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CONNECTION

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NEW COMMUNITY SOLAR PROJECT

BRIGHTENS THE FUTURE FOR INCOME-QUALIFIED HOUSEHOLDS

Depending upon the season, it has been reported that households in Colorado with income less than 80% of the area median, herein referred to as Income-Qualified (I-Q) households, may face utility bills up to 15% of their net household income. In comparison, non I-Q households typically pay less than 4% for their utility bills.

To help alleviate a portion of this utility cost burden, Holy Cross Energy (HCE) is partnering with GRID Alternatives Colorado (GRID) and the Colorado Energy Office to implement an I-Q Community Solar Array project.

The project is designed to help establish monthly electric bill credits for eligible I-Q households that receive service from HCE for a two-year participation period. On an annual basis, this program is expected to provide a 50% reduction in the participant's electricity bill, resulting in tangible utility savings for I-Q households.

All eligible participants receive, with no up-front cost, a pro rata share of the

generation capacity of the solar array. This percentage is applied to the actual monthly production of the array. Their calculated kilowatt-hour (kWh) production is then multiplied by a preset energy rate to determine the bill credit. Though bill credit amounts may exceed the actual amount due, a minimum electric bill will be paid monthly by each participant. Any excess bill credit amount will carry forward to the next month.

Currently underway at our Cooley-Mesa campus (in Gypsum, CO), is the construction of a 145 kilowatt solar photovoltaic array. The estimated cost of the array is \$450,000; however, this cost will be reduced by a \$205,000 grant awarded to the project. HCE will own, operate and maintain this array. When completed, the array will produce approximately 218,000 kWh/year of clean, environmentally friendly electric energy – enough to meet the needs of 18 to 20 local homes this year.

(Continued inside)



www.holycross.com

NEW COMMUNITY SOLAR PROJECT (Continued from cover page)

A unique feature of this project, intended to manage overall costs, is the community "barn-raising" approach for installing the array. There will be several volunteer day opportunities for qualified program participants, elected officials, HCE employees/Board of Directors and others to "roll up their sleeves" and furnish some "sweat equity" for the benefit of the project.

GRID will be responsible for the administration, coordination and selection of the first group of I-Q households to participate in the project. As a reminder, eligible participants will represent those households that earn less than 80% of their respective County's median income threshold. (See chart). Subsequent participation groups will be determined by HCE.

For those interested in the project, please contact GRID at (303) 968-1326 or email colorado@gridalternatives.org. Dates for the volunteer days are being finalized. These will be posted on the HCE website (www.holycross.com) in our News section under the heading "Community Solar for Qualified Members".

COUNTY AREA MEDIAN INCOME THRESHOLDS*

*Qualifying households are 80% or less of these thresholds.

# Living in Household	Eagle	Garfield	Pitkin	Gunnison	Mesa
1	\$46,000	\$39,050	\$49,750	\$38,550	\$33,600
2	\$52,600	\$44,600	\$56,850	\$44,050	\$38,400
3	\$59,150	\$50,200	\$63,950	\$49,550	\$43,200
4	\$65,700	\$55,750	\$71,050	\$55,050	\$48,000
5	\$71,000	\$60,250	\$76,750	\$59,500	\$51,850
6	\$76,250	\$64,700	\$82,450	\$63,900	\$55,700
7	\$81,500	\$69,150	\$88,150	\$68,300	\$59,550
8	\$86,750	\$73,600	\$93,800	\$72,700	\$63,400



STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs).

Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

1. Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
2. Fax: (202) 690-7442; or
3. Email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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Call Colorado 811

WANT TO SAVE HUNDREDS IF NOT THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS?

It's summertime – do you hear all those outside home improvement projects beckoning you to start? Want to save hundreds if not thousands of dollars on those projects? Be sure to always call Colorado 811 to request underground facility locates before you start to dig.

The cost to repair and/or replace underground electric and pad-mounted facilities, damaged from excavation activities, can be expensive. A dig-up of a secondary underground electric facility, caused by a homeowner, cost a staggering \$25,000. Even damages caused by the tip of a shovel can cost the homeowner hundreds of dollars in electrician repair fees.

