

BREEE News V29  
Boulder Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Working Group  
<http://boulderenergy.org>  
5/9/05

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**Reminder: Comments on A 37 Rules Due 5/18**

Please refer to the Defend 37 Action Item sent 2 weeks ago (or email me for a copy if you don't have it.

Or, look at CRES's action item on submitting comments on the rule making at the end of this BREEE News.

From Ken [regelson@mac.com](mailto:regelson@mac.com)

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Resolving Energy, Economic, and Environmental Challenges. Denver. 5/14.  
American Wind Energy Association Conference. Denver. 5/15 - 18  
Central Station Solar Possibilities for Colorado. Boulder. 5/17.  
CRES Meeting: Future of Bioenergy. Golden. 5/25.  
CREC - Colorado Renewable Energy Conference. Fort Collins. 6/9 - 11.

\*\*\* = BREEE event or co-host of some kind.

*From Elsewhere*

Energy Indicators for Sustainable Development  
WSJ: J.P. Morgan Adopts 'Green' Guidelines in Lending Policies  
Micro CHP (Combined Heat & Power) Residential System  
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Global Warming Skeptic Bingo  
Why Vermonters Plug In To Solar Energy  
Cities Hope to Buy Utility  
Iowa Governor Orders Agencies to Use Renewables  
California PUC: Net Present Value of CO2: \$8/ton  
NASA: Ocean Tells the Story: Earth is Heating Up

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To Submit to BREEE News – email [Regelson@mac.com](mailto:Regelson@mac.com). Put BREEE News in the Subject. Suggest a title and a 2 or 3 sentence summary. Include a link to the original article or a web page, or provide your email address, for more information.

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*From Boulder & Colorado:*

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**Excellent Press in Boulder's Papers**

From the Colorado Daily.

[Vote on Renewables Just the Beginning](http://coloradodaily.com/articles/2005/04/23/news/news01.txt)

<http://coloradodaily.com/articles/2005/04/23/news/news01.txt>

From the Daily Camera.

[Expert: Energy Crisis is Urgent](#)

[Xcel Skimps on Buying Wind Energy](#)

## Louisville Delays Xcel Decision

[http://www.dailycamera.com/bdc/science/article/0,1713,BDC\\_2432\\_3729495,00.html](http://www.dailycamera.com/bdc/science/article/0,1713,BDC_2432_3729495,00.html)

[http://www.dailycamera.com/bdc/state\\_news/article/0,1713,BDC\\_2419\\_3732540,00.html](http://www.dailycamera.com/bdc/state_news/article/0,1713,BDC_2419_3732540,00.html)

[http://dailycamera.com/bdc/louisville\\_news/article/0,1713,BDC\\_2427\\_3750733,00.html](http://dailycamera.com/bdc/louisville_news/article/0,1713,BDC_2427_3750733,00.html)

From the Louisville Times

## Xcel Franchise Talks Heat Up

<http://www.coloradohometownnews.com/louisvilleneews.htm#2>

Submitted by Ken.

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## **...And in Denver's Paper**

From the Denver Post.

## Living Off the Grid Charges Writer

<http://denverpost.com/Stories/0,1413,36%257E53%257E2850008,00.html>

Submitted by Ken.

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## **Letter of Complaint From Louisville Mayor to Xcel CEO**

Letter from Mayor Fisk to Wayne Brunetti complaining about the franchise negotiation.

"The City strongly requests that PSCO (Xcel) reassess its approach to this franchise renewal process, and demonstrate a willingness to come to the table with practical expectations and a capacity for compromise."

<http://www.ci.louisville.co.us/Council/2005agendas/2005ssinfo/8marchss/pscoletter.pdf>

Submitted by Ken.

