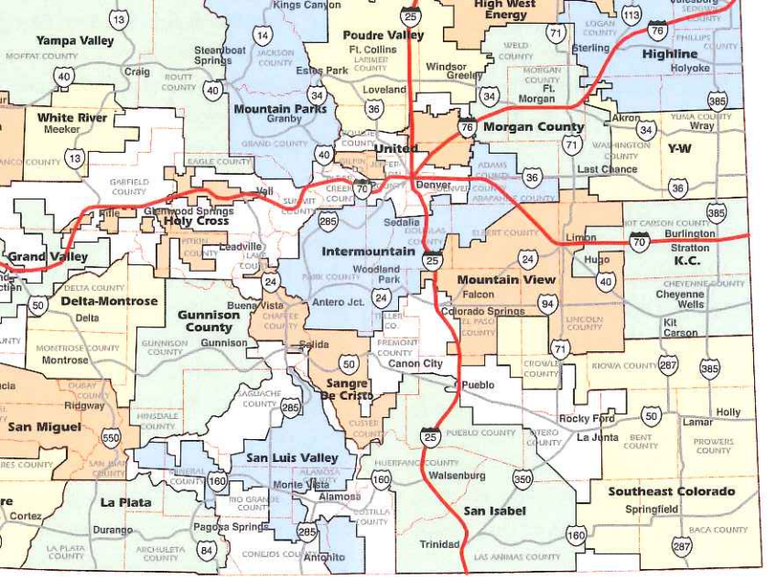


Colorado electric co-op areas are shown in various colors on the map.

White areas represent areas served by Xcel or other power providers.

perative Statistical Information

ber of loyees	Meters Served	Consumers Per Mile	Year Organized	Power Source	Total Miles Miles Line	Total Plant In Service ($)
11	32,319	10.06	1938	Tri-State	3,212	$115,092,992
53	15,749	8.15	1939	Tri-State	1,924	$60,243,879
44	17,716	11.45	1936	Xcel/WAPA	1,547	$58,644,272
42	10,246	10.3	1938	Tri-State	1,052	$33,500,000
52	10,392	2.0	1938	Tri-State	5,114	$79,134,860
58	54,592	18.8	1939	Xcel/WAPA	2,910	$214,212,942
00	138,350	14.7	1938	Xcel/WAPA	9,404	$623,691,313
27	6,201	2.19	1946	Tri-State	2,882	$41,771,731
10	43,091	12.36	1939	Tri-State	3,487	$252,098,470
40	8,054	2.8	1937	Tri-State	2,862	$55,959,957
71	19,450	10.6	1946	Tri-State	1,830	$80,000,000
35	45,800	7.65	1941	Tri-State	5,986	$238,000,000
91	35,737	9.2	1939	Tri-State	3,877	$146,129,716
91	23,669	5.4	1938	Tri-State	4,373	$145,474,144
46	12,168	4.4	1937	Tri-State	2,756	$83,010,503
60	13,765	7.0	1938	Tri-State	1,897	$63,809,393
39	11,927	6.83	1940	Tri-State	1,746	$47,289,898
52	10,122	1.8	1937	Tri-State	5,651	$84,689,178
61	65,285	11.8	1938	Tri-State	5,566	$223,528,597
32	3,238	3.53	1945	Tri-State	918	$28,493,424
48	8,861	2.31	1945	Tri-State	4,027	$78,083,379
52	26,221	9.2	1940	Xcel/WAPA	2,837	$108,156,099
36	**696,340**	**avg. 7.63**			**92,088**	**$3,483,945,165**
g Colorado						
43	9,054	2.78	1939	Tri-State	3,486	$55,263,403
36	18,347	5.0	1938	Deseret G&T/WAPA	3,610	$130,895,260
39	22,864	2.55	1938	Tri-State	4,916	$170,771,755
23	33,022	8.0	1948	Sunflower	4,218	$266,000,000

The Colorado Rural Electric Association is the statewide service organization representing Colorado's electric cooperatives. CREA, as it is most commonly called, was organized in 1945 to provide a variety of services to its member cooperatives. Through CREA, the individual cooperatives share in the advantage of a larger utility operation, but control and ownership is maintained at the local level.

