

A Process and Legislation to Address Community Energy Goals

Cities and businesses with renewable energy goals need a way to reach them

The problem:

- Over one million Coloradans live in cities that have committed to obtaining 100% of their electricity from renewable energy sources in the 2025 to 2035 timeframe, but they currently have no practical way to actually reach their energy goals.
 - Businesses with ambitious renewable energy goals may leave Colorado or not come to Colorado if they can't get the low-cost renewable energy that is available to them elsewhere.
 - Recent competitive bids received by Xcel Energy and the city of Boulder prove that the market is able to supply an abundance of low-cost renewable energy, but current regulations create a barrier to accessing that market.
 - State-level intervention is needed to reduce market barriers and give cities and businesses more choice and control over their energy sources and energy costs.
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The solution:

- An inclusive stakeholder process led by decision-makers is needed to evaluate the many options and identify the best solution(s) and the needed legislative and regulatory changes:
 - A legislative interim committee (or other lawmaker-led forum)
 - A Governor's select committee on community and corporate electricity options

Six possible approaches are described in the white paper

"A Strategy and Six Ways to Address Community Energy Goals"

- Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) – as implemented in California
 - CCA in a fully competitive state – as implemented in Illinois
 - Community Energy Act (HB18-1428), with improvements
 - Municipalization – a city takes over its electricity system
 - Utility voluntarily provides 100% renewable energy to everyone
 - Green tariffs – adapt programs for large corporations to cities
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The recommended approach:

- No single solution is advocated. Instead, a process is recommended to identify the best solution(s). A transparent and inclusive stakeholder process led by decision-makers would ensure that conclusions are well-informed and more likely to be widely supported.
 - Stakeholders include: cities with energy goals; business interests; environmental and consumer advocates; utilities; independent power producers; the general public.
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Downloads: EnergyFreedomCO.org (full paper; executive summary; example bill title)