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June 2008

Dear Sara,

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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A Message from GEO's Director

Welcome to Summer! We've just concluded another very fruitful legislative session - you can see the summaries of some of the energy related legislation in this newsletter. In short, we've further reduced barriers for individuals and businesses to take advantage of the Governor's vision for a New Energy Economy.

We've also taken biomass to a new level - see our update on activities around biomass, biofuels and anaerobic digestion, some very exciting projects in the works.

We welcome the countless communities around the state which have joined in partnership with GEO to advance

energy efficiency and renewable energy. Look for the announcement of another exciting opportunity for local communities later this month!

Finally, join us in celebrating "Bike to Work" month and day - we'll have a team participating. We challenge you.

Game on.

Thanks for reading the Governor's Energy Office Newsletter!

Tom Plant, Director

New Energy Economy Bills Signed into Law

Gov. Bill Ritter, Jr. signed five bills into law this month to help low-income families with their energy bills, improve energy efficiency and continue to build Colorado's New Energy Economy.

"These bills will continue bringing Colorado's New Energy Economy home," Gov. Ritter said. "These new laws share common objectives - investing in renewable energy and helping families cope with rising energy prices."

- House Bill 1350 (Madden/Romer) allows local governments to provide below-market-rate loans to homeowners to finance home improvements for small-scale renewable energy projects, such as energy efficiency retrofits and the installation of renewable energy fixtures.
- HB 1368 (Buescher/Brophy) supports Colorado's growing solar industry by aligning state and county property valuations and encouraging small-scale developers to build green and install solar energy systems.
- HB 1387 (Buescher/Veiga) helps low-income families with their energy bills in both the short and long-term. This legislation provides \$6.5 million for emergency assistance through the state's Energy Outreach Colorado program and \$6.5 million toward the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP).
- Senate Bill 147 (Gordon/Hodge) adds low-income housing to the list of state buildings that have to be built to high performance energy standards.
- SB 184 (Romer/Levy) helps low-income homeowners finance energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements through the creation of the Colorado Clean Energy Finance Program.

- HB 1164 (Solano/Schwartz) encourages the Public Utility Commission to fully consider new solar technologies when they are evaluating new power generation construction projects.

For more information about these pieces of energy legislation and others, visit GEO's [Policy & Legislation section](#).

For a complete list of all 2008 legislation Gov. Ritter has signed into law, visit www.colorado.gov/governor.

The New Energy Economy: Bringing it Home!

Saving energy at home is simple. Before you leave home each day, remember these things:

- Turn off the lights!
- Turn down the thermostat!
- Unplug electronics!
- Take the bus, share a ride or ride a bike!

Get this message straight from Gov. Ritter & Denver Mayor Hickenlooper and learn more on [GEO's website](#).

Greening Government Launches eNewsletter

If you are a state employee, or if you want to know how the state of Colorado is leading by example by greening its operations, sign up for the new Greening Government eNewsletter. Each issue includes updates on what state agencies and departments are doing to meet the state's Greening Government goals, a listing of events for state employees, and more! [Sign up here on GEO's website](#).

Governor's Biofuels Coalition Update

The Governor's Biofuels Coalition (GBC) continues to see funded projects come to full development. To date, 65 biofuels stations have opened across the state with the GBC's assistance. Recent new station opening events include Grand Junction, Fowler, Parker, Idaho Springs and more. [Click here to download an updated brochure of biofuel stations](#). Thanks to Colorado Corn, Western Convenience, the GBC steering committee members and all the station owners for supporting Colorado's biofuels movement.

Improving Energy Efficiency in Schools

Gov. Bill Ritter, Jr. attended an assembly and community lunch at Soroco High School in the South Routt School District to mark the school's historic transition from a hand-operated, coal-fired furnace to modern geo-exchange and woody biomass heat systems. GEO's K-12 schools program team helped the school district develop a performance contract, hire a private contractor and secure several state grants. The Colorado Department of Local Affairs is providing \$625,000 and the Colorado Department of Education is providing \$1.5 million toward the overall project cost of \$4.1 million. The project also includes the installation of additional energy efficiency and conservation components, such as new lighting. Students, teachers and the community will benefit from the transition from coal to geoexchange and biomass in the form of a healthier environment free of exposure to coal dust, ash and soot; reduced school maintenance and utility costs of \$15,000 a year; and 977 fewer tons of carbon-dioxide emissions each year.

