



Last month, the 2009 Quality of Life Indicators Report hit the streets – or more accurately, the Internet. You may have seen some news coverage in the local media. If you haven't done so already, I encourage you to take a look at the report, <http://pikespeakqualityoflife.org>.

The report attempts to quantify the quality of life in the Pikes Peak region by identifying indicators, or data points, in nine subject areas, including the environment. As you might have guessed, our quality of life, as measured by the indicators, is a mixed bag. From the environmental perspective, the report identified one major area of concern – our community's pounds per person of waste is increasing – and we trail Colorado as a whole in all four recycling categories (page 49).

We are also still heavily dependent on fossil fuels to meet our energy needs – and the percentage of renewable energy used to produce our electricity is declining. While we are still meeting the requirements of the Renewable Portfolio Standard, we are doing so by purchasing renewable energy credits rather than producing our own renewable energy (page 48).

So what do we do with this information? At a minimum, the report can serve as a springboard from which to encourage our local governments, businesses, and leaders to make changes that address these trends.



Pikes Peak Group is Going Paperless... Mostly

After much discussion and input from the membership, the PPG Executive Committee has decided to move toward an online newsletter. We realize this is a big change, but with increasing costs, not to mention the energy and paper used to produce the newsletter, it just didn't make sense to keep mailing everyone a hard copy. Instead, beginning with the **Jan.-Mar. 2011** issue, the default method for receiving the Timberlines will be online – either via email or through the Pikes Peak Group website.

We realize that many of you still prefer to receive a paper copy of the newsletter, so we will continue to offer that option. **However, you must opt in to receive a paper copy.** That means you must notify Sheri Bauers, colomtngirl@hotmail.com, 321-9839, of your desire to receive a paper only copy.

To implement this change successfully, we need your help. Over the course of the next year, we will be making a concerted effort to gather member email addresses. You can help by sending Sheri your email address – we will not share the email address or use it for any purpose other than to send you the newsletter (unless you tell us otherwise). With your help, the Pikes Peak Group is reducing its carbon footprint on the planet.