Save yourself time, expense and hassle (at the onset of a project) by calling Colorado 811 for locates. This free service was created to protect underground utility infrastructure. As a reminder, all secondary underground electrical service running from pole-mount or pad-mount transformers to the residence/building, are not located by Holy Cross Energy. These service lines are owned by you, the member; you are obligated to contact a private locating company. Use the following link (<http://colorado811.org/web/guest/privatelocatecompanies>), found on the Colorado 811 website, to contact line locating companies.

REMEMBER: Always call 811 for locates before you dig!



MONEY MATTERS



Small Business Bonus – August 31 Deadline

Procrastinators wanted! If you have been delaying energy efficiency projects, Holy Cross Energy wants to help jumpstart them with a \$500 bonus. Call Mary Wiener at 970-947-5432 or email mwiener@holycross.com for details.

Looking for a Great Return on Your Investment?

With interest rates still low, why not invest in a project with a higher rate of return? Energy efficiency upgrades to your home or business are a smart investment and Holy Cross Energy offers rebates to help lower your out of pocket expenses.

Check out all the rebates on our website at holycross.com/rebates or call 970-947-5473 to learn more about the programs Holy Cross offers.

SAVE THE DATE!



Kids Adventure Games (KAG)

August 10 – 14 • Vail, CO

The 7th Annual Vail Kids Adventure Games™ offers kids, ages six through 14, the opportunity to experience the thrill of adventure racing. In creating a fun and confidence-building outdoor experience for kids, lots of sweat, smiles & laughter are expected. Holy Cross Energy is a proud sponsor of the Environmental Award.



Jazz Aspen Snowmass: 2016 Labor Day Experience

September 2 – 4 • Snowmass Village, CO

Come enjoy the sights and sounds of Train, The Killers, Stevie Wonder, Duran Duran and more. Be on the watch for those super cool beach balls from KSPN & Holy Cross Energy.



Snowmass Balloon Festival

September 16 – 18 • Snowmass Village, CO

Holy Cross Energy is a community sponsor of this event which is celebrating its 40th anniversary. Plan to make it a full day of fun on Saturday, September 17. Arrive by 7:00 AM for the SnowMASS Ascension and stay to enjoy the Saturday Evening Glow that kicks off at 7:45 PM. Balloon festivals are weather dependent and events are subject to change.



Rocky Mountain Utility Efficiency Exchange (RMUEE)

September 28 – 30 • Aspen Meadows, Aspen, CO

Celebrating its 10th year, the RMUEE event is the place to be to connect with energy and water utility professionals serving Colorado and neighboring states. The agenda focuses on best practices from regional utilities. For more info www.utilityexchange.org/RMUEE

INTRODUCING YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TASKED WITH THE STRATEGIC GUIDANCE AND DIRECTION OF HOLY CROSS ENERGY, THESE ARE THE NAMES AND FACES YOU WANT TO REMEMBER.

It's always nice to be able to associate a face with a name. We are pleased to introduce our current Directors and their respective titles on our Board. Directors are elected by the membership and serve a three-year term. Next time you see one in public, thank them for a job well done in helping provide reliable, affordable and environmentally-friendly electric service to you, our valued member.

If you ever need to contact the Board of Directors, please use the online form available at www.holycross.com/contact-board.



Megan M. Gilman
Chair
Northern District
Director Since 2011



David C. Munk
Vice-Chair
Southern District
Director Since 2010



Michael A. Glass
Secretary
Northern District
Director Since 2007



Robert H. Gardner
Treasurer
Southern District
Director Since 2012



Kristen N. Bertuglia
Northern District
Director Since 2012



Lynn E. Dwyer
Western District
Director Since 2008



Adam L. Palmer
Northern District
Director Since 2009



DE-MYSTIFYING LEDS

We've come a long way in making lighting more efficient since the first Edison bulb hit the market over 150 years ago. In the mid-1980s, compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) were the lighting efficiency "silver bullet" but they had low light quality, inconsistent performance and contained mercury. One of the fastest developing lighting technologies today is the light-emitting diode (LED). Confused by the new technology and apprehensive that performance will be similar to the CFL, consumers are reluctant to try this new type of bulb. Don't be afraid! LED technology is superior to both the incandescent and the CFL, and has dramatically come down in price, making it a great contender in the lighting world.



