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"Socialism collapsed because it did not allow the market to tell the economic truth.  
Capitalism may collapse because it does not allow the market to tell the ecological truth."  
- Oystein Dahle, a former vice president of Exxon.

### ***Boulder Action Item***

City of Boulder Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan and funding options. Public Meeting.

A strong BREEE turnout for this is highly desirable to show support!

Monday, May 8. 4 to 6 PM. 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Boulder Bookstore, 1107 Pearl St, Boulder.

### ***Lakewood Action Item***

Sierra Club rally and 1000 compact fluorescent light bulb giveaway. Encourage Lakewood to join the Sierra Club's Cool Cities campaign.

Saturday, May 6, 2006 at 9:30 a.m. Bear Creek Greenbelt Shelter, 2800 S. Estes St., Lakewood. For information contact Roger Singer:

[roger.singer@sierraclub.org](mailto:roger.singer@sierraclub.org)

### **Amendment 37 Update: Finally! Final Rules!!**

The fourth and final round of RRR has been completed with no changes to the rules. Public Utility Commissioners' deliberation, order, and (very likely) final rules:

[http://www.dora.state.co.us/puc/decisions/2006/C06-0468\\_05R-112E.pdf](http://www.dora.state.co.us/puc/decisions/2006/C06-0468_05R-112E.pdf)



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Contact

Ken Regelson

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

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To Submit to SE News – email [Regelson@mac.com](mailto:Regelson@mac.com). Put SE 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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In addition to providing information on moving to a sustainable energy future, SE News serves as the unofficial newsletter for BREEE – Boulder Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Working Group.

<http://www.boulderenergy.org>

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*From Boulder & Colorado:*

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**Short Takes**

Daily Camera: Several interesting Articles/Opinions

Bob Greenlee is against Boulder’s municipalization efforts parts 1 & 2.

[http://www.dailycamera.com/bdc/opinion\\_columnists/article/0,1713,BDC\\_2490\\_4641666,00.html](http://www.dailycamera.com/bdc/opinion_columnists/article/0,1713,BDC_2490_4641666,00.html)

[http://dailycamera.com/bdc/opinion\\_columnists/article/0,1713,BDC\\_2490\\_4658764,00.html](http://dailycamera.com/bdc/opinion_columnists/article/0,1713,BDC_2490_4658764,00.html)

Letters in response to Greenlee’s columns. *Issues Deserve Thought Not Venom*. Second letter (scroll down).

[http://dailycamera.com/bdc/letters\\_to\\_editor/article/0,1713,BDC\\_2491\\_4658784,00.html](http://dailycamera.com/bdc/letters_to_editor/article/0,1713,BDC_2491_4658784,00.html)

*Greenlee Just Another Naysayer*. Fifth letter (scroll down)

[http://dailycamera.com/bdc/letters\\_to\\_editor/article/0,1713,BDC\\_2491\\_4668291,00.html](http://dailycamera.com/bdc/letters_to_editor/article/0,1713,BDC_2491_4668291,00.html)

Daily Camera guest editorial by Hunter Lovins: *Xcel playing dirty on coal plant plans ...hidden inside Xcel's latest "rate adjustments." ... The long-term increase uses a "Construction Work in Progress" mechanism to finance a large coal plant in Pueblo. Most other states forbid or restrict CWIP financing... If the Public Utilities Commission agrees to Xcel's CWIP proposal, we'll be paying for a plant that may never be a public service.*

[http://dailycamera.com/bdc/guest\\_opinions/article/0,1713,BDC\\_2493\\_4658765,00.html](http://dailycamera.com/bdc/guest_opinions/article/0,1713,BDC_2493_4658765,00.html)

Denver Post. Editorial by Howard Geller on a national energy savings goal and other programs to reduce energy use.

[http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci\\_3759860](http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci_3759860)

From Howard Geller & others.

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## Denver Franchise

<http://www.denvergov.org/Mayor/1688press2033.asp>

<http://www.denvergov.org/Mayor/168819998template3jump.asp>

In 2006, Denver residents and businesses will pay Xcel roughly \$400 million for electricity.

Over the 20-year term of the proposed franchise, Denver will send \$8 billion to Xcel (Public Service Company of Colorado) for electricity assuming no increases in electricity rates or use.

Denver voters will be asked to approve the franchise agreement in August.

The sections most relevant to a sustainable energy future are Article 11 from the Franchise Agreement, Article 7 from the Operating Agreement, and sections 1 and 2 from the Low-income Energy Assistance and Energy Conservation Contribution Agreement.

These sections are worth reading in their entirety.

