



**Governor's  
Energy Office**

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**April 2008**

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Greetings from the Governor's Energy Office (GEO)! We hope you enjoy this month's issue of the GEO E-News.

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**Governor Ritter Announces 22 Partners in Solar Residential Program**

Gov. Ritter today announced that 22 Solar Residential Program partners have been selected to promote the installation of residential solar electric and solar domestic hot water systems statewide. The Governor's Energy Office (GEO) has committed \$550,000 of Clean Energy Funds and created a total program budget of \$1,076,000 to advance solar investment in the state. The 22 partners represent 12 utilities, 3 cities, 1 county, and 5 non-profits:

- GEO's 11 Solar Electric Partners: Delta-Montrose Electric Association, Fort Collins Utilities, Grand Valley Rural Power Lines, Inc., Highline Electric Association, Longmont Power & Communications, Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association, Inc., San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc., San Miguel Power Association, Inc., Sangre de Cristo Electric Association, Inc., Southeast Colorado Power Association, and United Power, Inc.
- GEO's 11 Solar Domestic Hot Water Partners: City of Boulder, Colorado Springs Utilities, Four Corners Office for Resource Efficiency, Groundwork Denver, Morgan County, San Luis Valley Resource Conservation and

Development, the New Community Coalition, Town of Breckenridge, Town of Center, Town of Mt Crested Butte, and United Power, Inc.

The 11 Solar Electric program partners expect to install approximately 125 systems total with individual homeowner rebates ranging from \$3,000 to \$6,000, depending upon program partner incentive structure. Each partner is expected to have 8- 12 systems installed.

The 11 Solar Domestic Hot Water program partners expect to install approximately 250 systems, with individual homeowner rebates ranging from \$1,500 to \$3,000. This represents 16 to 24 systems per partner.

Colorado Solar Energy Industries Association (CoSEIA) is administering GEO's Solar Residential Program. For individual program partner contact information, visit COSEIA's website [www.coseia.org/geosolargrants.htm](http://www.coseia.org/geosolargrants.htm).

### **GEO Offers Solar Innovation Grant**

GEO is seeking grant applicants for \$350,000 in incentives for solar innovation projects. The Solar Innovation Grant funds are being made available through the Clean Energy Fund and will be used to support programs that can overcome financial, educational and technical barriers and lead to greater solar electric and solar thermal technologies in the residential and commercial sectors. Grant applications are due by April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

For more information about the Solar Innovation Grant, and to download the application, please visit [GEO's website](#).

### **Community Based Wind Forums to be Held in May**

GEO is partnering with the U.S. Department of Energy, Colorado Harvesting Energy Network, and the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union to offer two information-packed days about wind energy. Topics include the economic benefits of wind, trends in public policy, transmission considerations, financing and legal issues, and more. For more information, visit [GEO's event calendar](#).

### **Insulate Colorado Seminars for Insulation Professionals**

GEO is offering seminars for contractors that are interested in offering rebates through the Insulate Colorado Program for existing homes. The seminar will thoroughly review all technical requirements and program guidelines. Discussion of proper installation of insulation and air-sealing techniques will be followed by a presentation of all homeowner rebates forms and necessary contractor paperwork. Insulation contractors that intend to offer Insulate Colorado rebates to homeowners must attend one of the offered seminars.

More information, including a schedule of seminars can be found on GEO's website.

### **Governor Ritter Announces Climate Savers Computing Initiative**

Gov. Ritter announced that Colorado will join the Climate Savers Computing Initiative to further spur the utilization of more energy-efficient computers and servers in state offices and agencies. The Climate Savers Computing Initiative is a national effort created by Google and Intel to increase the development and use of highly energy efficient computer equipment.



"State government is in a unique position to lead by example," said Gov. Ritter. "By joining the Climate Savers Computing Initiative, we are not only making a significant investment in more efficient government, we are showing what can be achieved when government and industry band together to address the issues facing our environment."

The Climate Savers Computing Initiative is a nonprofit group of eco-conscious consumers, businesses, and conservation organizations. Its goal is to promote the development, deployment and adoption of smart technologies that can improve the efficiency of a computer's power delivery and reduce the energy consumed when the computer is in an inactive state.

The goal of the program is a 50% reduction in power consumption by computers by 2010, netting \$5.5 billion in global energy savings and an annual reduction of 54 million tons of CO2 emissions. For more information on the Climate Savers Computing Initiative, go to [www.climatesaverscomputing.org](http://www.climatesaverscomputing.org).

### **PUC to Take Public Comment on Xcel Energy Resource Plan, Energy Efficiency Programs**

Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) will hold a public hearing on Monday, April 14, to receive comment about Xcel Energy's proposed resource plan outlining how it intends to meet its Colorado customers' electricity demand through 2015. The public hearing will start at 5 p.m. at the Xcel Technical Services Building, 550 15th St., Room 19, in Denver.

