



April 26, 2007

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Dear GEO,



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### ***Work to Begin on Solar Power Plant in San Luis Valley***

On April 23rd, Governor Ritter and Senator Salazar lifted shovels to break ground on a new 82-acre solar plant in the San Luis Valley, a project that will be one of the largest of its kind in the country. When complete in 2008, the facility will generate enough power for 1,500 homes. The plant will also create about 50 construction jobs in Alamosa and provide ongoing employment for a small maintenance crew located in Alamosa.



SunAdison will own the Alamosa Photovoltaic Solar Plant and sell the

power to Xcel Energy. The facility will help Xcel, the state's largest utility, comply with Amendment 37 and the state's new renewable energy standard. The standard signed in law by Gov. Ritter last month, requires that utilities like Xcel obtain 20 percent of their electricity from renewable sources by 2020.

"We are making history in Colorado," Gov. Ritter said. "This solar plant is another building block in Colorado's New Energy Economy. And constructing the plant in the San Luis Valley makes perfect sense because the Valley is the sunniest place in the sixth-sunniest state in the nation."

[Click here to read more.](#)

### ***E85 Coalition Changes Name and Expands Focus: "Governor's Biofuels Coalition"***

The Governor's E85 Coalition has renamed itself the "Governor's Biofuels Coalition" in order to promote biodiesel, as well as E85 in the state. The goal of the coalition is to promote the awareness, usage, and build infrastructure of the two biofuels. E85 and Biodiesel are cleaner burning, domestic sourced and help to reduce our overall dependence on foreign oil.

Biofuels alone are not the solution to our transportation problems, but they offer an option. Governor Ritter's New Energy Economy recognizes the role of biofuels, along with hybrid vehicle technologies, improved mass transit and more efficient vehicles in reducing our oil dependency. Biofuels reduce harmful emissions, provide an economic boost for agriculture and rural communities, and improve our energy security.

### ***April Grand Openings of E85 and Biodiesel Stations***

- Poudre Valley Coop in Fort Collins (225 Northwest Frontage Road) is selling E85 and Biodiesel.
- Western Convenience in Castle Rock (860 South Wilcox) is selling E85.



### ***E\$P Partners on Energy Efficiency Projects for Affordable Housing***



GEO's Energy \$aving Partners (E\$P) program is working to improve the homes of some of our state's most



vulnerable families. E\$P and Energy Outreach Colorado are partnering with Westminster's Growing Home Inc.'s affordable and transitional housing units by installing energy efficiency upgrades. These improvements will not only make the homes more

comfortable, but keep them truly affordable.

E\$P's experience weatherizing over 40,000 homes in Colorado makes them a natural to provide energy efficiency expertise and assistance to this project. They are installing higher-efficiency windows, doors, air conditioning units and appliances in the units, and a state-of-the-art boiler. These upgrades will keep monthly utility costs lower, ensuring long-term affordability for the residents as the costs of heating and cooling homes rises nationwide.

With the final phase of rehabilitation upon completion, Growing Home's new Affordable Housing Program will soon be in full swing. Families report that they love their new homes and feel thrilled to live affordably in a newly rehabilitated unit. For more information on Growing Home, Inc., visit [www.growinghomecolorado.org](http://www.growinghomecolorado.org).

### ***Is a Biomass-fired Heating System Right for Your Facilities?***

GEO created a video demonstrating the steps involved in analyzing and installing a wood – fired heating system in Colorado. Specifically, the video details the Boulder County Parks and Open Space Biomass Heating Project – the first district heating system utilizing woody biomass in Colorado. This innovative project reduces air pollution while accomplishing two important tasks for the county: utilization of wood chips produced by forest improvement and fire mitigation projects, and heating the County's new Parks and Open Space office, Shop and Transportation Department headquarters in Longmont. A total of 120,000 square feet of space is heated and uses approximately 800 tons of biomass per heating season. Contact Craig Jones for more information at 303-866-2387 or [craig.jones@state.co.us](mailto:craig.jones@state.co.us).



### ***Colorado Renewable Energy Legislation Update***

Several bills supporting renewable energy and energy efficiency have been introduced in the current legislative session. Some of the bills have already been signed into law, and others are still under consideration. The following lists identify the status of some of the major initiatives as of April 23, 2007. For detailed bill information, please refer to [www.leg.state.co.us](http://www.leg.state.co.us). In May, upon the end of the current legislative session, GEO will provide another update.