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## **Letters to the Editor on RE and EE**

Daily Camera (you may need to scroll down the page some)

Xcel: Utility's Colors Shine Through

[http://www.dailycamera.com/bdc/letters\\_to\\_editor/article/0,1713,BDC\\_2491\\_3740556,00.html](http://www.dailycamera.com/bdc/letters_to_editor/article/0,1713,BDC_2491_3740556,00.html)

Global Warming: It's Happening, and We Must Respond

[http://www.dailycamera.com/bdc/letters\\_to\\_editor/article/0,1713,BDC\\_2491\\_3746576,00.html](http://www.dailycamera.com/bdc/letters_to_editor/article/0,1713,BDC_2491_3746576,00.html)

Xcel Mishandles Wind Bid Process

[http://www.dailycamera.com/bdc/letters\\_to\\_editor/article/0,1713,BDC\\_2491\\_3752328,00.html](http://www.dailycamera.com/bdc/letters_to_editor/article/0,1713,BDC_2491_3752328,00.html)

Shameful Legacy of Energy Gluttons

[http://www.dailycamera.com/bdc/letters\\_to\\_editor/article/0,1713,BDC\\_2491\\_3752328,00.html](http://www.dailycamera.com/bdc/letters_to_editor/article/0,1713,BDC_2491_3752328,00.html)

Xcel Energy: Renewables Should be a Top Priority

[http://www.dailycamera.com/bdc/letters\\_to\\_editor/article/0,1713,BDC\\_2491\\_3758619,00.html](http://www.dailycamera.com/bdc/letters_to_editor/article/0,1713,BDC_2491_3758619,00.html)

Xcel Should Level With the Public

[http://www.dailycamera.com/bdc/letters\\_to\\_editor/article/0,1713,BDC\\_2491\\_3758679,00.html](http://www.dailycamera.com/bdc/letters_to_editor/article/0,1713,BDC_2491_3758679,00.html)

Submitted by Ken.

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## **Knowledge Farm: Energy Issues**

A newsletter on sustainability and other topics written by a BREEE member - George Beggs. Last few issues have focused on energy.

<http://www.knowledgefarm.org/news.archive/kf.news.4.15.05.html>

Submitted by Ken.

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## **A Note on Governor Owens' Veto of HB 1162**

Gov. Bill Owens has vetoed House Bill 1162, the Colorado appliance standards bill. We generated a great deal of citizen and business support urging him to sign

it, but Gov. Owens has a strong anti-regulatory philosophy. Here is the press release we just put out.

[http://swenergy.org/media/pr2005\\_0429.pdf](http://swenergy.org/media/pr2005_0429.pdf)

Thanks once again to all you who helped with calls, emails, alerts, testimony, etc. as the bill moved through the legislature and was presented to the Governor. Having the bill pass the legislature with broad support was a major step forward, and we will continue fighting the good fight of course!

Regards, Howard Geller  
Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEET)

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### **Still A Chance to Get Clipper Wind Turbine Factory**

Denver Post brief 4/26/05:

*"Iowa, not Colo., gets wind-turbine plant*

Clipper Windpower of Carpinteria, California will build a \$22 million wind-turbine assembly plant in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Clipper earlier this year had said Colorado was a front-runner for an assembly plant.

Clipper officials said Monday that Colorado may still be considered for another assembly plant, if the company's proposal for a 200-megawatt wind farm in Elbert County is accepted by Xcel Energy."

Submitted by Charlie Stevens.

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### **High Country News on Energy: The Winds of Change**

Major report in the latest HCN.

[http://www.hcn.org/servlets/hcn.Issue?issue\\_id=297](http://www.hcn.org/servlets/hcn.Issue?issue_id=297)

(Must be a subscriber to read on-line)  
Submitted by Ross Vincent.

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*Calendar:*

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**Coal Plant Meeting. Boulder. 7 PM. May 10th**

Meadows Library (Behind Safeway at Baseline and Foothills).

Draft Air Permit, Environmental Justice for Pueblo, and other issues.

Leslie Glustrom 303-245-8637 lglustrom@qwest.net

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**Resolving Energy, Economic, and Environmental Challenges. Denver.  
May 14. 9 AM - 4 PM Morey Wolfson**

Colorado Energy Science Center. Charge. Space Limited.

