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NWCCOG Knows Energy: Internally -- NWCCOG Energy Program's Programs

Our Energy Programs do more than Weatherize



In 2018 the NWCCOG program called "Weatherization" since its inception in 1976 changed its name to the "Energy Program" to reflect a more-diversified suite of services, and its entrepreneurial drive find other means by which to serve the region's residential energy management needs. In the Energy program, we passionately believe that residents, no matter their income level, deserve an efficient, well-sealed and insulated home with reasonable energy costs.

The Energy program employs and continually trains 10 installers based in Silverthorne and New Castle, many of whom have additional specialties. In Silverthorne, a director, program manager and outreach coordinator manage the grant reporting, handle the income qualification and scheduling process, and oversee the crews. Funding for the WAP program varies from year to year based on Congressional allocations to the Department of Energy as disbursed through the Colorado Energy Office in 6-month blocks. After being assigned a budget for WAP for the year, NWCCOG then schedules as many qualified installation jobs as possible to fully utilize funds. It then distributes them to qualified projects across the region as equitably as possible.

Because of the difficulty of managing a trained workforce to balance fluctuating allocations, in 2017, the Program added CARE and CIP services to leverage the installers' skill and serve more residents across the region. In the past few years these fee-for-service programs have increased from just a fraction of the annual work to over 20% of the program. NWCCOG has also weatherized large multi-family properties as well as public projects such as Golden Eagle Senior Housing in Eagle and the renovation of Riverview Apartments (Section 8 Housing in Eagle-Vail). Because of the dynamic success of these programs, NWCCOG continues to seek other partnerships to leverage its' suite of weatherization skills. If you have a weatherization related program idea, please contact Energy Program Director, Doug Jones at 970-389-1525.

WAP - Weatherization Assistance Program

In 1976, the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) was created to assist low-income families by providing federal funding for agencies such as NWCCOG to weatherize qualifying homes to reduce the cost of heating the home. The Colorado WAP Program is funded by the Department of Energy (DOE), the Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP), the State of Colorado, and local utility rebates. The Energy Program contracts with the Colorado Energy Office (CEO) to provide exclusive WAP services across a 13-county area of N.W. The average value of a WAP installation saves over two dollars on a client's utilities for every dollar spent.



Once a household is determined as "qualified," NWCCOG will schedule an auditor to thoroughly evaluate a qualified home and determine a cost-effective work scope. That is then approved by the State. Once approved, NWCCOG schedules a crew to visit the home to install the approved measures, which may include: attic, wall and/or subspace insulation, air leakage reductions, lighting upgrades, storm windows, upgrades to appliances (furnaces and refrigerators) for efficiency reasons. In addition, installers also perform a comprehensive safety checks on all gas appliances, and make repairs. Since these are non-emergency services, NWCCOG qualifies and schedules appointments across roughly a 25% of the state in the most efficient manner possible for the program through the course of the year.

The duration of the installation can vary from a few hours to more than a day. Installation is free of charge to the household. NWCCOG is reimbursed for the cost of time and labor once the home is then inspected by a qualified energy inspector (QEI). It is common for winter heating bills to be reduced by 20% to occasionally over 50% of monthly bills from prior years. To qualify for this free program households must be at or below 200% Federal Poverty Level (FPL). To find out if you are eligible call NWCCOG at 1-800-332-3669.

CARE - Colorado Affordable Residential Energy Program

The CARE program provides similar scope of services as WAP/LEAP. Funded by local utilities, CARE fills the gap in income qualification between the 200% or below the Federal Poverty Level for LEAP program up to households that are 80% or below the Area Median Income. It provides the same scope of services as the WAP program. In 1989 Energy Outreach Colorado (EOC) was founded with the mission to ensure that all low-income Coloradans can meet their energy needs. Just one of the many programs it has created to fulfill that vision is the Colorado Affordable Residential Energy Program (CARE).



