

Colorado Governor's Energy Office

The mission of the Governor's Energy Office (GEO) is to lead Colorado to a New Energy Economy by advancing energy efficiency and renewable, clean energy resources. The GEO works in partnership with communities, local governments, non-profits, state agencies, and residents. Since 2007, the GEO was funded with State dollars, but it is currently funded almost entirely with federal dollars, including money issued through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act.

The **Commercial Buildings Program** provides a host of programs and services to private and public entities to assist with their energy reduction efforts in new and existing buildings.

The **Colorado Carbon Fund** marks the first state-based program in the country designed to help people and businesses offset their greenhouse gas emissions by directing money raised from carbon offset purchases to develop clean energy projects here in Colorado.

Our **Residential Program** works on several fronts to reduce residential energy consumption in Colorado homes. Initiatives include educating builders, realtors, and building code officials on energy code standards, promoting the construction of efficient ENERGY STAR qualified New Homes, and providing insulation rebates for homeowners.

The **Weatherization Program** provides free weatherization services statewide to families with incomes up



Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter, left, tours Confluence Energy in Kremmling, CO, with owner Mark Mathis, center. Confluence Energy turns beetle kill wood into pellets and wood chips, which fuel many of the biomass boilers in Colorado that have been made possible by the GEO's feasibility study and funding.

“CESA offers a rare opportunity to brainstorm and share ideas with colleagues facing similar challenges throughout the country in an effort to deliver effective renewable and energy efficiency programs to the public.”

Tom Plant

to 200% of the federal poverty level. Services include conducting energy audits, insulating walls and attics, weather-stripping, and installing energy efficient appliances. There are over one million

households eligible for this service in Colorado.

The **Renewable Energy Program** is a policy and consumer rebate program designed for small wind, solar, small hydro, geothermal, and biomass investment and development. The Renewable Energy team is integrally involved in designing successful legislation and incentives to strengthen renewable energy markets and encourage investment.

The **Greening Government Program** was established in order to meet Governor Bill Ritter's specific goals to green state government by reducing energy, water, paper, and petroleum use by



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HIGHLIGHTS

mid-2012. Many quality programs are in place and significant accomplishments have been made that will save taxpayer dollars by reducing utility bills and hedging against future price spikes in fuel and electricity.

Our **Financial Program** identifies opportunities within the New Energy Economy where finance gaps exist, or where there is a lack of access to capital. Such gaps can exist for homeowners interested in financing “green” home improvements, or developers who need a bridge loan to access the capital market, or a manufacturing plant that could benefit from a lower borrowing rate. The GEO financial program seeks creative ways to fill these gaps with certain financial resources and with partnerships throughout the state that are focused on economic development.

The **Electric Utilities and Transmission Programs** work closely with electric utilities to encourage an ever-increasing fraction of demand-side management, conservation, demand-response, distributed generation, smart grid, utility-scale renewable power, and high-voltage transmission to connect the power to the markets.

The **Public Outreach Program** understands consumers in Colorado lack a clear and direct source of information about what they can do to save energy, what incentives are available, and who can do the work for them in their area. The GEO Public Outreach Program will provide access to such information with an innovative one-stop-shopping website and a telephone hotline, as well as a comprehensive consumer outreach effort.



Chris Roma, left, and Danny Smith, right, of Shaw Environmental construct a piping system to extract methane gas from the Larimer County Landfill. The methane gas will be converted to electricity and represents the first clean energy project partially funded by the Colorado Carbon Fund.

ENERGY STAR NEW HOMES 2008 PARTNER OF THE YEAR award. The GEO worked with dozens of partners to support construction of more than 2,100 ESNH. Since the program began in 2007, Colorado saw an increase of 7% to 28% of new homes that were constructed with ENERGY STAR standards. The annual benefits of these efficient homes in Colorado include eliminating pollution equal to the emissions from more than 700 vehicles and carbon dioxide emission reductions of 8.8 million pounds, and saving the energy equivalent of more than 4.4 million pounds of coal. <http://www.colorado.gov/energy/index.php?/residential/energy-star-new-homes/>

WEATHERIZATION Partnering with eight agencies, in 2009, our weatherization program assisted 3,477 low-income households, resulting in total energy cost savings of \$549,366 each year. This year, increased funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act have expanded the program goals to weatherize 7,000 homes, doubling last year's impressive efforts. <http://www.colorado.gov/energy/index.php?/residential/category/energy-aving-partners-program/>

THE COLORADO CARBON FUND invested \$230,000 in its first project, a 1.4 MW methane-electricity plant in Larimer County. The project's annual CO₂ reductions are equivalent to taking about 7,500 cars off the road for a year. Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association will buy back enough power generated by the plant to supply 900 homes. <http://www.coloradocarbonfund.org/index.php/projects/>

Across Colorado, 18 community partners have received **ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANTS** (EECBG) totaling \$2.2 million to develop local strategies for saving energy and creating jobs in the state's rural, agricultural, and mountainous regions. Each partner is assisted by a community energy coordinator that will ensure our programs are being discussed and promoted, as well as providing a local point of contact for regions all around the state. <http://www.colorado.gov/energy/index.php?/policy/energy-efficiency-and-conservation-block-grants-eecbg/>

The last two years of **NEW ENERGY ECONOMY** legislation has included the doubling of the state's renewable energy standard to 20% by 2020 as well as the adoption of Senate Bill 51, making solar energy systems more affordable for homeowners and improving market conditions for solar energy companies doing business in Colorado. **SENATE BILL 91** produced a highly referenced report that maps out Colorado's renewable generation development areas; this led to the complimentary Renewable Energy Development Infrastructure report, which analyzes the barriers and necessary steps to realizing the 20% renewable energy standard, concluding with the need for strengthening Colorado's transmission line infrastructure. <http://www.colorado.gov/energy/index.php?/utilities/category/renewable-energy-development-infrastructure/>