

## Overview

May 1, 2008



# Regional Partnership for a Clean Energy Economy *Formation Project*

## MISSION

**The Regional Partnership works to accelerate the transition to a clean energy economy, increase energy independence and reduce impacts of climate change.**

The partnership connects residents, businesses, utilities and governments, providing the tools and resources needed to meet aggressive targets for energy efficiency, high performance building, renewable energy, sustainable transportation, smart growth, recycling, and local food options in the Roaring Fork and Colorado River valleys.

By working together across sectors region-wide, the partnership uses an integrated approach for maximum effectiveness in reaching energy and climate protection goals, while putting in place a variety of practical solutions to make our region's economy more sustainable and prosperous.

### Service Area

Aspen to Parachute  
(72,000 people)

### Potential Partners

Households & Businesses  
Students & Teachers  
Utilities  
Faith & Civic Groups  
Elected Officials  
Government Agencies  
Developers & Realtors

## CHALLENGE AND OPPORTUNITY

The Roaring Fork and Colorado River valleys of western Colorado illustrate the challenges of current energy use, from intense natural gas development in the west to shorter ski seasons in the east. The region is directly dealing with the consequences of demand for fossil fuels: drilling impacts, dependence on foreign oil, rising energy prices and global warming.

Making a transition to clean energy offers a solution to the problems caused by fossil fuels. Clean energy also offers larger benefits: new jobs, businesses and investment opportunities, and reductions in energy risks and energy costs. The result will be a positive gain for economic security and prosperity.

The state of Colorado and many communities in this region have set bold climate and clean energy goals, with the benefits of a new energy economy in mind. The scale of change needed to shift from costly old energy sources to clean new energy sources is huge. The efforts in place today are limited, and can't produce the rapid, widespread change needed to seize this opportunity.

Our region needs a unified, amplified effort to accomplish its clean energy goals. If we pool our expertise and resources, we can move these goals and opportunities from theory to reality.

## PARTNERSHIP GOALS FOR 2018

### Energy efficiency

Increase resource efficiency of existing homes, businesses and institutions by 25 percent or more.

### High performance buildings

Adopt best practices in design and materials so new structures use at least 50 percent less energy than 2008 conventional construction.

### Renewable energy

Shift the region's total energy portfolio to at least 30 percent from clean energy sources; develop local renewable energy sources.

### Sustainable transportation

Increase mobility options through high quality transit, demand management, bike and walk-friendly design, telecommuting. Improve vehicle efficiency by 25 percent or more and increase use of green fuels.

### Smart growth

Implement best practices for community design to encourage energy efficient land use patterns and increase mobility options.

### Recycling

Divert 60 percent of waste from landfills and into recycled materials markets.

### Local food options

Increase cultivation and purchase of locally grown food.

**Year One programs**  
(July 2008 to June 2009)  
lay the groundwork for measurable progress to meet the partnership's 10-year goals.

All program work is supported by:

- **Communications:** website, newsletter, presentations, media outreach, marketing
- **Policy and coalition work:** joining together for systemic change
- **Education and technical assistance:** workshops, networks among practitioners
- **Tracking:** measurement of baselines and accomplishments
- **Development** of investments in the Clean Energy Economy, including grant-writing

**INITIATIVES & YEAR ONE WORK PLAN (IN BOLD)**

**Energy Efficiency**

Increase energy efficiency in homes and businesses.

- **Launch Web-based clearinghouse on energy service providers, materials vendors.**
- **Standardize and market a Home Energy Rating System.**
- **Host a regional “I commit” pledge program for household and businesses, with annual awards, to accelerate energy efficiency improvements regionwide.**
- Create a tracking system to measure efficiency improvements.
- Expand efficiency rebates and financing programs regionwide.
- Establish a network for people to share successes, lessons learned and best practices.
- Promote policies that encourage maximum energy efficiency in new and existing operations.

**High Performance Buildings**

Improve energy performance of new buildings.

- **Upgrade and standardize county, city and town building codes for maximum energy efficiency and on-site use of renewable energy applications.**
- **Provide training, technical assistance and workshops for planners, building inspectors, building contractors, developers and architects.**
- Increase access to professional design assistance and grants.
- Establish a best practices network.
- Set up tracking and measurement system to measure region-wide improvements in new construction.

**Renewable Energy**

Boost the region’s renewable energy portfolio.

