



Governor's
Energy Office

E-NEWS

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GREENING
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February 2008

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Se Habla Espanol →

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About the GEO

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 Director, Tom Plant

I want to bring to your attention the change in the U.S. Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program budget issued February 4, by President Bush for the 2009 Fiscal Year.

Historical funding of this program was as follows:

- 2006: \$204Million
- 2007: \$240Million
- 2008: \$225Million

This appropriation allows the state to provide critical residential energy efficiency



services to assist our country's most vulnerable families, while improving the comfort, safety and energy efficiency of their homes.

The President's budget proposes a complete elimination of this program. Naturally, if this substantial shift in policy is to remain in the budget, we will need to drastically reduce or completely eliminate our Energy Saving Partners (ESP) program which has been so effective in delivering these important services throughout the state.

Governor Ritter believes these important low-income services help families reduce their monthly energy expenses while conserving precious resources. With the rising cost of energy, low-income families carry more of a burden because they pay 14% or more of their annual incomes for energy compared with only 3.5% for other non low-income families. The dollar savings alone makes a big difference for the families.

We urge you to contact your federal legislators and ask them to restore full federal funding for the U.S. Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program. To learn more about Colorado's Energy Saving Partners Program and its benefits, visit the [program's section on GEO's website](#).

Very truly yours,
Tom Plant
Director, Governor's Energy Office

GEO Launches Residential Solar Program



GEO has announced the launch of its statewide Residential Solar Program. The program was created in response to the growing demand of homeowners to reduce their carbon footprint, participate in the New Energy Economy, and to take advantage of Colorado's abundant solar resources.

GEO will partner with interested cities, municipalities, utilities, and non-profits by offering matching grants of up to \$25,000 to develop local solar electric and solar domestic hot water rebate programs. In total, this will create a \$1,000,000 fund from which to initiate a solar rebate incentive and training program. To find out more information, [visit GEO's website](#).

GEO Employment Opportunities

GEO is now accepting applicants for a number of employment opportunities. Please visit the [opportunities section of GEO's website](#) for more information.

GEO Adds New Services to Advance Renewable and Energy Efficiency

GEO has added new services to support the goals of Gov. Ritter's New Energy Economy for Colorado. These services will enable GEO to better serve Coloradans in their efforts to reduce energy usage and carbon emissions. GEO's new services include:

K-12 School Energy Programs: GEO will provide assistance to K-12 school districts interested in energy efficiency programs and energy performance contracting. Joel Asrael, commercial buildings engineer, will lead the training and outreach efforts to the school districts.

Development and Grant Writer: Susan Jarvinen will manage fundraising for the Clean Energy Fund. She will also handle grant writing for the office.

Residential Energy Services: This program is combining with income-based energy services. It will be supervised by Eric Stern, residential energy senior program manager. Income-

based services include no-cost energy efficiency services such as Weatherization and other energy efficiency expanded outreach services.

To learn more about the programs and opportunities at GEO, please visit GEO's website at www.colorado.gov/energy.

GEO is Moving!

GEO will be moving into its new office at the end of February. Effective March 1st, our address will be 1580 Logan Street, Suite 100 Denver, CO 80203

Phone numbers and email addresses for all staff will remain the same. See a [staff directory on the GEO website](#).

Speaking of GEO's New Office...

GEO and Denver-based building materials manufacturer Johns Manville (JM) have teamed up to insulate GEO's new office space as part of Colorado Governor Ritter's "Greening Government" plan, which seeks a 20-percent reduction in state government energy use by June 30, 2012.

The insulation, donated by Johns Manville, was installed at GEO's new office at 1580 Logan Street, in Denver, a property owned by Jordon Perlmutter, Inc. The insulation retrofit, installed by Allied Insulation of Denver, will maximize GEO's energy efficiency and improve its overall environmental performance, while reducing the office's overall operating costs and serving as a model for energy efficiency in commercial buildings across Colorado. Johns Manville's building science team has also provided technical expertise to GEO to ensure proper product selection and installation for the space, resulting in maximum energy efficiency. [Read more about the project in the press release on GEO's website](#).