In addition to the South Routt School District project, GEO is also supporting a biomass heating project for the Mountain Parks Environmental Center, located in Beulah. Funding awarded to this project will be used to install a new central heating system. This system will use locally harvested woody biomass from their 611 acre park, instead of propane. The new system will burn wood ash completely and efficiently, leaving virtually no particles to create smoke or ash. It is estimated that this project will reduce the Center's heating costs by 73%, resulting in approximately \$13,560 in savings a year.

GEO Supports Anaerobic Digestion Projects in Colorado

GEO continues to promote anaerobic digestion for traditional and non-traditional agriculture. Last month, two new projects were awarded funding. Aurora Dairy LLC., will be working with Act Neutral LLC., to determine the feasibility of an anaerobic digester at the Aurora Dairy facility. In May, funding was also awarded to the San Luis Conservation and Development Council to determine the feasibility for anaerobic digestion and other renewable energy technologies. This project will aim to use the thousands of tons of potato and other organic wastes that the valley produces each year.

Exploring Solar Power Possibilities at Lowry Range

On Friday, May 30th, a measurement device was installed to determine the solar resources available to supply power at the



Lowry Range. GEO will work with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), Lend Lease Communities LLC and the Colorado State Land Board to interpret the data from the device.

New Energy Economy Conference - Save the Date!

Save the Date for the 2nd ANNUAL COLORADO NEW ENERGY ECONOMY CONFERENCE on October 14, 2008 in the Four Seasons Ballroom at the Colorado Convention Center.

Join this networking conference showcasing the best sustainability practices from across the state. This one-day green event is sponsored by the Governor's Energy Office; the Colorado Public Utilities Commission; Energy Outreach Colorado; Colorado Municipal League; and Colorado Counties, Inc.

More information about support opportunities, registration, and award opportunities coming soon. If you have questions, please contact Jennifer Hampton at

Jennifer.Hampton@state.co.us

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:

Stacey Simms is GEO's Biofuels and Local Fuels Program Manager. Stacey works to promote the utilization of biofuels, biomass and anaerobic digestion technologies within Colorado's communities. By using local energy sources such as woody biomass and naturally occurring methane gas, local residents can benefit from reduced energy costs, solid economic development opportunities and improvements in their environments. Stacey can be reached via email at Stacey.Simms@state.co.us.

Morey Wolfson is the Utilities Program Manager. He is responsible for advancing the goals of the New Energy Economy in the Electric and Gas Utilities Sectors. This work includes advocating for aggressive Demand Side Management (DSM), renewable energy, and transmission expansion policies consistent with the Governor's Climate Action Plan. Morey works closely with state, regional, and national electric regulatory and policy entities to ensure that Colorado's economic and environmental interests are represented. Morey can be reached via email at Morey.Wolfson@state.co.us.

Event Spotlight:**Bike to Work Day**

Put Wednesday, June 25th on your calendar! Last year was another record-breaking year with over 20,000 participants. Find out what all the excitement is about and help make it another banner year! Bike to Work Day is coordinated by the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG). [Visit the DRCOG website to learn more.](#)

Advancing the Clean Energy Economy Workshop

Clean Energy Economy for the Region (CLEER) is hosting this event in Glenwood Springs, aimed at accelerating the move to a clean energy future. Craig Perkins, director of the Energy Coalition in Southern California, will share his expertise in order to help the region advance aggressive, comprehensive programs to reduce energy use, save money and build a clean energy economy. GEO's Seth Portner and Joani Matranga will also be speaking at the workshop, held on June 13 at 8:30 a.m. [For more information see CLEER's website.](#)

Upcoming Events

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

6/12 Energy Code Workshop
Durango, Colorado

6/13/2008 Advancing the Clean Energy Economy
Glenwood Springs, Colorado

6/16 - 6/19/2008 Fuel Ethanol Workshop and Expo
Nashville, Tennessee

6/16 Energy Code Workshop
Trinidad, Colorado

6/17 Energy Code Workshop
Summit County, Colorado

6/17 Energy Code Workshop
Alamosa, Colorado

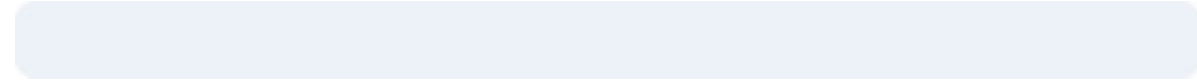
6/18 Energy Code Workshop
Idaho Springs, Colorado

6/19 Energy Code Workshop
Centennial, Colorado

6/20 Energy Code Workshop
Denver North, Colorado

6/25/2008 Bike to Work Day
Various Locations - Colorado

10/14/2008 Colorado's New Energy Economy Conference
Denver, Colorado



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