- **Lay groundwork for a “1,000 Solar Roofs” program.**
- **Work with partners to expand reach of “Solar in the Schools” curriculum and hardware.**
- **Work with utilities to increase renewable energy purchases.**
- Increase access to technical and financial assistance for development of community-scale renewable solar, hydro and geothermal projects.
- Track installations, renewable energy gains and emission reductions.
- Catalyze community action and supportive policies to develop clean energy.

**We’re Not The First To Do This**

- **Portland (Ore.) Office of Sustainable Development:** Reduced total emissions in the city to 1 percent below 1990 levels; on a per capita basis, the reduction is 16 percent below 1990 levels.
- **Palm Desert (Calif.) Office of Energy Management (Set To Save):** Saved 50 million kWh in 2007 by offering \$7 million in appliance trade-in rebates; goal of five-year program is to save 215 million kWh annually.
- **Sustainable Silicon Valley** (San Jose, Calif.): A partnership of 67 business and civic organizations cut 517,000 tons of emissions since its launch in 2000, a 24 percent reduction. SSV’s goal is to reduce emissions to 20 percent below 1990 levels by 2010.
- **Solar Santa Monica:** Installed 300 kW of solar PV capacity in 2007, bringing the community’s total solar generation to 650 kW. The city’s goal is to install a total of 100 MW of solar to be a net-zero importer of electricity by 2020.
- **Fort Collins Zero Energy District (ZED):** A collaboration between CSU, business and government aims for installation of 50 MW of clean power, starting with a 5 MW demonstration project to be online by 2010. The project also focuses on high performance buildings, energy efficiency, community education and financial incentives.
- **Greenprint Denver:** Over 10 years, the City of Denver replaced 48,000 of its traffic signal lights with LED bulbs, cutting energy use by 90 percent and saving the city \$800,000 a year. The Greenprint program integrates climate-friendly projects, including water, tree-planting, recycling, energy use, green building, urban design and transportation.

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## Sustainable Transportation

Increase mobility options and improve vehicle efficiency.

- Provide outreach and education on Bus Rapid Transit funding and implementation, as well as related state-level transportation financing issues.
- Include transportation in the “I commit” program to encourage walk/bike/bus/telecommute/carpool options.
- Continue and expand regional walk/bike/bus-to-school “Safe Routes” program.
- Work with developers and local governments to encourage Transit Oriented Development.
- Increase the efficiency of the regional fleet.
- Promote longer term sustainable transportation financing and policy solutions.

## Smart Growth

Encourage best practices for community development.

- Create templates and model policies for communities to encourage high performance building codes, transit-oriented development and efficient land use.
- Share best practices for community design to encourage energy efficient land use patterns, increase mobility options, and ensure wise use of taxpayer funds.
- Host workshops and training for building inspectors, contractors, developers, designers, local government.
- Work for adoption of smart growth policies and code changes at all relevant levels.
- Encourage a model project to demonstrate the benefits of transit-oriented development.
- Support affordable housing and use of best practices for transit access, walk-ability and energy efficiency.

### Clean Energy Investment Fund

The shift to clean energy will yield a tremendous boost to the economy in the form of jobs, businesses, investments and energy cost savings. We can gain those benefits more quickly by offering financial incentives for energy efficiency, renewable energy, and infrastructure for the Clean Energy Economy.

The Clean Energy Investment Fund would provide a local mechanism to collect funds and distribute incentive payments for efficiency upgrades and renewable energy projects.

Offering incentives, rebates or low-interest loans to buy down a portion of the initial costs moves the tipping point closer for owners weighing the value and affordability of a project. Incentives will also make the partnership’s programs and policies more effective, accelerate the region’s transition to clean energy and help communities meet their climate protection and energy security goals.



Steve Smith at the wheel of his 68-mpg Honda Insight, at the staging area for the New Castle Burning Mountain Day Parade, July 21, 2007.

## Recycling

Divert waste from landfills.

- Post information online and in print materials about local recycling opportunities and benefits.
- Provide outreach on reduce, reuse and recycle concepts and projects.
- Coordinate a regional network for recycling advocates, landfill managers and waste management companies.
- Expand access to recycling facilities.
- Expand the variety of materials accepted.
- Promote markets for and purchase of recycled materials.

## Local Food Options

Increase cultivation and purchase of locally grown food.

