2004

Statewide citizen initiative passed by popular vote to establish an RPS.

10% by 2015 for IOUs
2007

Leadership from the Governor’s Office

- Focused on growing a “New Energy Economy”
  - Supported progressive legislation
  - Strengthened the Governor’s Energy Office
  - Appointed progressive PUC Commissioners
  - Issued a Climate Action Plan
COLORADO CLIMATE ACTION PLAN
A STRATEGY TO ADDRESS GLOBAL WARMING

Governor Bill Ritter, Jr.

Establishes goals for the state to reduce green house gas emissions:

- 20% below 2005 levels by 2020
- 80% below 2005 levels by 2050
Example of the Greenhouse Effect

The Sun’s energy passes through the car’s windshield.

This energy (heat) is trapped inside the car and cannot pass back through the windshield, causing the inside of the car to warm up.
Colorado is currently seeing:

- Shorter and warmer winters, earlier spring runoff
- Less precipitation, more falling as rain
- Longer periods of drought
- More wildfires, burning twice as many acres
- Widespread beetle infestations
- Rapid spread of West Nile virus
Sources of Global Greenhouse Gas Emissions

**Anthropogenic**
- Fossil fuel combustion (e.g., electricity/vehicles)
- Landfills
- Deforestation

**Natural**
- Decomposition of Organic Matter
- Evaporation
- Wildfires
Colorado’s Emissions Profile

Why Buildings?

US Energy Consumption

US Electricity Consumption
Importance of Energy Efficiency to Businesses

- Reducing emissions and energy use saves $$

- $118 billion in savings from lower electricity costs for commercial and industrial users by 2030

- Pass savings to consumers

- More $$ available to reinvest in business
State of Colorado LEEDing by Example

- State owns 62 million sq., 5500 buildings total
- Performance Contracting
- SB 07-051 requires LEED certification for projects receiving 25% of capital construction budget from state (gold target)
- HB 09-1312 finances RE in k-12 schools
- 17% of LEED buildings in state were financed by state
How to pay for upgrades to existing commercial buildings

- Competitive grants
  - NEED
  - Main Street Program
- Low-interest financing
  - Reevolving loan fund for RE & EE
  - Counties can use bonding authority to issue long term, low interest loans for EE & RE projects in homes / businesses
    - E.G. Climate Smart

Sign up for GEO newsletter!
How to pay (continued)

- **Rebates**
  - 25 rebate programs through utilities

- **Tax Incentives**
  - Property Tax Assessment & Exemptions for RE production
  - Sales Tax Exemption and Refunds for RE

See dsireusa.org for a 50-state analysis of financial incentives
Contacts and Resources

- [www.dsireusa.org](http://www.dsireusa.org)
- Governor’s Energy Office
  - [www.colorado.gov/energy](http://www.colorado.gov/energy)
  - Tim Guiterman 303-866-3965
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  - Joel Asrael 303-866-2204
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- Utility websites
- Recovery spending
  - [www.colorado.gov/recovery](http://www.colorado.gov/recovery)