



HOLY CROSS ENERGY

Consumer Connection

VOLUME 25 ISSUE 3 FALL 2010



Community — Owned Solar Farm

Mid—Valley Solar Array

New Community Solar Program Expands Local Clean Energy Ownership Options for Holy Cross Energy Consumers

Holy Cross Energy (HCE) and the Clean Energy Collective (CEC), developer of the community-owned solar farm, worked for more than a year to create an innovative solution for off-site ownership of solar panels for HCE customers. *What does off-site ownership mean?* It means that HCE consumers can own solar panels in a community array in cooperation with the CEC. HCE then credits the community-solar owners' utility bills each month at \$0.11 per kWh for their proportional share of all clean energy produced.

The Mid-Valley Community Solar Array is the first of several CEC sites and commemorates the long road to creating a community-owned clean energy facility. This community solar array is sold out to 18 HCE members, but more sites are under construction and the CEC is currently taking reservations. Sunsense Solar Electric of Carbondale was contracted to install the first project while the CEC handles the ongoing maintenance, cleaning, repairs, billing and customer service.

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

Benefits of community-solar:

- Bulk purchases help lower the cost of solar
- Quality equipment and a 50-year performance and maintenance guarantee for optimal performance
- 10% estimated average annual payback over the life of the system
- Sizing to fit any energy usage and budget (as little as a single panel - \$725)
- Optimally sited locations (perfect angle, no shade and lots of sun)
- Panel ownership can be transferred, resold or donated if you move

Community solar benefits all Holy Cross Energy customers, including those with homes or offices that are not properly sited for solar (orientation and shading), renters and those who would like to have solar but can't afford the large up front investment to install a full-sized on-site system. All Holy Cross WE CARE Program Renewable Energy Generation rebates apply to community solar.

For more information contact:

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Senator Gail Schwartz, Holy Cross Energy CEO Del Worley, Board members Hal Clark and Dave Munk, Basalt Mayor Leroy Duroux, key representatives from the Mid-Valley Metro District, and community organizations CORE and CLEER cheer the ground-breaking for the Mid-Valley Community Solar Array in El Jebel in June.

Holy Cross Energy Round-Up Foundation ...small change that can change lives

The Round-Up Foundation Board of Directors would like to thank those consumer-members who are participating in the Holy Cross Energy Round-Up Program. Through your continued generous support, we have been able to begin the fulfillment of our mission to "... improve, enhance, foster and benefit the lives of citizens in Eagle, Garfield and Pitkin counties."

By "rounding up" your monthly electric statement to the next highest dollar, this additional "change" has provided monetary support to numerous local organizations and individuals to fund and/or expand existing area programs. The Roaring Fork Valley Early Learning Fund, Mt. Sopris Historical Society, Mountain Valley Developmental Services and Food Rescue Express have all benefited from your financial support. The result of your support has been a continuation of programs focused on: 1) early childhood literacy; 2) youth involvement; 3) healthy meals for qualifying youth; and 4) encouragement/support of individuals with developmental disabilities.

If you are aware of an individual with a "special" need, or an organization in need of extra funds to support local programs or projects, encourage them to complete and submit an "Application for Funding" to the Foundation for Board consideration.

Applications and instructions (including restrictions) are available on our website at www.holycross.com/member-services/roundup-program. Maximum funding is generally limited to \$1,000.00 per application.

Interested in joining the numerous Holy Cross Energy consumer-members supporting "Round-Up"? Complete and return the authorization on your monthly payment stub, or sign up electronically on our website listed above.

Holy Cross Energy Round-Up Foundation... proof that small change really can change lives.



