

Colorado's New Energy Economy

This is a time of great promise for Colorado. Our unique home-grown blend of wind, solar and agricultural energy supplies offer Colorado an unprecedented opportunity to create jobs, protect the environment and decrease our dependence on foreign oil. As Governor, I will establish Colorado's 21st century **New Energy Economy** through strong leadership, responsible investment and a clear vision for the future.

This opportunity comes at a crucial crossroads for Colorado and the nation. The demand for energy is pushing against diminishing supplies. The cost for all types of energy – fuel for our vehicles, natural gas for heating our homes, electricity for keeping the lights on – are skyrocketing higher and higher. The realities of global warming are becoming more apparent as our forests burn and our snow pack and tree lines retreat ever higher.

As Governor, I will lead Colorado toward self-sufficiency by promoting alternative energy, encouraging cleaner ways of extracting and using fossil fuels, and rewarding efficiency and conservation. Here is my Seven-Point Plan that will transition Colorado to a cleaner, more secure energy future – the plan that fuels my vision for a **New Energy Economy**:

I. Create Jobs & Develop Businesses

An economic sector based on renewable and alternative energy technologies offers the possibility of thousands of highly skilled, high-paying jobs across Colorado. By promoting venture capitalism and providing leadership around other investment opportunities, we will attract and retain businesses to turn this possibility into reality.

My administration will explore financial incentives for investments in renewable energy. We can create a more favorable investment climate by streamlining the regulatory process and, where fiscally prudent, offering tax credits, rebates and other incentives to new and developing businesses, manufacturers and consumers of hybrid vehicles, solar panels, wind turbine components and other clean-energy equipment.

We will do a better job of investing money from the Office of Energy Management and Conservation in new energy businesses. I will continue to support the creation of the Colorado Clean Energy Fund to provide seed money to develop new energy technologies throughout our state. On a broader level, I will encourage Colorado's citizens, businesses, local governments, and even public retirement funds to invest in Colorado-based alternative energy and energy efficiency businesses and programs.

My administration also will pursue federal workforce development funds and make sure that we are drawing down every available dollar from the federal Energy Policy Act of 2005, which established billions of dollars in grants and incentives for new alternative-energy projects and industries.

I will look to other states for best practices and opportunities for regional cooperation to generate clean energy and reduce carbon emissions and other greenhouse gases. New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson and Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer will be strong partners in Colorado's **New Energy Economy**.

My administration also will develop public-private partnerships and establish statewide standards to create and expand markets for renewable energy products. This starts with strong implementation of Colorado's landmark renewable energy standard, Amendment 37, which was overwhelmingly approved by voters in 2004 and established a 10% renewable energy

requirement for Colorado's largest utilities by 2015. In March, I endorsed the "25 X '25" Campaign, which advocates that 25% of U.S. energy supplies come from "America's working lands" by 2025. We also must create a statewide renewable fuel standard. As Governor, I will enforce these standards through appointments to my administration and the Public Utilities Commission of those who share my vision for a cleaner and more secure energy future.

II. Boost Colorado's Rural Economies

As Governor, I will make sure our rural communities are not just beneficiaries but important drivers of the ***New Energy Economy*** through production of wind, solar and biofuel energy.

Colorado boasts extensive agricultural crops such as corn and soy beans to produce high-grade ethanol and biodiesel. As the 5th sunniest state in the nation, Colorado can make great gains in meeting our energy needs through solar power. Xcel Energy already plans to build a new solar plant in one of the sunniest regions of Colorado, the San Luis Valley. Our ***New Energy Economy*** will bring an even larger slice of the \$4 billion-a-year solar industry to Colorado.

