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## Rifle's Community Owned Solar Array Largest In Nation At 3,575 Panels



**The Huffington Post** Ryan Grenoble First Posted: 06/15/11 03:41 PM ET Updated: 06/15/11 03:41 PM ET

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A cooperative effort between [Holy Cross Energy](#), the [Clean Energy Collective](#), and [Garfield County](#) produced the nation's largest community-owned solar array in Rifle, Colorado, on Tuesday.

The array sports 3,575 solar panels and is expected to produce in excess of 1,500 megawatt-hours each year for Holy Cross Energy customers that buy into the co-op.

Holy Cross customers can buy in for \$3.15/watt or \$725 per 230-watt panel. The fee covers

all maintenance and operations costs for 50 years. Customers can later sell, transfer, or donate their panels at a fair market value.

Former Colorado Governor Bill Ritter, a green-energy activist, [told The Glenwood Springs Post Independent](#), "Our ability to move to a clean energy economy in Colorado is a product of the political will that the people of the state have, to really try and find clean energy solutions... This is a way for people to have affordable power and to be able to participate and feel good about how they're generating their energy."

The Clean Energy Collective [also sources energy](#) from micro-hydro, geothermal, wind, and biomass.

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