CREA's membership is composed of electric distribution cooperatives and one generation and transmission cooperative. The Association located in Denver, represents the collective efforts of the electric cooperatives in a variety of fields including: legislative representation at the state and national levels, risk management, educational seminars for its directors and employees, youth programs and a communications program centered around its monthly consumer publication, *Colorado Country Life*.

CREA is governed by a board of directors made up of one representative from each of its member cooperatives.

Strength and service exist when co-ops work together. This is the best way to describe CREA. CREA neither generates nor distributes power, but it represents and serves the people who do, as well as representing over a million rural electric consumers in Colorado.

CREA

Colorado Rural Electric Association

For more information please contact:
Kent L. Singer, Executive Director
5400 N. Washington Street • Denver, CO 80216
303-455-2700 • www.crea.coop

Touchstone Energy®

COLORADO'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

CREA

COLORADO RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

Providing innovative solutions for today's electric industry

Attachment A

From the fertile Eastern Plains to the orchards of the Western Slope, from the spectacular high country of the Rockies to the deep valleys of the Four Corners, Colorado covers more than 104,000 square miles of the most beautiful, rugged and isolated terrain in the United States.

Throughout the state you will find people working, farming, living and raising their families far from the bright lights of the major cities. Yet electricity keeps life humming here, too, in towns and communities, ski resorts and industries, commercial businesses and homes. Electricity keeps life moving, thanks to the electric cooperatives of Colorado.

What is a Cooperative?

- A cooperative is a not-for-profit business owned by those it serves.
- A cooperative offers membership to any who are eligible for its services, regardless of race, sex, national origin, religion or political affiliation.
- A cooperative is democratically controlled, with each member having an equal vote.
- A cooperative returns any net savings from its operations to its members.
- A cooperative is committed to communicating with and educating its members.
- An electric distribution cooperative buys electricity from a supplier and provides distribution lines to bring that electricity to homes and businesses within its service territory.

Don't Electric Cooperatives Just Serve in the Country?

When the rural electric program began, cooperatives were established by the people living in rural areas who could not obtain electric service from other utilities. Today, Colorado's cooperatives serve not only farms and ranches, but also towns and cities, big businesses and major industries. Most of Colorado's ski resorts are served by cooperatives. Some areas that were once rural are now major suburban communities, still served by cooperatives.

Aren't Electric Cooperatives Government Owned?

No. Electric cooperatives are independent, and are operated on a cooperative not-for-profit basis for the mutual benefit of their members. If you are a member of an electric cooperative, you are an owner with the right to vote in director elections and receive capital credits when the cooperative collects more revenue than is required for its operation and debt service.

Electric cooperatives do have access to loans through the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The co-ops have also organized their own lending institution, the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC). Many cooperatives also borrow money from Denver-based CoBank, as well as from banks and lending institutions across the country.

What Are the Other Types of Electric Utilities and How Do they Differ?

In Colorado, in addition to cooperatives, there are investor-owned utilities and municipal utilities. Investor-owned utilities, like Xcel, are for-profit corporations with stockholders who may or may not be served by the Xcel system. Municipal systems serve specific cities and are operated by the city government with an elected board, either a city council or a special utility board. Municipal systems are also not-for-profit, but excess revenues from the utility operation may be used to provide other city services, such as water and sewer services.

With Most of Colorado Now Receiving Service, Isn't the Job of the Electric Cooperatives Finished?

No, not unless the job of every utility is finished. Just as Xcel and other utilities must maintain and update their systems to continue to provide reliable power, so must the electric cooperatives. To serve both isolated, sparsely populated areas of the state and the growing cities, towns and resort areas, Colorado's electric cooperatives must constantly strive to grow with the needs of their consumers. As not-for-profit, member-owned utilities, electric cooperatives represent the strong tradition of self-reliance that this state was built upon. They've done a good job through the years, and they will continue to play an important role in Colorado in the years to come.

Where Do These Cooperatives Get the Power They Provide to Their Consumers?

Eighteen Colorado cooperatives are members of Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, a wholesale power supplier that is cooperatively-owned and governed by representatives of its 44 member systems. Tri-State G&T, based in Westminster, Colorado, employs over 1,200 people, has assets in excess of $3.7 billion, and ranks as one of the nation's major utilities. With its ownership in numerous generating plants, more than 5,300 miles of transmission lines and its state-of-the-art dispatching center, Tri-State provides more than 14 million megawatt-hours of electricity to its members in Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico and Wyoming.