ENERGY SAVINGS

Did you know that 96% of the energy of an incandescent is wasted heat and only 4% goes to producing light? Remember the Easy Bake Oven used a 100 watt bulb to bake a cake! Today's LEDs use advanced chip technology to provide a brighter, cooler, instant on, long lasting bulb. And you can save significantly on your electric bill:

Replacing one 60-watt bulb with a 10-watt LED will save \$5.50/year (based on 3 hours/day use).

LED LINGO

Brightness in LEDs is all about lumens not watts. The higher the lumens, the brighter the light will be. See the comparison chart below for help finding the right LED for your various fixtures:

LUMENS	INCANDESCENT	LED
2,600 lm	150 watt	25-28 watt
1,600 lm	100 watt	16-25 watt
1,100 lm	75 watt	9-13 watt
800 lm	60 watt	8-12 watt
450 lm	40 watt	6-9 watt

WARM TO COOL COLORS

Incandescents provide a warm, yellowish hue while LEDs come in a wide range of color temperatures measured in kelvins (K). The lower the number, the warmer (amber) the light. The typical incandescent is between 2,700 and 3,500K whereas 5,000K and above is equivalent to daylighting. For most homes, a warmer temperature will be what you will want to look for in a LED. In commercial properties, the cooler daylighting color of 3,500 – 5,000K is more desirable.

DIMMERS

Because LEDs have different circuitry than incandescent, an old dimmer may not be compatible with LEDs and may need to be updated. Be sure to purchase dimmable LEDs.

REBATES AVAILABLE

If you are ready to try LEDs but still have questions, give Mary Wiener a call at 970-947-5432 – she loves talking LEDs. Additionally, rebates are available on LEDs for home and commercial consumers at www.holycross.com/rebates.

PROTECT YOUR HOME WITH THE "METER-TREATER"™



Modern new appliances such as personal computers, digital recording devices (DVRs), flat screen televisions, microwave ovens, refrigerators and other devices have very sensitive electronic circuitry that may be more susceptible to damage caused by voltage surges and spikes.

Since the fall of 1997, Holy Cross Energy has offered a Surge Protection program targeted to help our members protect their valuable and costly electronic equipment. We provide a wide selection of Meter-Treater™ surge protection devices at very affordable prices.

The basic Meter-Treater™ surge protector, installed by Holy Cross Energy personnel, will cost the member about \$170, plus tax. Typically, the installation takes less than 15 minutes; however, depending upon the device, there may be a brief interruption in electric service.

In the event you are an existing participant in this program and your device is more than 10 years old, you may want to consider having a replacement unit installed (cost is borne by the member) to better ensure surge protection is in place.

For more information or to request installation of a Meter-Treater™ surge protector, please call Craig Tate at (970) 947-5421.



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The National Park Service is celebrating its 100th birthday in August 2016. Go find your park this year. There are amazing places to visit and explore. The best reward of all - creating lifelong memories. The Colorado National Monument, Mesa Verde and Arches National Parks are in relative close proximity to the Holy Cross Energy territory.



Holy Cross Energy saves resources by printing on chlorine and acid free, 100% post-consumer waste, recycled paper.

Look inside for important news!



COMMUNITY CORNER

Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Day

Hard hats and work boots at the Holy Cross Energy - Habitat for Humanity home build day in Silt. Holy Cross Energy volunteers included Board member Dave Munk, Allen Goad, Paul Carlson, Tonya Warmenhoven, Mary Wiener, Libby Cowling, Stefanie Lopez, Sheila Tafoya, Phyllis Wittet and Mike & Rick from Habitat. A wonderful and rewarding way to spend the day!

