



Boulder's

Energy Future *Today*



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Did you know?

The 113 million residences in America today collectively use an estimated 22% of the country's energy, and the typical U.S. family spends at least \$2,000 a year on home utility bills.

According to the American Solar Energy Society, every hour, the Earth's surface receives enough solar energy to meet the world's needs for an entire year.



Heather Bailey named new Executive Director of Energy Strategy and Electric Utility Development

On April 18, the City of Boulder hired Heather Bailey for the recently created position of Executive Director of Energy Strategy and Electric Utility Development. Bailey, who will start June 7, will oversee the city's Energy Future project. The two-year fixed term position will provide direction in the creation of short- and long-term energy strategies, guide the city in the implementation of new methods of energy management and continue the analysis of potential municipalization of Boulder's electric distribution system.

"Heather brings with her a wealth of experience and a clear understanding about the steps we need to take as we chart our energy future," said City Manager Jane S. Brautigam. "In addition to having many of the skills we were looking for, her experience in the utility industry includes both public and private power, as well as a commitment to renewable energy sources. Her knowledge will be a solid base as we move forward with this initiative."

Bailey has more than 30 years of experience in the utility industry, and has served as a regulator, utility executive and consultant. The new executive director will be charged with establishing an operations and business plan for the potential transition from Xcel Energy operations to city-run operations.

Boulder's Energy Future Today (BEFT) recently spoke with Bailey about why she is excited to be a part of the community's efforts.

BEFT: What does day one look like?

HB: A whirlwind! Listening and learning from staff and stakeholders about what has been done, expectations and goals for the project; lots of time spent scheduling my calendar and presenting my 30-day plan.



BEFT: Why did you apply for this position?

HB: The challenge and opportunity to help transform the industry into one that provides service options geared toward customers and increasingly looks to renewable energy options.

BEFT: What challenges do you foresee?

HB: Managing expectations, making sure everyone who wants to participate gets to and managing the schedule.

BEFT: How do you plan on working with representatives from Xcel Energy?

HB: I would work with them as stakeholders. By sitting down with them and getting an understanding of why they can't meet Boulder's goals. What are their issues and concerns, and how do we work together to develop the best option?

How can I make a difference?



Travel Wise

Increase the number of trips made by transit, bike and walking, and use low emission vehicles if possible:

- Learn about commuting options for individuals and employees at www.GoBoulder.net
- Receive subsidies for neighborhood and business bus passes through the Eco Pass program



Waste Not

Reduce the amount of trash produced and move toward eliminating a large portion of waste going to landfill, which are a major sources of greenhouse gases:

- Learn how to set up curbside composting and single-stream recycling at home and at work
- Get certified as a zero-waste business through Partners for a Clean Environment
- Learn about Eco-Cycle and the new 6400 Arapahoe waste reduction facility

Discover more information about these programs and other ways you can make a difference at www.BoulderColorado.gov/LEAD/ClimateAction.

Boulder to Xcel: Do not discriminate against customers

The public power movement of the early 20th century was driven by dreamers who envisioned a world of inexpensive and reliable power. The people of Boulder have a similar vision – not only of affordable, reliable electricity, but of electricity that comes from renewable resources that do less harm to our planet.

For years, our community has tried to work with our provider, Xcel Energy, to meet our energy and environmental needs. The investor-owned utility's response has always been the same: Xcel cannot do for Boulder what Xcel cannot do for everyone.

Yet, now as Boulder takes a hard look at the possible creation of a city-owned electric utility, Xcel wants the Colorado Public Utilities Commission to allow discrimination against its customers in Boulder. In support of that effort, Xcel suggests we want to accomplish our goals on the backs of our neighbors. Nothing could be further from the truth.

What we are doing is exploring the possibility of creating our own electric utility – a move that could involve acquiring Xcel's system within our city limits. This would give us authority we don't have currently to tap the competitive market and address our goals. If we take this action, Boulder alone will be responsible for the costs. We do not expect Xcel customers in other parts of Colorado to fund this enterprise for us.

