiesel fueling stations. More than 8 million gallons were sold in 2008.
- Solix Biofuels, a Colorado State University spinoff company, will open the world's first commercial pilot facility outside of Durango to develop biofuel from algae.
- The Ritter administration helped the South Routt School District convert a coal-fired furnace to a clean-burning biomass generator, utilizing biomass pellets produced in Kremmling from beetle-kill trees.

#### ■ **Renewable Energy Potential**

- The state conducted a comprehensive mapping of renewable energy resources in Colorado, identifying 122 gigawatts of potential wind and solar energy.

#### ■ **Economic Development Missions**

- Gov. Ritter has led New Energy Economy business-development missions to Spain, China and Japan.

#### ■ **Research & Development**

- Gov. Ritter has strengthened the state's relationship with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, engaging the lab by creating a Colorado Renewable Energy Collaboratory that partners NREL with the University of Colorado, Colorado State University and Colorado School of Mines. The Collaboratory focuses on R&D and transferring technology to the marketplace.
- CSU has created Cenergy, a new Clean Energy Supercluster to transfer biofuels, solar and wind R&D technology projects to the commercial marketplace.

- CSU has established a School of Global Environmental Sustainability to help prepare a new generation of green-collar workers.

## ■ Utilities

- Xcel Energy is building the nation's first SmartGridCity in Boulder.

## ■ Colorado Climate Action Plan

- Gov. Ritter issued Colorado's first Climate Action Plan, which calls for greenhouse gas reductions of 20 percent by 2020 and 80 percent by 2050.

## ■ Greening of State Government

- Gov. Ritter set goals that are being implemented to reduce energy, paper, petroleum, water and waste by 2012.

## ■ Community Partnerships

- **Residential:** More than 43 communities participate in Insulate Colorado and ENERGY STAR New Homes programs. Energy assistance was provided to 40,000 low-income families through efficiency upgrades to lower consumers' energy bills.
- **Commercial & Public Buildings:** The state leveraged \$195,000 into \$165 million in energy efficiency investments through energy performance contracting.
- **New Energy Communities:** Gov. Ritter launched a \$10 million New Energy Communities Initiative to maximize energy efficiency and conservation, enhance community livability, promote economic development, and address climate change. The state also has provided:
  - \$656,000 in grants for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects
  - \$350,000 in Solar Innovation Grants
  - \$2.5 million to a solar rebate program
  - \$150,000 to partners to promote small wind installations
  - Grants to mountain communities to handle pine-beetle forest waste
- **Green Collar Job Training:** The Governor's Energy Office developed a green-collar training and certification curriculum to recruit energy auditors. More than 60 auditors have been trained and are on their way to being certified.

## ■ Carbon

- The state launched the Colorado Carbon Fund in 2008 to provide high quality carbon offsets to consumers to support new energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

## ■ Honors

- Gov. Ritter was the only elected official invited to take part in a climate-change expedition to the Norwegian Arctic in August 2008 organized by the Aspen Institute, National Geographic Society and Lindblad Expeditions.
- Gov. Ritter received the "2008 Leadership in Energy Efficiency Award" from the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project.
- Gov. Ritter has testified about the New Energy Economy before Congress, to national conferences and has advocated on its behalf to the Obama administration.

## ■ Legislation

- HB-07 1037 (Levy/Fitz-Gerald), Energy Efficiency Rebates for Consumers
- HB-07 1060 (Riesberg/Shaffer), Bioscience Research Grants
- HB-07 1087 (A. Kerr/Romer), Wind for Schools Grant Program
- HB-071145 (Merrifield/Gordon) Renewable Energy Dev. on State Lands
- HB-07 1146 (Levy/Gordon), Energy Conservation Building Codes
- HB-07 1150 (C. Gardner/Kester), Clean Energy Authority
- HB-07 1169 (Solano/Shaffer), Net Metering
- HB-07 1203 (Fischer/Romer), Energy Management Conservation Studies
- HB-07 1228 (C. Gardner/Shaffer), Renewable Fuel Crops
- HB-07 1279 (McKinley/Romer), Tax Credits, Renewable Energy Machines
- HB-07 1281 (Schwartz/Pommer & Witwer), Renewable Portfolio Standard
- HB-07 1309 (Weissmann/Tupa), School Energy Efficiency
- HB-07 1379 (Weissmann/Tupa), County Enviro. Sustainability Program
- SB-07 51 (Gordon/Witwer), High Performance State Buildings
- SB-07 91 (Schwartz/Massey), Renewable Resource Generation Areas
- SB-07 100 (Fitz-Gerald/McFadyen ), Energy Transmission Development
- SB-07 126 (Keller/Pommer), Funding for the Collaboratory
- SB-07 145 (Tupa/Gibbs), Local Incentives for Renewable Energy
- SB-07 246 (Fitz-Gerald/Buescher), Clean Energy Fund
- HB-08 1160 (Solano/Shaffer & Isgar), Net Metering & Rural Electric Utilities
- HB-08 1164 (Solano/Schwartz), "New Solar Energy Technologies"
- HB-08 1207 (Kefalas/Bacon), Procure Environmentally Preferable Products
- HB-08 1270 (A. Kerr/Tupa), CICs Allow Energy Efficiency Measures
- HB-08 1350 (Madden/Romer), Financing Renewable Energy
- HB-08 1368 (Buescher/Brophy), Tax Prop. Used to Prod. Renewable Energy
- HB-08 1387 (Buescher/Veiga), Low-Income Energy Assistance Funding
- SB-08 078 (Renfroe/Sonnenberg), Energy Efficiency Hist. Preserv. Grant
- SB-08 081 (Schwartz/Madden), Renewable Energy Authority
- SB-08 117 (S. Mitchell/McNulty), Limit Local Bldg. Permit Fee Solar Panels
- SB-08 147 (Gordon/Hodge & Levy), Increase Energy Efficiency State Buildings
- SB-08 184 (Romer/Levy), Colorado Clean Energy Finance Program
- SB-08 186 (Johnson/Levy), Colorado Carbon Fund Special License Plates

# TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Gov. Ritter is emphasizing technology and innovation to strengthen his economic-development and better-government initiatives.