The company is proposing to add approximately 1,050 megawatts of renewable generation, reduce current electricity demand by 694 megawatts through enhanced energy efficiency programs, and competitively acquire an additional 800 megawatts of natural-gas fired generation. The company also is requesting to replace two older, coal-fired power plants - one in Grand Junction and one in Denver - with a more efficient natural gas facility in Denver.

The PUC also will take comment on Xcel Energy's proposal to expand its electric demand-side management (DSM) programs, and revise its DSM cost recovery mechanism to include incentives.

### **Energy Hog Program Now Taking Reservations**

The Energy Hog school program is now available free of charge across Colorado to elementary school teachers interested in bringing energy education to the classroom. GEO is partnering with the Alliance to Save Energy and Energy Outreach Colorado to offer this program to schools. To learn how your school can participate in Colorado Energy Hog programs, contact Maria Ellingson at 303-333-4570.

### **GEO Offering Incentives for Community Woody Biomass Projects**

GEO is seeking applicants for \$100,000 in incentives for bio-heating projects that use community woody biomass. The funds are being made available through the Clean Energy Fund and will support projects that incorporate wildfire mitigation efforts, provide alternatives to slash pile burns and build local wood-fuel markets in Colorado.

For more information, and to download a program interest form, please [visit GEO's website](#).

### **ENERGY STAR Award Winners Honored by U.S. Department of Energy & The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

Congratulations to Colorado Springs Utilities and Forest City Stapleton, for being

selected as 2008 ENERGY STAR Award winners. On April 1, the EPA and DOE honored businesses and organizations for their outstanding contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency.

Colorado Springs Utilities was selected as a "Partner of the Year" and Forest City Stapleton received an "Award for Excellence." The award winners were selected from over 12,000 organizations that partner in the Energy Star program.

Colorado Springs Utilities is a community-owned organization that provides natural gas, electricity, water, and wastewater services. They received the award for outstanding efforts to improve the energy efficiency of new residential construction in the Colorado Springs market. The goal of this program is to achieve electric and natural gas savings by transforming the market for ENERGY STAR qualified homes.

Forest City Stapleton is the master developer of Stapleton, the largest urban redevelopment project in the nation. Forest City has undertaken an impressive set of activities to make this redevelopment project a leading example of energy efficiency, and among its many achievements, making 100 percent of its new homes ENERGY STAR.

For more information about the ENERGY STAR awards, visit [www.energystar.gov/awards](http://www.energystar.gov/awards).

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### **EPA Webcast Series: Energy Efficient Product Procurement**

The US Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Energy-Environment Municipal Network is offering the second in series of free webcast trainings targeted to local governments. This webcast will focus on energy-efficient product procurement for local governments and will provide an overview of the benefits of energy-efficient product procurement; tools and resources local governments can access; and examples from local governments that have successfully included energy efficiency into their purchasing programs. Registrants can access a draft section of EPA's Clean Energy Strategies for Local Governments guide that discusses energy-efficient product procurement as background for the call.

The webcast will be held on April 17, 2008, 2:00 - 3:30 PM (Eastern Time) For additional information, to access the background paper, or to view past webcasts, visit [the EPA's website](#).

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### **Upcoming Events**

For more information about these events, visit [GEO's Events website section](#).

Various dates April - May 2008 Insulate Colorado Contractor Training Seminars  
Various Locations - Colorado

4/17/2008 Energy Efficient Product Procurement Webcast

4/19/2008 2nd Annual Earth Day Expo  
New Castle, Colorado

4/21 - 4/24/2008 Powering Toward the Future, IEEE PES Transmission and Distribution  
Chicago, Illinois

4/21 - 4/27/2008 Earth Week 2008  
Various Locations - Summit County, Colorado

4/23 - 4/25/2008 EDCC 2008 Spring Conference  
Burlington, Colorado

4/24/2008 CRES Monthly Meeting: "Power of the People: America's New Electricity Choices"  
Denver, Colorado

4/26/2008 Renewable Energy Options for Homeowners  
Gilpin County, Colorado

5/1/2008 Greening Facilities in the New Energy Economy  
Westminster, Colorado

5/3 - 5/8/2008 Solar 2008 National Solar Conference  
San Diego, California

5/5 - 5/7/2008 Better Buildings: Better Business  
Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin

5/4 - 5/7/2008 30th annual Symposium on Biotechnology for Fuels and Chemicals  
New Orleans, Louisiana

5/7/2008 Ownership Matters: Community-Based Wind Development in Colorado  
Lamar, Colorado

5/8/2008 Ownership Matters: Community-Based Wind Development in Colorado  
Wray, Colorado

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