

Boulder's Road to Decarbonizing Its Power Supply

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Agenda

I

..... Background

II

..... What We Have Learned

III

..... Our Vision

IV

..... Contact Information

Boulder, Colorado

- 25 miles north of Denver
- Approx. 100,000 residents
- 95 square miles of open space
- First community to tax itself to preserve open space
- First mandatory green building requirements
- First “carbon tax” in US
- Leader in creating effective and replicable energy efficiency and conservation programs



Boulder, Colorado

- In the 2012 general election, almost 93 percent of voters cast ballots; similar turn out as in 2008
- Regularly recognized as one of the most educated cities in the nation
- 2010 Gallup-Healthways: #1 in overall well-being and work experience, near the top of the list in healthy behaviors, physical health



Colorado Regulatory Structure

- Traditional vertically integrated utilities
- No competition
- Access to market power not allowed
- Primarily served by one large IOU (PSCO/Xcel)
- PUC regulation



What Boulder is Doing and Why

- Boulder is creating a municipal utility
- Only alternative at this time to achieve its goals
 - Boulder has a goal of attaining Kyoto protocol by 2050
 - Control over the distribution system is only way to be able to access alternative power

What Boulder is Doing and Why

Driven by the Boulder community

- Climate Action Plan – Climate Commitment
- Achieve greenhouse gas reduction and climate change mitigation goals
- One of the most carbon-intensive fuel supplies in the nation

Community access to:

- Reliable power that is increasingly clean and competitively priced
- Local decision-making authority on where power comes from and new investments in emerging technology
- Increased local distributed generation

Drive economic vitality and foster community innovation & involvement

Background

- **2005** – City began researching power supply options
- **2010** – City decides not to renew franchise with Xcel Energy and voters approve a tax to replace franchise fee
- **Nov. 2011** – Boulder voters pass measures to establish Charter requirements for municipalization
- **Jan. 2012 to Aug. 2013** – Analysis to determine if municipalization could meet Charter requirements and add community value
- **Nov. 2013** – Second opposing ballot measure defeated
- **Nov. 2013 to Jan. 2016** – Legal filings and transition plan developed and implemented with ongoing public engagement



Boulder's Solar Initiatives

- **Solar Grant Program**
- **Community Solar Gardens Legislation**
- **Solar Potential Study**
- **Community Solar Working Group**
- **Solar Friendly Building Codes**
- **Recognized as a Platinum Solar Friendly Community**
- **Solar Shadow Ordinance**

**The energy utility market is changing.
This shift is necessary and inevitable.**

Causes include:

- Changing needs and demographics
- Deregulation and competition
- Technology
- Public pressure

**Current Business
Model**



**Desired Business
Model**

What We Can't Do Today

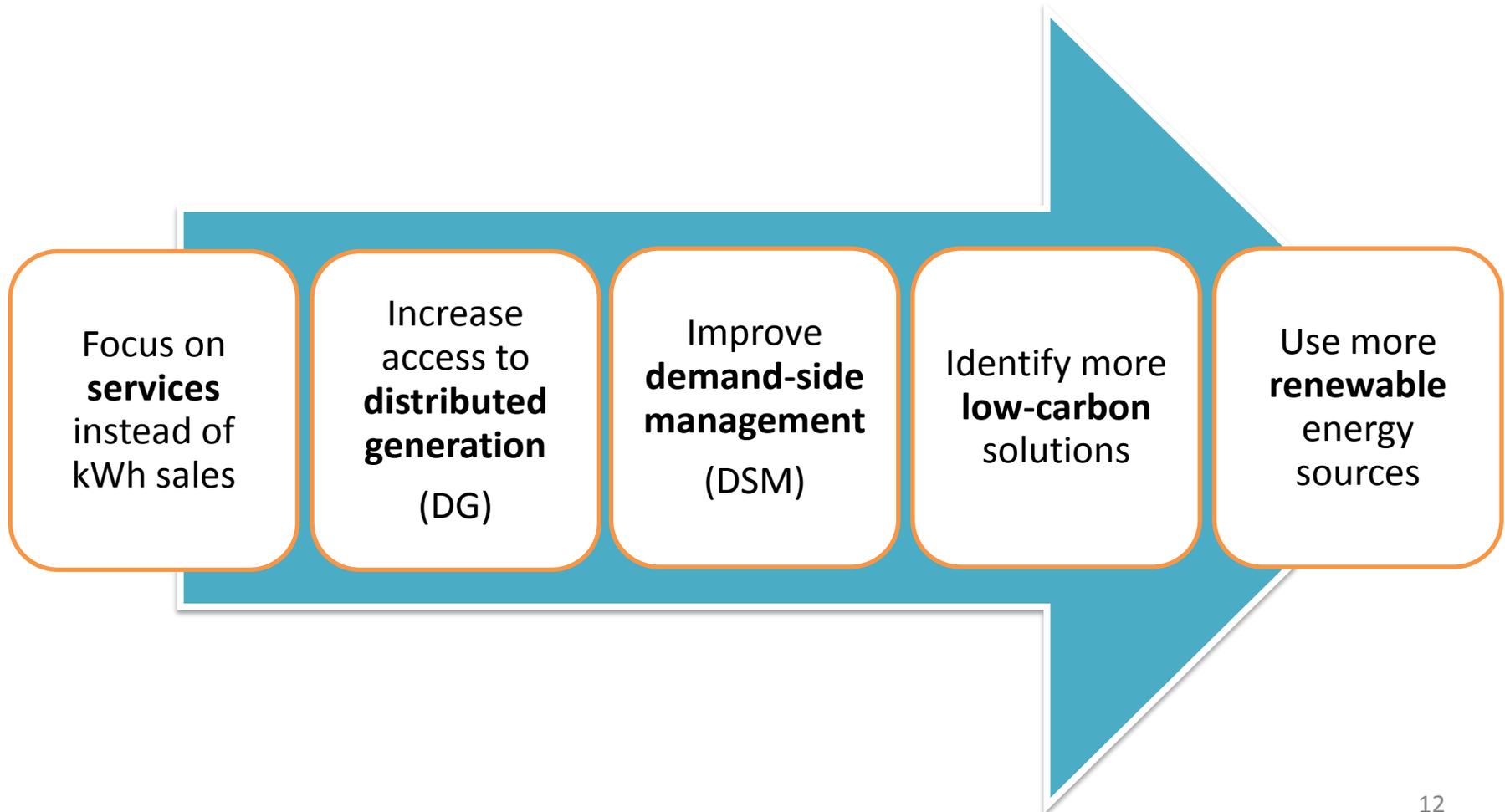
- Control the carbon intensity of our energy portfolio
- Determine the strategic investments in our grid infrastructure to support distributed generation, microgrids, etc
- Support innovative products and services to the home and energy system that are not behind the meter
- Significantly increase the resilience of our system