Clean Energy Fund Grant Awards Announced

The Governor's Energy Office (GEO) announced the first "New Energy Economic Development" (NEED) grants to eight awardees, totaling \$350,000 in funding. The NEED grants were created using Clean Energy Funds to advance energy efficiency and renewable energy throughout the state. NEED grants will be administered by GEO to target investments in emerging technologies and attract New Energy Economy investment into Colorado.

The grants were awarded to organizations that advance energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives, create quality jobs in the state, and are compatible with GEO's programs and the objectives for the Clean Energy Fund. The eight award winners are: PrimeStar Solar, San Juan BioEnergy, Mobile Energy Solutions, Boulder Innovation Center, the Office for Resource Efficiency, Cool Energy, Costilla County Biodiesel, and Zolo Technologies. [Read more about each company in the announcement's press release on GEO's website](#).

The second round of competitive NEED grant applications will begin February 15, and will be for approximately \$650,000. For more information about the NEED Grants, including the application information and deadlines, visit GEO's [Partnership Opportunities page on its website](#).

Greening Government E-newsletter Launched

GEO is pleased to announce the launch of the Greening Government Enewsletter. Sign up to receive the enewsletter on the [GEO website](#).

Colorado's State Documents Go Green

The Integrated Document Solutions (IDS), the division of the Colorado Division of Central Services that provides state agencies with printing services, is pleased to announce that effective February 1, all of their 280 copiers will be supplied with recycled paper. The move to recycled content paper enables IDS to take a proactive and significant step towards lessening the State's impact on the environment. The Greening Government Initiative calls for the state to implement an Environmentally Preferable Purchasing policy by June 2008, which includes the purchase of products that are made from recycled content.

The change to recycled content paper will assist more state buildings and agencies with securing and/or maintaining their LEED certification, which awards one point for the use of paper containing a minimum of 30% post-recycled content. The Office Copier Program still provides state agencies with the lowest price per copy and highest quality of equipment and supplies.

A Performance Contracting Success Story

Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) is responsible for managing one of the largest utility budgets for a Colorado state agency at \$7.3 Million per year. With energy costs on the rise and an increase in demand for services, CDHS realized that saving on utility costs would be an important step in stabilizing their budget as well as providing a higher level of service to their clients. As a result, in 2003 CDHS became one of the first state agencies to undertake a performance contract.



Read the entire [case study on GEO's website](#).

CU-Boulder Pledges Support for the Colorado Carbon Fund

The University of Colorado at Boulder student government is the first to pledge to support the Colorado Carbon Fund (CCF) by purchasing \$50,000 per year worth of carbon offsets. The announcement, by CU-Boulder Chancellor G.P. "Bud" Peterson, was made at the "Focus the Nation" climate change event at the Boulder campus on January 31st, 2008.

"Our students are already actively engaged in local community climate change reduction efforts - and the CCF will increase these efforts," said Peterson. "This is a great example both of the leadership of Gov. Ritter on climate change issues and of our students in answering his call."

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Eight years ago, CU-Boulder students were the first in the nation to vote to pay for the development of wind energy to power student-run campus buildings. GEO will work with CU-Boulder to develop guidelines and criteria that ensure the student funds are used for projects that meet stringent environmental and consumer standards. For more information about the Colorado Carbon Fund, [visit GEO's website](#)

GEO Selects 12 ENERGY STAR New Homes Partners

GEO has announced that 12 matching grant award recipients have been selected for the 2008 Colorado ENERGY STAR® New Homes program. The awardees are comprised of 37 statewide communities and will receive matching funds to support a variety of activities to increase the energy efficiency of all new homes built in their jurisdictions. Through this program, city and county officials will work closely with area residential builders to help them earn the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ENERGY STAR label for new homes and increase the energy efficiency and value of their housing stock.

The ENERGY STAR New Homes 12 partners are: Boulder County, Pitkin County, Mt. Crested Butte, Chaffee County, the City and County of Denver, San Miguel County, Summit County, Steamboat Springs, Douglas County, Northern Colorado, Colorado Springs, and Eagle County.

