

**Office of the City Manager  
For Immediate Release  
February 17, 2010**

### **Mountain Fire House Team Raises the Sustainability Bar**

Steamboat Springs, CO (December 16, 2009) - We've all heard that fire fighters are great cooks. Now the Mountain Fire House team in the City of Steamboat Springs has added a composting unit to their kitchen line-up and is composting their food scraps to reduce their waste output, all part of a Gold Level Certification they recently achieved through the Steamboat Sustainable Business Program. Ultimately, they hope to use the compost to enhance an on-site vegetable garden and grow their own food. "It started out a little sketchy, but our composter just produced its first batch of great looking dirt!" said Lieutenant Chuck Cerasoli who spearheaded the project.

In fact, they are raising the sustainability bar so high, you may need a ladder truck to reach it. "The highly motivated group at the Mountain Fire House has set their goals high and may soon be a model for others," said Lyn Halliday, the consultant for the project. She has been working with the staff and with Steve Hoots, the City's Energy Project Manager, to help them improve environmental sustainability, reduce their carbon footprint, conserve water, and minimize their waste output.

Mel Stewart, the EMS Battalion Chief, along with Cerasoli and other firefighters and medics, have developed a long list of projects for the upcoming year. In addition to the standard energy saving practices such as recycling and changing to more efficient light bulbs, an enhanced green purchasing program is in the works, as is a paper reduction strategy.

The City's Green Team funded the purchase of the compost unit. "This is the third year that the City has been involved in the Sustainable Business Program and the third facility to achieve certification," said Halliday.

To date, 70 local businesses have participated in the Sustainable Business Program, one of the most accredited, diverse and encompassing programs of its kind in Colorado. Established in March of 2007 as a collaborative effort between the Steamboat Springs Chamber Resort Association and Environmental Solutions Unltd, the Sustainable Business Program has been changing the nature of business in the Yampa Valley. The program focuses on the Triple Bottom Line - a new way to define business success. The Triple Bottom Line includes: financial success, social responsibility, proactive environmental management, and the inter-relationships between them.

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For more information, contact:

Chuck Cerasoli 970.879-7170 or [ccerasoli@steamboatsprings.net](mailto:ccerasoli@steamboatsprings.net)

Lyn Halliday 970.879.6323 or [lhalliday@environmentalsolutionllc.com](mailto:lhalliday@environmentalsolutionllc.com)