

ENTREPRENEURS

ENERGY

PARTNERSHIPS

INNOVATION ECONOMY



FORT COLLINS, CO

Innovation in Fort Collins is nothing new. Our city's settlers were trailblazers and visionaries, setting new standards for agriculture, education, and community building. That pioneer spirit is alive and well in Fort Collins. Today, people must be agile, innovative, and creative across business sectors and industry. In 2009 alone, 427 patents were registered to researchers, scientists and entrepreneurs in Fort Collins.

The City of Fort Collins and its residents value the innovative companies and agencies that make their home here.

INNOVATION ECONOMY

What IS Fort Collins' special sauce? We like to say that the community has big city ideas and small town relationships. Innovation occurs across industry sectors in Fort Collins. Craft brewers, bioscience, software, hardware, and clean energy companies contribute ideas, inventions, and products that positively affect the local economy.

Colorado State University's innovation culture directly benefits Fort Collins economy through technology transfer and globally focused research on disease prevention and treatment. Other research and development strengths at CSU include developing biofuels from algae, cleaner air solutions for second and third world countries, and discovering cancer treatments for animals.

SAMPLE COMPANIES

- Advanced Regenerative Therapies
- Clear Path Labs
- CZero, Inc
- Solix
- Sprig Toys
- VanDyne SuperTurbos

STRENGTHS

- Rocky Mountain Innovation Initiative
- Highly educated workforce, 48.2% of population have a four year degree or higher
- Creative class
- A patents rate of 11.45 per 10,000 residents, one of the highest ratios in the nation and world

THE ENERGY BEHIND LOCAL INGENUITY

Operating in a vacuum is seldom successful. Working in a collaborative environment with highly skilled resources at your fingertips? Reaching your potential is much easier. Here's a snapshot of three local incubators where start-ups and entrepreneurs soar.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN INNOVATION INITIATIVE

- Accelerating the success of new business
 - Matches mentors to startups
 - Hosts regional networking events
 - Provides assistance with capital funding
- rmi2.org***

RMI² 1998-present

- 25 companies
- 198 primary jobs
- \$86.5 million capital raised
- \$71,000 average salary
- \$36,000 average Larimer County salary

CSU'S ENGINES AND ENERGY CONVERSION LAB (EECL)

- Creating innovative clean energy products
- Addressing health and safety issues for humanity
- Eight faculty, seven full-time staff, 70 students
- \$2 million a year in research funding
- Envirofit International, manufacturers of two-stroke engine retrofit kits, and clean-burning cookstoves
- Solix, researching and producing biodiesel made from domesticated algae
- VanDyne SuperTurbo, super turbo engines for fleet vehicles with energy efficiencies

CSU'S RESEARCH INNOVATION CENTER (RIC)

- 72,000 square foot research center focused on developing new products to treat and diagnose infectious diseases
- Includes a bioscience business incubator
- Launching pad for scientific discoveries which are patented and brought to market
- Faculty and students, as well as startup companies and other private-sector scientists use the lab
- Research is translated into new products that address unmet medical needs or improve the quality of life for patients

INNOVATION ECONOMY

INNOVATION ASSETS

Incubators

Rocky Mountain Innovation Initiative
Engines and Energy Conversion Lab
Research Innovation Center
Fitzsimmons BioBusiness Partners

Federal Labs

Centers for Disease Control
National Renewable Energy Lab
National Wildlife Research Center

Higher Education

Colorado State University
Front Range Community College

REGIONAL INNOVATION CLUSTER

Larimer Bioscience Cluster
Colorado Clean Energy Cluster
Colorado Water Innovation Cluster

PARTNERSHIPS

Private Sector

Public Sector

City of Fort Collins
Larimer County Workforce Center
State of Colorado Office of Economic Development
Economic Development
Northern Colorado Economic Development Corporation
Small Business Development Center
Fort Collins Area Chamber of Commerce