The vast open spaces of the rural Eastern Plains provide ideal locations for turbines to convert our inexhaustible wind supply (we are the 9th windiest state in the country) to clean energy. Wind energy – one of the fastest-growing sources of electric power in the country – offers farmers along the Eastern Plains an opportunity to lease land for wind turbines or to buy the turbines themselves and sell the energy. The Colorado Green Wind Farm near Lamar demonstrates how local economies can benefit. This 108-turbine wind farm, built in 2003, created about 400 construction and installation jobs and increased Prowers County's tax base by 25-30%. In Wray, the community has come together to purchase a wind turbine that will provide power to the local public school district, with any excess energy being sold back to the grid. This is a perfect example of how private investments can be used to generate new and dedicated revenue for education, serving as a model for what I will promote as a "Colorado Energy for Education" program.

While there are tremendous opportunities involved in wind energy, there is a global production backlog for new turbines, and transmitting the energy to consumers and utility companies remains a challenge. As governor, I will address these issues and do more, including promoting incentives for farmers wishing to switch to energy crop production, and creating a public education and awareness campaign that will:

- Use the Internet and a 1-800 call-in number to provide consumers with information about where and how they can purchase ethanol, biofuels and energy generated from Colorado renewable sources.
- Help farmers identify potential energy- and biofuel-related customers and vendors.
- Expand training programs to Colorado farmers and small-business owners, explaining financing options for ethanol plants and wind turbine purchases.
- Increase broadband Internet access to rural Colorado so that farmers and ranchers have the same digital access to energy-related information and opportunities that those in urban areas have.

III. Leverage Colorado's Unique Energy Assets

In addition to Colorado's abundant natural resources, we are blessed with tremendous intellectual and entrepreneurial assets that make us a hub of research and development.

Colorado is home to the 3rd highest concentration of employees within the energy industry, 4th highest in renewable energy research employment, and 1st in concentration of hi-tech employees in general.

My administration will further the networking and cross-pollination of the powerful combination we have with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, National Center for Atmospheric Research, Colorado's outstanding universities, and Colorado's entrepreneurs, businesses, skilled workers, ranchers and farmers.

As Governor, I will bring these stakeholders together to form the "Colorado Clean Energy Coalition," an ongoing advisory group to my administration. The Coalition's mission will be to advance our energy technologies, share best practices, promote opportunities across the state and guide investments in our energy future.

Some of our universities already offer renewable-energy-related coursework and are on the cutting edge of renewable-energy research. The Colorado Fuel Cell Center at the Colorado School of Mines is studying and testing futuristic hydrogen-powered fuel cells for automobiles. In addition, the School of Mines, University of Colorado, Colorado State University and NREL have proposed a "Colorado Renewable Energy Collaboratory," a formal collaboration that will work towards "a shared vision to make Colorado a recognized leader in the world in reliable, secure, clean and economically viable energy resources and technologies."

I applaud and will support this type of innovative work by encouraging our institutions of higher learning and labor unions to create renewable energy degree, certificate and apprentice programs. These programs will provide the skills necessary to create a trained workforce that will support the new businesses created by our transition to a Colorado-based energy future. Colorado's college graduates and skilled laborers will form the backbone of this crucial and prosperous workforce. With these programs and workforce assets, Colorado can become a leader in the design, production, maintenance and repair of alternative-fuel and renewable-energy production facilities.

IV. Increase Energy Efficiency & Conservation

The single largest source of new energy already exists – and we can tap it simply by doing a better job of conserving and being more efficient. Colorado ranks 3rd in the nation in untapped energy efficiency.

As Governor, I will adopt more aggressive energy efficiency standards for appliances like clothes washers, traffic lights and other energy-using equipment. By constructing new buildings to higher and "greener" standards, and retrofitting old buildings where feasible, Colorado will become a leader in efficient buildings.

Under my administration, we will use best practices for energy efficiency by providing rebates, design assistance and education to energy producers and consumers. Through these best practices, we can reduce overall energy use. A more robust energy efficiency economy will create significant job growth, reduce air pollution and return hundreds of millions of dollars back to the businesses and residents of Colorado.

V. Lead by Example: Make Colorado Government a Model Energy Consumer

I will make our state government a model consumer of renewable and non-renewable energy and energy efficient products.

