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## Harvest Fair to educate

City hopes first summit on environment hooks residents and governor

By Rachel Carter  
Longmont Times-Call

LONGMONT — City officials hope Gov. Bill Ritter will speak during the city's first environmental summit this fall.

The Sustainable Harvest Fair, scheduled for Nov. 8, is a continuation of the city's efforts to plan for and promote environmental sustainability, Dale Rademacher, Longmont's director of public works and water utilities, said Friday.

"The whole idea of sustainability is that you don't just do it once," he said.

Organizers hope to increase awareness about environmental issues facing Longmont and involve the community in taking on those challenges, said Ron Shaw, the city's environmental sustainability coordinator.

Events and speakers will focus on four subjects: energy, water, agriculture and resource conservation.

Although organizers are working out many of the details, the daylong fair likely will feature a morning keynote speaker, followed by panel discussions, Shaw said.

Another lunchtime speaker will address attendees, who will break into smaller discussion groups afterward. The day will wrap up with time for community input and feedback, he said.

Throughout the day, attendees also can visit booths and exhibits at a "green expo."

Organizers hope one of the two featured speakers will be Ritter, and the city chose Nov. 8 because that day worked best for the governor's schedule, Shaw said.

Ritter is a leader in the state's new-energy economy, Shaw said, and has worked to provide local governments with resources, such as the \$100,000 the Governor's Energy Office gave to Longmont this year to help fund a solar-power rebate program.

City leaders hope to showcase programs that help residents and business owners increase efficiency and reduce energy consumption, water use and waste. Those include city water irrigation audits and the Residential Energy Audit Program, or REAP, which provides energy audits to homeowners to find ways to increase efficiency in their houses, Shaw said.

REAP, he pointed out, ties in nicely with insulation rebates the Governor's Energy Office offers.

Longmont officials also want to plug energy-efficiency programs for small businesses and spread the word about the city's wind-energy option, which, Shaw said, "is probably the most cost-effective way to reduce your carbon footprint."

### Sustainable Harvest fair

What: Sustainable Harvest Fair, a city-organized environmental summit

When: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 8

Where: Skyline High School, 600 E. Mountain View Ave., Longmont

Information: 303-651-8722 or karen.chandler@ci.longmont.co.us

Web site: ci.longmont.co.us/pwww/enviro/fair.htm

Besides promoting Longmont and other local agencies' programs, he added, city leaders also want to hear from residents.

"We intend to get ideas from the community and see what they think is needed," he said.

During its annual retreat in February, the City Council asked to organize the summit. The city budgeted \$45,000 for the event, although Rademacher is "confident we'll be under that."

The money will come from various funds — water, storm water, sewer, sanitation and electric — in Longmont Power & Communications and the Public Works and Water Utilities Department's budgets, Rademacher said.

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