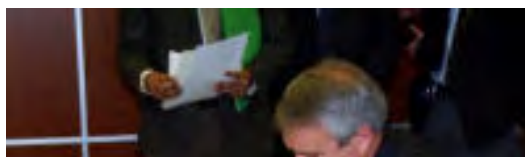
### **Signed by Governor Bill Ritter:**

- SB 51 High Performance State Buildings
- SB 100 Energy Resource Zones Transmission Development
- SB 126 Funding for the Collaboratory
- SB 145 Renewable Energy Fixtures Incentives
- HB 1087 Wind for Schools
- HB 1281 Expanded Renewable Portfolio Standard

### **Pending:**

- SB 91 Renewable Resource Generation Development Areas
- SB 147 Requirement for Alternative Fuels in Gasoline
- SB 238 Ethanol Biodiesel Fuel Clean Energy
- SB 246 Clean Energy Fund
- HB 1145 Renewable Resource Development on Public Lands
- HB 1150 Clean Renewable Energy Authority
- HB 1169 Cooperative Electric Association Net Metering
- HB 1279 Machinery Exempt for Sales & Use Tax
- HB 1146 Energy Conservation Building Codes
- HB 1037 Natural Gas Utility Energy Efficiency
- HB 1060 Bioscience Research Grants
- HB 1203 Energy Management and Conservation Studies
- HB 1228 Renewable Energy Crops and Excise Tax Elimination
- HB 1309 Use Interest on Severance Tax to Increase Energy Efficiency in Public Schools
- HB 1191 Property Tax Exemption for Alternative Energy Generating Facilities

### ***Governor Ritter Renames OEMC the "Governor's Energy Office"***



On March 17th, Governor Ritter signed an Executive Order renaming OEMC to





the Governor's Energy Office (GEO) to better reflect the agency's broader mission of advancing Colorado's New Energy Economy. Also, the governor issued two "Greening of State Government" executive orders. The orders establish several goals for the reduction of energy consumption in

state facilities and vehicles, and for the use of efficient materials and resources by 2012.

Also introduced was climate change advisor Heidi VanGenderen, who will join the Governor's Office of Policy and Initiatives effective May 1. As the governor's climate change policy adviser, VanGenderen will be responsible for creating a Colorado Climate Change Action Plan.

Several pieces of New Energy law were also signed into law. These announcements came as an encore to the governor's accomplishments from his first 100 days in office creating Colorado's New Energy Economy.

"One of the centerpieces of these first 100 days is clearly the New Energy Economy," Ritter said. "We've accomplished a lot in a short period of time. We've doubled Colorado's renewable energy portfolio. We've made it easier for utility companies to build wind-power transmission lines. We attracted a wind-blade manufacturing plant. We're quadrupling the number of E-85 ethanol fuel pumps around Colorado. And we've got the renewable energy Collaboratory up and running."

### ***Upcoming Colorado Energy Events***

#### **Striving for Nothing: Integrated Process for HVAC Systems Design:**

Join engineer Albert Bicol and architect Michel Labrie in Ft. Collins on May 2nd for a day of exploration into HVAC for high-performance buildings. Learn to understand the principles and practices of integrated design, including strategies to minimize loads, cold climate design strategies, how architecture impacts building systems and much more. Visit [www.fcgov.com/sfm](http://www.fcgov.com/sfm) to register.

**Forest Biomass Utilization Workshop** on May 14-15 at Colorado State University in Ft. Collins will cover topics related to forest biomass utilization. This will include forest conditions as they relate to biomass production, along with resource evaluation and characterization. For more information or to register, visit [www.warnercnr.colostate.edu/biomass](http://www.warnercnr.colostate.edu/biomass).

**Workshops: CHP and Bioenergy for Landfills and Wastewater**

**Treatment Plants** on June 13-14 at Tri-State Generation and Transmission in Westminster will provide information on the use of gas from landfill and wastewater treatment plants to produce power and heat from these renewable sources. The workshop will break into concurrent sessions on these two applications about mid-morning, and then reconvene together in the afternoon. The process of developing CHP projects will be covered, as well as presentations on actual operating CHP systems at landfills and treatment plants. [Click here](#) for the agenda and registration information.



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