- Gov. Ritter initiated and signed Senate Bill 08-155, an historic consolidation of state government's fractured Information Technology systems under the Governor's Office of Information Technology (OIT). This will enhance services to the public and improve the efficiency of government operations.
- OIT is developing a statewide data system to facilitate information sharing across state agencies, with a particular emphasis on education, social services, and workforce and economic development.
- In conjunction with SB08-215 (Schwartz/Riesberg) and contingent upon funding, OIT will map Colorado's broadband Internet network, which will allow the state to begin extending service to underserved areas, particularly in rural Colorado.
- Gov. Ritter established the Colorado Innovation Council to oversee the development and execution of a comprehensive plan to spur the development of broadband technology.
- Gov. Ritter hosts an annual Colorado Broadband Summit, which brings together key stakeholders to analyze broadband needs and successes.
- OIT has renegotiated state cell-phone contracts, achieving \$600,000 in savings.
- OIT and the Office of Homeland Security are enacting the Colorado First Responder Authentication Credential program to give incident commanders a quicker and more complete sense of first-responders' expertise and training.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

- Agriculture is a \$16 billion-a-year industry in Colorado.
- Exports of beef and beef variety meats from Colorado surged 81 percent in the first half of 2008 as compared to the same period of 2007. At \$241 million, the January to June 2008 level is the highest level on record.
- Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture John R. Stulp and the Department's Markets Division Director Tom Lipetzky participated in a trade mission to China in 2008. Markets Division staff also traveled to Russia for the first time to market beef cattle genetics to Russian livestock producers. A delegation also traveled to Mexico for a similar trade mission.
- Grants totaling more than \$500,000 from the Advancing Colorado's Renewable Energy (ACRE) program helped encourage the development of 15 renewable energy projects beneficial to Colorado's agriculture industry. These grants helped farmers and ranchers participate in Colorado's New Energy Economy and focused on the development of wind, solar, micro-hydro, and biomass resources, as well as the development of biofuels.
- Membership in Colorado Proud grew by more than 140 companies in 2008, pushing total membership to more than 1,000. The program helps food and agricultural suppliers identify to consumers that their products are grown, raised or processed in Colorado. Currently, 60 percent of grocery shoppers between the ages of 25-54 are aware of the program and are reporting increased purchasing of Colorado products. Colorado Proud truly is "Better for you. Better for Colorado."
- The "Colorado Pavilion" was launched at the 2008 Produce Marketing Association Fresh Summit Expo in Orlando, Florida. The Pavilion helped create greater visibility for the seven Colorado companies and associations participating in the Expo, as well as demonstrating to the 25,000 produce buyers, retailers and distributors attending that "Colorado is a produce state." Companies reported nearly \$4 million in immediate sales as a result of exhibiting at the Expo.
- Attendance was up at the 2008 Colorado State Fair with 486,659 people attending.
- The number of CDA certified organic farms has increased 37 percent from 116 to 185 in the last two years. Organic products generally receive a premium in the marketplace for producers.
- The number of phytosanitary certificates issued to allow for export of Colorado commodities to foreign countries has increased 33 percent in the last two years. The numbers increased from 2,204 to 3,224 from FY 06 to FY 08.
- CDA hosted the 17<sup>th</sup> annual "Governor's Forum on Colorado Agriculture." The 2008 meeting, "Advancing Colorado's Rural Development," brought state and national experts together to discuss issues facing today's agriculture industry. The 2009 forum, "Learning from our Past, Cultivating our Future," will focus on agriculture megatrends and how utilize them.

- CDA has made great strides in transitioning its fleet to hybrid and Flex-Fuel vehicles using E85. Of CDA's 96 fleet vehicles, 33 percent run on alternative fuels. (28 FFVs & 4 hybrids)
- CDA worked collaboratively with USDA to expeditiously test more than 7,000 cows that had been potentially exposed to TB. The cows were negative for TB, enabling Colorado to retain its TB-free status. TB testing is a labor intensive, time-consuming process but enables the assurance of freedom from disease.
- The Palisade Insectary released or assisted in the release of over 100,000 tamarisk leaf beetles in the State of Colorado. Over 100 miles of tamarisk defoliation has been recorded on the Colorado, Dolores, Green and Yampa rivers. Conventional control methods could cost millions of dollars and are extremely difficult in the remote and ecologically sensitive areas where beetles are currently at work.
- CDA received two grants from the EPA to help implement School Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in Colorado school districts. School IPM is a program designed to help reduce children's exposure to pesticides.
- The Inspection and Consumer Services Division was awarded a \$245,000 grant through the USDA that will support research in detecting food borne, disease-causing organisms and enable the CDA to play a leading role in promoting a safer food supply.
- CDA worked in cooperation with the Governor's office to secure disaster assistance for agriculture producers affected by flooding, tornadoes, severe winter conditions, drought, extreme heat, high winds, hail, and grasshoppers. In all, 54 Colorado counties were named primary or contiguous disaster areas.

# DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

## ■ Crime Prevention and Prison Recidivism

- The Department of Corrections is responsible for 23,000 prison inmates and 11,000 parolees. The DOC assumes a leading role in Gov. Ritter's crime-prevention efforts, specifically programs aimed at reducing the high rate of offenders who return to prison within three years of their release. DOC is partnering with the Departments of Public Safety and Human Services in these efforts, which include 12 programs that provide education, vocation, job training, mental health, substance abuse, youth diversion and other services. These programs will prevent crimes, keep communities safe and save \$128.5 million in reduced prison and other costs over five years.
- In 2007 and 2008, the DOC experienced a slowing of prison population growth. In fiscal year 2005-2006 the prison population increased by an average of 97 offenders per month. In fiscal year 2007-2008, the growth had slowed to an average of 42 offenders per month.
- On Dec. 17, 2007, the JEHT Foundation awarded the DOC \$321,500 for a project entitled, "Statewide Training on Re-Entry." The project is focused on creating long-term systemic change to reduce the rate of recidivism and increase public safety.
- In 2008, the Division of Adult Parole, Community Corrections and YOS implemented the Pre-Release Program in 19 DOC facilities. The program is designed to prepare inmates transitioning to the community by targeting those known predictors of recidivism.
- In 2007, the DOC partnered with the Department of Revenue on a pilot program that makes valid state identification cards available to eligible inmates upon release. Proper ID is necessary for obtaining work and housing, key factors in successful community re-entry and reducing recidivism. In 2008, the collaboration between Departments continued. In June, the first identification card kiosk was installed at the East Canon Complex. The kiosk allows incarcerated offenders to submit information which will assist the individual in receiving his identification card or driver's license prior to release.