NWCCOG is a CARE Agency for 11 of the counties in N.W. Colorado. Once qualified an auditor is sent out to the home and generates a scope of work designed to lower that home's utility burden. A household will qualify for the CARE Program if they are at or below 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI). Funding for this program is provided by Energy Outreach Colorado, Xcel Energy, Atmos Energy, Holy Cross Electric, Black Hills Energy, Yampa Valley Electric Association and Colorado

Natural Gas. To find out if you are eligible call the Colorado EOC at (303) 825-8750 and ask for CARE.

CIP - Crisis Intervention Program

The Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) is administered through Energy Outreach Colorado (EOC) and is also funded through the Department of Energy's federal LEAP program. Recipients with a heating emergency may receive a free repair or replacement of their primary heating system. For the past three years the NWCCOG Energy Program has been responding to these emergency no-heat calls as assigned by EOC.

NWCCOG has served an average of 30 homes per year in an 18-county area and 25% of those homes received a new energy efficient furnace. The remainder were given safe repairs to their existing heater. Qualified LEAP recipients may call (855) 469-4328. If the state EOC determines that your situation qualifies, they will contact a qualified entity such as NWCCOG to provide same day emergency service to restore heat. Labor and materials for restoring power are paid 100% by the EOC.

For additional information go to our [website here](#).

EXTERNALLY - Energy Programs

Energy has reached a tipping point. Renewables have tumbled in price. Major utilities have been closing aging coal plants in droves. Coal has become the expensive fuel, renewables cheap, and if challenges of integration remain, consider this: Xcel Energy believes it can get to 80 percent renewables over its eight-state operating region by 2030 with no price increases.

As a result of this tipping point along with cultural and political shifts many municipalities are turning to alternative forms of energy generation. Throughout Region 12 solar and hydro solutions are leading the way. Here are a couple of examples:

Walden - Floating Solar Panels - [Excerpts from Clean Technica](#)



When a town has high electric bills and no available land for a solar farm, a floating solar plant on the pond of a waste water plant makes great sense. Walden, Colorado, population 750, elevation 8,000 feet plus, and land area of 0.34 square miles, is such a town.

"We were spending about \$22,000 a month for electricity for the water treatment facility, and this 75 kW solar installation will save us \$10,000 a month," says Jim Dustin, mayor of Walden, Colo.

"We'll pay for the plant in 20 years, and it is still expected to run 10 more years after that," he says.

"The Energy Office is interested in this installation because it gets down to minus 40 or 50 degrees in the winter, and we have very high winds. They want to know if the technology will work, because there are irrigation ponds and unused water bodies all over this state," says Dustin. The energy office has offered \$120,000 to move the installation to another location if it doesn't work in Walden, he adds.

[Read full story here.](#)



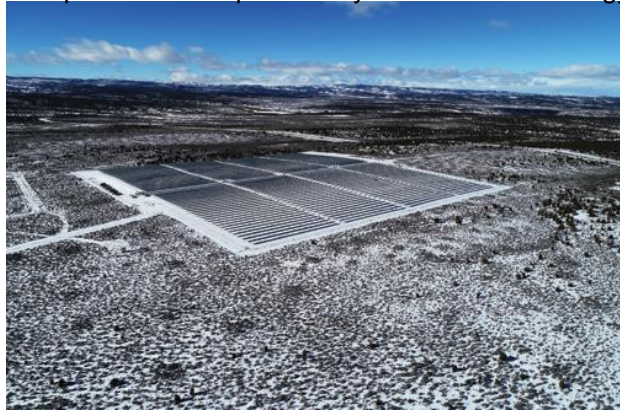
Meeker - Piceance Creek Solar Farm [Excerpts from the Herald Times](#)



White River Electric Association (WREA) and Cypress Creek Renewables (CCR) were proud to celebrate the grand opening of Piceance Creek Solar Farm with a ribbon-cutting on Jan. 22. The Piceance Creek Solar Farm is a 5.4-megawatt size solar power system designed to provide over 10,000,000 kWh/year to WREA.

"The Piceance Creek solar facility is Cypress Creek Renewables first commissioned site in Colorado and exemplifies the complementary nature of solar energy

production adjacent to natural gas operations," said Michelle Zimmerman, project developer for CCR. The 40-acre site consists of 16,959 solar modules mounted on a single-axis tracking system designed to track the sun from east to west each day, maximizing the facility's production. This project produces enough energy to power more than 830 single family homes each year.