Noteworthy

- According to the July 2010 Colorado Association of Municipal Utilities (CAMU) survey, Holy Cross Energy has the lowest electric rates of any Colorado cooperative. Based on a residential consumer using 700 kilowatt-hours (kWh), our calculated charge was only \$69.28/month. Yampa Valley Electric, in Steamboat Springs, was next with a monthly charge of \$70.28.
- Member equity checks will be distributed in early December for consumers that received electric service in 1996. Approximately \$2,840,000 will be returned to about 24,000 members.
- The National Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington D.C. is scheduled for June 2011. High school students (minimum age of 16) who reside in a household served by Holy Cross Energy are eligible. If interested, please visit our website at www.holycross.com for more information.
- As of September 30, 2010, Holy Cross Energy has distributed to its consumers more than \$3.1 million in rebates and incentives associated with its WE CARE (**W**ith **E**fficiency, **C**onservation **A**nd **R**enewable Energy) Program. For more details, go to www.holycross.com/green-programs/wecare-program.

RED FLAG – WARNING!

Continued use of heavy-duty magnetic “red flag” devices should help Holy Cross Energy send the appropriate warning to snowplow operators that our electric facilities (meter pedestals, switchgear and transformers) are in close proximity and may be “hiding” under the snow.

When operating equipment in and around our facilities, please exercise extra care to avoid bumping, hitting, or burying our equipment. Our personnel need 24/7 unencumbered access. Buried equipment prolongs access time and delays our efforts to restore power in a timely manner.

The red flag markers, purchased through Holy Cross for a nominal fee, are easy to attach. We encourage the use of these “red flag” markers wherever meter pedestals, switchgear or transformers exist.

Efforts to ensure that our facilities remain accessible and red flags visible at all times are appreciated.



Sunlight Mountain Resort Special Offer

Buy one adult lift ticket and get second at 50% Off

Valid February 1 - April 4, 2011. Blackout date: February 19-21, 2011

Buy one adult full day ticket for \$50 and get one adult or one child full day ticket at 50% Off. To receive this special offer, present this coupon at the Sunlight Mountain ticket office. Limit one per consumer account. Not valid with any other discount coupon or offer. No cash value.



Micro-Hydro System Partnership

Holy Cross Energy and the Town of Basalt are partnering in the development and construction of a 40 kW hydroelectric facility. On October 20, 2010, Holy Cross Energy's Board of Directors approved a power purchase agreement with the Town.

Site preparation is underway for the new facility located near water storage tanks in the hills north of Basalt. Existing pipelines from Basalt and Lucksinger Springs will be upgraded. A turbine will replace a pressure relief device above the town's water treatment plant to recover energy that would otherwise be lost.

Holy Cross will help finance construction of the project. In exchange for the loan, the Town will deliver to Holy Cross the first six million kilowatt-hours generated over the next 20 years. Both parties will jointly operate and maintain the facility to ensure that it remains a reliable low-cost source of renewable energy generation for years to come.

Cooley Mesa Office Set to Open November 15th

Holy Cross Energy is pleased to announce the opening of its new Cooley Mesa office, located at 1326 Buckhorn Valley Road, on Monday, November 15th. Operations of the old office in Eagle will be suspended at noon on Friday, November 12th.

Office hours at our new location will be from 7:30 am - 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm - 4:30 pm (Monday through Thursday) and 7:30 am - 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm (Friday). The office phone number will remain (970) 748-4302.

The facility will have a walk-up drop box for payments and will operate as a full billing facility.



www.holycross.com

“Scheduled” Power Outages...What’s Up?

With more than 2,926 miles of overhead and underground power lines traversing Holy Cross Energy's service territory, efforts to “keep the lights on” require unwavering commitment and dedication. Introduce a dangerous environment (personnel and equipment working in and around 24,900 volts of electrical energy) and safety becomes a paramount concern.

New construction, maintenance, operation, repair, replacement and system upgrades all have to be performed to ensure continuous and reliable electric service. To reduce the frequency of power interruptions associated with these activities, line crews often work on energized facilities putting themselves at increased safety risk.

Sometimes it becomes impossible to maintain and preserve the safety of our workers without de-energizing a portion of the electric distribution system. Following established safety procedures is part of our Industry's responsibility to protect both line crews and the public from serious injury or death.

“Scheduled” power outages help ensure the protection and safety of operations personnel and the public

Decisions to “schedule” a power outage are carefully considered and evaluated. Work activities are planned to minimize the time power is off. In non-emergency situations, we provide advance notice of a “scheduled” outage to affected consumers.

