

Nation's Largest Community-owned Solar Array Opened at the Garfield County Airport

Monday, June 27, 2011

The nation's largest community-owned solar array is now open at the Garfield County airport. On June 14, The Clean Energy Collective (CEC), Martifer Solar, and Sunsense Solar hosted a grand opening with about 75 people in attendance.

Bill Ritter, former Colorado governor and Director of the Center for the New Energy Economy at Colorado State University, praised the innovation and leadership that culminated in the launch of the Garfield County Airport Community Solar Array.

"Our ability to move to a clean energy economy in Colorado is a product of the public's will and the political will that the people of the state have to really try and find clean energy solutions," Ritter said in his keynote address. "The CEC has it right. This is a way for people to be able to have affordable power and to be able to participate and feel good about how they're generating their energy."

Several statewide and local leaders were also on hand to commemorate the official opening of the 5-acre, 858-kilowatt solar garden sited on an otherwise unusable south-facing hillside at the Garfield County Airport.. The array's 3,575 panels will produce over 1,500 megawatt hours (1.5 gigawatt-hours) of clean, renewable energy each year, serving as many as 350 CEC members.

Clean Energy Economy (CLEER)

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