



**Xcel Energy Media Relations**  
1800 Larimer St. 1400  
Denver, CO 80202  
(303) 294-2300  
[www.xcelenergy.com](http://www.xcelenergy.com)

## **Xcel Energy completes Rush Creek construction**

*First Xcel Energy-owned wind farm in Colorado to go to commercial operations Oct. 31*

**DENVER, Colorado** (September 18, 2018) – Xcel Energy announced today it has completed construction work on its Rush Creek Wind Project, including 300 turbines and a related 80-mile-long transmission line. It is set to bring the facility, the first large-scale wind farm owned and operated by the company in Colorado, into commercial operation by Oct. 31.

The Rush Creek Wind Project, a significant component of Xcel Energy's "Our Energy Future" initiative in Colorado launched in 2016, is a 600-megawatt, company-owned wind farm and a related 345,000-kilovolt transmission line, which extends over 95,000 acres in parts of Arapahoe, Cheyenne, Elbert, Kit Carson and Lincoln counties in eastern Colorado. When completed, it will be the largest wind farm in the state.

The facility – which will come in on schedule and under budget – will provide clean, carbon-free electricity to the equivalent of 325,000 homes in Colorado. The project will eliminate up to one million tons of carbon a year related to its electricity generation, when compared to other traditional generation sources.

"Xcel Energy first mapped out a vision for this wind project in the spring of 2016. Today, we now have a project built to carry clean, affordable renewable power to our customers' homes and business," said Alice K. Jackson, Xcel Energy—Colorado president, at an event at Rush Creek today. "This project means cleaner air and significantly boosts the renewable power already present in Xcel Energy's diverse energy mix."

The Rush Creek Wind Project is expected to inject more than \$1 billion into the local economy through the construction and operation efforts. According to the Leeds School of Business at the University of Colorado in Boulder, the wind facility ultimately is expected to create more than 7,000 jobs in Colorado, based on a 25-year analysis. Rush Creek also will result in \$180 million in lease payments and local property taxes over the life of the project.

In addition, Xcel Energy customers in Colorado will benefit from the project, particularly by taking advantage of federal tax credits for renewables, which in turn will result in the lowest-cost electricity generation on the Colorado system.

Xcel Energy will be able to reduce generation fuel, operation and maintenance costs compared to other forms of generation, according to the Leeds Study, and will pass on those savings. It is estimated that the project will save residents and business customers more than \$400 million on a net present value basis over the life of the 25-year project.

– More –

The project also has strong ties to several companies with Colorado-based operations.

Vestas, one of the world's leading wind turbine manufacturers, produced all 300 of the two-megawatt wind turbines at Colorado-based manufacturing plants in Brighton, Pueblo, and Windsor, Colo. Invenenergy, which has a regional development office in Littleton, Colo., served as the Rush Creek's lead developer.

Mortensen Construction also served as the general contractor for the Rush Creek Wind Farm.

The Rush Creek Wind Project was approved by the Colorado Public Utilities Commission in September 2016, and was supported statewide by a dozen parties to the regulatory process, and by numerous other state and eastern Colorado entities.

**About Xcel Energy**

Xcel Energy (NASDAQ: XEL) provides the energy that powers millions of homes and businesses across eight Western and Midwestern states. Headquartered in Minneapolis, the company is an industry leader in responsibly reducing carbon emissions and producing and delivering clean energy solutions from a variety of renewable sources at competitive prices. For more information, visit [xcelenergy.com](http://xcelenergy.com) or follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).