Franchise Agreement:

*Article 11: Conservation*

*11.1: Environmental Leadership*

*11.2: Energy Efficiency*

*11.2.B: Renewable Resource Programs*

Operating Agreement:

*Article 7: Conservation*

*7.1 Sustainable Development: The City has endorsed the principle of sustainable development, whereby the City takes into consideration the long term economic, social, and environmental impacts of its policymaking and incorporates those considerations into its decision-making. .... In support of this principle the Company has agreed to participate in the Mayor's Sustainability Initiative.*

*7.2 Conservation: ... the Company and the City commit to work cooperatively and collaboratively to identify, develop, implement and support programs offering creative and sustainable opportunities to Company customers and Residents, particularly low income customers and Residents.*

*7.3 Programs: (worth reading through)*

*7.4 Continuing Commitment: ... the Company agrees to maintain its commitment to sustainable development and energy conservation for the term of this Agreement by continuing to provide leadership, support and assistance in collaboration with the City to identify, develop, implement and maintain new and creative programs similar to the programs identified in this agreement.*

Denver Business Journal Article:

[http://www.bizjournals.com/denver/stories/2006/04/24/daily9.html?from\\_rss=1](http://www.bizjournals.com/denver/stories/2006/04/24/daily9.html?from_rss=1)

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### **CU Boulder Blueprint for a Green Campus**

*...an ambitious plan that would make the campus both "zero-waste" and "carbon-neutral" by 2025.*

From the University of Colorado at Boulder, Environmental Center.

Article in the Daily Camera:

[http://dailycamera.com/bdc/buffzone\\_news/article/0,1713,BDC\\_2448\\_4657197,00.html](http://dailycamera.com/bdc/buffzone_news/article/0,1713,BDC_2448_4657197,00.html)

Full blueprint (200+ pages) can be downloaded from

<http://ecenter.colorado.edu/blueprint06/>

You might want to start with the 23-page summary:

<http://ecenter.colorado.edu/blueprint06/summary.pdf>

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### **Colorado Small and Low-power Hydropower Potential**

According to a report by the Idaho National Laboratory, Colorado has quite a bit of untapped small hydroelectric potential. They list 251 projects with a total capacity of 2300 MW with 665 MW left after applying a filter for environmental and economic issues.

[http://hydropower.id.doe.gov/resourceassessment/index\\_states.shtml?id=co&nam=Colorado](http://hydropower.id.doe.gov/resourceassessment/index_states.shtml?id=co&nam=Colorado)

In a slightly newer report summarizing all 50 states they show Colorado having 891 MW of feasible capacity:

[http://hydropower.id.doe.gov/resourceassessment/pdfs/main\\_report\\_appendix\\_a\\_final.pdf](http://hydropower.id.doe.gov/resourceassessment/pdfs/main_report_appendix_a_final.pdf)

From Tony Frank.

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## **Report: Tri-State Coal Plants Not Needed and Costly**

New report from Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEET) and Western Resource Advocates (WRA).

*Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association's Resource Plan: Analysis and Alternatives finds that there are less costly and less risky options for meeting the growing energy service requirements in the Tri-State service area, and that the three new power plants are unnecessary. ...*

*"Tri-State's customers have already shouldered big rate increases. Tri-State's proposal to spend \$5 billion on new coal plants and transmission lines is unnecessary, and would further increase rates by over 50% ... Tri-state has overestimated power need, and failed to consider the economic and environmental risks associated with conventional coal plants,"*

*"Promoting energy efficiency would be a lot more cost-effective than building new coal-fired power plants and transmission lines ... Utility-sponsored energy efficiency programs could result in \$760 million in net savings for consumers and businesses served by Tri-State, rather than billions of dollars in net costs,"*

*...say "Try again, Tri-State" when Tri-State asks its members to pay for (this) \$5 billion boondoggle.*

Press release and full report:

<http://www.westernresourceadvocates.org/media/pdf/Tri-State%20report%20final%20press%20release.pdf>

<http://www.westernresourceadvocates.org/energy/pdf/WRA-SWEET%20Tri-State%20Resource%20Plan%20Analysis.pdf>

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*From Elsewhere:*

### **Short Takes**

Ethanol from citrus peels.

<http://www.cattlenetwork.com/content.asp?contentid=27880>

Ethanol energy use webpage with links to a number of studies. ... *any analysis should be viewed as an historical snapshot. Virtually all studies of ethanol before 1990 showed a net energy loss. Virtually all of the studies after 1990 show a net energy gain.*

<http://www.newrules.org/agri/netenergy.html>

Biodiesel from fish oil.