Holy Cross appreciates your understanding of any power outage experienced. Weather related and equipment failure outages are outside of our control. Please remember that “scheduled” outages are necessary for the protection and safety of our personnel and the general public.

You Help Complete the Puzzle of Warmth

For many Coloradans, staying warm in the wintertime is a puzzling and often frightening challenge. Energy Outreach Colorado helps put the pieces of the home energy puzzle together to help struggling Coloradans make it through the winter. Holy Cross Energy has also committed to helping Energy Outreach Colorado by donating unclaimed deposits, soliciting member equity donations and inserting donation request in consumers' bills. This puzzle, which includes energy assistance, weatherization, energy education and more, needs one more piece... YOU!

You, Energy Outreach Colorado and Holy Cross Energy, together we generate the power to help. Please mail your contribution today.

Energy Outreach Colorado Pledge Slip

- My personal check for \$_____ is enclosed. (Please make check payable to Energy Outreach Colorado.)
- I pledge \$_____ per month to my Holy Cross Energy bill for one year to be given to Energy Outreach Colorado.

Name _____

Account Number _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ Date _____ Signature _____

GEO Weatherization Program — Access to Cost Effective Energy Efficiency

The Colorado Governor's Energy Office (GEO) offers a free Weatherization Program to low-income residents, providing them the opportunity to access cost effective energy efficient services. This GEO program partners with other local weatherization agencies throughout the state.

There are a variety of reasons to participate in the GEO Weatherization Program:

- Saving money by lowering your monthly energy costs
- Improving the comfort and value of your home
- Protecting our environment

To learn more about the GEO's Weatherization Program and determine eligibility, please contact GEO at 1-800-462-0184 or visit their website at www.rechargecolorado.com. Select the "Low Income Weatherization" option from the Quick Links menu.



Touchstone Energy®
The power of human connections

Holy Cross Energy — Campus Expansion

For most of us, a 30-year forward look to the year 2040 is not on our radar screen. That's not been the case for Holy Cross Energy's Board of Directors and Management Staff in their efforts to strategically plan to meet the future needs of our member-consumers.

If you've driven by our headquarters office (along Highway 82 just south of Glenwood Springs), you may have noticed a significant campus expansion is well underway. A variety of track-hoes, front-end loaders, concrete trucks, cranes and dump trucks mixed with various construction trades have permeated our work place for the past 15 months.

Holy Cross has already completed a 16,000 square foot materials warehouse and vehicle storage center (occupied in February 2010) and a new three bedroom caretaker unit to replace the old Mitchell home that was demolished to accommodate the new warehouse.

While timing of the economic downturn was not anticipated, Holy Cross was able to take advantage of attractive and competitive pricing. Our construction activities have also put more than 100 people to work, with 75% of them area locals.

Our campus expansion involves three distinct phases:

Phase 1 — Parking lot relocation and extension of underground utilities. A 150,000 gallon water tank was built for fire protection.

Phase 2 — Reestablish the caretaker's unit. An operations employee will live in the unit and act as a resident caretaker.

Phase 3 — A 25,000 square foot expansion to our main building. The new wing will accommodate engineering, dispatch, mapping, and upper management along with a new Board room and large capacity community/conference room. A remodel of the existing main building will be done for billing, information technology, and member services personnel. Upgrades to the heating system and better system controls will improve the overall energy efficiency of the building. Installation of a small solar PV system is planned as a partial power source for several buildings.

New construction, associated with the building expansion, is scheduled for completion by late spring of 2011. The remodel of the existing building may not be complete until early fall of 2011.

We will continue to provide exceptional service during this expansion effort; however, as with any construction project, your patience and understanding is appreciated.





HOLY CROSS ENERGY

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|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 35 fully grown | 14,752 gallons | 25 million Btu | 1,632 pounds | 3,223 pounds |

Calculations based on research by Environmental Defense Fund and other members of the Paper Task Force.
www.newleafpaper.com

STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

HOLY CROSS ENERGY, a Colorado corporation, is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, or handicap shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's non-discrimination compliance efforts is TIM CHARLTON, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Washington, D.C. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.