Higher Education

Colorado State University
Colorado State University: Research Foundation
University Ventures
Front Range Community College
University of Northern Colorado

BIOSCIENCE

Industry growth in Fort Collins: **3.8%**
Industry growth in Nation: **-3.5%**
of companies **50**
of employees **1,990**
Average earnings **\$68,291**

CLEAN ENERGY

Industry growth in Fort Collins: **31.1%**
Industry growth in Nation: **-8.7%**
of companies **31**
of employees **2,963**
Average earnings **\$75,334**

TECHNOLOGY: SOFTWARE

Industry growth in Fort Collins: **-2.1%**
Industry growth in Nation: **-4.7%**
of companies **259**
of employees **1,709**
Average earnings **\$75,335**

TECHNOLOGY: HARDWARE

Industry growth in Fort Collins: **-18.6%**
Industry growth in Nation: **-2.1%**
of companies **220**
of employees **3,513**
Average earnings **\$106,582**

UNIQUELY FORT COLLINS

Industry growth in Fort Collins: **18.2%**
Industry growth in Nation: **4.7%**
of companies **85**
of employees **1,072**
Average earnings **\$35,400**

INNOVATION ECONOMY

WHAT'S HOT

1. Temple Grandin, Ph.D., Emmy-award winner of HBO film chronicling her early life, and on Time Magazine's List of Most Influential People for 2010. Temple is a CSU professor and one of the world's most respected advocates for the humane treatment of livestock.
2. VanDyne SuperTurbo, Inc. recipient of a \$149,000 award for Phase One Small Business Innovation Research project, National Science Foundation, 2010.
3. Fund 1, a new funding source through Colorado State University, assisting broad-based research innovations and early stage companies with commercialization and productization.
4. Otterbox, winner of the 2010 Creative Business Solutions Award, *United States Postal Service*.
5. Overall Best Innovation Award, Rocky Mountain Ventures Co., for their Flip-Pal Mobile Scanner, *Craft & Hobby Association trade show*, 2010.

COMMUNITY AWARDS

Following your passions and pursuing your career don't have to be mutually exclusive.

- **One of the top six 'Smarter Cities' for Energy:** Natural Resources Defense Council, (population 100,000-249,999) - August 2010
- **Ranked 6th Best Place to Live in the Nation:** *Money Magazine* - July 2010
- **One of the Most Underrated Cities in the West:** *Life.com* - June 2010
- **One of the Greatest Places to Live in the West:** *American Cowboy* magazine - April 2010
- **Ranked 3rd Best State for Business, Colorado,** *CNBC* April 2010
- **Ranked 4th Best Place for Business and Careers,** *Forbes.com* March 2010
- **Ranked 1st Best Place to Live and Work for Young Professionals (pop. 100,000-200,000),** Next Generation Consulting - March 2009

RESOURCES

Colorado State University's Engines and Energy Conversion Lab eecl.org

GIS Alley, Rocky Mountain GeoSpatial Cluster gisalley.com

Larimer Bioscience Cluster larimerbioscience.org

Be Local Northern Colorado belocalinc.org

Colorado Clean Energy Cluster coloradocleanenergy.com

Northern Colorado Economic Development Corporation ncedc.com

Rocky Mountain Innovation Initiative rmi2.org

CONTACTS

For more information on Innovation in Fort Collins

Mark Forsyth, Director of the Rocky Mountain Innovation Initiative, 970.221.1301, mark.forsyth@rmi2.org.

Contact the City of Fort Collins for questions on retention, expansion, incubation or relocation

Mike Freeman, City of Fort Collins, Chief Financial Officer 970.416.2259, mfreeman@fcgov.com

Entrepreneurial resources fortcollinsinnovation.com

Rocky Mountain Innovation Initiative rmi2.org

Doing business in Fort Collins fcgov.com/business

Community information ftcollins.com

Fort Collins Cluster Performance Report available on fcgov.com/business