## ■ Prison Development

- The DOC earned the American Correctional Association's Eagle Award, making Colorado only the 11<sup>th</sup> state to earn the honor.
- In August 2007, DOC broke ground on the 948-bed Colorado State Penitentiary II in Fremont County. This high-security facility will provide a state-of-the-art behavioral modification program. The prison is scheduled to open in the spring of 2010.

## ■ **Economic & Workforce Development**

- DOC's Youthful Offender System is collaborating with the Colorado Buildings and Trades Council to offer apprenticeship programs in the construction trades to young offenders. Programs are offered for electrical workers, general laborers, iron workers/welders, plumbers/pipefitters and sheet metal workers.
- In 2007, the DOC partnered with local farmers to provide female inmate labor from the La Vista Correctional Facility to several family farms in the Pueblo area. The program was expanded to Delta County. In 2008, a second group of Pueblo County farmers requested the program. The program now has 8 work crews, working at 10 family farms.
- The Division of Adult Parole and Community Corrections partnered with Aurora Community College Peace Officers Standards and Training Academy to offer a discounted rate for community and parole officer candidates who complete the 16-week academy.
- Working in partnership with the Corrections Training Academy, the Division of Adult Parole and Community Corrections developed a Community-Parole specific Training Academy – The RECLA Academy (Resource for Education/Career/Leadership/Advancement) in 2007. Four classes graduated the academy in 2008.
- On two occasions in 2008, the Denver Complex hosted a career and resource fair for offenders from Denver Women's Correctional Facility and Colorado Correctional Center. In October, more than 150 prospective employers were on hand to interview offenders and discuss future employment potential.

## ■ **Community Partnerships**

- The U. S. Forest Service contracted with Colorado Correctional Industries to remove beetle-kill hazard trees from campgrounds. Beginning in June 2008, two crews have worked multiple campgrounds in the Medicine Bow-Routt and Arapahoe National Forests.
- The DOC partnered with Pueblo Community College to provide college courses to offenders in the Youthful Offender System and women inmates at La Vista Correctional Center.

## ■ **Energy Conservation and Government Efficiency**

- The DOC is aggressively complying with Gov. Ritter's "Greening of State Government" directives by conducting energy audits at state prisons, implementing paper recycling and electronic-recordkeeping programs, and replacing fleet vehicles with flex-fuel and hybrid vehicles.

## DEPT. OF HEALTH CARE POLICY AND FINANCING

- Increased the number of insured Coloradans by covering 30,000 more children and 10,000 more parents in the Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+).
- Reduced pharmacy costs by an estimated annualized \$4 million by implementing the Medicaid Preferred Drug List.
- Provided comprehensive health care, including linkages to community social programs (food, clothing, shelter), by enrolling more than 60,000 children in a “Medical Home” setting.
- Awarded more than \$2 million to 10 providers to expand access to health care to Colorado’s low-income residents.
- Recovered \$45 million of Medicaid payments from estate recovery efforts.
- Provided immediate health care access for an average of approximately 4,000 children per month as a result of the implementation of Presumptive Eligibility.
- Enrolled more than 6,000 clients in disease management programs for clients with heart disease, lung disease, high-risk pregnancy, diabetes, or weight management issues to improve health outcomes and better control health care costs.
- Achieved primary care participation rates in Medicaid of 87 percent for pediatric providers, 70 percent for family medicine providers, and 76 percent for internal medicine providers.
- Improved the quality of care received by Medicaid’s highest-need, highest-cost clients by enrolling more than 2,000 clients in a program that provides intensive care coordination and supplemental benefits – the Colorado Regional Integrated Care Collaborative (CRICC) sponsored by the Center for Health Care Strategies.
- Continued progress on improving the value of health care through the work of the Center for Improving Value in Health Care. The Center convened consumers, businesses, providers, insurance companies and state agencies to develop long-term strategies to improve health care quality and contain costs.
- Certified more than 500 insurance brokers who helped more than 2,000 middle-income families purchase affordable, quality long-term private insurance.
- Partnered with counties, providers, advocates and private vendors to decrease administrative burdens for families applying for public health insurance programs.
- Partnered with the Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition and Family Voices Colorado to conduct statewide forums with people with disabilities.
- Formed a Centennial Care Choices Program panel. The panel is charged with researching and recommending options for decreasing the number of uninsured Coloradans by creating a basic health insurance product providing an affordable health insurance option.

# DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

## ■ **Behavioral Health and Housing**

- ***Supportive Housing and Homeless Programs.*** The Division of Supportive Housing and Homeless Programs (SHHP) received an award of over \$1 million from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to provide permanent supportive housing for 210 homeless veterans in Colorado.
- ***Division of Behavioral Health.*** Colorado received a federal Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral and Treatment Grant to reduce healthcare costs associated with substance abuse by more effectively identifying persons at risk for addiction and substance abuse disorders. To date, 21,426 people have been screened.
- The Division secured a federal grant to provide jail diversion services to the rapidly growing population of veterans within Colorado, directly linking them to treatment services that will support recovery from a range of trauma spectrum disorders (including substance abuse). More than 1,500 veterans will receive services over the five-year life of the project.
- The Division received a federal Access To Recovery Grant that provides vouchers to methamphetamine users and adolescents and young adults, ages 12 -25, as they represent the populations with the greatest unmet need in the state. The vouchers allow clients to choose from which provider they access services.

## ■ **Children, Youth and Families**

- ***Child Welfare, Administrative Review and Field Administration.*** Following 13 child fatalities, DHS Executive Director Karen Beye ordered a comprehensive review to examine commonalities among the deaths and craft recommendations to improve the state's child-protection system. Gov. Ritter also established a Child Welfare Action Committee and the State Board of Human Services passed a comprehensive rules package, both designed to further improve child protection in Colorado.
- ***Division of Child Welfare.*** Integration of services for multi-system families and children is now active in 24 Colorado counties through the Collaborative Management Program (CMP) developed under House Bill 1451. The program will improve service delivery for families in the areas of child welfare, juvenile justice, education and health/mental health/public health.
- ***Division of Youth Corrections.*** The Division of Youth Corrections has made great progress in the development of a Continuum of Care initiative that involves a state-of-the-art assessment, enhanced treatment services within residential facilities and improved transitions to appropriate community-based services.

