

Delivering on our Energy Future:

Investing in communities

Colorado is not only a great place to live and work, it's at the leading edge of energy policy. Our Energy Future is Xcel Energy's promise to exceed customers' expectations in producing and delivering environmentally responsible, safe, affordable and reliable power.

With that in mind, Xcel Energy works with towns, cities and counties to create economic development opportunities, provide choices for how you power your home or business, and use innovative technology to improve everyone's quality of life.

We know that our success is tied to our communities' success. Vibrant and growing communities support our business, while clean and affordable energy powers our communities. For that reason, we have much more than pipes and wires embedded in the communities we serve.



Colorado Energy Plan

We listened to our customers and stakeholders about their energy needs and priorities. We have taken action to enable this vision and are continuing to deliver on the transformation into a clean energy future. In 2017, Xcel Energy introduced a plan to reduce carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions, use more renewable energy sources, and keep energy costs low for Coloradans.

A key component of this plan is the retirement of two coal-fired generating units at the Comanche power plant in Pueblo, and replacing that capacity with new wind, solar and natural gas-fired resources.

If implemented, Xcel Energy could achieve nearly 55 percent renewable energy on our power grid by 2026 and reduce carbon emissions by about 60 percent from 2005 levels—all while keeping customer bills low. The Colorado Energy Plan takes advantage of historically low clean energy prices and available tax incentives to spur renewable energy development in rural communities and secure long-term fuel savings for customers.



Renewable*Connect®

Launched this spring, the new Renewable*Connect program is an easy way to purchase solar energy without installing panels. Customers choose from month-to-month, five-year or 10-year subscription options and can select how much solar power to subscribe to, including up to 100 percent of their energy usage. The program offers flexible terms and affordable pricing, with the potential to save money over time.

Solar energy for Renewable*Connect will be locally generated from a dedicated 50-MW resource in Deer Trail, Colo. on a site that is roughly the size of 300 football fields combined. It is estimated that enough solar power will be produced in the first year to power over 17,000 homes.

Under this program, certified Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) are retired on the customer's behalf. This allows a business or community to use RECs toward LEED® certification or other sustainability goals.

Economic development

Xcel Energy can help communities respond to new business prospects' conditions, whether it is pre-certified sites, hands-on assistance designing an energy-efficient facility, or help meeting their sustainability goals.

Thanks to recent legislation, Colorado communities will have a new economic development tool to use: lower electric rates to offer new or expanding facilities meeting a 3-megawatt threshold, and/or expanded voluntary renewable programs to reward companies that make a capital investment of \$250 million or more.

Xcel Energy offers more than 20 energy efficiency programs for businesses of all sizes. It also offers Colorado's only database of certified industrial sites, giving land owners market access to brokers, business owners and site selectors.

Our Energy Future Collaborations

Xcel Energy has a long history of partnering with the communities we serve. Beyond the basics of providing safe, affordable, clean energy, we combine our efforts to build efficient structures, reduce home energy use, and develop cost-saving programs for local industries. Energy Future Collaborations are a new way for Xcel Energy and Colorado communities to work together on local and statewide energy priorities that matter most to you.

The company works with city leadership and local elected officials to create and agree to a set of values and guiding principles in an effort to set a direction in meeting the communities' goals around renewable energy, economic development, smart cities, and growth. The process can include regular meetings with the city, council presentations, community and stakeholder engagement, regional collaboration, and specific ways to support public policy in alignment with identified energy goals in the state legislature and at the Public Utilities Commission. We are excited to launch this partnership with our communities and look forward to expanded discussions around how we can serve your goals.



Small cell lighting attachments

As demand for mobile data keeps expanding, existing cellular towers cannot handle the load. To add capacity, especially in busy areas, telecom companies are turning to "small cells" that mount on new freestanding poles or existing structures like streetlights. This helps wireless operators improve their networks without the time-consuming, expensive process of building towers.

Because Xcel Energy owns the utility poles and streetlights in many of the cities and towns we serve, we are working on options for co-location of small cell development. We work directly with communities, wireless carriers and other vendors to increase the small-cell network as safely, efficiently and attractively as possible.



Advanced Grid and advanced meters

Xcel Energy's Advanced Grid initiative is a series of innovations aimed to make the electric grid more resilient and responsive, better able to integrate renewables, and more secure from the generating plant to the customer meter. This will equip our customers to embrace new technology, including automated home systems, battery storage and electric vehicles.

Advanced metering is an important part of modernizing the grid. These meters will communicate usage back to the company automatically, allowing Xcel Energy to respond to outages more quickly, and provide customers with much more information about their energy use and expand their choices.

Over the next few years, Xcel Energy plans to install a smart meter at every Colorado home and business, starting with a pilot program in 2019.



Alternative transportation solutions and electric vehicles

Being an EV-friendly community offers big paybacks. As an energy provider, Xcel Energy has the unique opportunity to support customers and communities that want to participate in the electric and natural gas vehicle markets. We offer safe, reliable and increasingly clean energy to power alternatively-fueled vehicles at an affordable price. Cities can look to Xcel Energy for help formulating an electric vehicle strategy that supports your community's climate goals, while taking advantage of tax credits and lower fuel costs.

Colorado will receive \$68.7 million in 2018 from the Volkswagen diesel emissions settlement, which will provide funds to expand charging infrastructure and bring more alternative-fuel vehicles to maintenance and transit fleets.

Xcel Energy's energy advisers can guide EV shoppers to the best electric rate plan, provide resources to get a property set up for EV charging, or connect local electrical contractors and auto dealers to our Trade Partner Network. With economical Time of Use pricing, your city's cars, trucks and forklifts can charge overnight when rates are lowest.



Find more online: [xcelenergy.com/CommunityRelations](https://www.xcelenergy.com/CommunityRelations)

