



Communication Services
5334 South Prince Street
Littleton, Colorado 80166-0001
Phone: 303-795-4630
Fax: 303-738-7894
www.co.arapahoe.co.us

For release: July 8, 2009

Contact:

MINDY EDSTROM

Communication Services Specialist

Direct: 303-734-5464

Mobile: 303-961-3410

E-mail: medstrom@co.arapahoe.co.us

Arapahoe County joins national competition for ‘greener’ choices

NACo Green County Contests challenge employees, residents to save energy, fuel

Littleton, Colo. – Arapahoe County is challenging its residents and employees to make a pledge to save energy by driving smarter and using energy-efficient light bulbs as part of the National Association of Counties *Green County Contests* from July 1 to November 30, 2009. The U.S. counties with the most pledges will win cash grants.

The *Drive Smarter Challenge* is a fuel-efficiency campaign to help consumers lower their gasoline costs by keeping their vehicles in good working order, driving less, and driving more fuel-efficiently. The campaign web site, www.drivesmarterchallenge.com, asks participants to pledge to take six actions, such as keeping tires properly inflated, removing unnecessary weight in the trunk and curbing aggressive driving, and calculates their savings of money, gasoline and greenhouse gas emissions. The web site also offers money and gas-saving tips in English and Spanish and provides extensive resources ranging from where to find the cheapest local gas to information on public transportation, biking, car sharing and carpooling.

The *Change the World, Start with ENERGY STAR* campaign encourages residents and employees to make a pledge to take small actions to reduce household energy use, such as changing one light bulb in their home to an ENERGY STAR-qualified bulb, power-managing computers, choosing ENERGY STAR appliances, and properly programming thermostats. Make your pledge by visiting www.greencounties.org/changetheworld.

The top three counties earning the most pledges for the Drive Smarter Challenge will receive a \$3,500 cash grant courtesy of AutoZone. Those winning the Change the World contest will earn a \$5,000 cash grant, courtesy of Wal-Mart.

“Participating in these campaigns is a simple way for people to make a difference,” said Commissioner Pat Noonan. “We are proud to spread the word about the easy steps individuals can take to be more energy efficient.”

Arapahoe County was the first government in Colorado to be recognized for its energy-saving efforts. By upgrading heating and cooling systems in 2007, Arapahoe County saves more than \$915,000 annually in energy costs. Earlier this year, Arapahoe County was awarded the ENERGY STAR designation for five County buildings, a mark of superior energy performance and efficiency.

For more information or to take the challenges, visit www.co.arapahoe.co.us and view “What’s New.”

* * *