## ■ Self Sufficiency and Independence

- ***Aging and Adult Services.*** Colorado was one of eight states selected to participate in the National Governors' Association's Center For Best Practices Policy Academy, "Civic Engagement: Engaging Seniors in Volunteering and Employment." Staff developed the website, [www.coloradoexperiencebank.com](http://www.coloradoexperiencebank.com), which connects seniors with locating a new career, enrolling into lifelong learning programs and contributing to their community through volunteer opportunities.
- ***Colorado Works.*** Gov. Ritter signed Senate Bill 177, creating the \$10 million State Strategic Use Fund and authorizing the State Board of Human Services to develop guidelines and an application process to help struggling Coloradans in this economic downturn. Proposals will be reviewed and awards made in early 2009.

## ■ Veterans and Disability Services

- ***Vocational Rehabilitation.*** The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation began a Veterans Initiative, designed to include any and all organizations that serve veterans.
- ***Traumatic Brain Injury.*** The Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Trust Fund collaborated with the TBI community to create a new Executive Order giving CDHS the lead role across state agencies to eliminate barriers to services and better coordinate assistance to Coloradans with traumatic brain injuries.
- ***Developmental Disabilities.*** The Department continued to reduce the waiting list for people with developmental disabilities to obtain services.
- ***State Veterans Nursing Homes.*** The Bruce McCandless Colorado State Veterans Home in Florence has become the first State Veterans Nursing Home in the nation to be accepted into the Eden Alternative Registry. The Eden Alternative is a non-profit organization that views aging as another stage of development and growth instead of a period of decline. The commitment by the McCandless Nursing Home to become Eden-registered is part of a wider "culture change" movement among all of Colorado's State and Veterans Nursing Homes to eliminate residents' feelings of helplessness, loneliness and boredom.
- The State Veterans Nursing Home at Homelake Domiciliary cottages renovation project anticipates receiving gold LEED certification upon project completion in late 2009.

# DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

## ■ Division of Employment and Training

### *Workforce Programs*

- In conjunction with the Colorado Workforce Development Council, the Division of Employment and Training produced the State of Talent Development Report, an assessment the state's current job market and future situation and offers recommendations for improvement.
- Launched the "Strategies to Enhance Colorado's Talent through Regional Solutions (SECTRS). This initiative, which is aligned with the Jobs Cabinet's priorities, will address statewide economic development and job creation from a regional and industry-specific perspective.
- In partnership with regional philanthropy organizations, private industry organized labor and other governmental organization Workforce Development Programs engaged in the Front Range Workforce Funding Collaborative, which received a grant from "Jobs for the Future," to develop the pipeline for entry level construction and medical career workers.

### *Unemployment Insurance*

- Entered into a contract with JP Morgan Chase which allows for unemployment insurance benefits to be distributed via an automated payment (debit) card versus paper checks. The CAP card implementation achieved increased efficiencies and cut administrative costs, while getting claimants their benefits faster and in a more secure form while they transition from unemployment to work.

## ■ Division of Workers' Compensation

- Division staff reviewed more than 64,000 admissions filed by insurers. As a result of that review ,the Division identified and corrected over \$2 million in incorrect payments made to injured workers.
- Employers in the Premium Cost Containment Program saved over \$15 million by preventing workplace accidents.
- The Division's Prehearing Unit resolved almost 12,000 motions regarding workers' compensation cases.
- The Division approved over 6,400 cases for settlement.
- Medical bills were reduced over 33 percent though application of the Medical Fee Schedule promulgated by the Division.

- Colorado’s worker’s compensation premium was ranked 43 out of 50 states, based on a State of Oregon study which analyzes and ranks states highest to lowest with number one having the highest premium and number 51 the lowest.

■ **Division of Oil and Public Safety**

- The Petroleum Storage Tank Fund Section processed 2,197 applications and provided more than \$35 million towards reimbursement of costs for assessment and cleanup of petroleum contamination. The processing time for these applications has also dropped by 12 percent as compared to the previous year.
- As a result of improvements to reports required for remediation activity, both stakeholders and the Petroleum Storage Tank Fund have realized direct cost savings. It is estimated that the savings for the Fund alone could exceed one million dollars per year.
- Issued 259 “No Further Action” letters for previously contaminated sites.
- Adopted new rules for the Public Safety section to advance program objectives and to increase oversight and enforcement in some areas, specifically the explosives and amusement ride programs.

# DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS

## ■ Creating Livable Communities through Grant Awards

- Awarded \$230 million in Energy and Mineral Impact Program grants to local governments, for infrastructure and public facility improvements.
- Awarded \$13 million in Local Government Limited Gaming Impact Program grants to offset impacts from gambling.
- Awarded \$21.8 million in Community Development Block Grants for housing, economic development, public facilities and infrastructure projects.
- Affordable housing accomplishments and assistance to homeless:
  - 888 rental units developed through new construction, rehab or acquisition
  - 420 homeowners helped with down payment assistance
  - 224 single family homes rehabilitated (owner occupied)
  - 20 housing needs assessments were funded
  - An average of 3,000 households subsidized annually with rental assistance
  - 31,000 homeless people receive services from DOLA-funded shelters a year
- The Department has improved the Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Grant Program, providing greater transparency, accountability and strategy to the grant process.

## ■ Creating Livable Communities in the New Energy Economy

- ***New Energy Communities.*** DOLA, in partnership with the Governor's Energy Office, created the New Energy Communities Initiative to maximize energy efficiency and conservation, encourage use of renewable technologies, enhance community livability, promote economic development in downtowns and address climate change by reducing carbon emissions. \$10 million has been awarded to 14 grant recipients.
- ***New Energy Property Taxation Policies.*** Clarified property tax policy which resulted in legislation in 2008 to ensure that property tax incentives for renewable energy facilities are valued at the local level.

## ■ Addressing the Foreclosure Crisis

- ***Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP).*** DOLA is working with local partners and HUD to direct federal dollars into communities hardest hit by the foreclosure crisis. Colorado received \$54 million toward this effort. The state has created a strategy that will:
  - Provide funding to the most highly impacted areas along the urbanized I-25 corridor, specifically: Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Boulder, Denver Douglas, El Paso, Jefferson, Larimer, Pueblo, and Weld Counties, as well as Cities of Aurora, Colorado Springs and Pueblo.

