



NEWS

Mesa State College
Office of Development
1100 North Avenue
Grand Junction, CO 81501-3122
Phone: 970-248-1868
Fax: 970-248-1076
www.mesastate.edu

For Immediate Release: August 28, 2008

**Contact: Dana Nunn 248-1868
640-0421**

Mesa State goes greener Trayless dining saves water, energy

Grand Junction – Mesa State College will take another giant step in its campus greening initiative in January when it will begin trayless dining in the campus dining hall – a change expected to save 41,000 gallons of water each semester.

“This just seems like a no-brainer,” said Mesa State President Tim Foster. “I think most people will be more than willing to carry their plates in order to save that much water.”

It is estimated that it takes one gallon of water to wash six cafeteria trays. By eliminating trays, the college will also eliminate 40% of the time the dishwasher is running. That means savings in electricity, dish soap, and manpower.

Other campuses that have stopped using trays have seen a significant reduction in food waste as well.

Sodexo, Inc., the food service provider for Mesa State, serves about 2,175 meals in the campus dining hall on weekdays.

Other “go green” steps taken at Mesa State include the installation of solar panels atop the Science Center and use of a ground source heat exchange system to heat and cool its new classroom building. Mesa State was recently awarded the first-ever *Greening Colleges* grant by the Green Building Initiative (GBI), a not-for-profit organization dedicated to accelerating the adoption of green building practices.

Plans include adding two more bore fields that, along with the existing bore field in front of the Fine Arts building, will allow ground source heat exchange systems to be used to heat and cool the new residence hall being built on North Avenue and Cannell Avenue and the renovated W.W. Campbell College Center. Mesa State has also applied to Xcel Energy’s Solar Rewards program that could result in the installation of a solar array that would generate up to 288 mWh of power in its first year of use.

###