- Provide online clearinghouse on local food options.
- Educate on connections between energy use, agriculture and our food system.
- Connect “I commit” pledge program to local food education groups.
- Encourage backyard and community gardening, home-based canning and freezing.
- Expand availability of locally grown food in grocery stores and restaurants.
- Establish farm-to-school food program.

## Endorsements as of May 1, 2008

Alliance for Sustainable Colorado  
Alpine Bank  
Aspen Skiing Company  
Basalt Green Team  
Glenwood Hot Springs Lodge & Pool  
Glenwood Springs Chamber Resort Association  
Glenwood Springs Cool Communities Committee  
Glenwood Springs Energy Efficiency Ad Hoc Committee  
Healthy Mountain Communities  
Miller's Dry Goods, Rifle  
New Castle Environmental Advisory Committee  
New Century Transportation Foundation  
Sierra Club, Roaring Fork Group  
Sustainability Center of the Rockies

Tripp Adams, True North Management  
Tom Baker, Carbondale town manager  
Scott Balcomb, Balcomb & Green  
Clare Bastable, Carbondale Environmental Board  
Steve & Jeanne Beckley, Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park  
Debbie Bruell, Roaring Fork Re-1 School Board  
Martha Cochran, Aspen Valley Land Trust  
Russ Criswell, Carbondale Trustee  
Leroy Duroux, Mayor of Basalt  
Bill Efting, Basalt town manager  
Scott Ely, President, Sunsense  
Don Ensign, Design Workshop co-founder  
Jon Fox-Rubin, Fiberforge  
Mark Gould, Gould Construction  
Doug Graybeal, Graybeal Architects  
Connie Harvey, Wilderness Workshop founder  
Susan Joy Hassol, Climate Communication  
Rick Heede, Climate Mitigation Services  
Tom Jankovsky, Sunlight Mountain Resort  
Jack Johnson, Aspen City Council  
John Katzenberger, Aspen Global Change Institute

Michael Kinsley, Rocky Mountain Institute, *Sustainable Cities*  
Soozie Lindbloom, Solar Energy International, *Solar in the Schools*  
Amory B. Lovins, Rocky Mountain Institute  
Joani Matranga, former CORE staff  
Bill McKibben, StepItUp07.org  
Ken Murphy, Glenwood Canyon Resort  
Jennifer Sanborn, Rifle City Council member  
Auden Schendler, Aspen Skiing Co.  
Dave Schroeder, New Castle Climate Action Advisory Commission  
Randy Udall, former director, CORE  
Heidi Van Genderen, Gov. Ritter's climate and energy advisor  
Marianne Virgili, Glenwood Springs Chamber Resort Association  
Johnny Weiss, Solar Energy International  
Breccia Wilson, Carbondale Environmental Board  
Dan Wolf, Paper Wise

### About the Regional Partnership Formation Project

The partnership grew out of a meeting of people interested in accelerating the shift to a clean energy economy, held in Carbondale on Nov. 28, 2007. From that meeting, a smaller group volunteered to shape and plan the partnership concept. The Regional Partnership effort is a joint project of the Community Office for Resource Efficiency (CORE) and the New Century Transportation Foundation (NCTF). The City of Aspen and Pitkin County Renewable Energy Mitigation Program provided seed funding for the partnership.

### Formation Project Team

Alice Laird, director, NCTF  
Bill Stirling, board chair, CORE  
Gary Goodson, executive director, CORE  
Jacque Whitsitt, board chair, NCTF  
Calla Rose Ostrander, project manager, Canary Initiative  
Tripp Adams, Basalt Green Team & True North Mgt.  
Dan Richardson, energy consultant, Schmueser Gordon Meyer  
Heather McGregor, communications consultant  
Valerie Borthwick, Executive Service Corps, consultant to team  
Neal Batson, Executive Service Corps, consultant to team



## Get on board with the Regional Partnership for a Clean Energy Economy

We'll all need to pull together to meet the energy, climate and sustainability goals of our region.  
Here are some ways you or your organization can help move this effort forward:

P.O. Box 428  
Carbondale, Colorado 81623

### Individuals • Families

- I endorse the partnership.
- Please add my name to the list above.

### Businesses • Institutions • Non-profits

- We endorse the partnership.
- Please add our name to the list above.

I/we would like to be a founding sponsor. My check, payable to "NCTF," is enclosed.

\$50  \$100  \$500  \$1,000  \$5,000  \$10,000  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

The New Century Transportation Foundation (NCTF), a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, is serving as fiscal agent for the partnership formation.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_