[http://www.energyscience.org/homeowners/workshops/energy\\_challenges.html](http://www.energyscience.org/homeowners/workshops/energy_challenges.html)

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**American Wind Energy Association Conference. Denver. 5/15 - 5/18.**

<http://www.awea.org/wp05.html>

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**Sierra Club: Indian Peaks Group: Energy Committee  
Central Station Solar Possibilities for Colorado.  
Boulder. 7 PM. 5/17.**

Meadows Library. Behind Safeway at Baseline and Foothills Parkway.

Leslie Glustrom 303-245-8637 lglustrom@qwest.net

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**New Energy Efficient Home Choices. Golden. 5/24. 6 - 8 PM**

Colorado Energy Science Center Workshop.

[http://www.energyscience.org/homeowners/workshops/new\\_homes.htm](http://www.energyscience.org/homeowners/workshops/new_homes.htm)

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**CRES Meeting: Future of BioEnergy.  
5/25. 5:30 PM.**

NREL Visitor's Center.

<http://cres-energy.org/calendar.html>

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**CREC 2005. Colorado Renewable Energy Conference.  
Fort Collins.  
6/9 - 11**

Colorado Renewable Energy Society.

<http://www.cres-energy.org/crec2005/>

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*From Elsewhere:*

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**Energy Indicators for Sustainable Development**

From the IEA (International Energy Agency) and others. What indicators do you use to measure and assess a regions level of sustainable development.

(1 MB download)

[http://www-pub.iaea.org/MTCD/publications/PDF/Pub1222\\_web.pdf](http://www-pub.iaea.org/MTCD/publications/PDF/Pub1222_web.pdf)

Submitted by Ken.

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### **Wall Street Journal: J.P. Morgan Adopts 'Green' Guidelines in Lending Policies**

So, under JP Morgan's new policies, does this mean that Xcel could not have gotten financing for their 3rd coal fired generator in Pueblo?

"...J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. will adopt sweeping guidelines that restrict its lending and underwriting practices for industrial projects that are likely to have an environmental impact.

The New York banking giant -- third largest in assets in the U.S. -- is expected to ...take(s) an aggressive stance on global warming, including tying carbon-dioxide emissions to its loan-review process for power plants and other large polluters. The bank also plans to calculate in loan reviews the financial cost of greenhouse-gas emissions, such as the risk of a company losing business to a competitor with lower emissions because it has a better public standing.

And J.P. Morgan plans to lobby the U.S. government to adopt a national policy on greenhouse-gas emissions..."

<http://www.ran.org/news/newsitem.php?id=1472&area=home>

Submitted by Ken.

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### **Micro CHP (Combined Heat & Power) Residential System**

A 1 kW continuous use generator also provides heat to a home. Very quiet, small, 3+ year maintenance cycle.

<http://www.climate-energy.com/micro-chp.asp>

Submitted by Ken.

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### **EDrive: Plug-in Prius Conversion Kit Announced**

Plug-in and charge if you want to. Standard Prius performance on gas alone. 100 - 150 MPG for first 60 miles after plugging in. Ship date to be determined.

<http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/050502/dam042.html?v=8>

Submitted by Ken.

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### **Global Warming Skeptic Bingo**

"Reading and listening to global warming skeptics can get a little tedious because they keep trotting out the same discredited arguments. So I've come up with a little game you can play to make it more interesting. I call it Global Warming Skeptic Bingo! Just tick the box when they use the argument next to it." Bob Maginnis (extracted from a Sierra Club list on global warming)

<http://cgi.cse.unsw.edu.au/~lambert/cgi-bin/blog/science/gwsbingo.html>

Submitted by Ken.

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### **Why Vermonters Plug In To Solar Energy**

<http://www.timesargus.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050501/NEWS/505010303/1013/FEATURES04>

Submitted by Morey Wolfson.

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### **Cities Hope to Buy Utility**

Great Falls Tribune

"Five Montana cities, including Great Falls, are teaming up with 22 towns from South Dakota in an attempt to buy NorthWestern Energy, the electric and gas utility that emerged from bankruptcy last year and serves more than 300,000 Montana customers.

