

Draft Mission and Goal Statement for the
Local Government and Environmental Group Coalition
Planning for Responsible Electric Portfolio and Advancement of Renewable Energy
(PREPARE)

Colorado is home to an abundant supply of renewable power resources. Currently the state relies heavily on coal for the vast majority of its electricity generation. The local and international concern for global climate change, regional concerns about haze, air toxics, ozone, and nitrification of our National Parks all call this strategy into question.

In March 2010 the Colorado Public Utilities Commission will review and initiate a public hearing process to discuss Xcel Energy's 2010 Electric Resource plan. This plan will play a critical role in Colorado and its community's meeting their established emission reduction targets. The new Resource Plan will outline how, Xcel, Colorado's largest utility, will cost-effectively produce power during the period 2010 to 2030. It is expected to identify opportunities for reaching the Governor's Climate Action Goals including retiring or repowering high-emitting coal-fired power plants across the Front Range and replacing them with clean energy solutions. Early discussions among regional and statewide stakeholders are currently focusing on the Cherokee and Valmont power plants.

Clean energy alternatives to existing high-emitting electricity resources will advance new technologies, strengthen Colorado's clean energy economy, and protect human health and the environment.

For the reasons stated above, local governments and environmental groups are coming together to discuss the future of Colorado's electricity generation, to share resources to study the impacts of various retirement, repowering and replacement options, and to participate in this ground breaking and potentially historic public policy process.

The key goals of the coalition are to:

1. Commission a study (or studies) to review the array of opportunities for reducing emissions by retiring and/or using renewable fuels and power sources. The studies will assess both system wide and site-specific impacts. Renewable powering options could include using biomass or biogas, and co-firing biomass with coal, using concentrating solar power or solar photovoltaic systems to generate electricity or to preheat boiler water.
2. Utilize the results of the study to inform decisions that effectively lower greenhouse gas and other harmful emissions by reducing our dependence on coal for electricity generation and increasing the use of energy efficiency and renewable energy without significantly impacting ratepayers in the Front Range. The results of this study can provide technical and pragmatic solutions to meet or exceed the Governor's Climate Action Plan goals and efficiently smooth Colorado's transition to national climate policy and a clean energy economy.
3. Participate in Xcel Energy's Integrated Resource Planning process currently scheduled for March of 2010 bringing reasoned, high quality, and compelling information. Such information could include a system wide analysis of the

environmental, direct cost, and ratepayer impacts of various plant retirement schedules and viable renewable energy alternatives.

4. Share resources to support the research, education and community outreach efforts, possible legal, and other costs that arise and are mutually agreed to as necessary by the coalition members.
5. Advocate the retirement, repowering and/or replacement of all of the coal-fired units at Cherokee (Units 1-4 representing approximately 715 MW) and Valmont (Unit 5 representing approximately 186 MW) as an important and necessary step to reduce Colorado's and our local communities contribution to global climate change. As part of our advocacy, work to help shift the regulatory and business environment in Colorado so that Xcel and other Colorado utilities are encouraged to make carbon reductions a core part of their business strategy.

Current Coalition Members:

1. City of Boulder
2. Boulder County
3. City and County of Denver
4. Environmental Defense Fund
5. Western Resource Advocates
6. University of Colorado

Status and Timeframe:

- Selected a consultant to analyze repowering options at Valmont (solar assist, co-firing with biomass, efficiency strategies)
 - Complete by December, early January
- Drafting an RFP for a system wide analysis of retirement and repowering impacts
 - Issue contract Nov-Dec, complete by March-April 2010)
- File for participation in PUC
 - March/April 2010