

# Colorado Is Ready for 100% Clean Energy



The time for 100% clean energy has come. Air and water pollution are putting our health at risk, undermining our quality of life, and jeopardizing our children's future. We must come together to transition Colorado communities to 100% clean energy in order to protect our health and climate and build a movement in the state, across the nation, and around the world. We are Colorado [#Readyfor100](#)

## Key Cities

### ASPEN

Aspen is one of the first cities in the nation to generate 100% of its electricity from clean energy.

### BOULDER

Boulder has analyzed for years how to reduce its climate impact and is considering a 100% commitment in Fall 2016.

### DENVER

Denver is committed to 80% reduction of greenhouse gases by 2050, and cutting community-wide fossil fuel energy use by half by 2020.

### FORT COLLINS

Fort Collins is seeking out carbon neutrality for its municipal operations, and the community has an ongoing smart electric grid pilot.

### PUEBLO

Pueblo is a diverse, historic city ready to implement renewable energy to create jobs and revitalize the economy.

## Problem

Here in Colorado we've seen the effects of climate change time and time again through disastrous wildfires and harsh droughts. One of the largest factors is our over-reliance on dirty, outdated fossil fuels. Yet progress is slowed by big money dirty energy lobbyists, standing in the way of a real energy transformation.

## Benefit

A transition to renewable energy and energy efficiency presents one of the greatest economic opportunities of the 21st century. Colorado is a renewable energy treasure chest, with a wealth of resources including wind and 300 plus days of sunshine. All of the energy needed to power homes and businesses can come from clean sources. [Stanford scientists say](#) the transition to 100 percent clean energy will save the average family more than \$200 dollars per year in energy costs and another \$1,500 per year in health care costs.<sup>1</sup>

## Solution

We're building a movement with local community leaders, government officials, businesses, and individuals. We all must make a commitment to a clean energy future, and assure that our solutions benefit every member of our communities, especially families and individuals in low income regions who are most negatively impacted by climate change.

To change everything, we need everyone.

# Why 100%?

## The time is now for clean energy

Colorado is already at the forefront of instituting clean energy technology including smart grids, energy storage batteries, and efficiency systems. The local clean energy movement can create an economic stimulus that would reinvigorate Colorado communities. Solar allows individuals and communities to have a voice in their own energy future through homegrown solutions in our cities and towns.

## We CAN do this

Just ask Steve Skadron, the mayor of Aspen, who saw that Aspen's snow and tourism industry were threatened by climate change and decided to take action. He developed a bold clean energy vision, created a citywide plan to back it up, and in just a few years moved Aspen to 100% clean energy sources -- inspiring other cities to do the same. Today, Aspen is powered entirely by a mix of wind, solar, and hydropower: clean, local, and economical.

Communities across Colorado aren't just ready for this movement: We are 'pick you up from your bootstraps' Colorado Ready.

## Key Facts

- [Solar prices have fallen](#) 80 percent in recent years and wind prices have fallen 60 percent.
- [According to the NRDC](#), clean energy in Colorado is poised to create 2,700 efficiency-related jobs, reduce pollution by 13.2 million tons, and save 62 million for homeowners and businesses in electricity costs.
- Colorado is ranked tenth in the nation for solar jobs, after states like Massachusetts (15,000 solar jobs) and California (75,000 solar jobs).
- 15 cities across the nation, including San Diego CA, Grand Rapids MI, and Georgetown TX have already made the commitment.

## Want to Get Involved?

Across the state individuals and communities are taking action. You can join in the movement too.

There are lots of ways to help out, both large and small!

1. Sign the clean energy petition [here](#)
2. Fill out a volunteer form or apply for an internship [here](#)
3. Like us on [Facebook](#) or follow our [Twitter](#) page
4. Email [Bryce.Carter@sierraclub.org](mailto:Bryce.Carter@sierraclub.org) with any questions or ideas

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