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Colorado sprouts the largest community-owned solar power array

Wednesday, June 15, 2011 at 2:04:33 PM - by Danny Vo

A solar field containing 3,575 solar panels expected to produce 1,500 megawatt-hours each year for a co-op sprung up this week in Rifle, Colorado.

The solar field is a cooperative between Holy Cross Energy, the Clean Energy Collective and Garfield County, according to multiple reports

The Associated Press reports that the 5-acre field is believed to be one of the largest community-owned solar projects in the country.

Holy Cross customers who buy into the co-op can purchase the energy for \$3.15 a watt or \$725 for a 230-watt panel, the Huffington Post reports. Customers can later sell, donate or transfer their panels for what the fair market value is at that time.

The field was opened on county-owned land at the Garfield County Regional Airport near Rifle, according to the Glenwood Springs Post Independent. Former Colorado Governor Bill Ritter told the paper that this solar field is a good way for people to have affordable power and be able to feel good about how their energy is generated.

Paul Spencer, president of the Clean Energy Collective, said that Holy Cross customers in Garfield, Eagle and Pitkin counties can buy one or more panels at the array and save money on their electric bill.



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