- Purchase foreclosed properties, remove blight and develop vacant parcels of land, and absorb inventory to stabilize the housing market through homeownership.
- ***Foreclosure Hotline (1-877-601-HOPE)***. In the past two years, 25,548 calls have been made to the hotline, which brings together housing organizations, lenders and other agencies to help homeowners avoid foreclosure. Approximately 6,569 counseling sessions were held resulting in 5,320 households avoiding foreclosure.

■ **Providing Leadership in Emergency Preparedness and Response**

- DOLA's Division of Emergency Management has worked closely with local, state and federal agencies on a number of major efforts and events, including:
  - Democratic National Convention
  - Alamosa salmonella incident
  - Ordway wildfire, which destroyed 24 homes and killed two firefighters
  - Windsor tornado response and recovery, which killed one person and severely damaged or destroyed more than 200 homes.
  - Awarding more than \$11.2 million of federal Emergency Preparedness and Hazard Mitigation grants to local emergency management programs.

# DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## ■ Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission

- Completed the first comprehensive regulation update in more than a decade to support the continued development of the state's oil and gas resources, encourage the use of up-to-date planning and technology, and provide additional environmental protections.
- Issued nearly 8,000 drilling permits in 2008, 20 percent more than the record set last year. Permitting levels have increased 250 percent since 2003. Colorado now has more than 37,000 active oil and gas wells that are helping to meet the nation's energy needs.

## ■ Division of Wildlife

- Utilized \$35 million from GOCO, Habitat Stamp, Wildlife Cash and federal funds to protect 66,000 wildlife habitat acres under the CO Wildlife Habitat Protection Program.
- Created a cooperative research program with industry to avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts to wildlife from oil and gas development.
- Enacted a statewide Aquatic Nuisance Species Plan and Response Plan for Zebra and Quagga Mussels following discovery of zebra mussels in Pueblo Reservoir.
- Fed more than 9,500 deer and 600 pronghorn antelope to prevent starvation caused by record snowfall during the winter of 2007-08 in the Gunnison Basin, and baited 3,200 elk to hold them off of unprotected haystacks and reduce collisions along Highway 50.

## ■ Colorado Water Conservation Board

- Loaned more than \$90 million to farmers, ranchers and communities for water projects.
- Provided more than \$300,000 to help 18 communities develop and implement water conservation plans and conduct outreach and education programs.
- Hosted Governor's Drought Summit.
- Helped facilitate the Record of Decision regarding future Colorado River Operations in the event of a "shortage" of water.

## ■ Colorado State Forest Service/Division of Forestry

- Produced and distributed the annual Report on the Health of Colorado's Forests.
- Completed the Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment and assisted with the development of 109 Community Wildfire Protection Plans.
- Provided guidance and expertise to the General Assembly's Wildland-Urban Interface Interim Committee and the Governor's Colorado Forest Health Advisory Council.

## ■ **Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation**

- Created a boat inspection program to control spread of zebra mussels and other aquatic invasive species in the state's waterways. More than 150,000 boats were inspected in 2008, and thousands of boat owners were educated about the issue and the program.

## ■ **State Land Board**

- Set new record in 2008 by approving four solar energy planning leases on state trust lands, which allows for studies to determine viability of solar on these sites and provide applicants exclusive right to enter a long-term solar lease if approved by the Board.

## ■ **Division of Water Resources**

- Passed bond issue in Yuma County to purchase remaining surface water rights on the North Fork of the Republican River and settled the Pioneer Ditch Litigation.
- Secured Kansas' agreement to accept a delivery of water as full restitution for past under-deliveries and to resolve certain long-standing disputes.
- Settled the Black Canyon case quantifying the decreed flows of the Gunnison River in Black Canyon National Park, with a final decree expected in early 2009.
- Investigated build-up of groundwater pressure in the Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel and potential flooding as result of a landslide on the East Fork of the San Juan River.

## ■ **Colorado Geological Survey**

- Updated "A Guide to Swelling Soil for Colorado Homebuyers and Homeowners, Second Edition," on the most damaging geologic hazard in Colorado.
- Completed Raton Basin and Piceance Basin CBM Stream Depletion Assessment Studies, which analyzed the potential affect on surface water due to groundwater pumping by coalbed methane development wells.
- Finalized Interpretive Geothermal Heat Flow Map of Colorado and Interpretive Geothermal Gradient Map of Colorado, identifying Colorado's geothermal resources.

## ■ **Division of Mining, Reclamation and Safety**

- Approved a major expansion amendment for Cripple Creek and Victor site in Teller County.
- Coal mining: The 2007 production was 36.1 million tons -- an increase of 644,948 tons (2 percent) over 2006. A new mine was recently approved in Fremont County.

# DEPT. OF PERSONNEL & ADMINISTRATION

## ■ Engaging State Employees

- The Department continued to engage state employees through statewide town hall meetings on issues such as compensation, work environment, health benefits and the effects of the economy on retirement and jobs.
- The Department released its first comprehensive Workforce Opinion Survey in over a decade to establish a baseline measurement of employee attitudes, opinions and concerns. 12,000 employees completed the survey and the results will be used to measure the success of the State's efforts in areas of employee retention, benefits and new programs.

## ■ Efficiency in Government

- The Colorado State Employees Assistance Program created customized workshops resulting in an estimated cost avoidance of more than \$5 million. This program was awarded the Governor's State Top Achievement Recognition (STAR) Award.
- The Office of the State Architect began the Capitol Complex Facilities Master Plan to provide the State with a long-term vision of cost-effective use for state-owned and leased real estate assets. Incorporated into this plan as the first phase is the relocation of the State's history museum and the Judicial Heritage Center.
- In 2008, approximately 165 Division of Information Technology employees were consolidated with the Governor's Office of Information Technology. This will bring more efficient management of IT for state agencies.

## ■ Greening of State Government

- The State's motor vehicle fleet continued to add fuel efficient cars, hybrids and flex-fuel vehicles. An E85 fuel site was installed at the state's motor pool, and the fleet is testing a new, in-car GPS monitoring technology. These measures are helping to meet the Governor's "25-in-5" target for reduction of petroleum consumption.
- The Department's sustainable and efficient management of state buildings led to Colorado receiving the nation's first LEED certification for a state Capitol.
- The efficiency and conservation upgrades throughout the state Capitol Complex continued to save taxpayer dollars, providing funds to install a solar photovoltaic system on the Capitol in November 2008 and the Governor's Residence in 2007.
- The Residence received a LEED certification and had a geexchange heating and cooling system installed in 2008.