The Montana cities' group, known as Montana Public Power Inc., on Friday approved an agreement with South Dakota Power Co. to work together to buy NorthWestern."

<http://www.greatfalls Tribune.com/multimedia/frontpage.pdf>

Submitted by Morey Wolfson.

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**Iowa Governor Orders Agencies to Use Renewables**

10% renewable electricity. Hybrid cars. Biodiesel and ethanol.

<http://www.globegazette.com/articles/2005/04/23/state/doc4269db0270987388373251.txt>

Submitted by Michael Bowman.

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**California PUC: Net Present Value of CO2: \$8/ton**

To be used in all planning for power.

[http://www.fypower.org/pdf/NRDC\\_GHG.pdf](http://www.fypower.org/pdf/NRDC_GHG.pdf)

Submitted by Michael Bowman.

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**NASA: Ocean Tells the Story: Earth is Heating Up.**

"... concluded that the unusual magnitude of the warming trend could not be explained by natural variability, but instead fit precisely in line with theories suggesting that human activity -- the dominant "forcing agent" driving the computerized climate models -- is responsible."

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2005/04/29/MNGT1CHITP1.DTL>

Submitted by Alison Burchell.

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(This is the end of BREEE News)

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From CRES (Colorado Renewable Energy Society) CRES-Clips Newsletter:

**Action Alert: Amendment 37 Comments Due May 18**

It is hard work to keep the devil out of the details. I need you to send an email or letter to the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) before May 18 regarding implementation of Amendment 37. Passed by voters on November 2, Amendment 37 requires that Colorado's largest utilities obtain 10% of the electricity generated from renewable energy resources in 10 years. Of the 10% amount, at least 2% (0.2% of total) must come from customer-sited solar power systems, or photovoltaics (PV).

Colorado's two investor-owned utilities, Xcel Energy and Colorado Aquila, will offer rebates to homeowners and businesses for installing PV systems beginning in 2006. Before the utilities can initiate their rebate programs, however, the PUC must issue its rules for administering them. If the PUC sets the rules properly, the stage is set for a burgeoning Colorado PV industry.

You can submit email or written comments by mail to the PUC on their proposed rules by May 18. All comments will be posted on the PUC web site, where anyone can submit reply comments by June 15. Then the PUC will hold public hearings July 11 – 14 in Denver.

We encourage PV advocates to encourage the PUC to incorporate the following concepts in their rules:

- Rebate level

Amendment 37 calls for a minimum PV rebate of \$2 per watt(W). However, experience with utility PV programs across the country demonstrates that \$2/W may not be sufficient to meet Amendment 37's PV goals. The renewable energy community has proposed a performance-based rebate level beginning at \$4.25/W and declining over time. The PUC should allow utilities to offer rebates at a level that will move the market forward and successfully meet their (2%) installation goals.

- Net metering

A PV homeowner should use a single two-way meter to measure the net flow of electricity to and from the electricity grid. That way consumers are credited for the electricity that they feed back into the grid at the same retail price that they pay for electricity.

- Reasonable interconnection fees

Some Colorado utilities currently charge excessive fees for interconnecting a PV system to the electricity grid. The high fees make the homeowners' PV investment less attractive and serve as an artificial barrier not warranted by safety or practical reasons. By setting simple interconnection procedures, the PUC can guarantee a win-win situation for both utilities and homeowners.

- Compliance using renewable energy certificates.

Compliance should be based on using renewable energy certificates (RECs) because the additional income from selling RECs will improve the economics of a PV investment and will enlarge the potential pool of participating homeowners.

- Independent program administration

An independent third party that does not have ties either to the utilities or the renewable energy community should administer the program. This independence is essential to avoid a conflict of interest or the appearance of unethical behavior.

- Consumer protection

The PV systems should be certified and inspected for proper installation and safety.

You can help by sending your comments supporting fair and equitable PV rules to the PUC, including the proposals listed above. A complete description on how to send your comments to the PUC is available at:

<http://www.dora.state.co.us/puc/rulemaking/Amendment37.htm>