For more information about the program, visit the Governor's Energy Office website, www.colorado.gov/energy.

Alliance to Save Energy 2008 Star of Energy Efficiency Awards Call for Entries

The Alliance to Save Energy is happy to announce that the 2008 Stars of Energy Efficiency Award Nominations are now available online. These prestigious awards honor those entities who have demonstrated a significant and tangible commitment to the cause of energy efficiency.

This year's awards will be presented at the Stars of Energy Efficiency Awards Dinner on September 25, 2008 at the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium in Washington, DC. For more information visit www.ase.org.

Forest Health and Energy in Colorado Focus of Conference

Colorado's forest health, energy issues and opportunities will be discussed at the one-day conference, "Can Forests Meet Our Energy Needs? The Future of Forest Biomass in Colorado." Current activities and future trends in biomass utilization as they relate to energy are the focus of the conference, which will be held from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Feb. 21, in the Lory Student Center Theater at Colorado State University in Fort Collins. The conference is open to all who are interested in reducing dependence on fossil fuels while promoting forest health.

The conference will explore how woody biomass, removed from Colorado's forests to improve forest health and mitigate the threat of wildfires, also can be used as a viable, renewable energy alternative to fossil fuels. Registration and other conference details are available at: <http://www.colostate.edu/programs/cowood/energy/index.html>.

Upcoming Events

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

2/6/2008 Commute Options / Air Quality Conference
Denver, Colorado

2/6 - 2/8/2008 Wind Power Finance and Investment Summit
San Diego, California

2/7/2008 Going for the Gold, Environmental Leadership Program Workshop (PDF
62 KB)
Denver, Colorado

2/9 - 2/12/2008 US Composting Council 16th Annual Conference and Trade
show
Oakland, California

2/13 - 2/14/2008 Centralized Solar for Electric Generation Conference
Denver, Colorado

2/15/2008 DU Global Climate Change Law Review Symposium
Denver, Colorado

2/19 - 2/21/2008 Power-Gen Energy & Fuels
Las Vegas, Nevada

2/21/2008 Can Forests Meet Our Energy Needs? The Future of Forest Biomass in
Colorado
Fort Collins, Colorado

2/22/2008 The Third Annual Energy Forum & Expo
Grand Junction, Colorado

2/23/2008 Colorado Renewable Energy Society Annual Meeting
Denver, Colorado

2/28/2008 Governor's Forum on Colorado Agriculture
Denver, Colorado

2/25 - 2/27/2008 13th Annual Ethanol Conference
Orlando, Florida

2/25 - 2/27/2008 Energy Efficiency Summit 2008
San Francisco, California

2/27 - 2/29/2008 Sustainable Opportunities Summit
Denver, Colorado

2/27 - 2/29/2008 1st International Photovoltaic Power Generation Expo
Tokyo, Japan

2/28/2008 National Sacrifice Zone: Colorado and the Cost of Energy
Independence
Boulder, Colorado

2/28 - 2/29/2008 Climate Change Law
Los Angeles, California

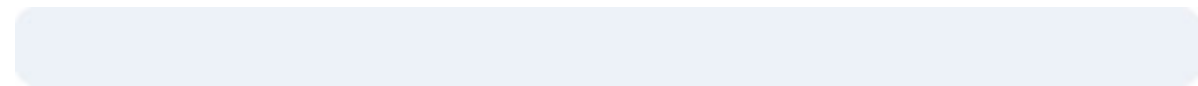
3/4 - 3/6/2008 Washington International Renewable Energy Conference
Washington, D.C.

3/12 - 3/14/2008 Globe 2008
Vancouver, B.C., Canada

3/19 - 3/20/2008 Globalcon: Energy Power & Facilities Management
Austin, Texas

3/20/2008 CRES Monthly Meeting: "Faith-Based Perspectives on the Earth,
Environment, Global Warming and a Sustainable Future"
Denver, Colorado

3/24/2008 Energy Rater Training
Berthoud, Colorado



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