## DEPT. OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

- The state's Air Quality Control Commission has adopted rules that will dramatically reduce mercury emissions from new and modified coal-fired power plants and that require these power plants to monitor their mercury emissions. The Air Quality Control Division worked closely with electric utilities, industry, environmental groups and local governments to draft these rules to benefit lakes, streams, aquatic species and human health by reducing the amount of mercury that ends up in natural riparian ecosystems.
- In November 2007, the first Colorado Hospital Report Card was published as a web-based consumer tool. The state health department contracted with the Colorado Hospital Association to produce the report card. The association will produce annual updates that expand the scope of the hospital measures. Semi-annual bulletins will continue to report infections acquired in hospitals and expand reporting to cover infections acquired in ambulatory surgical centers (new in 2009) and, in the future, in dialysis centers as well.
- The Department, along with the state's Division of Emergency Management, led the response to the City of Alamosa's salmonella outbreak that sickened more than 400 people in March 2008. The public water supply, which had been contaminated with salmonella, has been deemed safe, and all residents were able to continue using the water after being on bottled and boiled water for approximately six weeks. The state lab was instrumental in quick turnaround testing that helped shorten the bottled water order.
- Among Colorado high school students, cigarette smoking declined from 18.2 percent in 2001 to 14.6 percent in 2006 — exceeding the *Healthy People 2010* goal of 16 percent.
- The Oral Health Unit has been successful in expanding school sealant programs. In 2007 seven local providers visited 166 sites and provided dental screenings, health education presentations, and sealant services. In 2008 a total of nine providers reached 237 sites. As a result of these programs nearly 10,000 second-graders have received preventive dental services over the last two years.
- The state's Air Quality Control Division, in conjunction with the Regional Air Quality Council, developed the Denver Metro Area and North Front Range Ozone Action Plan for ozone reduction to comply with the National Ambient Air Quality Standard adopted in 1997 in response to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's determination in 2007 that the area was in noncompliance for ozone. The state was able to secure significant voluntary emission reductions and other contributions to reduce ozone levels on the Front Range. The plan demonstrates compliance with the 1997 standard by 2010, and takes important steps toward achieving the newer, stricter standard adopted by the EPA in 2007. The Air Quality Control Commission adopted this plan at its December 2008 public hearing.

- Under passage of SB 08-153, the state now requires home care agencies in Colorado to obtain licenses and be subject to state requirements. Previously, Colorado had been one of only five states that did not require licenses. The state health department is working with a broadly based advisory committee to develop the regulations that will govern skilled and personal care agencies in advance of the deadline for skilled care agencies to apply for licenses on June 1, 2009.
- Colorado had the only State Lab that was able to isolate the national outbreak strain of Salmonella Saint Paul from jalapeno peppers and link it to a human case. The state's Consumer Protection Division helped prevent the further spread of this food-borne outbreak, resulting in reduced numbers of reported cases, by coordinating the quick removal of implicated tomatoes, jalapeno peppers and Serrano peppers from Colorado retail markets.
- Since the initiation of tandem-mass spectrometry newborn screening on July 1, 2006, the State Lab has detected 46 serious metabolic disorders including nine cases of Medium-chain Acyl CoA dehydrogenase deficiency (MCAD). The early identification of this condition alone is life-saving, and there are many important health benefits, including avoided mortality and disability, that accrue for newborns with any of the other 29 tests included in the new expanded testing. The total number of cases detected surpasses the original estimate by 20 percent. The majority of the 46 cases are from Colorado, with a few from Wyoming and Guam.
- The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment issued the final permit to the Pueblo Chemical Depot that allows the Army, Department of Defense and its contractor to complete construction of the facility that eventually will be used to treat and destroy more than 780,000 hazardous waste chemical weapons currently stored at the depot. A future modification to the permit will be necessary before actual hazardous waste treatment operations may begin.
- Colorado was the first state to engage a major, national private corporation in a partnership to educate consumers in emergency preparedness. Under the pilot project with Wal-Mart, the state's Emergency Preparedness and Response Division teamed up with 79 Colorado Wal-Mart and Sam's Club stores to encourage residents to prepare their own home, office and car emergency preparedness kits. In one week, 1.5 million Coloradans visited their local Wal-Mart or Sam's Club to view sample emergency preparedness kit items on display and pick up informational brochures, available in both English and Spanish, with checklists to help consumers shop for their own kits.

## **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

- Managed the roles of 12 state agencies in providing safety and security for the Democratic National Convention.
- Opened a new Colorado Bureau of Investigation justice center in Grand Junction.
- Reduced review times for fire suppression plans, firefighter, medical first responder and hazardous materials responder certifications to 30 days.
- Investigated violations of federal immigration laws including human trafficking under the new State Patrol Immigration and Enforcement Unit.
- Investigated more than 50 criminal cases involving identity theft and fraud during the past two years, leading to three racketeering indictments. Provided certified training in ID theft and fraud to 363 Colorado police officers from rural law enforcement agencies, and provided training to nine victim advocate teams and 200 victim advocates.
- Opened the new School Safety Resource Center authorized by Senate Bill-08 1.
- Handled a 400 percent increase in calls to the Safe2Tell school-safety hotline. Calls to Safe2Tell contributed to the prevention of at least 106 suicides and 28 planned school attacks.
- Achieved 35 percent reduction in traffic fatalities compared to a national reduction of 6.5 percent over the past several years on highways supervised by the Colorado State Patrol.
- Launched a mapping feature on the state's online sex offender registry. Arrested 58 unregistered sex offenders in a statewide, multi-agency effort called Operation Shepherd. Checks on another 1,300 other sex offenders confirmed their locations.
- Achieved the nation's second-best fire fatality rate.
- Inspected 100 percent of Colorado's school construction projects for fire code compliance, a significant improvement over the 20 percent inspection rate for the prior year, an increase from 48 to 230.
- Received national recognition for a publication that outlined successful prevention of crime and repeat offenders.
- Provided grants to local law enforcement agencies under a new state program that issues radio transmission devices designed to help track people with dementia, Alzheimer's or other disorders who may wander from home.
- Issued 66 recommendations associated with post-release programs for Colorado inmates to reduce the chance they will commit new crimes, and provided the General Assembly with recommendations designed to save incarceration costs.