Four cooperatives in Colorado purchase power from Xcel Energy, formerly Public Service Company of Colorado. Xcel is an investor-owned utility headquartered in Minneapolis. It generates 15,381 megawatts of electricity annually to serve its customers in Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan.

Is Any of This Power Generated Using Renewable Resources?

Nationally co-ops get 11 percent of their power from renewable resources, having increased their purchased and owned renewable energy capacity by 61 percent and 65 percent respectively in both 2007 and 2008.

Colorado's generation and transmission co-op continues to add more renewable resources. In 2010, it added purchased power from a 51-megawatt wind farm on the eastern plains and a 30-megawatt solar installation that is among the largest photovoltaic projects in the world. Other co-op renewable projects include smaller solar farms, a landfill biomass project, small hydro projects and geothermal installations across the state.

All of Colorado's co-ops offer their members the opportunity to buy green power or renewable credits.

Do Electric Co-ops Support Efforts in Energy Efficiency?

Yes. Electric co-ops have supported and encouraged energy efficiency since their inception in the 1930 and '40s. Today that frugality continues as electric cooperatives across the state have implemented a variety of policies and programs encouraging energy efficiency. Those programs include rebates for energy-efficient appliances that have been in place since 1985, time-of-use rates to encourage energy consumption during off-peak hours, the distribution of thousands of energy-saving compact fluorescent light bulbs and many other programs.

Co-ops have also supported pilot projects testing air source heat pumps and specialized energy efficient windows. They have participated in programs to replace an entire community's street lights with efficient LED lights. They have replaced hundreds of inefficient motors on farms and ranches throughout the state with efficient electric motors.

And co-ops take energy efficiency seriously within their own systems, working constantly to cut line loss and to incorporate the latest in energy efficiency technology into their offices and headquarters. Energy efficiency is a way of life for electric co-ops.

How Important Are Electric Coo Colorado's Economy?

The cooperatives of Colorado do more act as major employers, with over 2,94 22 distribution systems and Tri-State. meters.

Unlike some other types of not-for-p tives pay taxes, over $29.4 million in ad alone. They also pay millions of dollars tional services to the cities and towns t

And, there's more. Cooperative direc active in their communities and provide cooperatives have charitable program their bills up to the next dollar. That mo munity through donations made by a cooperatives have helped build wastew tion networks. Co-ops have installed schools with access to educational prog services to enhance the infrastructure

The Colorado Women's Task Force — the cooperatives — has raised money programs, a museum addition and sch and educational programming.

Co-ops are a vital part of the comm involvement and in giving back to those

Touchs

Electric Cooperatives Are Part

Local ownership, local control and relia tric cooperative. No one else can provid many cooperatives across the country Touchstone Energy®. When you see the know that you are working with a coop organization of electric cooperatives th lence that can't be surpassed by any ot true test of value.

The Colorado Rural Electric Association joins its member electric cooperatives in their strong Commitment to Community

Colorado's electric cooperatives have been dedicated to this key cooperative principal — Commitment to Community — since their beginnings. Today CREA is initiating a new program to further this key commitment: The Colorado EnergyWise Project.

With this project, we are asking all Colorado electric co-ops to further promote the wise use of energy to benefit their member-owners and their communities.

As part of this project, CREA has proposed working with the state to identify state-owned facilities that need efficiency upgrades. We are asking each CREA member co-op to assist in this effort, and to work with CREA to improve the energy efficiency of at least one state facility in its service territory. In addition, CREA is planning to initiate additional efficiency programs to improve the quality of life for co-op member-owners throughout Colorado.

This is all part of what it means to be a co-op:
- commitment to comfort
- commitment to savings
- commitment to community

Please help us in this effort.

Contact Geoff Hier at 303-455-2700 ext. 702 or email ghier@coloradorea.org for more infromation.

Colorado's Touchstone Energy Cooperative, in partnership with CREA, Tri-State and community based lenders, are dedicated to promoting the wise use of electric energy to reduce costs and protect our environment.