<http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/story?id=44619>

Businessweek article on diesel cars in Europe: *So why hasn't diesel happened States-side? Until federal regulations take full effect this October, American diesel fuel is significantly dirtier than the European version, containing 30 times more foul-smelling, polluting sulfur. New Ultra-Low-Sulfur Diesel, which will be widely available everywhere this fall, cuts that rate by 10 times, making it almost as clean as Continental diesel.*

[http://www.businessweek.com/autos/content/apr2006/bw20060427\\_580559.htm?chan=autos\\_autos+index+page\\_autos+lede](http://www.businessweek.com/autos/content/apr2006/bw20060427_580559.htm?chan=autos_autos+index+page_autos+lede)

The Economist on energy efficiency and standby "vampire" power. ... *a typical microwave oven consumes more electricity powering its digital clock than it does heating food.*

<http://www.lbl.gov/today/2006/Mar/14-Tue/standby.html>

First new solar concentrating power plant in 20 years is now online in Arizona. 1 MW. \$6 million. 14 acres. Pentane based generator (rather than steam).

<http://www.re-access.com/rea/news/story.jsessionid=89655051E42DDD55499C10DDC53781EE?id=44696>

A report on Zero Energy Homes' (ZEH) impact has been released. ... *ZEH will eventually become economically competitive with conventional construction... Solar electric (photovoltaic) system costs have continued to decline while production continues to increase... New, low-cost solar water heating designs are under development that will reduce costs and improve efficiency. At the same time, a portfolio of energy-efficiency improvements in appliances, building envelopes, windows, and mechanical systems is moving into the market. EPA ENERGY STAR™ home sales have experienced enormous growth, going from zero in 1995 to 130,000 in 2004, with up to 40 percent penetration into some markets. Combined, all of these elements suggest a potential to build practical ZEH with a significant market potential.*

[http://www.icebase.com/go.shtml?20060418175859622601&m32834&http://www.fypower.org/pdf/NAHB\\_ZEH\\_PotentialImpact.pdf](http://www.icebase.com/go.shtml?20060418175859622601&m32834&http://www.fypower.org/pdf/NAHB_ZEH_PotentialImpact.pdf)

Excellent Vanity Fair article on global warming and politics.

*While Washington Slept*

*The Queen of England is afraid. International C.E.O.'s are nervous. And the scientific establishment is loud and clear. If global warming isn't halted, rising sea levels could submerge coastal cities by 2100. So how did this virtual certainty get labeled a "liberal hoax"?*

<http://www.vanityfair.com/features/general/articles/060417fege07>

A new twist on solar dual metering (also known as net billing). TVA (Tennessee Valley Authority) pays 15 cents per kilowatt hour -- about twice what residential customers pay for it -- for excess solar generated electricity.

<http://www.thedailytimes.com/sited/story/html/235316>

Fossil fueled power plant stack gasses + algae + sunlight + saltwater = biodiesel. This company has received \$7 million in venture capital on top of last years \$11 million. News report and link to the company. *Using the sun as a free energy source, GreenFuel's proprietary smart emissions management system recycles up to 86% of NOX and 40% of CO2 from smokestack gasses into renewable clean air biofuels™*

<http://boston.bizjournals.com/boston/stories/2006/04/10/daily17.html>

<http://www.greenfuelonline.com/index.htm>

Interesting perspective on the purified silicon shortage (most PV is made from purified silicon).

[http://www.alwayson-network.com/comments.php?id=14915\\_0\\_3\\_0\\_C](http://www.alwayson-network.com/comments.php?id=14915_0_3_0_C)

An excellent presentation on peak oil and global warming.  
[http://www.natresnet.org/conference/2006/presentations/Fairey\\_Keynote.pdf](http://www.natresnet.org/conference/2006/presentations/Fairey_Keynote.pdf)

An equally excellent presentation on global environmental degradation and what to do about it.  
<http://www.futureofhumanity.org/SlideShows/PeterLloyd/InterestingTimesbyPeterLloydNZMAR06.pdf>

From Peggy Plate, Morey Wolfson, and others.

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**Spare the Taxpayer, Spur the Economy, Save the Planet**

Taxing labor less (less income taxes) creates more jobs. Taxing pollution more creates less pollution.

*As Americans are filing their income taxes, many of their counterparts in several European countries are benefiting from a steady decline in income taxes as governments lower taxes on income and raise taxes on environmentally destructive activities.*

*In 2001, Sweden launched a 10-year environmental tax shift designed to convert some \$3.9 billion of taxes from income to environmentally destructive activities. The average household has seen its income tax bill reduced by around \$1,100.*

*That burden has not disappeared. Rather, it has shifted to vehicle and fuel taxes - a central plank of Sweden's plan to be free of oil use by 2025.*

[http://www.truthout.org/issues\\_06/041406EA.shtml](http://www.truthout.org/issues_06/041406EA.shtml)

(This is the end of SE News)

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