

BREEE News V045
Boulder Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Working Group
<http://boulderenergy.org>
3/3/06

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| "Solar system: | \$24,000 |
| Rebate from Xcel: | \$13,500 |
| Federal Tax Credit: | \$ 2,000 |
| Watching your electric meter run backwards, creating jobs, saving water, and saving the planet: | Priceless." |

- A 37 Supporters. 3/1/2006

Amendment 37 - Update

Xcel rebates for small solar systems have started (see below). Rulemaking for the rest of A 37 continues to make progress.

The Commissioners of the Public Utilities Commission met in deliberative session today. They discussed the latest round of triple-R requests ((re-hearing, re-argument, or reconsideration) from Xcel, Western Resource Advocates (WRA), Colorado Solar Industries Association (CoSEIA), and Colorado Renewable Energy Society (CRES).

Since changes were made to the rules today, another round of triple-R will occur. The triple-R process continues until no changes are made to the rules. The PUC expressed hope that this round of triple-R could be short and conclude on March 31.

You can view the applications for triple-R and the orders for changes to the rules at:
<http://www.dora.state.co.us/puc/rulemaking/RecentRulemakingActivity.htm#05R112E>

A new order on the rules with the decisions made today should be posted on that website by 3/9 or so. Once we have completed rules Xcel and Aquila will have 60 days to file a compliance plan to meet those rules. The PUC may choose to accept the plans or litigate them. If they are litigated, we can expect a more than 5-month delay in implementation for the rest of A 37.

The small system rebates were implemented in advance of completed rules because, among other reasons, consensus was reached on the rules for small system rebates some 6 months ago.

Xcel Starts Small System Solar Electric Rebate Program in Colorado 3/1/2006

Get details and fill out an online application at

<http://www.xcelenergy.com/solar>

Find a solar installer at

<http://www.findsolar.com>

or

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

(scroll down to find a list of Colorado cities and installers)

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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:

Boulder Public Power (Municipalization) Moving Forward

<http://www.ci.boulder.co.us/cao/newsletter/2006%20Municipalization%20Work%20Program%20Available%20for%20Public%20Review.htm>

Download work plan from:

<http://www.ci.boulder.co.us/cao/documents/Municipalization/c-2006%20Municipalization%20Work%20Program.pdf>

From Eric Gertler.

Camera: LTE: Boulder Can Be a Model for the Nation on Energy

"Sweden just announced its plan to be the world's first oil-free economy in 15 years. Certainly, the community of Boulder can set a similar goal to be coal-free by 2020. Instead of continuing to produce the majority of our electricity from burning coal at the Valmont power plant, we can make the shift to energy efficiency measures and clean, 21st century technologies like solar and wind energy."

http://dailycamera.com/bdc/letters_to_editor/article/0,1713,BDC_2491_4506904,00.html

Colorado Small Wind Guide and Video

Produced by Colorado's Office of Energy Management and Conservation.

Guide:

<http://www.colorado.gov/oemc/programs/renewable/anemometer/videos/accompaniment.pdf>

Streamed Video:

<http://www.colorado.gov/oemc/programs/renewable/anemometer/demo.htm>

Denver Business Journal: Xcel Offers "Solar Rewards"

"The company plans to aggressively market the Xcel Energy Solar Rewards program to bring in new customers who want to be involved in developing a clean, renewable-energy technology," said Fred Stoffel, vice president for policy development, in a statement. "With an annual average of 300 sunny days in Colorado, the opportunity for this solar program to be successful is tremendous."

http://www.bizjournals.com/denver/stories/2006/02/27/daily39.html?f=et61&hbx=e_du

Job Opening in Boulder at Southwest Energy Efficiency Project

<http://www.energyvortex.com/careercenter/jobdetails.cfm?id=1371>

Tri-State Buying Water for New Coal Plants

A power supplier seeking to buy water shares in the Lamar area said it has reached agreements on about 20 percent of its goal of 20,000 acre-feet. The Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, which serves 44 electric cooperatives in four states, plans to build up to two coal-fired, 600-megawatt power plants in Eastern Colorado within the next 20 years.

<http://www.chieftain.com/business/1138867866/4>

From Morey Wolfson.

Details on Colorado Springs' Solar Rebate Program

http://www.csu.org/residential/rebates/renew_rebate/index.html

From Morey Wolfson.

