

BREEE News V42  
Boulder Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Working Group  
<http://boulderenergy.org>  
11/28/05

It's like a big bag of microwaved popcorn. Eventually, we're all going to start popping."  
- Cedric the Entertainer on global warming.

*Hot Picks*

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### **Sierra Club Report on Energy Sustainable Cities**

I just completed a report for the Sierra Club on Sustainable Cities - Best Practices for Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency.

The purpose of Sustainable Cities is to help all cities efficiently implement energy sustainability programs. It looks into the history, status, and results of the programs Austin, Chicago, Fort Collins, and Portland use to save money and improve the lives of their residents by investing in renewable energy and energy efficiency programs.

Fourteen common key elements were identified. The report includes more than 80 links to the web and can be found on the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Sierra Club's website.

<http://www.rmc.sierraclub.org/energy/library/sustainablecities.pdf>

Feel free to pass it on.

Ken

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### **12/1. Boulder. Health Effects of Climate Change**

6 PM. George Reynolds Branch Library on Table Mesa about a block West of Broadway.

The Indian Peaks Group of the Sierra Club hosts Dr. Cindy Parker from Johns Hopkins Medical Center.

Details: Leslie Glustrom. [lglustrom@qwest.net](mailto:lglustrom@qwest.net)

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### **Boulder. Conference. 1/14/2006. Going Local: Preparing For the Energy Crisis**

Boulder Valley Relocalization is planning this conference. They hope they will attract 1000 to 1500 participants (and need help organizing).

There will be an expo for companies and organizations. Tables (38 total) are going fast.

To exhibit contact: [Deborah@liaisoncreative.com](mailto:Deborah@liaisoncreative.com)

For information on the conference:

<http://boulderrelocalization.org/>

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Edited and distributed by Ken Regelson. Articles that do not list who submitted them are probably from Ken.

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*From Boulder & Colorado:*

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### **A Sustainable Energy Path for Boulder County (and Zero Waste by 2025)**

On November, 22, the Boulder County Commissioners approved two resolutions. One directs the county to develop a sustainable energy path. The other, a zero waste path.

County news release and press coverage:

<http://www.co.boulder.co.us/newsroom/templates/?a=270&z=1>

[http://dailycamera.com/bdc/county\\_news/article/0,1713,BDC\\_2423\\_4261289,00.html](http://dailycamera.com/bdc/county_news/article/0,1713,BDC_2423_4261289,00.html)

[http://www.coloradodaily.com/articles/2005/11/23/news/c\\_u\\_and\\_boulder/news5.txt](http://www.coloradodaily.com/articles/2005/11/23/news/c_u_and_boulder/news5.txt)

<http://www.longmontfyi.com/Local-Story.asp?id=4785>

The public hearing and extensive comments from Commissioner Toor on specifics of programs and actions is available for streamed viewing. One of many interesting things Toor mentions is application for funding for a plug-in hybrid vehicle pilot program. Commissioner Toor's comments begin around the 23 minute mark. If playback is choppy, try clicking on the pause button (looks like: II on the lower left of the little Windows Media Player window), wait a minute or two, then click on play (the triangle on the left).

[http://www.liquidviewer.com/bouldercounty/videoAgenda.asp?x=1&v\\_uid=537&newAsx=956595838069916\\_1122200544505.asx](http://www.liquidviewer.com/bouldercounty/videoAgenda.asp?x=1&v_uid=537&newAsx=956595838069916_1122200544505.asx)

From Doug Grinbergs.

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### **City of Boulder Study Session on Boulder Public Power**

Consensus from the study session was to move forward. However, no decisions were made.

"Proponents say a city-run utility — which would require voter approval — could provide power from a broad range of renewable energy sources while still keeping costs down and giving residents more control over their power...

Boulder residents would pay the same rates that Xcel now charges under the plan. Power from renewable energy sources could cost more, and Boulder would be saddled with

significant debt payments to pay off the millions of dollars in capital costs. But that's something a city-owned utility could do, Calonne said, because unlike Xcel, it doesn't need to make a profit...

But Calonne did caution that the city has had trouble getting the information it needs from Xcel to determine how much it would cost to take over the system."

[http://www.dailycamera.com/bdc/county\\_news/article/0,1713,BDC\\_2423\\_4261293,00.html](http://www.dailycamera.com/bdc/county_news/article/0,1713,BDC_2423_4261293,00.html)

From Doug Grinbergs.

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### **Daily Camera: Letter: Xcel Sleazy Survey Turned Me Off**

" I was neutral about this issue (municipalization) before, wanting more information based on reliable research. I am no longer neutral and will oppose anything Xcel tries to do."

(scroll down the page)

[http://dailycamera.com/bdc/letters\\_to\\_editor/article/0,1713,BDC\\_2491\\_4263095,00.html](http://dailycamera.com/bdc/letters_to_editor/article/0,1713,BDC_2491_4263095,00.html)

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### **Unreasonable Homeowner's Associations Solar Restrictions Illegal in Colorado**

"... the Colorado measure protecting the right to install solar energy devices ... is plenty strong, and will typically ensure that reasonable PV and solar thermal installations will go through."

<http://www.coseia.org/Legislation.html>

From Jon Klima.

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### **New CU Institute For Study of Renewables and Efficiency**

"According to a draft vision document Avery provided, the institute will be designed 'to discover, implement and encourage use of renewable and sustainable-energy technologies.'

