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NEW COMMUNITY-OWNED SOLAR GARDEN IN RIFLE OPENS TO MUCH FANFARE

Clean Energy Collective and Holy Cross Helping to Push Colorado's "New Energy Economy"

RIFLE, COLO (June 14, 2011) Today Bill Ritter, former Colorado governor and current Director of CSU's Center for the New Energy Economy, lauded the innovation and leadership that culminated in the launch of the Garfield County Airport Community Solar Array—the largest community-owned solar array in the nation—in Rifle, Colorado.

"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. "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 kW 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 MWh (1.5 GWh) of clean, renewable energy each year, serving as many as 350 CEC members.



Ritter went on to praise the rural electric association Holy Cross Energy as "among the best in the nation" and urged them to continue finding ways to produce energy through renewable resources. Holy Cross Energy is a leader among Colorado's 22 electric distribution cooperatives in terms of installed capacity for renewable energy generation.

Today's ceremony proved a milestone in showing that the community-owned, utility-scale model works. "We are leveraging scalability to the benefit of each individual panel owner and our structure allows members to receive all of the rebates and tax incentives of home-sited systems", explains Spencer. "You don't even need a roof to adopt clean energy today, and the paybacks are higher than ever – both for the environment and financially" Spencer added.

In addition to Governor Ritter, the event included:

Del Worley - CEO, Holy Cross Energy

Keith Lambert, Mayor of Rifle

Greg Russi - Chair, Garfield New Energy Communities Initiative (G-NECI)

Neal Lurie - Director, Colorado Solar Energy Industries Association (COSEIA)

Karen Lowe - Senior Vice-President of Commercial Banking, JP Morgan Chase

About the Clean Energy Collective

The Clean Energy Collective is a developer of community-based renewable energy facilities and a leader in community power generation. Based in Carbondale, Colorado, the CEC is pioneering the model of delivering clean power-generation through large-scale facilities that are collectively owned by participating utility customers. The CEC's proprietary RemoteMeter™ system automatically calculates monthly credits and integrates with existing utility billing systems, enabling all residential and commercial utility customers to easily have clean, renewable power credited on their monthly utility bills, without modifying their home or office.

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