

The City of Boulder's exploration of municipalization is driven by our community's environmental and economic goals. We, like many businesses who have chosen to set up shop here, believe it is possible and desirable to be both responsible stewards of the planet and supporters of economic vitality.

Where we are now:

The city is currently working to develop the information necessary to come to a definitive conclusion about whether municipalization is possible, and if it's a good idea. All current efforts stem from a recently created work plan that was vetted by City Council in August. The work plan breaks the effort into several individual components that need to be evaluated, including: reliability; financial opportunities and constraints; resource mix development; asset valuation; legal strategy; metrics; and public participation. The complete work plan is available at www.BoulderEnergyFuture.com.

The development of metrics will be a key step in this process. All work plan areas and proposed strategies will be measured using the same set of metrics in order to determine the best way to achieve the guidelines set by the charter and the goals of the community. **These metrics will be brought to council in October for review.**

Legal and technical teams of experts have been formed and are currently working to analyze our current transmission and distribution systems in order to develop a detailed list of the assets the city may wish to acquire. This is an important step that must be completed before the city can begin to determine what a good faith offer to Xcel Energy might be. In addition, the legal teams are working to comply with the requirements of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), state courts and the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) on all aspects surrounding system acquisition.

This intensive research period is expected to span the next five months. Staff hopes to be able to present a selected strategy for continued municipalization exploration to City Council for its consideration in the first quarter of 2013.

The city has called upon one of our biggest assets – Boulder residents and businesses as well as members of the local academic and scientific communities – to help with each of the work plan's focus areas.

We'd love for you to get involved.

Your input, even if you didn't vote for the municipalization exploration effort, is important to us.

You can get involved in the work plan areas and become a member of the strategy exploration teams. Just let us know what area(s) you're interested in and we'll make sure that your voice is heard. We're also open to hearing other ideas you may have that might help achieve the community's goals. Feel free to give us a call, send us an e-mail, or use our online comment form to let us know what you're thinking. We also have a new website for idea collaboration on this project and a few other city undertakings – www.InspireBoulder.com.



A few myth busters:

The city is no longer working with Xcel on the effort.

The city has said many times that it is willing to work with Xcel on solutions to meeting community goals. High-level city officials recently met with Xcel representatives and reiterated Boulder's intention to keep the door open and to consider any proposals they have. The city also invited Xcel Energy to make presentations to appropriate work groups and the general public. To date, Xcel officials have not taken the city up on this invitation. We will continue to reach out to Xcel in hopes of partnering in this important work. We recognize that the company may have valuable resources to bring to the conversation and we expect Xcel will continue to have a presence in our community in the future.

The city should have taken the wind farm deal offered by Xcel last August.

After very careful analysis, the city decided the wind option offered by Xcel did not meet all of the community's energy future goals. While it did offer the city a way to bring in more renewable energy to our power supply, it did not offer the city the voice it wanted in helping to make future energy and climate change decisions. In addition, the wind deal was tied to a renewed franchise agreement that would have left the city in the same position as it was five years ago -- as a customer that doesn't have a say in its own energy and climate change pursuits. There were also considerable concerns about the level of financial risk the city would have been taking on under the agreement.

Even without the wind agreement, the city is still making progress towards meeting its climate commitments. Recent reports have shown that existing programs like EnergySmart, 10 for Change and Smart Regs are helping to stabilize the level of emissions and in some years, reduce them. Climate Action programs and services have helped thousands of residents and businesses implement energy efficiency improvements that are saving money and energy.

We encourage everyone to take advantage of incentives currently offered to reduce energy demand, because the cleanest energy is the energy we don't use. Learn more at www.BoulderColorado.gov/ClimateAction.

The city hasn't provided the community with any information on what it has done so far.

Since the beginning of this process, the city has said that it will ensure that this work is as open and as transparent as possible, and we believe that we have honored that promise. Project memos, reports from consultants and other materials have all been provided to the public and are still available on the www.BoulderEnergyFuture.com website.

Currently, much of the work with the Energy Future project is in the legal arena, which has put the city in a little more of a challenging position with respect to information we can share with the public. The city is committed to making as much of this type of information available as it can without limiting the city's ability to negotiate or litigate successfully.

As the work areas report out on their findings, the city anticipates a significant amount of new information to be released over the next few months. If you have not done so already, we encourage you to sign up for the project e-mail listserv on the www.BoulderEnergyFuture.com website. We will send out notices when new reports or data is available so that interested individuals will be able to vet the information and ask questions before staff presents it to City Council early next year. This is truly a community discussion and your input is invaluable to this process .