As you might imagine, Xcel isn't enthusiastic about our possible municipalization. The utility collects more than \$110 million a year from Boulder customers. The company has pledged to fight the city and, in recent months, has followed through by asking the PUC to allow Xcel to limit the access its Boulder customers have to incentive and rebate programs, such as SolarRewards, Windsource and others. We believe this is premeditation and retaliatory. Perhaps more importantly, it is a violation of Xcel's obligations under state law.

Xcel is a regulated utility. A core rule for regulated utilities - ever since 100 years ago when the railroads gave special rates to their best customers, leaving everyone else to pick up the slack - is that all "similarly situated" customers must be treated alike. If customers in Denver get electricity at a certain rate or access to programs, the utility must provide the same to its

customers in Aurora, in Louisville – and in Boulder.

So what about the argument that other customers might be left footing the bill for certain programs if Boulder customers leave? If the city decides to purchase Xcel's system, we will participate in at least two processes that are designed to ensure that Xcel and its remaining customers are treated fairly. The first is in state court, where the question will be the value of Xcel's electric system in Boulder. The second is before federal regulators, who are responsible for determining whether – and how much – the city must pay to cover investments Xcel has made

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to serve Boulder. Even Xcel, in a recent PUC filing, acknowledged that expenditures to date will be covered in a state condemnation proceeding. There is very little risk associated with allowing Xcel's Boulder customers to continue their participation in incentive programs until a final decision has been made.

It is important to realize that Xcel's rebates only cover some of the costs to customers who decide, for example, to install solar panels. Residents and businesses pay the remaining costs at their own expense. Because of these customer investments, Xcel has had to purchase less coal-fueled electricity. This has reduced the need for more, costly generation facilities and prevented additional rate increases for customers throughout Xcel's territory. This should be encouraged.

Boulder has a long history of working with regional economic, government and nonprofit partners to make a positive environmental difference. Nothing about our current exploration suggests this commitment is going to change. In fact, we are excited to share what we learn.



EnergySmart helps homeowners, landlords and businesses save money, time and energy

In September 2010, Boulder City Council adopted ordinances requiring all of Boulder's rental housing – approximately half of the city's housing stock – to meet energy efficiency standards by 2019. The new "SmartRegs" requirements went into effect in January 2011. The ordinances are part of the Climate Action Plan's "Reduce Use" strategy area, which was established to improve energy efficiency and conservation in homes and businesses throughout Boulder.

To help landlords and tenants navigate the new SmartRegs ordinance, the city and Boulder County created customized services through EnergySmart. EnergySmart offers rental properties a Home Energy Assessment with recommendations for the most cost-effective energy efficiency upgrades to reach SmartRegs compliance. Each rental property owner is assisted by a licensed SmartRegs Inspector and an EnergySmart Advisor. The Advisor will install quick energy-saving items – such as compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs), water-saving showerheads and faucet attachments, and water heater pipe insulation – and assist property owners in pursuit of rebates, financing, and contractor selection to help achieve some or all of the possible upgrades identified.



Similar services, including a Home Energy Assessment and expert Energy Advisor services, are also available for homeowners in all Boulder County communities. Commercial building owners can also receive free building energy assessments, assistance from knowledgeable advisors, and help finding all eligible rebates for energy upgrade projects.

EnergySmart, created by the City of Boulder, is a collaborative partnership throughout Boulder County, funded by a \$25 million grant from the Department of Energy's BetterBuildings Program, combined with contributions from the Boulder's Climate Action Plan tax and the City of Longmont.

Resources

- **Owner-occupied and Rental Home Owners/Managers** - 303-544-1000 or www.EnergySmartYes.com
- **Businesses** - 303-441-1300 or www.EnergySmartYes.com/business

EnergySmart works!

