

## COLORADO

On December 28, 2007, The Task Force on Renewable Resource Generation Development Areas released a report that maps the renewable resources in the state. The report also identifies "Generation Development Areas" where the resource can be developed with competition among developers for utility scale wind and solar projects. The report specifically identifies 96 gigawatts (GW) of wind capacity in the Eastern Plains, and a combined solar capacity of 26 GW in southern Colorado. In addition, the report identifies local development opportunities for geothermal, hydroelectric power, biomass, and ethanol. The maps identify existing generation and where high voltage transmission is needed to bring renewable resources to the markets.

Press Release: [Governor's Energy Office Releases Report On State's Renewable Energy Resources \(PDF 60 KB\)](#)

Report: [Connecting Colorado's Renewable Resources to the Markets \(PDF 4.21 MB\)](#)

On November 5, Gov. Ritter released Colorado's first [Climate Action Plan](#). The plan includes an agricultural carbon sequestration and offset program, and establishes two greenhouse-gas reduction goals: 20% below 2005 levels by 2020 and 80% by 2050. In addition, the plan calls for the state to:

- Move toward "clean car" standards to ensure automakers reduce emissions in new vehicles.
- Work collaboratively to reduce emissions from investor-owned utilities by 20% by 2020 and create reasonable goals for other utilities.
- Expand voluntary, and over time phase in mandatory, emission reporting requirements for major greenhouse gas producers.
- Adopt energy-efficiency programs to reduce the demand for electrical energy.
- Expand renewable energy opportunities.
- Partner with research institutions and industry to develop clean-coal technologies, and urge the federal government to accelerate financial investments and incentives.

The Governor will also request the Colorado Public Utilities Commission to seek from each utility within its jurisdiction an Electric Resource Plan that will include an analysis of how the utility will reduce emissions. The order will also instruct appropriate state agencies to remove barriers and help utilities achieve these goals.

Press Release

<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite?c=Page&cid=1194261894265&pagename=GovRitter%2FGOVRLayout>

### [Climate Action Plan](#)

On April 16, 2007, Governor Ritter issued two Greening of State Government executive orders. The orders establish several goals for the reduction of energy consumption in state facilities and vehicles, and for the use of efficient materials and resources, by 2012, such as:

- Reduce energy consumption by 20 percent at all state facilities;
- Cut the use of paper products by 20 percent;
- Reduce water consumption by 10 percent;
- Purchase more environmentally friendly products;
- Cut the use of petroleum products in state vehicles by 25 percent.

[Greening of State Government: Goals and Objectives](#)

[Greening of State Government: Detailed Implementation](#)

Gov. Ritter has appointed Heidi VanGenderen as his climate change adviser. As the governor's climate change policy adviser, VanGenderen will be responsible for creating a Colorado Climate Change Action Plan.

On March 27, 2007 Governor Ritter signed legislation to encourage development of transmission lines to high-potential wind energy areas.

[http://www.leg.state.co.us/clics/clics2007a/csl.nsf/fsbillcont3/4B1B8C4BA39953A287257251007D6838?open&file=100\\_enr.pdf](http://www.leg.state.co.us/clics/clics2007a/csl.nsf/fsbillcont3/4B1B8C4BA39953A287257251007D6838?open&file=100_enr.pdf)

Reports:

March 2007, A report, prepared for the Colorado General Assembly, examines the emerging domestic and international markets for greenhouse gas emissions trading and steps private firms in various economic sectors are taking to reduce their greenhouse emissions. Prepared by University of Colorado, the Energy & Environmental Security Initiative. [Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading: Emerging Markets and Opportunities for Colorado](#)

The [2000 Colorado Gas Emissions update](#) (pdf file, 21 pages) is an addendum to the 1998 report. Colorado Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory & Forecast: 1990-2015 ( [2002 Revised Version](#) ) -- PDF format, 74 pages, 750K.

*Climate Change and Colorado: A Technical Assessment*, 1998

[www.cdphe.state.co.us/ap/down/climatechange.pdf](http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/ap/down/climatechange.pdf)

### Renewable Energy Standard

Legislation enacted in March 2007 doubles the Renewable Energy Standard.

Large IOUs must provide 20 % by 2020. Municipal utilities and rural electric providers must provide 10 % by 2020.

(Previous standard was: 3% by 2007; 6% by 2011; 10% by 2015

4% from solar-electric generation technologies; 1/2 of this 4% located on-site at customers' facilities.)