ENERGYWISE WILL BRING THESE PROGRAMS TO YOU

- Easy Internet access to energy saving tools
- "Green Button" energy-efficiency information programs
- Education for member owners on the value of energy efficiency
- Promotion of innovative energy-efficiency products
- Rebates for energy-efficiency products
- Partnerships with community based lenders to finance energy efficiency projects
- Partnerships with state agencies to save taxpayer dollars
- Cash for clunkers to take inefficient appliances out of circulation
- Weatherization programs to increase member comfort and reduce costs
- Verification services to make sure energy efficiency projects are implemented appropriately
- Promote energy-efficiency research and design through a Science Fair Scholarship

SPONSORS

CREA

TRI-STATE Generation and Transmission Association, Inc.
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

CoBANK
COOPERATIVE. CONNECTED. COMMITTED.

Independent Bankers of Colorado

MOUNTAIN WEST Credit Union Association

COLORADO Energy Wise PROJECT

Touchstone Energy®

CREA

COLORADO RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

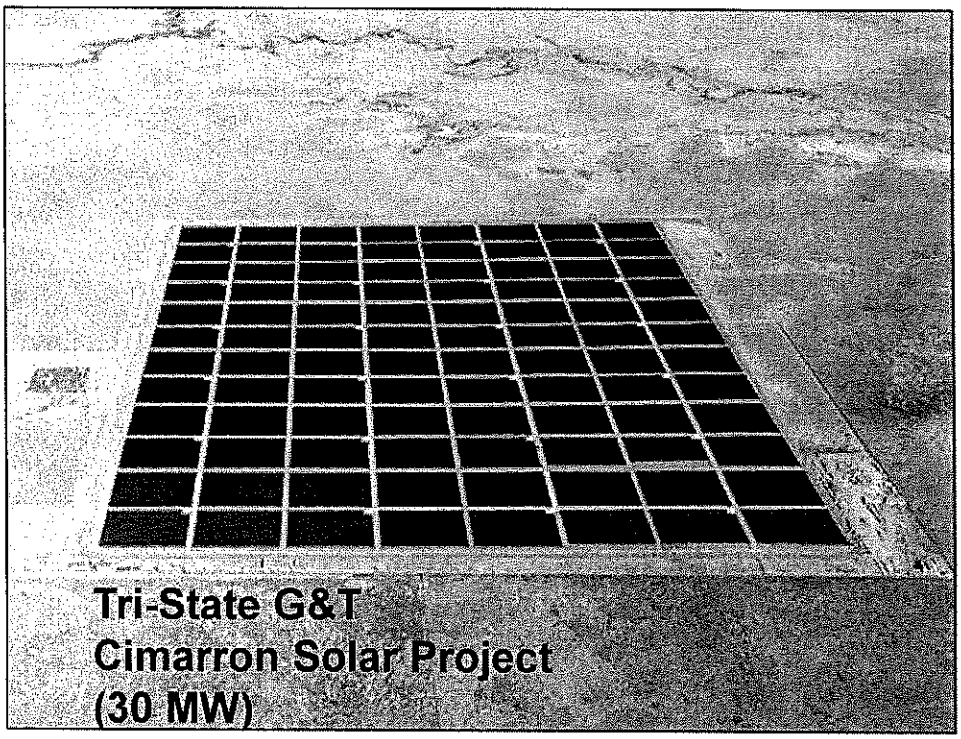
Overview of Colorado's Rural Electric Cooperatives and Tri-State G&T

