Northeast Colorado Strategic Energy Plan

for

Mission:

The mission of the Northeast Colorado Community Energy Advisory Board is to provide information to assist energy consumers in the region to make wise decisions with their future energy needs.

Vision:

The vision of the Northeast Colorado Community Energy Advisory Board is to provide information and education pertaining to energy efficiency and conservation, and renewable energy applications through a variety of programs that foster active participation and collaboration throughout northeast Colorado. This will create and educate active consumers who understand energy efficiency, energy conservation and renewable energy and will apply associated practices and measures to achieve their energy goals.
In May 2010 two Community Energy Coordinators (CECs) were hired to work in northeastern Colorado developing a program that focused on energy conservation and efficiency and renewable energy. America Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds funneled through the Governor’s Energy Office were used to hire the CECs.

The first step of the program was the development of an Energy Strategic Plan. This process started by educating government officials, organizations and individuals throughout the area and creating an Energy Advisory Board. Through much discussion and numerous meetings, the Advisory Board developed a four goals plan with numerous objectives supporting each goal.

Part of the planning process was to look at the strengths, weakness and opportunities found in the region. The following is a list that was discussed.

- **Regional Strengths**
  - Agriculture
    - Farm Ground
    - Biomass (quantity, processing)
    - Dairies
  - Energy Production
    - Renewables
    - Biofuels
    - Coal Plant
    - Transmission
    - Interest / momentum
  - Regional Transportation
    - Two Interstates
    - Several state/fed highways
  - Regional airports
    - Rail lines
  - Cultural history
  - Resources
    - Two river basins
    - Open Space
    - Two Junior Colleges
    - 7 Regional Econ Dev focuses
    - Excellent workforce development

- **Regional Weaknesses**
  - Highly Variable Weather
  - Marginal workforce availability
  - Aging workforce
  - Aging infrastructure
  - High demand on existing water
  - Depletion of water sources
  - Resistance to “change”

- **Regional Opportunities**
  - Heavy focus on renewables
  - Marginal growth
  - Aging workforce
  - Aging infrastructure
  - High potential for green energy production / development
  - Support-industry expansion
GOALS

1. By June 2012, facilitate a minimum of 20 Energy Assessments and/or Audits throughout the region to implement energy-efficiency technologies /practices and to measure and report the changes in energy consumption.

2. Identify a minimum of 15 contractors and/or tradesman in the region to increase their understanding of energy efficiency technologies and installation practices.


4. Accomplish items as set forth in the contract with the Governor’s Energy Office by June 2012.
1) By June 2012, facilitate a minimum of 20 Energy Assessments and/or Audits throughout the region to implement energy-efficiency technologies/practices and to measure and report the changes in energy consumption.

Strategy
a. Agriculture
   i. By June 2011, develop an educational power point presentation outlining opportunities for energy savings and how an audit can assist in finding those savings opportunities.
   ii. Create a program to train field representative on Landscape Farm Energy Audits by September 2011.
   iii. Work with two agriculture business types (Farms, Ranches, Dairies, Feedlots, etc.) and help determine their benchmark energy use and track future energy use trends.

b. Residential
   i. Develop workshops to inform residents in the region to understand the value of home energy audits.
   ii. Promote energy audits, energy conservation and energy efficiency in the local media. Write articles and submit them to local media.
   iii. Work with fifteen residents and help determine their benchmark energy use and track future energy use trends.

c. County / Municipal
   i. Inform local governments of the opportunities for Energy Performance Contracting.
   ii. Work with one or more local government to facilitate grant applications (I.E.: Governors’ Energy Office, Department of Local Affairs, Department of Energy, United States Department of Agricultural, etc.)
   iii. Work with one local government and help determine their benchmark energy use and track future energy use trends.

d. Commercial / Industrial
   i. Assist one or more local EDC Directors to apply for and implement Main Street Initiative Grants.
   ii. Encourage mega-energy users to participate in the Colorado Challenge Program and/or the Colorado State University Industrial Assessment Center.
   iii. Work with two business types (commercial, manufacturing, industrial, retail, etc.) and help determine their benchmark energy use and track future energy use trends.

e. Disseminate results obtained from a., b., c., and d. above through local workshops and media.
2) Identify a minimum of 15 contractors and/or tradesman in the region to increase their understanding of energy efficiency technologies and installation practices.

Strategy
a. In conjunction with Energy Providers, develop list of contractors in the region with interested in installing energy efficiency practices.
b. Coordinate training for contractors that have a desire to install energy efficient practices throughout the region.
c. Inform local contractors of the availability of use of Energy Audit Equipment purchased through the Energy Audit Grant Funds.
d. Promote programs to increase number of educated new contractors in the practice of energy efficiency in the region.


Strategy
a) Develop a benchmark for current energy usage throughout our region.
   i. Contact utilities regarding current use in the region on residential, commercial/industrial, agricultural, and municipal accounts.
b) Develop a Public Outreach program.
   i. Work with CSU Clean Energy Specialist to develop Energy Master Program and promote locally.
   ii. Develop a survey and utility request form for program participant to complete in order to analyze energy use over time.
   iii. Host workshops to educate on energy efficiency, conservation, renewable energy, and alternative energy opportunities.
   iv. Participate in community based conservation/energy projects in the region.
c) Host informational meetings on generation, transmission and distribution, current infrastructure and/or new energy technologies.
4) **Accomplish items as set forth in the contract with the Governor’s Energy Office by June 2012.**

   a) Inform Municipalities in regards to:
      i. Energy Performance Contracting analysis
      ii. Environmentally Preferable Purchasing policies
      iii. Current Energy Codes
   b) Impact on transportation
      i. Represent energy efficiency to the transportation sector.
   c) Impact on pollution and water
      i. Inform regional partners on the impact of energy efficiency in relationship to the natural resource conservation sector.

“This plan created with the support and input of the following organizations”

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- Chinook Energy
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- CSU Extension – Morgan/Logan offices