

Former Colorado Governor Bill Ritter will be in Rifle on June 14 as locals celebrate the completion of the solar farm at the Garfield County Airport in Rifle.

The public is encouraged to attend the grand opening for the nation's largest community-owned solar farm. The event is scheduled to start at 11 a.m, Tuesday.

Ritter will give a keynote address, as will Holy Cross Energy and other local and state leaders. After the grand opening address there will be an educational tour of the 3,575-panel, five-acre solar farm, with refreshments and a light lunch provided.

The community solar array was developed by local start-up Clean Energy Collective (CEC), and the construction was performed by nationally recognized Martifer Solar and award-winning local installation company Sunsense Solar.

"Garfield County has a long history of energy production and the Clean Energy Collective is very excited with the help of Holy Cross, our construction partners, and Garfield County to bring yet another chapter in that history with community solar, creating more renewable energy, clean energy jobs and economic growth for the entire region," said Mark Boyer of CEC.

Holy Cross customers can purchase panels in the array and have their electric bill credited for their panels' production. Join the Clean Energy Collective and the rest of the team in celebrating the arrival of community-owned solar on a grand scale.

Transportation information to and from the event or general questions concerning community solar can be addressed by the Clean Energy Collective by e-mail at: lauren@easycleanenergy.com, or by calling (970) 319-3939, or visit CEC's website at cleanenergycollective.com.

Parking will be at the main parking lot at the Garfield County Regional Airport located at 0375 County Road 352, in Rifle. Visitors from up-valley can take a special service bus which will make stops from Basalt to Silt starting in Basalt at 9:30 a.m. Attendees are asked to arrive by 10:30 a.m.