



100% Renewable Energy In Colorado by 2040

In the absence of national leadership from the President, it's up to us here in Colorado to chart our course for energy freedom.

As governor, my goal is to accomplish our statewide clean energy transition by 2040 while saving people money on their utility bills and creating green energy jobs in Colorado that can never be outsourced. For our climate, for our national security, for our health, and for our economic growth we need a bold goal of 100% renewable energy. Many cities in Colorado already have ambitious goals, like Pueblo which is committed to achieving 100% renewable energy by 2035, and Aspen which became the third city in the country to already achieve 100% renewable.

Projections show that converting to a 100% renewable energy economy in Colorado will create over 49,000 construction jobs and over 21,000 operations jobs, save consumers 10% on energy costs, and significantly reduce healthcare costs¹.

According to 2016 data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration, the cost of utility-scale wind is now cheaper than natural gas². At a recent meeting, a Sempra (the Xcel of the San Diego area) executive revealed that 100% renewable could be reached with today's technology³. As technology develops faster we might be able to make even quicker strides towards our goal while reducing costs for consumers!

As I travel the state, I'm excited to hear your ideas to help us reach this goal. We need great ideas from everyone. Towards reaching our goal of energy independence, Republicans have plenty of good ideas too- for instance, I teamed up nationally with Rep. Frank Gosar (R-AZ) to streamline the permitting procedures for solar, wind, and geothermal projects on public lands⁴. Working with Republicans to cut red-tape and compliance costs around clean energy projects can lead to more jobs and cheaper energy. I look forward to forging these kinds of partnerships with Republicans right here in Colorado too, let's make it happen!

¹<http://thesolutionsproject.org/infographic/#co>

² https://www.eia.gov/outlooks/aeo/pdf/electricity_generation.pdf

³ <http://www.kpbs.org/news/2017/may/26/100-percent-renewable-energy-can-be-done-today-ern/>

⁴ <http://gosar.house.gov/press-release/reps-gosar-polis-franks-thornpson-introduce-bipartisan-bill-support-renewable-energy>

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Here are some additional policy ideas that as governor I will work with our state legislature on to put us on a path to reach our goal by 2040:

- Appointing PUC Commissioners who support consumers and renewable energy.
- Encourage roof top-solar by ensuring homeowners, schools and businesses receive full retail rate for the energy they produce through rooftop solar panels.
- 21st Century electrical grid.
- State-based contingency fund for PACE financing for solar home improvements.
- Special districts for small to medium scale renewable energy.
- Allow homeowners and co-ops to install energy storage equipment.
- Expand shared renewable energy projects to allow geothermal, solar thermal, solar photovoltaics, wind, biomass, municipal solid waste and increase size limits on production.
- Regulatory incentives for energy efficient construction and energy efficient lighting.
- Expand State Energy Savings Performance Contracting.
- Using bond markets to recapture stranded coal-assets to assist coal communities where coal plants have retired to help retrain and redeploy workers for green energy jobs that can never be outsourced.
- Ensure that utilities have strong incentives for increasing energy efficiency.

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