



Aspen Climate Action Conference: Profile Challenge

The Brendle Group Inc. is an engineering services company specializing in business sustainability. For the Brendle Group, *sustainability is BOTH the business we do and HOW we do business*. As the first climate-neutral company in Colorado, we hope to set the standard for other engineering, design, and consulting firms working to promote sustainability among their clients.

"The Brendle Group has pushed the envelope in all aspects of their business, being first to practice sustainability in Colorado on many fronts even before the word sustainability had gained any level of acceptance."

--Ellen Drew, Regional Environmental Manager, Rural Community Assistance Corporation (long-time Colorado environmental leader and founder of the Strategic Environmental Project Pipeline [StEPP] Foundation)

In 2005, we established our own internal Sustainability Management System (SMS), a framework for measuring and managing our firm's impacts, with a focus on climate change. This year, the collective efforts of employees led to a landfill diversion rate of 87 percent and a 25 percent reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions over our 2004 baseline. In addition to purchasing 100 percent wind power from our local utility, we offset our remaining GHG emissions associated with using natural gas and generating solid waste by investing in wind energy development on tribal lands. As a result, The Brendle Group was the first company in Colorado to earn the CLIMATE COOL™ certification through the Climate Neutral Network (www.climateutral.com). The State of Colorado recognized these efforts with a Champion Award for exemplary environmental performance in 2005. Another goal identified in our SMS is that we will be a zero waste operation by 2010.

Although our company is small (six employees), our goal is to lead a movement among engineering and design service firms to green their own operations as they deliver sustainable development solutions to their clients. We've also been actively involved in transferring our experience with greening small business operations to the Fort Collins Area Chamber of Commerce membership, where 80 percent of members are from companies with less than 10 employees.

"The Brendle Group provides high-level content expertise, management, and visionary skills combined with a dedication to the principles of sustainability."

--J.J. Johnston, President & CEO, Northern Colorado Economic Development Corporation

Even with our commitment to sustainable and climate-neutral internal operations, The Brendle Group's greatest overall contribution to reducing global warming has been our 10-year track record of carbon-reducing projects and services for our customers (www.brendlegroup.com), which include the City of Fort Collins, water providers across Colorado, and the National Ski Areas Association (NSAA). Our work with the City of Fort Collins addresses climate impacts of city operations and includes technical support for the nationally-acclaimed Climate Wise program (encourages and tracks climate change efforts of commercial and industrial partners). Working with the Town of Snowmass, the City of Boulder, and other Colorado water providers, we developed eCO₂ coefficients for water so that water conservation can be included in GHG efforts. Additionally, our work with the NSAA includes supporting the development and implementation of the Sustainable Slopes program and the "Keep Winter Cool" campaign. Supported by these programs, ski resorts reported projects that reduced carbon dioxide emissions by approximately 280 million tons in 2006.

Recognizing that meaningful climate protection must come from large-scale market-driven adoption of existing and emerging renewable energy technologies, The Brendle Group is leading an economic development initiative called the Northern Colorado Clean Energy Cluster (www.nccleanenergy.com). The Cluster is a business-led effort that will create new jobs and grow the Colorado economy around clean energy technologies.

For these reasons we respectfully submit our profile for consideration by the Aspen Climate Action Conference committee as a company to showcase.

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