

HOW RFTA HELPS KEEP OUR COMMUNITY GREEN

RFTA truly strives to be responsible in the manner that we execute the public trust. Many folks are not aware of the different efforts we make to support the environmental health of our community, so below are just a few points to give you a snapshot of how we work hard to responsibly serve our community, and sustain the beautiful local environment we all enjoy.

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)

With your support we are creating our bus rapid transit program which will be the future of transit in our community. The heart of it is an integrated bus system that increases the efficiency of travel with greater bus connectivity and bus-only lanes. This sustainable transit system will allow a bus ride from Glenwood Springs to Aspen to be highly competitive time wise (about an hour) with driving, and have the ability to greatly reduce air pollution and congestion on our roads.

Biofuels

Currently all of our buses and maintenance vehicles use some sort of biofuel. Our goal is to reduce our dependence on oil as much as possible. Our buses use of biofuels varies from 5 to 20% depending on the weather, and our other vehicles use an ethanol blend.

Hybrids

Another effort to reduce our dependence on oil manifests itself in our thirteen hybrid buses. We are currently applying for funding in the hopes of being able to add another 10 hybrids to our fleet within a year.

Trails

Many folks don't realize that with your support, RFTA manages the greatest portion of the Rio Grande Trail. This trail is a haven for walkers, runners and bike riders and extends from Aspen to Glenwood Springs. We take our stewardship seriously and close a portion of the trail during the winter season to protect wildlife. Additionally our weed management system utilizes the most effective natural methods.

New Facility in Aspen

Our maintenance facility in Aspen is getting major reconstruction. To help protect our community, our primary new heating and cooling system for this facility will be geothermal. Additionally we are planning on utilizing solar energy for the electrical system.

Recycling in Offices

To help save trees our offices use recycled paper in our copy machines, and we have an extensive recycling system set up for all of our office waste.

Bikes on Buses

Something else that may surprise people is that RFTA was one of the first transit agencies in the United States to have bikes on our buses. We want to make sure folks can use human power for parts of their journey whenever possible.

If you have any questions about RFTA's environmental efforts please don't hesitate to ask us.

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