

**University of Colorado at Boulder**  
**G.P. ‘Bud’ Peterson**

*New opportunities emerge from CU’s carbon neutrality efforts*

As a member of the ACUPCC Steering Committee, I was immediately struck by the leadership and collaborative opportunities this campaign could provide for the higher education leadership of our nation. At the University of Colorado at Boulder, we have seen the results of this effort, both in immediate enhancements to our own activities, and also in the heightened partnerships we have developed among other institutions across Colorado and the nation.

To initiate our involvement in this effort, within the first two months of the process, we committed to four of the seven “Tangible Actions” asked of signatories. As a result, the LEED, Energy Star, public transit, and Recyclemania/waste minimization elements we implemented have all had an immediate positive impact on our campus and have improved our community and our “little corner” of the planet.

Likewise, we have enhanced our intra-organizational communication and coordination via the establishment of the Chancellor’s Committee on Energy, Environment and Sustainability (CCEES) – the leadership team I appointed to implement the carbon neutrality planning process. In addition to crafting the plan to achieve carbon neutrality, CCEES has begun to elevate our current commitment, inclusiveness, and effectiveness in all manner of sustainability-related efforts.

Perhaps the most unexpected, but gratifying effect we have witnessed from the ACUPCC process is the increased collaboration and leadership synergies that have emerged at our university. Within the Rocky Mountain region, we have entered into substantive discussions aimed at aggregating our interests, leveraging our assets and developing new opportunities to secure the resources required, such as large scale renewable energy supplies that can benefit and power our facilities. The profound impacts of these alliances will benefit the state, our educational and research efforts, and our relationships with community leaders in many arenas.



These significant new opportunities for collaboration are the result of the collective leadership at CU and the commitment to pursue the carbon responsible goals envisioned in the ACUPCC. This may be an unexpected effect of the ACUPCC, but it confirms our early sense of this entire campaign, that there is no significant downside, only benefits – and it is the right thing to do. What is also important is that these efforts and our involvement strengthens the national leadership position of the University of Colorado’s students and faculty, who have been actively engaged in this endeavor for more than a generation – an effort that we are proud to continue in a new century.

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