The draft document suggests an annual operating budget of about \$10 million and a research budget of \$50 million."

[http://www.dailycamera.com/bdc/buffzone\\_news/article/0,1713,BDC\\_2448\\_4252021,00.html](http://www.dailycamera.com/bdc/buffzone_news/article/0,1713,BDC_2448_4252021,00.html)

This was announced at the open house of CU's winning Solar Decathlon house, which has found a home in Longmont.

[http://www.dailycamera.com/bdc/buffzone\\_news/article/0,1713,BDC\\_2448\\_4252022,00.html](http://www.dailycamera.com/bdc/buffzone_news/article/0,1713,BDC_2448_4252022,00.html)

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### **Study of National Park Pollutants**

"The model said the state's worst offender in terms of Rocky Mountain National Park visibility is ... Tri-State ('s coal fired Craig power plant) ... hinders views more than 5 percent a third of the time, and can cut visibility 25 percent or more, the model showed.

Impacts can come from far a field. The model shows two Colorado Springs Utilities power plants affecting park visibility more than 7 percent of the time, and Xcel Energy's Comanche plant in Pueblo has an impact about four days a year."

[http://www.dailycamera.com/bdc/state\\_news/article/0,1713,BDC\\_2419\\_4242686,00.html](http://www.dailycamera.com/bdc/state_news/article/0,1713,BDC_2419_4242686,00.html)

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### **NCAR Scientist Studies Global Climate Affairs**

"Glantz's vision for climate affairs is, on one hand, to help students and policy makers understand climate science and how the climate system works. But it also teaches how society is a key component of the climate system. The field as Glantz envisions it includes climate impacts on ecosystems and economies, and how climate figures into politics, policy and law."

[http://www.dailycamera.com/bdc/science/article/0,1713,BDC\\_2432\\_4254103,00.html](http://www.dailycamera.com/bdc/science/article/0,1713,BDC_2432_4254103,00.html)

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### **Home Energy Makeover Contest Winners**

In Xcel's, Colorado Springs Utilities', and Delta-Montrose Electric Association's territories.

<http://www.energyscience.org/energymakeover/dmea/index.html>

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*Calendar:*

**12/3. Denver. Fee. Create Your Own Energy Makeover**

9 AM - Noon. Colorado Energy Science Center.

<http://www.energyscience.org/homeowners/workshops/index.html>

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**12/10. Denver. Fee. GreenEdge Advanced Training**

GreenEdge™ Advanced Residential Green Building is an advanced training geared towards builders, remodelers, architects, interior designers, and other interested professionals seeking to expand their knowledge of and abilities to implement technical Green Building practices.

<http://www.greenedgetraining.org/>

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**12/13. Denver. Infrared Home Tour Workshop.**

6 to 8 PM. Colorado Energy Science Center.

<http://www.energyscience.org/homeowners/workshops/index.html>

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**1/14. Boulder. Small fee. Boulder Valley Relocalization Conference**

9 AM - 6 PM. Glen Miller Ballroom. University of Colorado.

National speakers. Local exhibits and displays. Expecting 1000+ people.

<http://www.boulderrelocalization.org/>

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*From Elsewhere:*

## Short Takes

"There is more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere today than at any point during the last 650,000 years, says a major new study... ever-more definitive evidence... carbon dioxide already is 27 percent higher than its peak during all those millennia... that rise is occurring at a speed that 'is over a factor of a hundred faster than anything we are seeing in the natural cycles'"

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20051124/ap\\_on\\_sc/greenhouse\\_gas](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20051124/ap_on_sc/greenhouse_gas)

PV (solar electric) printed on paper in a process similar to 4-color printing (like magazines are printed).

<http://www.businessday.co.za/articles/national.aspx?ID=BD4A114801>

Xcel contracts for 205.5 MW of wind in Minnesota. Due online in November, 2007.

<http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/market/business/viewstory.jsessionid=aDU0G3MqdvQ ?id=39607>

Senator Ken Salazar joins new gang to set America free from foreign oil.

<http://salazar.senate.gov/news/releases/051116energy.htm>

Renewables 2005 Global Status Report. (Excellent - Ken).

<http://www.ren21.net/globalstatusreport/default.asp>

From Ross Vincent, Don Elsborg, Howard Geller, and others.

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## Scientific American Editorial

"Such feeble measures (as proposed by Bush and Congress) will do little to ease America's addiction to foreign oil or slow the global warming caused by vehicle exhaust. Lawmakers should press for more stringent CAFE standards that would boost fuel economy for both cars and light trucks by at least 40 percent over the next decade. The goal is technologically feasible--by adopting hybrid engines and strong but lightweight auto bodies, manufacturers can make their vehicles more efficient without compromising passenger safety or inflating sticker prices. What we need are political leaders genuinely committed to energy conservation, not just to speeches and public-service ads."

<http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?chanID=sa006&articleID=000BA58E-4FC0-137A-8FC083414B7F012D&colID=2>

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## Guide on Office Emissions of CO2 From Various Sources

Includes several spreadsheets to help determine what your office's impact is. The business travel spreadsheet is quite interesting. Air travel uses quite a lot of CO2 - about one ton (2000 pounds) for 5,000 miles of travel.