As Governor, I will require state buildings to meet stringent energy efficiency standards. Other states have saved millions of dollars by moving toward 20% energy-reduction targets. We should do the same, and small steps matter. For instance, we should replace traditional light bulbs in all state facilities with long-lasting, energy-efficient compact florescent bulbs. We will encourage local agencies to follow our lead. We will employ other common-sense strategies as well, such as encouraging homeowner associations to end their bans on solar panels because they are deemed unsightly.

State and local agencies should award contracts to bidders offering environmentally preferable products when economically appropriate. Our state government should, when feasible, buy hybrid vehicles and flexible-fuel fleets that run on ethanol and biodiesel fuel blends, adopt a renewable fuel standard, purchase more of our electric power from renewable power sources such as wind energy, and sign leases and build offices and other facilities that utilize energy efficient space.

I also will model Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper's GreenPrint Denver initiative, through which the city has cut its energy costs by installing LED stoplights, purchasing flex-fuel and hybrid vehicles, increasing water conservation and enacting numerous other projects.

VI. Promote Responsible Development of Colorado's Fossil-Fuel Resources

Colorado is home to some of the richest fossil-fuel deposits in the world. Our Piceance Basin holds enough natural gas to fuel the entire nation for two full years. The Green River oil-shale deposit holds triple the known oil reserves in Saudi Arabia. And our stores of coal-bed methane are abundant.

Our abundant fossil-fuel resources are important parts of our overall energy production, and technological advancements will increase the ability to benefit from them while minimizing the impact on our environment. Innovative technologies for coal, such as integrated gasification combined cycle (IGCC) with carbon sequestration and liquid fuel conversion offer the potential for cleaner ways to use this traditional resource. IGCC converts coal to gas and sends it through turbines to create electricity. Liquid fuel conversion converts coal to liquid. Carbon sequestration returns carbon dioxide, produced from the burning of coal, back into the ground rather than releasing it into the atmosphere.

As Governor, I will promote opportunities for research and development of these and other new, cleaner fossil-fuel technologies. While I favor the measured and responsible development of oil and gas, it is imperative that we protect Colorado's environment, including its wildlife, air and water, as the energy sector expands.

I also will work hard to strike a balance between the rights of surface owners and mineral estate owners, providing important leadership that will allow this sector of the energy economy to thrive while ensuring respect and compensation for surface owners.

VII. Do Our Part to Reverse Global-Warming Trends

We can no longer talk about energy without acknowledging the effects of our energy production and use on our environment. We are realizing the dangers of global warming and climate change – brought on largely by old-style power production and consumption habits – as we witness startling environmental changes around the globe: warmer ocean temperatures, more violent hurricanes, and glaciers retreating at alarming rates. An April 2006 report on climate change issued by The Colorado College estimated that Colorado's ski industry is facing likely death by the year 2050 if trends in global warming are not reversed. Statewide snow packs are

expected to be reduced by as much as 50% or more by the year 2085. We aren't talking about just global warming; we're talking about "local" warming.

As Colorado's Governor, through energy efficiency and other clean energy efforts discussed above, I will put in place programs to substantially reduce the type of carbon emissions that cause global warming.

Where we cannot sufficiently reduce our emissions, I will work with business, environmental groups and neighboring states to create a Western regional "Carbon-Offset Credit Market," where we can offset our emissions by supporting projects and businesses that remove carbon dioxide from our atmosphere. This market-based approach will provide economic incentives to businesses to cut their carbon emissions, thereby helping to reverse the trends in global warming.

We also can encourage more Colorado local governments to join Denver, Boulder, Fort Collins and Aspen in the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign to do their part in reducing greenhouse gases.

Conclusion

Clearly, the opportunities are plentiful. Colorado's ***New Energy Economy*** will create jobs and spur fiscal growth. Not only will we produce cleaner energy, but we also will create incentives for each home and business to load energy back onto the grid through net-metering – and Colorado as a state can become a net-energy exporter.

We also owe it to future generations of Coloradans – generations of Coloradans we will never meet – to protect our natural resources, our water supplies and our crisp mountain air. We have no greater responsibility, and Colorado's ***New Energy Economy*** will allow us to fulfill it.