



YOUR ENERGY COLORADO NEWSLETTER

Issue 75

March 2019

Welcome to the 75th issue of CSU Extension's 'Your Energy Colorado' Newsletter. The mission of Your Energy Colorado is to facilitate sustainable energy decisions in the state. As the name implies, we put the power to shape Colorado's energy future in **your** hands.

This newsletter gives the public and our partners updates on our work and its context among all things energy. Please forward this newsletter to anyone you think might be interested. Also feel free to send us your organization's energy-related news and events for listing in future newsletters. **And don't forget to follow us on social media to get energy tips, fast facts, and commentaries on emerging energy news.**



Needs Assessment Report

Colorado State University Extension conducted an energy needs assessment survey of almost 400 Coloradans in the summer and fall of 2018. Insights were gained into: existing levels of awareness of sustainable energy options for homes, communities, and the state; sustainable energy actions of Colorado residents over the past few years; desired future actions and barriers to those actions; and desired topics and delivery methods for educational resources on sustainable energy. Survey responses were analyzed for differentiation by location/region, homeowner status, and self-rated awareness of sustainable energy options. The survey was mostly found to be valid when compared to on-the-ground experience developing and delivering educational resources on sustainable energy. In general, Coloradans are motivated by environmental and financial concerns to look for online, in-store, and person-to-person guidance on sustainable energy options such as home energy efficiency and renewable energy, although responding to needs of specific target audiences is critical to maximize the effectiveness of energy programs.

[Read the needs assessment report here](#)



Electric Vehicle Workshops Gaining Steam

As part of the City of Centennial's participation in Xcel Energy's Partners in Energy program, the City hosted a workshop to educate residents about the costs and benefits of electric vehicles. Presenters from CSU Extension, Xcel, and the Colorado Energy Office educated and engaged with 90 attendees. Boulder Nissan provided a Nissan Leaf for attendees to check out before the workshop. 90% of attendees indicated a moderate or significant increase in knowledge which will help them make a more informed decision about purchasing (or leasing) an EV.

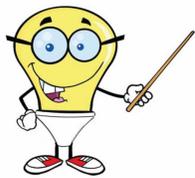
And word is spreading. CSU Extension and partners will also be presenting on EVs at a workshop in Pueblo hosted by the Renewable Energy Owners Coalition of America in March (see Upcoming Events below). As EV sales and infrastructure increase, we hope educational resources that help people make good decisions do as well!



Interest in Farm Energy Growing

For the second year in a row, CSU Extension led a half-day educational session on ag energy at the Colorado Farm Show. About 50 farmers and members of the ag industry attended sessions to learn about the cost-benefit of on-farm solar, the [Colorado Energy Office Agricultural Energy Efficiency Program](#), and leasing land for wind and solar development.

In addition, interest in CSU Extension's Farm Assessments for Solar Energy (FASE) program has grown. Almost all slots have been filled for producers to receive free economic feasibility assessments for solar on their farms. Ag producers still interested in an assessment can fill out a brief application [on the program website](#) and will be contacted if space is available.



ENERGY
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ENERGY-IN-BRIEFS

Five Eye-Popping Energy and Climate Facts

1. Vehicle fuel is the #1 source of carbon emissions for the average Colorado household.
2. Gasoline and diesel vehicles have less climate impact than natural gas vehicles.
3. Low-flow showerheads can have a payback period of less than one year.
4. 200% efficient heat pumps are responsible for more carbon emissions than 80% efficient gas furnaces.
5. Switching to LED bulbs can save you thousands of dollars on solar.

[Read more: Eye-Popping Facts](#)

Use LEDs to Save on Solar

In case you haven't heard, light emitting diode (LED) bulbs use about 15% of the energy of equivalent incandescent bulbs, 20% of the energy of equivalent halogens and 67% of the energy of equivalent fluorescents. What this means for you is big savings on your energy bills. And the good news doesn't end there. After switching from incandescent to LED, a Colorado home could save \$4,500 in upfront costs on solar by needing a smaller PV system.

[Read more: LEDs & Solar](#)

In the News:

- [Colorado co-op's fight for renewable energy could upend how rural](#)

- [communities are powered, Colorado Sun, 2/13/19](#)
 - [Germany to close all 84 of its coal-fired power plants, will rely primarily on renewable energy, LA Times, 1/26/19](#)
 - [More electric vehicles will likely be available in Colorado after a new executive order from Gov. Polis, Colorado Sun, 1/17/19](#)
 - [Colorado's Largest Battery Comes Online As The State Pivots To Cleaner Energy, CPR News 12/18/18](#)
 - [Oil And Gas Commission Unanimously Votes To Increase Setbacks Between Wells And Schools, Dan Boyce, CPR News, 12/18/18](#)
 - [Signaling A 'Seismic Shift' In Energy, Delta-Montrose Seeks Exit From Tri State Contract, Grace Hood, CPR, 12/6/18](#)
 - [After Years Of Little Growth, A Spike In Carbon Dioxide Emissions Disappoints Scientists, The Associated Press via CPR, 12/5/18](#)
 - [Xcel Energy Vows 100 Percent Carbon Reduction By 2050, Grace Hood with CPR, 12/4/18](#)
 - [Homes with no energy bills are catching on — even in Pueblo — and the extra cost isn't as high as you'd think, Colorado Sun, 11/30/18](#)
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Upcoming Events

March 26, 6-8:30pm: Know Before You Go Electric (EV workshop)

- Pueblo West Library
- No RSVP needed

April 1-2: 21st Century Energy Transition Symposium

- Grand Hyatt, Denver, CO
- [Register here](#)

April 9, 5:30-7pm: Is Solar Right for Your Home or Business?

- Mountain Valley Bank, Steamboat Springs
- [More information here](#)

April 14, 10am-3pm: Sustainable Lifestyle Expo presented by CSU Extension

- 1STBANK Center, Broomfield
 - [Register here](#)
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Your Energy Colorado Resources

- Follow the [Your Energy Colorado Facebook page](#) for energy tips, news commentaries, and more
- Visit our [Energy-In-Briefs blog](#)
- Download and/or print CSU Extension energy [fact sheets](#)
- Download and/or order printed copies of our [Home Energy Guide](#)
- [Calculate your savings](#) from switching light bulbs, a new furnace, a low-flow showerhead, adding insulation and more
- Assess your [solar potential, costs, and benefits](#)
- Conduct a [DIY home energy audit](#)
- Watch [energy webinars](#)
- [Borrow an energy kit](#) to teach youth, for a public demonstration, or to conduct a home energy assessment

- Teach one of our many hands-on, standards-based [energy lesson plans](#)
 - Ask an [energy expert](#) a question
 - Track energy legislation in Colorado and nationwide using the CSU Center for the New Energy Economy's [Advanced Energy Legislation Tracker](#)
 - [Contact us](#) to request an energy efficiency, solar, electric vehicle, or rural energy workshop
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