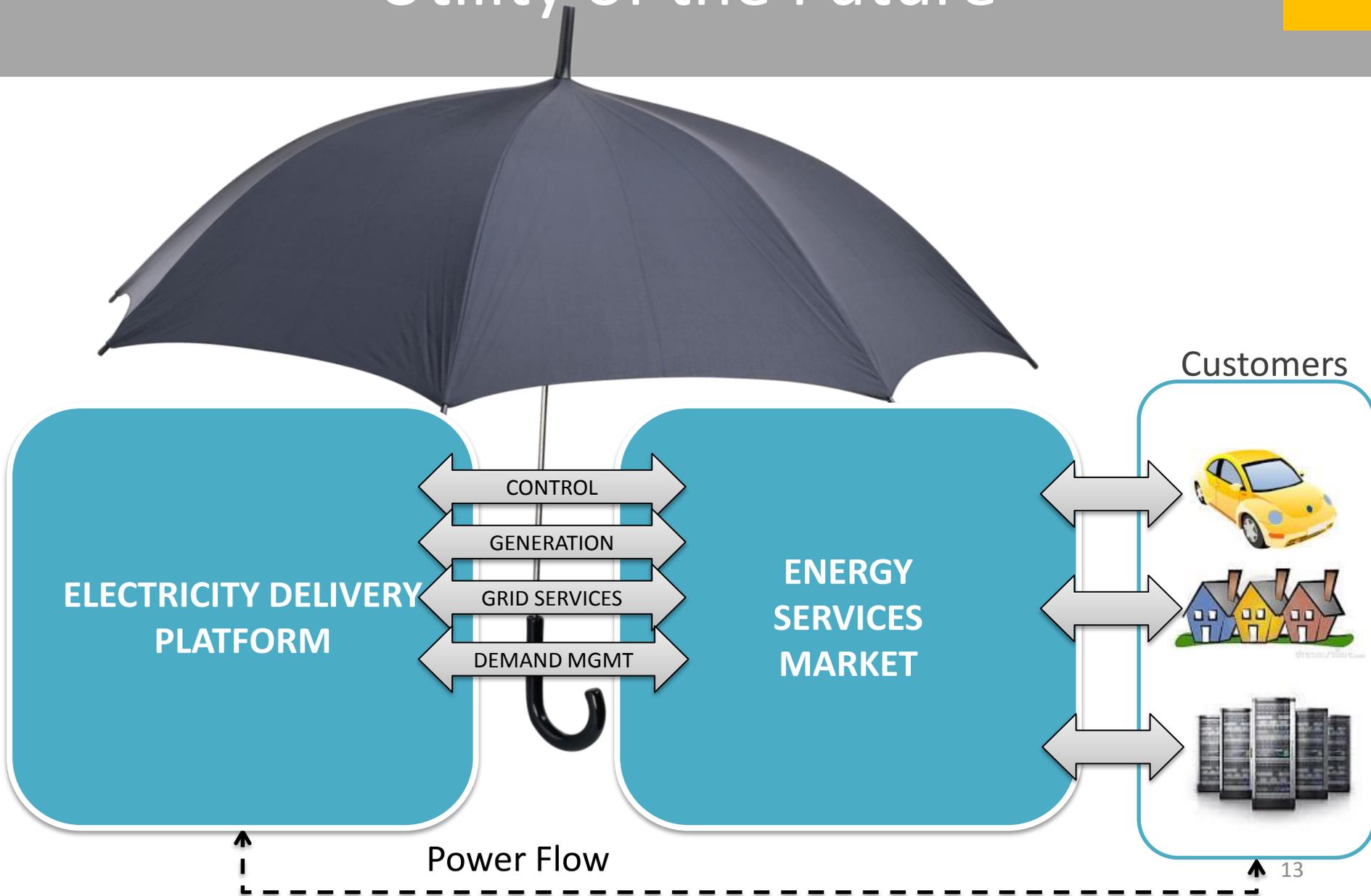
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Boulder's Vision of an Energy Future



Utility of the Future



Our Vision



Decentralize
Democratize
Decarbonize



Contact and Learn More

Follow along at www.BoulderEnergyFuture.com

- Sign up for E-News updates and newsletter
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Send an email to the staff team at

EnergyFuture@BoulderColorado.gov

Contact **Heather Bailey** with questions/comments

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