This is WREA's third local renewable project. [Read full story here.](#)

Gypsum Hydro: A Smart Solution with an ROI



Chris Dillmann | cdillmann@vaildaily.com |

Gypsum celebrated completion of the LEDE Reservoir expansion last summer. The new reservoir spillway is shown above.

After completing a major enlargement of LEDE Reservoir, at the headwaters of Gypsum Creek, in recent years, Jim Hancock, Engineer and Assistant Town Manager for the Town of Gypsum, Colorado, notes that staff was then able to turn their attention to their other source of water, Mosher Springs. The ensuing project, while essentially a piping upgrade for this high-quality water supply, had a bonus benefit which the town council had discussed for years-hydropower generation. At least one ranch further up Gypsum Creek supplies its power through a similar system and has for generations. Back in the day, that kind of ingenuity didn't need a label. It just made sense. That is the spirit with

which the town envisioned this project.

The fact that the intake for Mosher Springs is a few miles distant and well above the elevation of the town water plant had intrigued staff as a potential power source for years, so when the opportunity arose, it became an elegant addition to a larger project. The hydroelectric aspect is a relatively simple design, powering a generator at the bottom of the pipe at the existing water treatment plant intake on Gypsum Creek. The pipeline portion of the project was completed last summer.

The overall project cost was estimated to be \$1.55 million of which the hydro-electric component, currently under construction, was approximately \$635 thousand. Taken as a whole the project is expected ROI in its 26th year. However, excluding the cost of the pipeline replacement as a normal maintenance expense, the project becomes profitable in its first year. Either way, Mosher Spring will be supplying the Town of Gypsum for the foreseeable future, so this investment has the potential for a payback of many times its cost. Also, being that the water already belonged to the town as a water right for municipal consumption, from a legal standpoint, the secondary use of the water for power generation was a non-issue.

For a town that, philosophically, is at the far end of the spectrum from, say Carbondale, with its [Energy and Climate Protection Plan](#), Environmental Board, and [Environmental Bill of Rights](#), located just over Cottonwood Pass to the west, Gypsum deserves a bit of ECO cred.

Though in Gypsum, addressing the "carbon footprint" or converting to "clean energy" just for the sake of "going green" clearly doesn't resonate, we would do well to remember that investing in technology that saves money over time, just makes sense, no matter how you look at it.

EXTERNALLY - Energy Conversations

CSU Local Government Energy Academy - Intro by Jon

Elected Officials, set energy use reduction goals, just remember your local utility...



This panel discussion took place at the CSU Local Government Energy Academy on August 29, 2018 at the Eagle County building. NWCCOG and Eagle County co-sponsored and helped organize the event for Cary Weiner from Colorado State University. CSU wants local government to know that it is a resource in this field (Cary.Weiner@colostate.edu).

I had the honor of leading a panel discussion of local jurisdictions discussing how they went about their own energy management programs and goals. There was a wide variety of approaches, from entities that were just beginning to change old mindsets about this being an "extra" to include this thinking into public projects early on as projects were developed (Minturn and Eagle) to those which had a long history, stated strategy, goals and values about energy management (Carbondale and Eagle County).

It was fascinating after that discussion to take notes on this Public Utility round table. Utilities actually hold much of the possible success of the local jurisdictions in their purview but are not always approached by local governments to partner. Sometimes elected just set dramatic goals to sound impressive, but if they want metrics, want forward progress there is a lot more to it. The notes from the "[Roundtable: Working with your Public Utility](#)" are my own, and though they were briefly reviewed by the panelists some months after the event, any inaccuracies are mine.

