



**Governor's Energy Office**

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July 2008

**OUR MISSION**  
 Leading Colorado to a New Energy Economy through energy efficiency, renewable and clean energy resources. →

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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 \$10 Million New Energy Communities Initiative**

Gov. Ritter announced the launch of a \$10 million New Energy Communities Initiative at the Colorado Municipal League's Annual Conference. The new initiative is a partnership between the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) and GEO. The aim is to maximize energy efficiency and conservation, enhance community livability, promote economic development in downtowns,

and address climate change by reducing carbon emissions.

The program will direct up to \$10 million in Energy Impact Assistance Funds to at least five regional efforts (maximum of \$2 million per region) striving to create integrated, vibrant and sustainable communities. It will build on existing GEO efficiency and conservation programs and offer them in a packaged format with financial and technical assistance programs offered through DOLA.

The initiative will focus on three areas:

**Greening Public Facilities** - Assist partnerships among counties, municipalities, school districts and other local governments to upgrade, retrofit or develop energy efficient public facilities such as county courthouses, city halls, public works facilities, libraries, judicial facilities and community centers.

**Greening Downtowns** - Provide technical and financial resources for energy efficient upgrades/retrofits, streetscape improvements and downtown revitalization.

**Greening Homes** - Provide the necessary technical resources to aid local governments in educating homeowners on programs to incorporate energy efficient upgrades/retrofits and adopting model building codes to ensure that new housing units meet higher energy efficiency standards.

Interested applicants are urged to contact DOLA by July 18, 2008, for assistance in preparing an application. DOLA and GEO anticipate a competitive grant program with a Sept. 19, 2008, application deadline. For more information on the program and how to apply, please visit [DOLA's website](#).

## Colorado Carbon Fund

Look for an exciting announcement about the Colorado Carbon Fund coming soon!

## GEO Completes 30 Statewide Energy Code Trainings

During the 2007 legislative session, House Bill 07-1146 was passed in an effort to improve the energy efficiency of Colorado's new buildings as part of the New Energy Economy. HB 07-1146 calls for all jurisdictions that have a building code to adopt a minimum energy code standard effective July 1, 2008. GEO has been in close partnership with building departments to provide energy code information and resources to support local adoption and implementation of the 2003 or 2006 versions of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC).

Between April and June 2008, GEO offered 30 free energy code workshops around the state, featuring full day training on both commercial and residential energy codes, specifically the 2003 IECC and 2006 IECC. Training was delivered by a nationally recognized code training organization, International Code Council (ICC), and offered to local code officials, homebuilders, developers, architects, engineers and other building industry professionals. Additionally, all attendees received official code books, work book resources and continuing technical assistance from ICC. More than 800 Colorado codes officials and building industry professionals attended the workshops. To learn more, visit [GEO's website](#).

## \$15,205,818 in Funding Awarded for Low-Income Home Energy Services

GEO is proud to announce that the 2008-09 contracts for the Energy Saving Partners (E\$P) program have been awarded. The contracts totaling \$15,205,818 will allow partner agencies to provide free energy efficiency services to just over 9,000 income qualified households throughout Colorado. GEO anticipates that this work will result in:

- 671,584 therms of gas saved
- 3,345,225 KWh of electricity saved
- 5961 metric tons of CO2 offset.

The 9,000 households served through the E\$P program will see their utility bills go down by approximately \$1,039,815 the first year. In addition, over \$6 million will be invested in the local economy, supporting the development of 60 new jobs in Colorado. GEO continues to identify new partners for the E\$P program, and will serve at least another 15,000 households with added services to be rolled out this year.

Funding for this program is provided by the U.S. Department of Energy Weatherization Assistance Program, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Low-Income Energy Assistance Program and through the State of Colorado HB08-1387 Severance Tax Funds, sponsored by Representative Buescher and Senator Veiga.

For more information about the E\$P program, visit [GEO's website](#).

## Governor's Biofuels Coalition Update

94 biofuels stations have opened or are under construction throughout the state, advancing the Governor's Biofuels Coalition (GBC) closer to its goal of 100 stations by December.

Biofuels usage is continuing to increase. Estimates for last quarter's sales results are exceeding expectations at nearly 1.2 million gallons a month. Data from this current quarter will be available in late July.