2011 Residential Results

- 678 owner-occupied units participated in EnergySmart, with 67% completing upgrades
- 2,081 renter-occupied units participated in EnergySmart as a result of SmartRegs, with 33% completing upgrades
- Owner-occupied units saw an average annual energy savings of \$219 per year
- Renter-occupied units saw an average annual energy savings of \$63 per year
- Residential property owners saved an average of 1,333,726 kWh of electricity and 390,611 therms of natural gas

2011 Commercial Results

- 1,687 services were provided to 960 individual businesses, with 43% completing upgrades
- 713 businesses completed the first tier "Discover" assessment, of which 50% chose to receive "quick installs"
- 257 businesses received rebates for 267 completed upgrades; of which 92% were for lighting
- Businesses receiving "quick installs" saw an average energy savings of \$52 per year
- Businesses that completed upgrades saw an average energy savings of \$1,318 per year
- Commercial property owners saved a total of 3,982,569 kWh of electricity and 6,469 therms of natural gas

Find more information about these programs and other ways you can make a difference in your home and at your office at www.BoulderColorado.gov/LEAD/ClimateAction.





Environmental Advisory Board and Climate Action Framework

As part of the climate and energy process in 2012, the city's Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) has assumed an enhanced role to evaluate and provide critical feedback to staff on issues related to the new Climate Action framework and the development of the Energy Action Plan. To accommodate the added work, the board will meet twice per month in the City Council Chambers, 1777 Broadway. Feedback from the public will be heard during the open comment session of each meeting. Upcoming meeting dates and associated discussion topics include:

May 10, 2012

1. Summary of third party Climate Action Plan (CAP) analysis: effectiveness of programs & services to date
2. Options for CAP tax extension
3. Commercial energy efficiency strategies discussion.

May 24, 2012

1. Update on May 22 Study Session with City Council
2. Recommendations on CAP tax ballot item possibilities.

Complete meeting agendas and documents will be available prior to each meeting at www.BoulderEnergyFuture.com.

Stay informed, get involved and create change

The city is committed to providing updates to the community as they become available. You are invited to attend City Council meetings, speaker presentations and community fora where you can have questions answered and provide feedback. Get up-to-date information by signing up for the project e-mail list at www.BoulderEnergyFuture.com. All City Council meetings and study sessions on the project, as well as some related community events, will be televised and streamed live at www.BoulderChannel8.com and will be available for viewing at your convenience on the Energy Future website.

Upcoming Events

Energy Future Speaker Series

The city is hosting a spring speaker series to inform the community about issues surrounding climate change and energy. Events are free and open to the public. All events are being recorded and will be available on the Energy Future website a few weeks after the series has concluded.

Population, Arithmetic and Energy with CU Professor Emeritus Al Bartlett

Sunday, May 6
2 to 4 p.m.
West Boulder Senior Center – 909 Arapahoe Ave.

Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) Public Meetings on Climate Action Planning

Feedback from the public will be heard during the public comment portion of each meeting. Future EAB meetings, agendas and memos will be listed on the Energy Future website.
Thursday, May 10; Thursday, May 24; and Thursday, June 14
6 p.m.
City Council Chambers – 1777 Broadway

Walk-In Wednesday Power Hours

The public is invited to come and talk to representatives from the city about anything related to the Energy Future project.
May 16, from 3 to 4 p.m., in the West Boulder Senior Center – 909 Arapahoe Ave.

Energy at the Market

City staff will be at the Farmer's Market on the fourth Saturday of each month to answer questions and listen to feedback.
Saturday, May 26, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., on 13th Street between Arapahoe Avenue and Canyon Boulevard

Upcoming meetings with City Council

Energy Roundtable

Tuesday, May 8, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., in City Council Chambers – 1777 Broadway

Study Session

Tuesday, May 22, at 6 p.m. in City Council Chambers – 1777 Broadway



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