

CU seeking uniform 'green' grading code

Continued from 1C

ra Magazine and the Sustainable Endowments Institute.

The proliferation of "green guides" coincides with a reported increase in eco-friendly values of incoming students. The Princeton Review found in 2009 that 68 percent of students, and 59 percent of their parents, value having information about a college's commitment to the environment — up 4 percent from the previous year.

Sustainability leaders at CU and other schools are stopping short of boycotting the ratings in collegiate guides and other publications. But they have raised major concerns about conflicts of interest — whether evaluators are biased toward the schools they attended or the organizations are accepting donations from colleges.

Dave Newport, director of CU's Environmental Center, said the university is deciding on a case-by-case basis when it comes to responding to surveys.

"I don't think there's a general boycott under way," he said.

In 2008, the Princeton Review didn't list CU on its green honor roll, which included 15 schools with top scores of 99. But last summer, CU soared to the top of Sierra Magazine's rating as the most eco-enlight-



Greg Lindstrom | For the Camera

Spencer Crawford, right, and Reilly Rosbotham, left, sort through recyclables on the University of Colorado campus Tuesday.

ed U.S. college.

CU again this year responded to Sierra Magazine's poll.

"We're very thankful and proud of that ranking," Newport said.

CU is also working with the Sustainable Endowments Institute, which included the Boulder campus in its top 15 green schools.

Rob Franek, vice president and publisher of the Princeton Review, said the publication's green rating does a good job balancing the environmental culture of campuses, including transportation and dining initiatives, with how well the school prepares graduates for green jobs.

"I think CU has been a great partner with the Princeton Re-

view," he said.

In addition to CU-Boulder, signatories to the letter include CU's Colorado Springs campus, Columbia University, Emory University, Johns Hopkins University, New York University and Stanford.

CU, as well as many other schools, gauges its progress on sustainability strategies using the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System, or STARS, which was developed by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.

Newport said the STARS system will likely emerge as the standard for colleges in the next couple of years. Data from the self-reporting system

will be released by CU-Boulder later this year.

Frank Bruno, vice chancellor for administration at CU, said sustainability rankings have set off conversations across the country and have served as a learning tool for administrators and students. He said he wants schools to have an "even playing field" to work on their environmental goals.

Contact Camera Staff Writer Brittany Anas at 303-473-1132 or anasb@dailycamera.com.

Green guidelines

CU and other schools are requesting the following in a letter to rating agencies:

Be fully transparent and disclose how they score schools. Organizations should note any individuals with conflicts of interest, such as alumni of schools under evaluation.

Verify information provided by schools to make certain it's current and accurate

Disclose professional credentials

Don't use a "one size fits all" approach

Surveys should recognize the balance of short-term projects and long-term visions

Use uniform metrics

Evaluating organizations should not accept any form of financial compensation from the schools being evaluated

Allow schools to opt out of the survey

DA wants max years for Koller

Continued from 1C

widespread brain damage and retinal hemorrhaging. The infant was released from the hospital in August into the

care of his grandmother, but he died Oct. 5.

Koller was originally charged with first-degree murder, but that charge was

dropped by the District Attorney's Office when he agreed to plead guilty to the lesser charge of child abuse resulting in death.

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Proposed Modification to Monitoring Locations at the Rocky Flats Site Available for Public Review and Comment

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) have released a proposed modification to the Rocky Flats Legacy Management Agreement (RFLMA) for public review and comment.

The proposed modification addresses eliminating certain monitoring points and establishing new monitoring points as discussed in depth in RFLMA contact record 2010-04. This proposed modification is subject to final approval by the EPA and CDPHE.

The RFLMA parties will conduct an informational public meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2010, in the Broomfield Senior Center Lakeview room, 280 Lamar St., Broomfield, CO.

The proposed modification and RFLMA CR 2010-04 are posted for review on the Community Involvement page of the Rocky Flats Site website at http://www.LM.doe.gov/Rocky_Flats/Sites.aspx?view=5.

The public review period ends on Friday, August 27, 2010. Written comments regarding the proposed modification must be sent on or before the end of the public review period to the following addresses for consideration by the RFLMA parties in determining what, if any, changes will be made for final approval of the modification by EPA and CDPHE.

- E-mail to: rfinfo@LM.doe.gov with RFLMA Attachment 2 Modification Comments in the subject line

- Mail (post marked by due date) or hand delivery to:

RFLMA Attachment 2 Modification Comments
U.S. Department of Energy
11025 Dover St. Suite 1000
Westminster, CO 80021

If you have any difficulty accessing the document from the website, or have any other questions, please e-mail Bob Darr at bob.darr@LM.doe.gov, or call (720) 377-9672, to request assistance.

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