

100X30 | OUR JOURNEY TO 100

Travel Guide



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For more than 80 years, Holy Cross Energy (HCE) has provided safe, reliable, and affordable electricity to its members and communities.

- Advancements in technology and new and increasing consumer demands bring both opportunities and challenges to HCE as it continues its proud tradition of quality service and member focus.
- Foremost among these is HCE's commitment to reducing its contribution to climate change, propelled by the call of the communities served by HCE for increasingly cleaner and more sustainable power.
- Moreover, a clean electricity supply enables wider use of electricity for transportation, heating and cooling, commercial and industrial activity, and other societal needs, providing benefits not only to HCE and its members but to society as a whole.
- The Holy Cross Energy (HCE) Board of Directors has formally adopted a new strategic plan, outlining long-term goals for the environmental sustainability of the power supply HCE provides to its members and their communities:

The first goal of HCE's updated strategic plan calls for:

Obtaining 100 percent clean energy for HCE's power supply by 2030 ("100x30"); and Achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions across all HCE operations by 2035.

- Today, 44% of HCE's power supply comes from clean energy resources, mainly from renewables (solar, wind, biomass, and hydro) but also from coal-mine methane recovery, which helps to



address climate change. Another 3% of HCE's power supply comes from renewable energy resources purchased directly by members through HCE's PuRE program.

- HCE's new 100x30 goal builds upon HCE's Seventy70Thirty plan first announced in September 2018: a commitment by HCE to source at least 70 percent of its power supply from clean and renewable resources (up from 39 percent in 2017) and reduce future greenhouse gas emissions by at least 70 percent from 2014 levels, with no increase in power supply costs by 2030.
- Since that time, HCE has moved swiftly to execute on its Seventy70Thirty plan by contracting for the development of 100 MW of new wind resources and 30 MW of new solar resources while selling off the 60MW of energy output from HCE's share of the Comanche Unit 3 coal-fired power plant.
- In addition, HCE is concluding negotiations following a 2020 Request for Proposals that will develop new, dedicated renewable energy resources located directly in HCE's service area. These will provide up to approximately 80 MW of new solar resources, paired with 84MW/173MWH of grid-connected battery storage. The proposals also include design modernization and upgrading

an existing nearby hydroelectric resource to increase its output by 60% with no change to water use. We are committed to supporting economic development in our area, and these new local investments will play an integral part in that as well as improving the resilience of our power supply and reducing transition costs.

- With this “line of sight” already established to reaching HCE’s original Seventy70Thirty plan ahead of schedule, the HCE Board of Directors felt it appropriate to set a more ambitious clean energy goal in response to the growing urgency of addressing the risks posed by climate change.

To reach its new goal of 100x30, HCE will focus on five specific initiatives:

- *Energy Efficiency:* HCE will continue to work with its members to improve the energy efficiency of existing uses of electricity, to obtain an additional 0.25% per year of energy efficiency improvements, as measured in terms of greenhouse gas equivalents. These include on-system enhancements to reduce the losses associated with HCE’s delivery of energy and financial and technological support for new, more efficient end uses of electricity in buildings, transportation, and commercial/industrial processes.

- *Cleaner Wholesale Power Supply:* Where feasible and cost-effective, HCE will coordinate with its wholesale power supplier, Public Service Company of Colorado, to further incorporate new, clean, dispatchable resources into HCE’s power supply mix, either as dedicated resources or as part of a broader wholesale power mix. HCE will seek dedicated blocks of available carbon-free “economy energy” to support its energy needs on a seasonal basis. HCE will also work with PSCo and IREA, as joint owners of the Comanche 3 power plant, to resolve its future as part of the upcoming PSCo Clean Energy Plan filing expected in 2021.

- *Local Clean Energy Resources:* HCE will continue our existing power purchase agreements for energy from local biomass, hydro, solar, and coal mine methane projects that presently make up 13% of our total power supply resources. In addition, we will complete the development of the 5MW Pitkin County Solar project by the end of 2021 and plan to partner with Colorado Mountain College to build a 4.5MW solar generation array at the college’s Spring Valley campus and work with local developers to complete the other projects identified in our recently-completed Request for Proposals.

- *Distributed Energy Resources:* HCE will also continue its Seventy70Thirty plan commitment to support at least 2MW per year of new rooftop solar systems installed on homes or businesses served by HCE. In the future, HCE will offer generous rebates, programs, and rate designs that encourage our members to combine rooftop solar systems with onsite energy storage to aid the integration of these resources into the existing electric grid in a way that provides benefits for all HCE members. In addition, HCE offers support for up to 3MW additional distributed energy resource developments by members each year.

- *Smart Electrification:* Through rebates, rate and tariff design, and innovative programs, HCE can encourage the expanded use of electricity for transportation, building heating and cooling, and industrial processes in a way that results in net cost savings to the member, net emissions reductions, or both. These new uses can also provide the electric grid with the additional flexibility it needs to incorporate additional renewable energy supplies and allow for more efficient use of the electric grid, reducing energy delivery costs for all HCE members.



These actions will allow HCE to achieve its vision of “leading the responsible transition to a clean energy future,” one that need not sacrifice affordability, safety, or reliability for the sake of sustainability.

- Today’s commitment represents one of the most aggressive renewable energy and greenhouse gas emission reduction goals in the country.
- It is a robust and realistic step towards becoming a fully sustainable electric utility in every sense of the word – not just renewables and greenhouse gases but also water and waste.
- Our commitment is not merely an aspirational goal but accompanied by a set of discrete and realistic actions that we will take to make it a reality.

We recognize that HCE has a few unique characteristics that enable us to take these bold steps forward, in particular:

- Our communities strongly support clean energy development, as our region’s agricultural and recreation-based economy depends strongly on a healthy environment for its economic well-being.
- Our large employers, towns, and counties have set their own sustainability goals and continue to advocate for clean energy through their elected officials and community organizing efforts.
- Our power supply and transmission agreements give us additional clean energy options that may not be available to other utilities.

Nonetheless, we believe our strategy and its execution in the years to come will model the way for other utilities to follow as they address their own needs for sustainability.



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