Why a utility dispute has gained attention of even the ski world -



In our NWCCOG region, the only member jurisdiction served directly by Tri-State is Winter Park (Holy Cross Energy purchases wholesale from Tri-State), it is of interest in our region with so many towns and counties creating renewable energy goals when Ski Country USA, a trade group representing many of our region's mountain resorts weighs in with the PUC. At issue is the exit cost for Delta Montrose Electric Association DMEA which seeks to exit the large round-table of Tri-State family in order to pursue much higher renewable goals than they can within the membership. As Allen Best, who has been following energy matters closely in his Mountain Town News publication (to which you ought to subscribe if deep dives into such topics interests you) states "energy too has reached a tipping point... coal has become the expensive fuel, renewables cheap." [To read more...](#)

Colorado Communities Symposium



In May 2017, then Aspen Mayor Steve Skadron convened a group of cities and counties that were already individually working on sustainability, resiliency and climate change preparedness. His request: would leaders pledge to act on climate change, do it publicly, and join a Compact of Colorado Communities?

Eight months later, in February 2018, that 25-member group gathered for the three-day Colorado Communities Symposium in Aurora. Over 400 local leaders and practitioners in the field attended. Elected officials and city managers from across the state of Colorado joined Governor Hickenlooper, Lt. Gov. Donna Lynne, 6 cabinet members, senior staff from 10 state agencies and more than 350 other individuals from across the public and private sectors for the Colorado Communities Symposium. Those getting the most notice were the forty-five percent from local governments.

Governor Hickenlooper, a keynote speaker, advocated to being both "relentlessly pro-environment and relentlessly pro-business." He argued that the rhetorical contradiction between these was false, and pointed to the environmental acts of the 1970's now under attack which were bi-partisan acts under the leadership of a Republican President. He made the case that in Colorado the uniting factors that drive the economy "clean air, clean water and public lands" still transcend partisanship. That remains the case. For more read [Jon's Blog here.](#)

NWCCOG Council Chair calls out Congressman in Denver Post



Summit County Commissioner and NWCCOG Chair Karn Stiegelmeier, and Gunnison County Commissioner, Jonathan Houck, jointly submitted an editorial to the Denver Post entitled *Sen. Cory Gardner's failure to lead on public lands and wilderness will do real harm to Colorado*, which was published January 28th.

Many of the public lands proposed for wilderness in Senator Michael Bennet and Representative Joe Neguse's bill have been proposed previously for wilderness and any local challenges to the boundaries are long past.

Much of the acreage went through extensive local outreach nearly a decade ago under various names and configurations, but the importance of public lands has taken on renewed importance in recent years.

The Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act, which combines several conservation proposals that local advocates have championed for years, would safeguard roughly 400,000 acres as public land and create the first national historic landscape.

When given the opportunity to join support for three important conservation bills in Congress - the Continental Divide Recreation, Wilderness and Camp Hale Legacy Act; the San Juan Mountains Wilderness Act; and the Thompson Divide Withdrawal and Protection Act - Sen. Gardner instead sat on the sidelines.



These bills would protect some of Colorado's most iconic places for future generations to enjoy, places like Mount Sneffels and Ice Lake Basin, the Tenmile Range west of Breckenridge, and Kebler Pass' iconic aspen forest between Crested Butte and Paonia. The future of Colorado's \$62 billion outdoor economy and a half-million recreation jobs are dependent on support and leadership by folks like

Sen. Gardner to protect our public lands and to ensure access, sporting and recreation opportunities for all. [See full article here.](#)

For more about the [the CORE Act click here.](#)

Plan to attend - Bring a friend, carpool or a van load!

This event will also be streamed - see website for details

**Colorado Senior Lobby's
Senior Day at the Capitol 2019
Wednesday - March 13th**

8:00AM - 9:00AM Continental Breakfast & Networking
9:00AM - 12:35PM Program & Refreshment Break
Optional afternoon program to be announced

Where: Scottish Rite Masonic Center
1370 Grant Street, Denver, CO 80203

Meet legislators, elected officials, Senior Day Sponsors,
learn about what is coming for older Coloradans in the next
decade and potential impact on future legislation.



We will have plenty of seating this year at the Scottish Rite Masonic Ctr.

The Governor and Lt Governor are invited schedules pending.

Why attend?

Nearly 25% of the People of Colorado are over the age of 60 - together we can become a BOOMING voice. CSL - with you on board works to improve the health and well-being of Colorado's older adults. Become a participant in the policies impacting your life.

What to expect?