Presentation to the House Transportation & Energy Committee

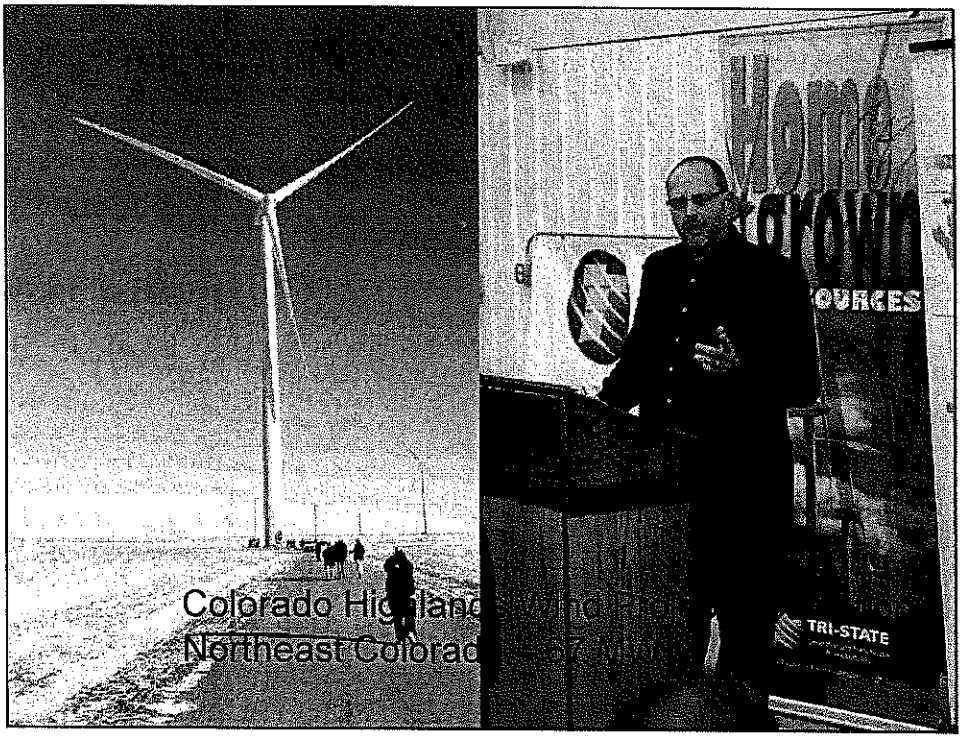
March 7, 2013

Colorado Rural Electric Association
Kent Singer, Executive Director
Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc.
Dave Lock, Senior Manager, Government Relations

CREA
COLORADO RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

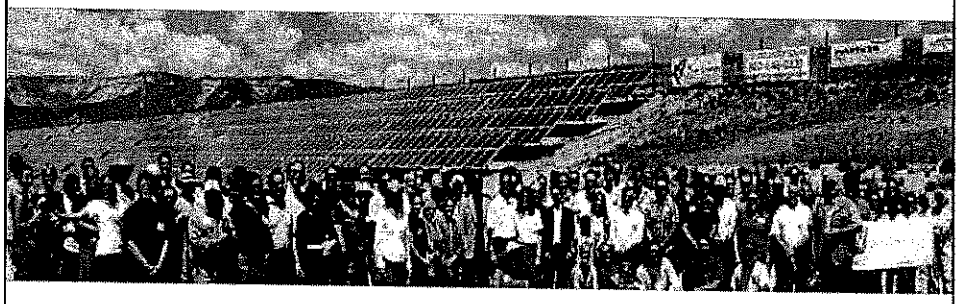


Tri-State G&T
Cimarron Solar Project
(30 MW)



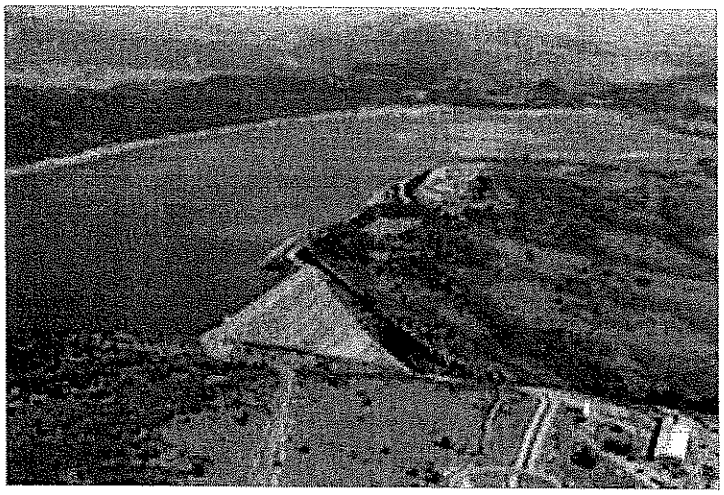
Colorado Highlands Wind Project
Northeast Colorado