- Improved billing accuracy and access to statistical information for \$54 million in community corrections contracts by initiating an automated billing system for providers.
- Diverted offenders from more costly prison incarceration for offenders leaving prison, saving taxpayers more costly prison bed expense. Added 64 mental health treatment beds in community corrections programs.

## DEPARTMENT OF REGULATORY AGENCIES

DORA redefined its mission in 2007 to emphasize consumer protection — the common thread that links all nine agencies within the department: Banking, Civil Rights, Financial Services, Insurance, Office of Consumer Counsel, Public Utilities Commission, Real Estate, Registrations, and Securities.

- The Public Utilities Commission and the Office of Consumer Counsel conducted regulatory actions to review and contest utility rate cases as well as enforcement that saved Colorado consumers an estimated \$100 million during 2007 and an estimated \$125 million during 2008. In one investigation alone, the Public Utilities Commission found that a gas utility over-collected gas payments from its customers from July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007, and approved a plan directing the utility to return \$8.85 million to its natural gas customers.
- The Division of Insurance helped businesses save on workers' compensation insurance when Colorado's Commissioner of Insurance reduced the loss cost factor which affects rates for businesses 16 percent lower, which could potentially result in \$162 million in savings in 2009. This adjustment follows a 7.5 percent decreased rate this year, saving businesses a total of \$239 million over two years.
- The Division of Insurance reviewed other rates, besides workers' compensation, and conducted enforcement, saving consumers \$14.7 million in 2008 and \$7.3 million in 2007, or \$22 million since 2007.
- Resolved over 20,000 consumer complaints resulting in an estimated \$34.8 million recovery for consumers. Details of this consumer savings is as follows:
  - The Division of Insurance processed more than 9,000 consumer complaints since 2007 regarding health insurance, property and casualty, and auto protests, recovering over \$25 million for consumers.
  - The Division of Securities was able to recover nearly \$6.2 million in settlements for consumers since 2007.
  - The Public Utilities Commission reviewed 5,660 complaints against utility companies since 2007 and 513 complaints against transportation companies since that same time, resulting in consumer recovery of \$1.1 million.
  - The Division of Civil Rights, through its mediation efforts, recovered \$804,290 in FY 06-07 and \$1,336,691 in FY 07-08.
  - The Division of Banking recovered \$37,788 in FY 06-07 and \$78,215 in FY 07-08.
- Initiated consumer awareness strategies, including Office of Consumer Counsel recommendations that Xcel Energy include information on monthly billing statements regarding the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted for customers' electricity consumption during that billing cycle. The Public Utilities Commission directed Xcel Energy to pursue a CO<sub>2</sub> information/education partnership, involving state agencies and non-profit entities that are also established and credible in this arena. The Commission also required Xcel to address a strategy for improving public knowledge concerning the relationship between electricity consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

- State regulation of financial institutions is more efficient and cost-effective, evidenced by more and more Colorado banks and credit unions opting for state charters rather than being regulated at the federal level. Since 2007, three national banks converted to state charters, bringing \$1.5 billion in new assets under state control. In addition, three new bank charters were created, with \$65.5 million in new assets. These conversions added to the total assets of \$39.4 billion under the regulatory authority of the Colorado Division of Banking. One new credit union has converted to state charter, bringing \$835 million in new assets of the \$11.72 billion under the regulatory control of the Colorado Division of Financial Services.
- Gov. Ritter and DORA Executive Director Rico Munn officially re-opened the Civil Rights Southern Regional Office in Pueblo and Western Regional Office in Grand Junction, after funding cuts closed the offices in 2004. The offices will serve these communities by protecting against discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations. We intend to re-open the Civil Rights Office in Greeley when budget permits.
- DORA, initiated through its Division of Registrations, conserved a full \$445,145 in total legal expenditures last year (and \$899,987 in 4 years) by developing the in-house Expedited Settlement Program, which implements a board's decision regarding disciplinary action against a licensee through a settlement process rather than sending the case directly to the Office of the Attorney General. The Program was nominated for receiving a Governor's Efficiency in Management award. DORA's Division of Real Estate is now implementing the program as well.
- With an influx of new legislation last year adding new professionals to regulate, the Division of Registrations, which licenses nearly 50 occupations, recruited professionals in various communities across the state to educate them about new legislation affecting their occupations. The Division was also lauded by the Governor's Office for its efforts in recruiting new board members to its 40 voluntary boards.
- DORA engaged the mortgage industry and consumers to serve on advisory committees to develop a better approach to licensing mortgage brokers, of which approximately 10,000 have received licenses in the first year of regulating this profession.
- Information Technology Systems delivered DORA's extensive online programs on time, and maintained an infrastructure that was up and running 99.9 percent of the time.

# DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

## ■ Division of Motor Vehicles

- Helped craft a new law with the Interagency Task Force on Drunk Driving that clarifies the administrative license revocation process for impaired driving and that encourages ignition interlock use by all first DUI offenders.
- Implemented a High-Emitter Program with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to identify vehicles that fail emission tests by using “clean screen” technology at drive-by testing stations.
- Driver’s License Section opened three new offices and hired 53 new workers for offices throughout the state to reduce wait times and travel distances for citizens.
- Provided identity documents to inmates pending release in an innovative program with the Colorado Department of Corrections to assist them in obtaining jobs and housing and to prevent recidivism.
- Renewed license plates for 201,090 vehicle owners via on-line services in Fiscal 2007. Between July and October 2008, 92,302 vehicle registration renewals have been completed.
- Doubled the number of Rapid Screen vans, to 18, providing a more convenient alternative to the traditional fixed-site emission inspection stations.
- Initiated a \$1.2 million annual savings by moving the state’s Motorist Insurance Identification Database from an outside vendor to an in-house host.

## ■ Division of Taxation

- Assessed more than \$365 million in delinquent taxes during FY 2008, a 41 percent increase over the previous year.
- Collected nearly \$215 million in delinquent taxes during FY 2008, a 12 percent increase over the previous year.
- Taxpayer Service Division responded to 160,558 pieces of written correspondence, handled 90,687 walk-in customers and answered 823,730 phone calls.
- Increased the number of online personal and corporate income tax filers.

## ■ Central Department Operations

- Issued more than 90 percent of all income tax refunds within 14 days of receipt. In 2008, there were 1.5 million individual income tax refunds issued.