This year we will be at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center for the entire program (this location is across from the Capitol on Grant St). The event will run from 8AM to 12:30PM. The Governor and Lt Governor are invited along with legislators. A panel of thought leaders in the areas of mobility and health care will focus on some of the changes coming that may benefit older Coloradans in the 2020's, including developing technologies for older adults, and potential impacts on future legislation.

Plenty of room!

With the entire 2019 Senior Day at the Capitol event being at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center, there is room for everyone to be comfortably seated.

Streaming!

We will be live streaming this event from 9AM to 12:35PM. In addition the event will be recorded and posted on our YouTube Channel. Visit our YouTube Channel to see past event - <https://www.youtube.com/user/ColoradoSeniorLobby>

Find event details on our website - www.ColoradoSeniorLobby.org

Reserve your ticket today <https://tinyurl.com/SeniorDayMarch13>

Event Sponsorships available - call 303-832-4535.
NOW IS A GREAT TIME TO JOIN COLORADO SENIOR LOBBY FOR 2019.

SAVE THE DATE!



2019 REGIONAL ECONOMIC SUMMIT

SAVE THE DATE!

NWCCOG 2019 Regional Economic Summit

Thursday, May 2, 2019

At the Silverthorne Pavilion - Silverthorne, Colorado

Keynote Speaker: Betsy Markey, Executive Director, Colorado Office of Economic Development & International Trade

Opening Presentation: Elizabeth Garner, State Demographer - demographic and economic trends for the NWCCOG Region

...and much, much more!

Agenda and registration information coming soon!

This event is sponsored by:



NWCCOG knows wellness

Can practicing Yoga make you nicer? *Excerpt from wellandgood.com*



Of course, after any workout, you feel that rush of endorphins and endorphins are shown to make you happy.

But that's not quite the extent of it with yoga, because it's a holistically mindful experience. "Yoga involves not just movement, but it also really focuses on mindfulness and breath," says Eudene Harry, MD, doctor and holistic expert, author, and medical director for Oasis Wellness and Rejuvenation Center. "It's like a meditation in motion. So if you're able to think more clearly, be more goal-oriented, and remove negative thinking, that makes you be a nicer person."

She says to think about how your brain works when you're upset: Typically, your thoughts are running on a negative loop (yup). "In that mode, you won't be nice because you're stuck in negativity," says Dr. Harry. "But when you're able to think clearly, you'll be able to recognize things for what they are-just feelings-and move on, which ultimately makes you a nicer person."

So the mind-body work that you do in yoga is working towards its true goal to make you more aware and conscious-which, as Dr. Harry explains, eliminates the chance for you to feel anger or not be kind - since those emotions tend to happen as a reflexive trigger.

"Yoga helps make people nicer because it's all about becoming more conscious," says Miller. Read the [entire article here](#).

2019 NWCCOG COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Thursday, March 28, 2019

Full Council Meeting

Location: Council Chambers, 50 Lundgren Blvd. Gypsum, CO

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Primary Agenda Items: Approval of final 2018 financials; program updates.

Thursday, May 23, 2019

Full Council & EDD Board Meeting

Location: Breckenridge Grand Vacations Community Center Hopefull/Discovery Room

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Primary Agenda Items: Review/acceptance of the 2018 audit

Thursday, July 11, 2019

Full Council Meeting

Location: Colorado Mountain College, 1402 Blake Ave., Glenwood Springs, CO

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Primary Agenda Items: Approval of 2020 dues; approval of 2019 budget revisions; discussion re: Annual Planning Meeting Agenda

Thursday, August 22, 2019

Full Council & EDD Board Annual Planning Meeting

Location: Summit County Community & Senior Center Hoosier Room, Frisco, CO

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Agenda Items: Strategic Planning for 2020

Thursday, October 24, 2019

Full Council Meeting

Location: Grand View Community Space, 395 E. Lionshead Circle, Vail, CO

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Primary Agenda Items: Review of draft 2020 budget

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Full Council, EDD Board & Foundation Board Meeting

Location: NWCCOG Office, Silverthorne, CO

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Primary Agenda Items: 2019 budget revisions; approve 2020 budget; adopt 2020 meeting schedule; annual NWCCOG Foundation Board meeting.

Northwest Colorado Council of Governments

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