The next GBC meeting will be held on July 16, 1 to 3pm at GEO's office. At this meeting, the GBC will receive a presentation from the National Renewable Labs on the "food versus fuel" topic. All are welcome to attend. To learn more about the GBC, visit [GEO's website](#).

## New E85 Fuel Site Opens in Downtown Denver For State Owned Vehicles

State Fleet Management has announced the opening of the first State of Colorado owned E85 refueling site in Denver. Located at 1555 Sherman Street, adjacent to the State Motor Pool, the new site is now open for business. This site can service the State's Flex Fuel Vehicles (FFVs). Biofuels such as E85 will help State Government reach its Greening Government goal of reducing petroleum 25% by 2012.

State employees wanting more information on E85 fuel sites and FFVs, please call State Fleet Management at 303-866-5222 or visit the [State Fleet website](#).

## GEO Supports Woody Biomass Projects

As propane costs are expected to double this upcoming heating season, businesses, local governments and residents are considering wood as a heat source. When wood heating projects are done correctly, the results include economical savings and a "greener" heating system- but when the projects are done wrong- the results can be costly and dirty. GEO is helping to ensure that these projects are done in a manner that is safe, efficient and clean.

Local governments, schools, and businesses are invited to apply for funding to support the development and installation of a wood chip or pellet biomass heating system through GEO's Community Woody Biomass for Thermal Usage Program. More information and an application can be found on the [GEO website](#).

As a result of funding from this program, The Mountain Park Environmental Center (MPEC), a 501c3 environmental education organization based in Beulah, will install a biomass boiler to heat the newly renovated Horseshoe Lodge. The Lodge is a 13,000 square foot adobe building constructed in the 1930's to support recreational development on the adjacent San Isabel National Forest, the nation's very first development of National Forests specifically for recreation and education.

GEO is excited to partner with MPEC as they continue to provide outstanding

education and recreational opportunities for their community. If you are interested in learning more about the project- or want to get involved- please contact Dan Van Manen at 719-485-4444 or visit [www.hikeandlearn.org](http://www.hikeandlearn.org).



### **Greening Government Presents Status Report to Governor Ritter**

The Greening Government Coordinating Council spent a morning with Gov. Ritter this month to present him with an update on the council's progress towards greening Colorado's state government.

Each council representative greeted the Governor with a quick report on their department's accomplishments, which ranged from a building automation system that will result in \$1.88 million in annual savings for the Department of Human Services to eliminating Styrofoam in the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District workplace. Read the entire Greening Government Status Report on the [GEO website](#).

### **Green Homebuilding Training Course Offered**

Colorado State University, with support from GEO, is now offering a Green Homes Certificate Program. The program will consist of thirteen sessions on sustainable residential buildings with meetings on Mondays from 5:30 to 9:00 P.M. (plus one Saturday site visit).

The program runs from September 15 through December 15, 2008, and takes place at the CSU campus in Fort Collins. Visit the [CSU website](#) for more information or call 970.491.3260.

### **Small Wind Incentive Program Announces Partners**

GEO is pleased to announce the four partners selected for the Small Wind Incentive Program:

- Highline Electric Association
- Sangre De Cristo Electric Association, Inc
- Southeast Colorado Power Association
- Town of Estes Park

This program was designed to respond to the growing interest in harnessing wind power to provide local, renewable power, and to the increasing demand of Coloradans to reduce their carbon footprint and benefit from Colorado's abundant renewable energy resources.

GEO's partners will administer and promote the incentive program to increase the number of wind turbine installations by homeowners and

businesses. This program is expected to add 40 new small wind installations.

GEO will use \$150,000 in Clean Energy Funds to support this initiative and each partner will contribute matching funds and staff support to administer the rebate program. Learn more about the program on [GEO's website](#).

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## Staff Profiles

GEO is excited to offer programs and resources to Colorado's residents, businesses and local governments. Here's a look at a few of the people here to assist in advancing Colorado's New Energy Economy:

**Nikki Kuhn** manages the Energy Saving Partners (ESP) program, which provides safe and cost effective energy efficiency services to low income households throughout the state. Services range from low cost packages of energy efficiency devices to whole house evaluation and energy saving measures installation. ESP is operated with funds from the U.S. Department of Energy, the Colorado Low Income Energy Assistance Program, Xcel Energy, and the state of Colorado through house bill 06-1200. Contact Nikki at [Nikki.Kuhn@state.co.us](mailto:Nikki.Kuhn@state.co.us).

