



Overview of Programs for the Governor's Energy Office

Commercial & Public Building Programs

K-12 School Energy Program

GEO provides support to school districts interested in increasing energy efficiency. GEO offers three opportunities for schools to receive grant funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects: renewable energy in performance contracting, high performance design and the utility database program. In most school districts, utility costs are second only to salary as the greatest expense. GEO helps schools reduce energy costs, allowing them to reallocate their savings toward improved facilities and academics. In addition to the economic benefits of energy efficiency, several studies have shown the implementation of high performance design can actually increase the academic performance of students.

High Performance Design Program

Leading by example, in 2007 Governor Ritter signed Senate Bill 51 which requires all new construction projects that receive 25% or more of their funding from the state to target LEED® Gold certification. GEO works with Colorado municipalities, school districts, state facilities, and commercial developers to support the construction and commissioning of new energy efficient buildings with a goal of achieving the highest level of LEED® certification possible. The program also aims to increase consumer awareness about energy efficiency options in commercial new construction.

Performance Contracting Program

GEO works with facilities managers and owners to improve the energy efficiency of existing buildings. Energy performance contracting is an affordable way to make investments in new energy-efficiency equipment - with no up-front capital - and pay for them later through the energy savings that result. Benefits are immediate: new equipment, expertise from energy service professionals, ongoing maintenance services, and the ability to accomplish many projects all at once. Best of all, these savings can be guaranteed. To simplify the performance contracting process and to ensure the highest level of quality, GEO has pre-approved 11 ESCOs to implement performance contracts in Colorado.

The Colorado Carbon Fund Program

This voluntary carbon offset program is being established by GEO to advance the following objectives: develop a funding source for community-based clean energy and climate mitigation projects; direct investment monies towards CO-based projects; support Colorado's climate change mitigation objectives; and, to provide high quality, credible offsets for individuals, businesses and government agencies interested in mitigating their carbon footprint. GEO seeks to partner with communities interested in supporting local clean energy and climate mitigation projects; developers and financiers of offset projects; brokers and aggregators of offsets; and individuals and organizations interested in purchasing offsets.

Greening Government Program

The Greening Government program is challenging state employees to be leaders in the New Energy Economy by reducing the environmental impact of state operations. State government seeks to achieve these quantifiable Greening Government goals by June 30, 2012, with a baseline of State Fiscal Year 2005-06: 25% volumetric reduction in state vehicle petroleum consumption; 20% reduction in energy; 10 % reduction in water consumption at state facilities, 20% reduction in paper use; and, 75% reduction in waste.

Electric & Gas Utilities Program

This program implements legislation passed by the Colorado General Assembly and provides a pathway for public involvement and formal intervention in a wide variety of utility-related issues. The program works with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission, the Renewable Energy Resource Mapping and Transmission Development, Clean Energy Development Authority and conducts utility outreach and partnership programs.



Residential Building Programs

Income-Based Energy Programs: Energy Saving Partners

GEO's free energy efficiency services for income-qualified households offers three levels of programs. Tier 1 provides high efficiency light bulbs and showerheads, combined with consumer education, delivered via mail, during interactions with utility assistance applicants or via home visits by youth corps. Tier 2 focuses on appliance replacements such as furnaces, refrigerators, and freezers in homes where this is the primary energy efficiency need. Tier 3 services include insulation of attics, walls and reducing leakage in walls, windows, and ducts, appliance replacements and Tier 1 services.

Colorado ENERGY STAR® New Homes Program

GEO partners with Colorado cities, homebuilder associations, homebuilders, and Home Energy Rating to promote the statewide construction and testing of new energy efficient single family homes built to ENERGY STAR standards. The program aims to increase consumer awareness of energy efficiency options in residential new construction, and support the Colorado ENERGY STAR homebuilders. Certified new homes will receive the ENERGY STAR label to allow for simple identification by Colorado homebuyers.

Insulate Colorado Program for Existing Homes

GEO partners with Colorado partners such as cities, municipalities, and communities to support the proper installation of insulation and air-sealing measures in Colorado homes. The program also aims to increase consumer awareness of residential energy efficiency options, and actively promote the installation of additional whole-house energy saving measures. Rebates to homeowners are provided to promote this program through the program partners.

Renewable Energy Programs

Residential Solar Program

GEO is working with utilities and communities to offer a rebate on the installation of solar electric and solar domestic hot water systems. The solar electric rebate is offered outside of Xcel Energy and Aquila service territories. The solar domestic hot water rebate is offered statewide and program participants may be eligible for both rebates. Homeowners receiving the solar electric rebate are required to have a home energy audit. The program will be administered by the Colorado Solar Energy Industries Association.

Small Wind Incentive Program

GEO offers an incentive to interested partners from utilities, counties and municipalities to increase installed small wind projects. In combination with energy efficiency, on-site wind energy is an opportunity for homeowners and small businesses to produce their own electricity and reduce our carbon footprint.

The Governor's Biofuels Coalition Infrastructure Development Program

The mission of the Governor's Biofuels Coalition (GBC) is to promote the usage, awareness and infrastructure of biodiesel and E85, in Colorado. The GBC offers development funding, marketing and technical expertise to the qualifying facilities installing biofuels infrastructure.

Anaerobic Digestion Feasibility Program

GEO partners with facilities or farm owners to support the costs of a feasibility study for an anaerobic digester. The intention of this program is not for GEO to incur the total costs of the feasibility study, but rather share a percentage of the expense with other entities. GEO also has farm energy audits.

Community Woody Biomass for Thermal Usage Program

GEO wants to promote and develop community-scale bio-heating projects. GEO will work closely with several projects throughout the state to support the utilization of community wood biomass in a bio-heating project. Projects that will use annual forest thinnings, wood waste, including but not limited to bark beetle kill, and urban waste are encouraged to apply.

To learn more about all of GEO's programs, including how to participate, visit www.colorado.gov/energy.