- Received 62 percent of the record \$11.5 billion in deposits electronically and processed more than 3.1 million checks. In 2007, received 61 percent of the record \$10.9 billion in deposits electronically.

#### ■ **Information Technology Division**

- Rolled out the first phase of the Colorado Integrated Tax Architecture, handling property-tax credits, estate and severance taxes. The project will replace the state's nearly 50-year-old tax systems with a state-of-the-art, commercially available solution that is currently used in other states and jurisdictions.
- Deployed more than 100 servers and 1,200 desktops to county offices statewide for titling and registering motor vehicles.
- Completed a department-wide Cyber Security Plan, implemented enhanced intrusion detection, performed numerous external vulnerability scans, and encrypted 93 percent of all department laptop computers.

#### ■ **Enforcement Division**

- The Division of Racing collected more than \$1.5 million in taxes on \$90 million wagered in 2008. In 2007, collected more than \$2 million in taxes on the \$100 million wagered.
- The Liquor and Tobacco Enforcement Division issued, renewed or transferred more than 13,000 licenses, up from 7,200 in 2007.
- The Hearings Division conducted more than 33,000 hearings (motor vehicle, liquor, tobacco, racing, automotive salesperson, ID and tax). In 2007, 23,000 hearings.
- The Division of Gaming worked with the Department of Human Services and Colorado Interactive to successfully implement the Gambling Payment Intercept Registry pursuant to HB 07-1349 to ensure child-support payments from delinquents.

#### ■ **Lottery Division**

- Partnered with 2,900 retailers around the state who sold \$505.8 million worth of tickets in fiscal 2008 – a sales record. Retail outlets earn commissions for every ticket sold. In 2008, \$33.7 million was paid out to retailers.
- Directed \$122.3 million in 2008 and \$119 million in 2007 in Lottery proceeds to Great Outdoors Colorado, The Conservation Trust Fund, State Parks and the Contingency Fund in the Colorado Department of Education.
- Paid out \$313.8 million in prizes.

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

- Gov. Ritter reauthorized the Transportation Finance and Implementation Panel to continue raising awareness about Colorado's transportation funding crisis, and to explore options for increasing the investment in the state's infrastructure. The Panel engaged in an extensive statewide outreach effort that included holding a total of 38 meetings across the state with representatives from local governments and business and community leaders to gain input. The Panel's final recommendations may serve as the basis for developing legislative and state ballot packages.
- Installed a first-in-the-nation wildlife detection system on U.S. 160 between Durango and Bayfield to reduce the number of vehicle crashes with wild animals. This "intrusion-detection" technology detects changes in the earth's electromagnetic field, including the presence of large animals. The system then activates electronic signs to warn motorists of wildlife in the roadway vicinity.
- In an unprecedented event, CDOT closed the busiest stretch of highway in Colorado – Interstate 25 through downtown Denver -- to ensure the safety of motorists and attendees at the Democratic National Convention. The highway closure caused minimal impacts and allowed for a successful and safe event.
- After 15 years of construction in the area, CDOT completed a new flyover ramp connecting eastbound I-270 to eastbound I-76. The 2,281-foot flyover is the last phase of a 10-phase, \$153.3 million project that improves the I-25/US 36/I-76/I-270 interchange complex, the only interchange of four expressways in Colorado.
- After studying I-70 mountain corridor transportation needs for more than a decade, CDOT, at Gov. Ritter's direction, re-engaged stakeholders through a solution-driven process. CDOT worked with the I-70 west corridor collaborative effort team to reach consensus on recommending and identifying long-term solutions to address the mountain corridor's transportation needs. Solutions include a combination of mass transit and highway improvements together with phased decision-making and construction.
- CDOT, with support from Denver Water and contractor Jalisco International, responded quickly to a massive sinkhole on I-25 near 58<sup>th</sup> Avenue and was able to reopen all lanes of the highway in just eight days.
- Launched *Live To Ride*, Colorado's new safety campaign to promote motorcycle safety among riders by emphasizing the importance of training, proper gear and sober riding.
- Expanded efforts to assist transit programs across the state. Forty eight counties will receive \$63.3 million in 2007/2008 in 159 state and federal grants.
- Completed and adopted the 2035 Statewide Transportation Plan, which includes the vision for a 21<sup>st</sup> century multimodal transportation system in Colorado.
- CDOT snowplow operators cleared a record 12.8 million miles of highway in 2007-08.

- Completed a transit/rail study, using Federal Transit Administration funds, to identify governance structure options for developing, planning, financing, and operating an inter-regional or statewide transit program in Colorado.
- Adopted new construction specifications for increasing amounts of recycled asphalt pavement into new asphalt.
- Adopted new "greener cement" construction specification to substitute limestone for cement filler in certain types of concrete, and built three test sections for evaluation.
- Added personnel to CDOT's motor pool garage to provide other state agencies with vehicle repair services as a state efficiency measure.
- Implemented video conferencing at eight CDOT locations throughout the state, for a total savings in travel costs and time of approximately \$500,000 per year.
- Added 135 truck chain-up parking spaces to the I-70 west mountain corridor to increase mobility and provide for safer travel during inclement weather.
- CDOT, a partner in the U.S. 36 Preferred Alternative Committee, worked collaboratively to develop a "combination" alternative for the U.S. 36 Corridor. The PAC's recommendation, which includes a combination of managed lanes, auxiliary lanes, a commuter bikeway and bus rapid transit, will be adopted as the preferred alternative.
- CDOT's small business programs helped build the capacity of Colorado's small businesses, strengthened Colorado's economy, and increased the competition on Colorado's highway projects. In federal fiscal years 2007/2008, CDOT contracted \$51 million in construction projects going to small, emerging and disadvantaged businesses.

■ **Legislation signed into law:**

**HB08-1036**, "Charles Mather Safety Act," gives CDOT and the Colorado State Patrol the ability to use photo-radar to enforce speed limits in highway "high-risk" construction zones.

**HB08-1257**, creates a new permit for divisible load vehicles to carry up to 110,000 pounds on non-interstates, bringing Colorado into alignment with surrounding states.

**HB08-1194**, increases drunken driving penalties.

**HB07-1117**, helmet law for people younger than 18.

**HB07-1190**, allows regional a Regional Transportation Authority to retain more of the tax dollars they collect for use on transportation projects.

**HB07-1229**, increases fines for violating Colorado's chain laws for commercial vehicles.