**Angie Fyfe** is GEO's Greening Government Program Manager. Angie's position was created by Gov. Ritter's April 2007 Executive Orders concerning the greening of state government. The Executive Orders call for state government to reduce its impact on the environment and take a position of leadership in the New Energy Economy through the efficient management and conservation of resources (energy, water, petroleum, and paper) used in conducting state business. Contact Angie at [Angie.Fyfe@state.co.us](mailto:Angie.Fyfe@state.co.us).

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## Governor Launches Statewide Energy Efficiency & Conservation Campaign

Gov. Ritter announced the kickoff of a statewide energy efficiency and conservation campaign called "The New Energy Economy: Bringing It Home" on June 23. The campaign features television and radio advertisements to educate homeowners, individuals and consumers about low-cost and simple steps to save energy. It is funded by the Clean Energy Fund and the U.S. Department of Energy. The campaigns share several energy saving tips:

- **Turn it down in the winter or up in the summer!** Install and use a programmable thermostat or adjust the temperature when you aren't at home. Programmable thermostats can save up to \$150 a year in utility bills.
- **Unplug it!** Unplug electronics, such as cell phone chargers, when not in use, or install a power strip for controlling devices such as computers, TVs and entertainment systems. 75% of electricity used by electronic devices is while the products are turned off.
- **Turn it off!** Turn off the lights when leaving a room and install energy efficient compact fluorescent lights (CFLs). CFLs use about 75% less energy than standard lights and last 10 times longer.
- **Take a Ride!** Gov. Ritter and Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper ask you to "Take a ride, share a ride, or ride." Besides getting exercise, you can save money on gas and vehicle maintenance by riding a bike. Relax on the bus or catch up with friends when you carpool.

See the campaign commercial, and learn more on [GEO's website](#).



**Governor Celebrates Solar Array Ribbon Cutting in Carbondale**

Gov. Ritter participated in a community celebration and ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Colorado Rocky Mountain School (CRMS) Solar Array in Carbondale on July 1. Representatives from CRMS, Aspen Skiing Company (ASC), Sen. Salazar, and the Community Office for Resource Efficiency (CORE) also spoke at the event. The collaborative project consists of a 150kW system that sits on one half acre of ranchland owned by the high school. It is currently the largest solar electric installation in western Colorado. It will power the school's science building with excess energy fed into the town of Carbondale's power grid. Annually, it will produce 200,000 kWh (enough power for 20 average American homes) and keep 400,000 lbs of carbon dioxide out of the air each year.

## Event Spotlight

### **7/11 - 7/13 Boulder County's Green Building Conference and Product Fair -**

A weekend of events coordinated by the Boulder Green Building Guild in response to increasing and overwhelming demand to meet and exceed local, new cutting-edge building codes. [Learn more at the event's website.](#)

### **7/22 Mountain Megs: America's Newest Metropolitan Places and a Federal Partnership to Help them Prosper -**

A special luncheon forum in Denver marking the national release of a new Brookings policy report on the region. [Learn more at the event's website.](#)

**8/24 Green Frontier Fest -** A celebration of healthy and green living as Colorado kicks off the greenest political convention in modern American history. The Green Frontier Fest will showcase everything from major renewable energy technologies to everyday products and services. [Learn more at the event's website.](#)

## Upcoming Events

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

7/11 - 7/13/2008 Boulder Green Building Guild Green Building Conference and Product & Service Fair  
Boulder, Colorado

7/9 - 7/11/2008 Rocky Mountain Energy Epicenter  
Denver, Colorado

7/10 - 13/2008 Solar Heating Design and Natural Building Workshop - Crestone Solar School  
Crestone, Colorado

7/17 - 7/18/2008 Lean and Green Summit  
Boulder, Colorado

7/21/2008 Energy Rater Training  
Berthoud, Colorado

7/21 - 7/23/2008 Multifamily Buildings 2008  
New York, New York

7/24/2008 CRES Monthly Meeting: "Choosing Renewable Energy Investments"  
Denver, Colorado

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