



May 31, 2007

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Message from GEO Director, Tom Plant

Things are heating up at the Governor's Energy Office. This legislative session set the foundation for the vision of the New Energy Economy Governor Ritter established for Colorado during his campaign last year.



At the GEO, we are excited to take this foundation and build upon Colorado's emerging leadership role in the national and international renewable energy landscape. During Governor Ritter's campaign, he outlined some broad themes related to the New Energy Economy through "The Colorado Promise" - a policy briefing book from the Ritter campaign. This legislative session, we delivered on that promise.

Here's a brief synopsis of the session. For more details, [click here](#).

Colorado Promise:

"My administration also will develop public-private partnerships and establish statewide standards to create and expand markets for renewable energy products."

- HB 1281: Renewable Portfolio Standards

Colorado Promise:

"An economic sector based on renewable and alternative energy technologies offers the possibility of thousands of highly skilled, high paying jobs across Colorado. By promoting venture capitalism and providing leadership around investment opportunities, we will attract and retain businesses to turn this possibility into a reality. My administration will explore financial incentives for investments in renewable energy. We can create a more favorable investment climate by streamlining the regulatory process and, where fiscally prudent, offering tax credits, rebates and other incentives."

- HB 1279: Tax Credits for Renewable Energy

Colorado Promise:

"We will do a better job of investing money from the Office of Energy Management and Conservation in new energy businesses. I will continue to support the creation of the Colorado Clean Energy Fund to provide seed money to develop new energy technologies throughout our state."

- SB 246: Clean Energy Fund

Colorado Promise:

"As Governor, I will make sure our rural communities are not just beneficiaries but important drivers of the New Energy Economy through production of wind, solar and biofuel energy."

- HB 1087: Wind for Schools
- HB 1228: Concerning Renewable Energy
- Greening of Government Executive Order

Finally, while it wasn't an expressed portion of the Colorado Promise, transmission is widely recognized as a stumbling block to increased investment in renewable resources in our rural communities. The legislative session addressed these challenges with three key pieces of legislation:

- SB 91: Renewable Resource Generation Development Areas
- SB 100: Energy Resource Zones Transmission Development

- HB 1150: Clean Energy Authority

Colorado Promise:

"The single largest source of new energy already exists - and we can tap it simply by doing a better job of conserving and being more efficient. By constructing new buildings to higher and "greener" standards, and retrofitting old buildings where feasible, Colorado will become a leader in efficient buildings."

- HB 1037: Concerning Energy Efficiency
- SB 51: High Performance State Buildings
- HB 1309: School Energy Efficiency

Colorado Promise:

"I will make our state government a model consumer of renewable and non-renewable energy and energy efficient products."

- HB 1379: County Spending Authority for Environmental Spending Measures
- SB 145: Local Incentives for Renewable Energy

As you can see, this session was a case of Promises Made and Promises Kept - but the foundation has just been set. We recognize at GEO that now the real work begins, building the New Energy Economy upon this sound foundation of policy established by Governor Ritter and the 2007 General Assembly.

We look forward to the challenge and invite you to participate in this great effort.

Sincerely,

Tom Plant Director

Take the GEO Website Improvement Survey!



GEO is in the process of redesigning our website to better reflect our new name and mission to lead Colorado to a New Energy Economy through energy efficiency, renewable and clean energy resources. In doing so, we need your help! Please take a few minutes to provide us with your feedback on the current website and to make recommendations on what

tools and resources you would like seen on the new site. [Click here to be directed to the GEO Improvement Survey](#). Thank you in advance for taking the survey.



May Grand Openings of E85 Stations

- 1st Stop in Aurora (15201 East Hampden Avenue, 80014)
- Western Convenience in Brighton (1351 Bridge Street, 80601)

For information on new stations opening in June, contact [Megan Castle](#) with the Governor's Biofuels Coalition.

Gov. Ritter Breaks Ground on Nation's 2nd Largest Wind Facility

This month in the small town of Peetz in northeastern Colorado, Gov. Ritter broke ground along with Florida Power & Light and Xcel on what will be the nation's second largest wind farm. When completed by the end of this year, the Peetz Wind Table will be capable of generating 400 megawatts of electricity, enough to power nearly 140,000 homes using 267 wind turbines.



"Colorado's Eastern Plains boast some of the best wind resources in the nation. With the addition of this new wind farm, Colorado increases its supply of clean, non-polluting energy sources. And little to no water is required to produce this power," Ritter said in a statement. "The town of Peetz and Logan County welcome the new jobs and revenue from this project. It's an excellent example of how Colorado benefits from the New Energy Economy."

Photo Courtesy: Interwest Energy Alliance

Upcoming June Colorado Energy Events

Woody Biomass Facility Heating Conference - June 4-5, Ft. Collins

Learn about Colorado's legislative efforts to expand the use of woody biomass as a source of renewable energy. Explore the basics of woody

biomass from harvesting to heating and hear about the challenges and successes of communities using wood for their heating needs and more! For more information or to register, [click here](#).

The New Energy Economy Luncheon: Can Colorado be a Global Player? - June 8, Denver

Join Colorado's leading players in the clean energy field and keynote speaker Vijay Vaitheeswaran, global energy correspondent for a candid discussion of opportunities and challenges for Colorado to play a significant role in the "New Energy Economy." [Click here to register](#).

Colorado Renewable Energy: Leading by Example - June 8-10, Steamboat Springs

The Colorado Renewable Energy Society is hosting its annual event in Steamboat Springs. The theme of this year's conference is "Colorado Renewable Energy: Leading by Example." More than forty speakers will address a variety of renewable energy and energy efficiency topics, many of which have significance in Colorado's "New Energy Economy." For more information or to register, [click here](#).

Governor's Biofuels Coalition Summit - June 13, NREL, Golden

The Governor's Biofuels Coalition and NREL are hosting a workshop for gas station owners and fleet managers that want to install E85 and biodiesel infrastructure. The monthly Coalition meeting will also be held. Registration is required due to space limitations. Contact Kourtnie Harris to register: Kourtnie.Harris@state.co.us.



GEO receives federal funding, including support from the U.S. Department of Energy and the State of Colorado. For more information or input, please contact Megan.Castle@state.co.us



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