



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACTS:

Megan Castle, Governor's Energy Office, 303-866-2262

Terry Bote, Public Utilities Commission, 303-894-2827

**\$10 MILLION IN COMMUNITY GRANTS TO BE AWARDED
AT SECOND ANNUAL NEW ENERGY ECONOMY CONFERENCE**

DENVER – The Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) and the Governor's Energy Office (GEO) will announce up to \$10 million in community new energy grants as part of the second annual "Colorado New Energy Economy" conference on Tuesday, Oct. 14, at the Colorado Convention Center.

The "New Energy Communities Initiative" will reward local governments working collaboratively to position their communities at the forefront of the state's New Energy Economy. 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.

This year's Colorado New Energy Economy conference will focus on local issues and will give communities a chance to share local sustainable initiatives that are taking place across Colorado. Examples of best practice models that power communities to take part in an efficient and renewable energy future will be showcased, and participants will have a wide range of networking opportunities.

Morning speakers will include Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter, Jr., GEO Director Tom Plant, and State Sen. Gail Schwartz. City and county officials from Denver, Colorado Springs, Fort Collins, Rifle, Springfield and La Plata County will provide a look at what is happening in communities across Colorado.

Dan Arvizu, Director of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, will be the keynote luncheon speaker.

In the afternoon, Public Utilities Commission Chairman Ron Binz will moderate a panel focusing on the topic of “Making Where We Live More Sustainable;” and Tom Clark, executive vice president of the Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation will moderate a panel on “Making Where We Work More Sustainable.”

The conference is sponsored by the Governor’s Energy Office, Public Utilities Commission, the Department of Local Affairs, and the Office of Consumer Counsel. The state agencies are partnering with Colorado Counties Inc., the Colorado Municipal League, and Energy Outreach Colorado.

The conference has been accredited by the Colorado Supreme Court for eight general continuing legal education (CLE) credits. Conference organizers have also applied for American Planning Association credits.

Online registration is available, as well as opportunities for exhibiting. To see the full agenda, or to register or reserve exhibitor space, visit <http://www.energyoutreach.org/conf/index.htm>.

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