Fort Collins' Fossil Ridge High School Achieves LEED Silver Rating

http://www.distributedenergy.com/de_news_022006_rmi.html

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Calendar.

Readers:

The Calendar is on vacation while I consider setting up an online web calendar. Your comments are welcome. Ken regelson@mac.com

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From Elsewhere:

Short Takes

San Francisco converting dog waste to energy. *San Franciscans already recycle two-thirds of their garbage... animal feces make up nearly 4 percent of residential waste, or 6,500 tons a year — nearly as much as disposable diapers... will begin a pilot program under which it will use biodegradable bags and dog-waste carts to pick up droppings at a popular dog park. The droppings will be tossed into a contraption called a methane digester... The methane could then be piped directly to a gas stove, heater, turbine or anything else powered by natural gas. It can also be used to generate electricity.*

http://www.dailycamera.com/bdc/state_news/article/0,1713,BDC_2419_4486612,00.html

"PV watts have not come down like transistors," said Richard Swanson, president and CTO for solar-cell maker SunPower Corp. "But solar will reach price parity with the current electricity grid within the next 5-to-10 years."

http://www.eetasia.com/ART_8800403542_765245_43dfc7d5_no.HTM

German PolySilicon manufacturing company to almost double production by early 2008 to address silicon shortage for photovoltaics. They are piloting continuous, rather than batch silicon, production.

<http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsEUMA90.htm>

Canadian solar housing developments with centrally located seasonal heat storage.

<http://www.canada.com/edmontonjournal/news/story.html?id=4e356050-5bf3-4ab4-a478-1da17e35837a&k=24498>

The Republican governor of Hawaii has instituted a systems benefit charge to fund renewables, an increase to 20% for their renewable portfolio standard and other measures in an "Energy For Tomorrow" bill. A systems benefit charge is usually a small fee added to electric bills.

<http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/story?id=41812>

In San Luis Obispo, CA, a proposal is being considered that *5 percent of all new single family homes built in 2008 must include solar panels. The percentage will jump by 4 percent of new homes built every year until 2020.*

<http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/story?id=44238>

NY Times Poll shows US might support gas tax increase ... *55 percent said they would support an increase in the tax... if it did in fact reduce dependence on foreign oil. Fifty-nine percent were in favor if the result was less gasoline consumption and less global warming.*

<http://aolsvc.news.aol.com/business/article.adp?id=20060228081109990011&ccc=3&cid=403>

Spire Corporation to develop thermo-photovoltaic cells (electricity from heat).

<http://www.powerpulse.net/news/story.php?storyID=14874>

Renewable Ventures has \$100 million to help organizations lease solar power.

<http://www.redherring.com/Article.aspx?a=15903&&hed=Fund+to+Offer+Solar+80%98Leases80%99+&§or=Industries&&subsector=Energy>

All Prius Limousine/Taxi service in Boston.

<http://planettran.com/index.html>

California initiative to tax oil extraction to fund alternative energy.

<http://www.innovations.harvard.edu/news/10736.html>

86 evangelical leaders join to fight global warming.

<http://www.climateark.org/articles/reader.asp?linkid=52057>

Oregon PUC rejects coal and gas plants in Utah that PacifiCorp would have used to serve Oregon.

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

(scroll down)

Aptera concept car. Diesel-electric hybrid. 330 MPG. 0 to 60 in 11 seconds. < \$20,000.

<http://www.acceleratedcomposites.com/>

Two independent analyses say an effort, opposed by business, to cut greenhouse gases could be beneficial for California's economy. The state's ambitious plan to cut greenhouse gas emissions could create tens of thousands of new jobs and dramatically boost the economy in coming years...

http://www.truthout.org/issues_06/012406EB.shtml

Many continue to predict our future electricity expansion will be coal based.

<http://www.dailykos.com/storyonly/2006/1/16/81346/5554>

From Morey Wolfson, Ross Vincent, Eric Johnson, and others.

California to Invest \$3.2 Billion in Solar Electric Rebates Over Next 11 Years

"Of all the numbers in this plan, it's the 11 number that's most important," said Mark Farber, co-founder and Vice President, Strategic Planning of Evergreen Solar, a photovoltaic manufacturer. "The most important significance to this plan is that it takes long term commitments to grow the industry. Manufacturers are contemplating major investments because of this. As well as for many installers and distributors, they need the long term commitment too."

<http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/story?id=41672>
