



**August 30, 2010**

# First Community-Owned Solar Garden in the Nation Goes Live

The Clean Energy Collective delivers new era of affordable and accessible clean energy.

*CARBONDALE, COLO (August 17, 2010)* The Clean Energy Collective's first community-owned solar array, and the first of its kind in the nation, began delivering power today in El Jebel, Colorado. The facility, sited on otherwise unusable land owned by the Mid-Valley Metropolitan District, hosts 340 solar panels and will generate 77.7kW of clean, renewable energy production capacity.

Year-round and seasonal residents of the Roaring Fork Valley have bought individual portions of the array for as little as \$725 per panel, or \$3.15/kW. Local utility coop Holy Cross Energy will then credit members' utility bills directly each month at \$0.11/kWh based on how much solar each member owns in the array.

Holy Cross Energy CEO Del Worley was enthusiastic about the potential for locally-generated clean energy. "It's great to get local renewable energy off the ground, and this is one more arrow in our quiver for Holy Cross to meet its 20% goal of renewable energy by 2015," he said.

This milestone commemorates the CEC's long road to creating the country's first model that allows a community to collectively own a clean energy facility—solar, wind, biomass, micro hydro—and directly reap the benefits. Several additional community solar arrays are in the build/approval process, including a 900 kW facility in Rifle, CO and a 2-MW facility near Vail CO, which will be the largest privately-owned solar array in the state.

"We are extremely thankful to our partner Holy Cross Energy for continuing to execute on its commitment to clean energies and collaborating with us on this innovative initiative," said CEC founder Paul Spencer. The CEC predicts this breakthrough will increase the region's solar adoption by 67% in the next five years.

Colorado Senator Gail Schwartz lauded the initiative saying, "Colorado is leading the nation when it comes to attracting industry, attracting innovation, and attracting technology. This is one of the most important parts of it. We actually have mechanisms now to make renewable energy affordable to all households."

## **About the Clean Energy Collective**

The Clean Energy Collective is a new idea in power generation – a member-owned cooperative venture that is building, operating and maintaining community-based clean energy facilities. Based in Carbondale, Colorado, the CEC is pioneering the model of delivering clean power-generation through large-scale facilities that are collectively owned by participating utility customers. The CEC's proprietary RemoteMeter™ system automatically calculates monthly credits for members and integrates with existing utility billing systems. The CEC is working to leverage its model with regional partners nationwide. [www.easycleanenergy.com](http://www.easycleanenergy.com)

## **MEDIA CONTACTS**

Tim Braun, b2,inc.  
(970) 618-0080; [tbraun@b2inc.net](mailto:tbraun@b2inc.net)

Lauren Martindale, Clean Energy Collective  
(800) 646-0323

Topics: Solar

---