



## Governor's Energy Office

September 11, 2008

TO: Department Eco Pass Coordinators  
Human Resource Specialists  
Greening Government Coordinating Council Representatives  
State employees

FROM: Angie Fyfe, Greening Government Program Manager, Governor's Energy Office

RE: 2009 RTD Transit Pass Options

We are in the process of reviewing transit pass options for State employees located within the RTD service area, and want to make you aware of what we know and don't yet know about the 2009 program. The Governor's Energy Office is committed to providing State employees with access to RTD's employer pass program, as a part of the Governor's Greening Government initiatives.

It is our expectation that we will offer both the Eco Pass, and a new RTD pass program known as Flex Pass, to state employees for the 2009 calendar year. Our goal is to increase ridership and provide cost effective alternate transit options to state employees.

To provide accurate and timely information to all state employees, the Governor's Energy Office website will have current information about the program.

Visit <http://www.colorado.gov/energy/greening/index.asp> for updates.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Who is the primary point of contact for Eco Pass at the State of Colorado?

A: Angie Fyfe, Greening Government Program Manager. 303-866-2059  
[angie.fyfe@state.co.us](mailto:angie.fyfe@state.co.us)

Q: I hear that RTD plans to cut the Eco Pass Program by 67%. As a State employee, will I be able to purchase an Eco Pass in 2009?

A: All State agencies will have the opportunity to participate in the Eco Pass program. Whether your office participates will depend on your employer's ability to supplement the cost of the pass and or the number of employees who participate. RTD intends to offer another type of employer-sponsored pass in 2009, the Flex Pass.

Q: Why does it matter how many employees participate?

A: The Eco Pass program requirements, as established by RTD, are as follows:

RTD does not sell the Eco Pass directly to the public. They are available through employers only.

The employer is required to purchase a pass for every employee, regardless of whether the employee uses the pass or not.

Passes are good for one calendar year, and are not available for purchase on a less frequent (e.g. weekly or monthly) basis.

Pricing is based on the total number of employees and the location of the office where those employees work.

The total amount of the employer contract must meet a contract minimum.

Q: Why is RTD making changes to and raising the cost of the Eco Pass?

A: RTD has proposed an increase in Eco Pass fares and a change to the size of the employer who can participate in the program. RTD's primary revenue source is sales tax. Because sales tax revenue is down, RTD revenue is down. At the same time, the cost of fuel has increased dramatically. With lower revenues and increased costs, RTD must raise fares in order to maintain as many services as possible.

Q: I know that greening initiatives are important to the Governor. What is the State doing to help with the rising cost of the Eco Pass?

A: The Governor's Energy Office has been in contact with RTD throughout 2008. We have participated in an RTD stakeholder's group to discuss the Eco Pass program and its pricing. We are reaching out to all state agencies and offices to garner as much participation as possible. We intend to explore funding options at the State level with the Office of State Planning and Budget. The Greening

Government Program intends to use Clean Energy Fund dollars to increase ridership and help pay a portion of transit pass costs.

Q: What can I do about the rising cost of the Eco Pass?

A: RTD is hosting a number of public hearings to receive your input. Visit the [RTD website](#) for details. If your agency requires that you pay some or all of the cost of the Eco Pass, participation is the key. The more people who participate in the program, the lower the cost to the individual employee.

Q: Are there other options besides the Eco Pass?

A: Yes. The Governor's Energy Office is considering the Flex Pass as an option for State employees who do not purchase the Eco Pass. The Flex Pass is a monthly pass, which is discounted 25% and available to employees on a pre-tax basis. We expect that the "net" cost to an employee who chooses the pre-tax option would be approximately:

Local	\$ 45 per month
Express	\$ 130 per month
Regional	\$ 165 per month

Q: My organization has a separate contract with RTD. How does this impact me?

A: For information specific to the CU Boulder Eco Pass, contact David Cook.  
[David.cook@colorado.edu](mailto:David.cook@colorado.edu) 303-735-1015

For information specific to the Auraria Higher Education Center, contact Mark Gallagher.  
[gallagherm@ahec.edu](mailto:gallagherm@ahec.edu) 303-556-2031

For information specific to the Colorado Department of Transportation, contact Adam Rolstad.  
[adam.rolstad@dot.state.co.us](mailto:adam.rolstad@dot.state.co.us) 303-757-9997