

# Constructive and Creative Sustainability

## Local Efforts Toward Achieving Sustainable Buildings

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Sustainability is becoming a central focus and concern for individuals, businesses and communities. Among the broad areas of sustainable operations and industries, there is an increasing demand to understand sustainable construction and design practices. This demand is driven by a realization that sustainable practices are important to owners and business operators.

The philosophy of sustainable design encourages important decisions at each phase of the design process that will reduce consumption of non-renewable resources, minimize waste and create healthy, productive environments. It is an integrated approach that has a positive impact with all phases of a building's life-cycle, including design, construction, operation and real estate. This approach emphasizes that a "joined-up" attitude to all aspects of sustainability is significant, as each area overlaps and relates with the others.

There are several construction and design businesses in the Yampa Valley practicing sustainable values and contributing to a "joined-up" attitude. Collaboration and local contribution also is important.

The Steamboat Springs Chamber Resort Association and Environmental Solutions Unltd. started the Sustainable Business Program in 2007 to focus on sustainability and help businesses achieve the Triple Bottom Line — a new

### Certification

Local construction and design businesses participating in the Sustainable Business Program who have reached gold certification:

- Colorado Group Realty
- Drexel Barrell & Company
- Fox Construction
- Kelly and Stone Architects
- Marabou
- Native Excavating
- Prudential Steamboat Realty

The following construction and design businesses on their way to certification:

- Dovetail Design
- Drahota Construction
- Irene Nelson Interiors
- Landmark Consultants
- Light Works of Steamboat
- Mountain Home Stove & Fireplace

way to define business success through financial success, social responsibility, proactive environmental management and the inter-relationships between them. Upon enrollment, consultation is provided to cater sustainable practices to the individual business with opportunities to collaborate communitywide.

The Sustainable Business Program is 65 members strong with a variety of business realms and industries participating in sustainable efforts. Among the various participants, there are many construction, design and real estate businesses that have earned or are making their way toward gold certification.

Kelly and Stone Architects, for example, have reached gold certification and are continuously making sustainable efforts through design and daily business operation. KSA has the opportunity to have a



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**Dovetail Designs displays** a piece of sustainable furniture made from local beetle-killed pine wood with bear grass eco-resin glass doors. The piece was designed by Mike and Sky Roach.

significant impact on sustainability by encouraging clients and owners to incorporate sustainable building practices and materials through their design process. Every project, whether residential, commercial, municipal or a resort facility is thoughtfully designed with an emphasis on reduced energy consumption, the project footprint and overall sustainability.

"KSA can contribute to making buildings more sustainable by site selection, design practices and specifying building orientation, as well as exterior and interior design features to enhance the building's energy efficiency with maximization of the use of recycled materials," said Tim Stone, co-owner of KSA.

Dovetail Design is on its way to certification in the Sustainable Business Program with design efforts to be creative using local materials. The use of beetle-killed pine

wood to produce beautiful contemporary furniture and interior design pieces is a highlight of Dovetail Design products. They also utilize local metal base welders, eco resin's from recycled materials and non-toxic oil finishes.

Prudential Steamboat Realty has earned gold certification through many creative measures. Incentives have been set up for agents and office staff to carpool and use alternative means of transportation to reduce emissions. A program called Site Seer has been added to allow Prudential agents to show property virtually in order to be more efficient and reduce drive time to touring listings. A massive recycling program that accounts for more than 50 percent of total waste stream has been added to the office. They have creatively reduced printing by more than 60 percent, including unique MLS forms and elimination

of direct mail campaigns. Motion sensors for high traffic rooms, as well as low flow water fixtures also have been installed to help conserve water and energy.

"Prudential Steamboat Realty aims to provide clients with a better understanding of their impact and things they can do to improve their new home purchase. With over 50 agents, our collaborative efforts can make a difference," said Laura Cusenbary, director of marketing for Prudential Steamboat Realty.

Colorado Group Realty also has received GOLD certification by making a company-wide commitment to incorporate sustainable practices in their day-to-day operation. This includes sustainability with employee and agent awareness, energy assessment, waste management, water reduction, indoor environmental quality, green purchasing, parking lot/walkway management and vehicle fleet.

Sustainable development and design practices not only help the environment, but also can improve economic profitability and enhance reputation in the community and with customers. An enduring long-term regard for sustainability as a way of business is essential to the future for every industry and could benefit individuals, as well as contribute to global solutions. For more information about the Sustainable Business Program, visit [www.steamboatchamber.com](http://www.steamboatchamber.com) or contact your local sustainable business consultant, Lyn Halliday at [lhalliday@enviromentalsolutionllc.com](mailto:lhalliday@enviromentalsolutionllc.com).



**STEAMBOAT SPRINGS**  
CHAMBER RESORT ASSOCIATION, INC.

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### Upcoming Events

#### August 27 Young Professionals Network Event

A panel will discuss affordable/attainable housing issues with a Q&A session to follow. Appetizers and drink specials provided by The Ore House at The Pine Grove from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. This event is free for YPN members, \$10 for guests. Please RSVP to [marion@steamboatchamber.com](mailto:marion@steamboatchamber.com) or 875-7008.

#### September 5-6 Wild West Air Fest

Labor Day Weekend in Steamboat is packed with the entertainment in the air, on the mountain and all over town! It's a Labor Day celebration for the whole family. The Wild West Airfest features remote controlled aircraft shows, vintage and warbird aircraft displays, classic cars, hang gliders, para-gliders, kids' activities and much more! The Steamboat Stockdog Challenge is back! If you love dogs, you won't want to miss these amazing animals herding sheep in this great competition on Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Plus our semi-annual downtown sidewalk sale is a Steamboat tradition that you don't want to miss! The Rocky Mountain Bull Bash on Sunday tests cowboys' skills on top-ranked bulls with a big cash prize for the winner. Visit [www.steamboatchamber.com](http://www.steamboatchamber.com) for more information.

#### September 10 Sustainable Business Program Networking Luncheon

Sustainable Business program members gather to discuss successes and share ideas about sustainability at this luncheon-style event.  
11:30 a.m. at Yampa River Botanic Park  
\$5 for members and \$15 for guests  
[rspv@steamboatchamber.com](mailto:rspv@steamboatchamber.com)



### New Members

**Steamboat Rafting**  
**Otto Andl**  
841 Yampa St.  
(970) 879-6699  
[www.steamboatrafting.net](http://www.steamboatrafting.net)

Steamboat Rafting.....your local connection for whitewater rafting on the Upper Colorado River. Please visit us in Steamboat at Backdoor Sports (841 Yampa St) for all of your 1/2 and full day trip needs.

**Burning Daylight Outfitters**  
**Lori & Don Markley**  
(970) 846-0810

[www.burningdaylightoutfitters.com](http://www.burningdaylightoutfitters.com)  
Burning Daylight Outfitters is a premier outfitter in Northwest Colorado, specializing in exclusive, private, personalized western activities. Burning Daylight offers horseback riding, wilderness fishing trips, pack trip adventures, luxury camping and premier private land big game hunting.

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**Colorado Mountain College**  
Community Open House on September 9th  
from 7-9 p.m.  
At Centennial Hall

Colorado Mountain College would like to cordially invite you to a public information session concerning the proposed sites for a new Student Services Center.