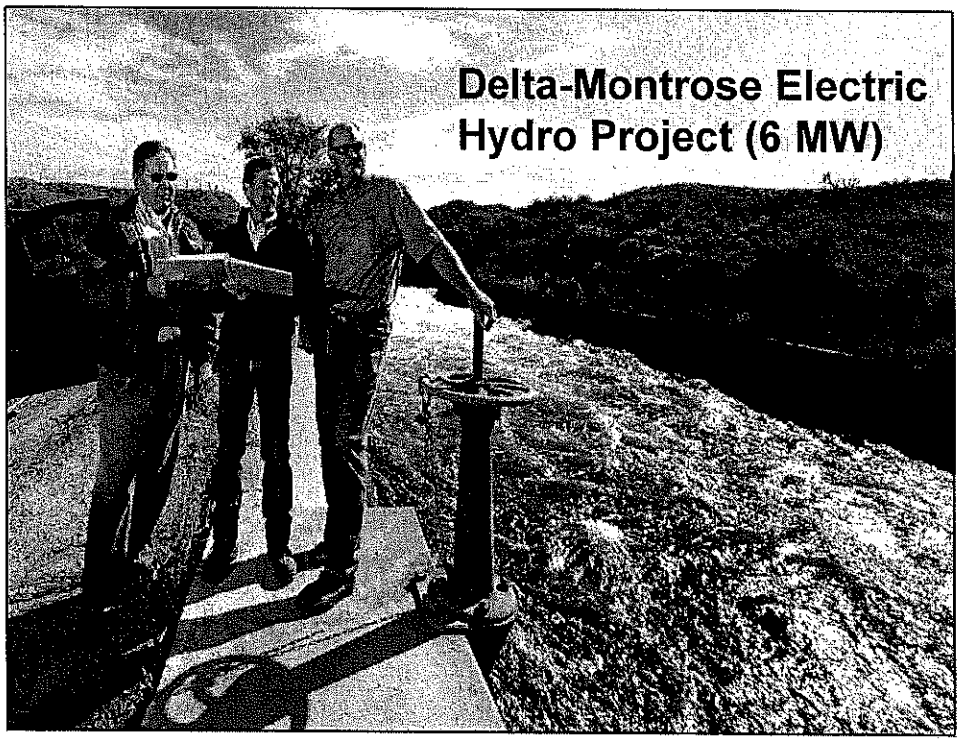
Holy Cross Energy Garfield County Solar Array

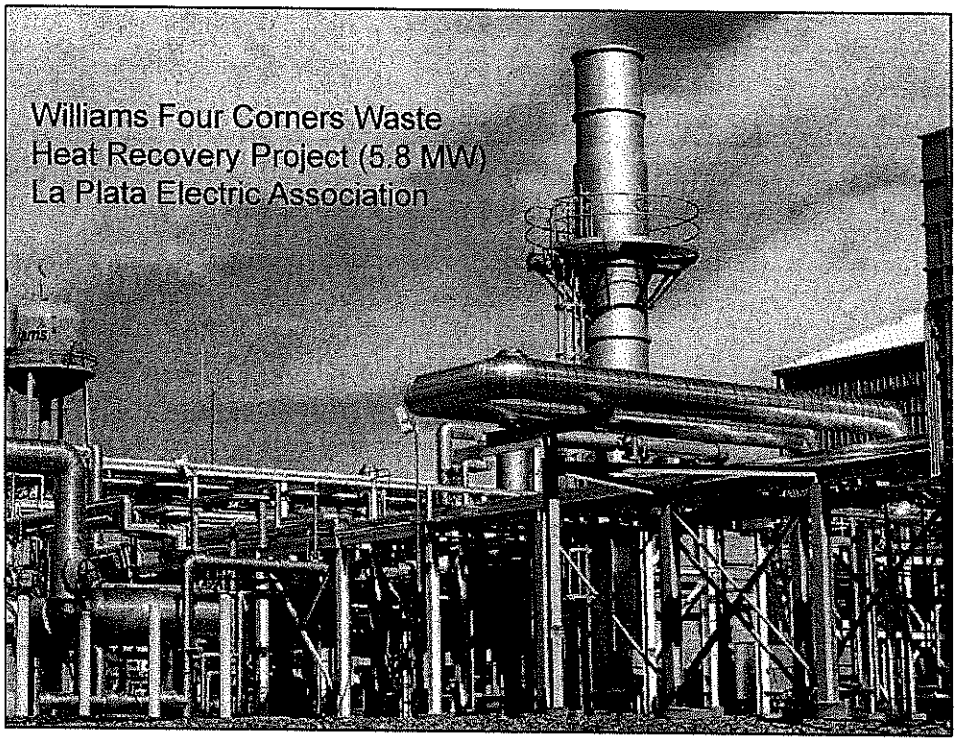


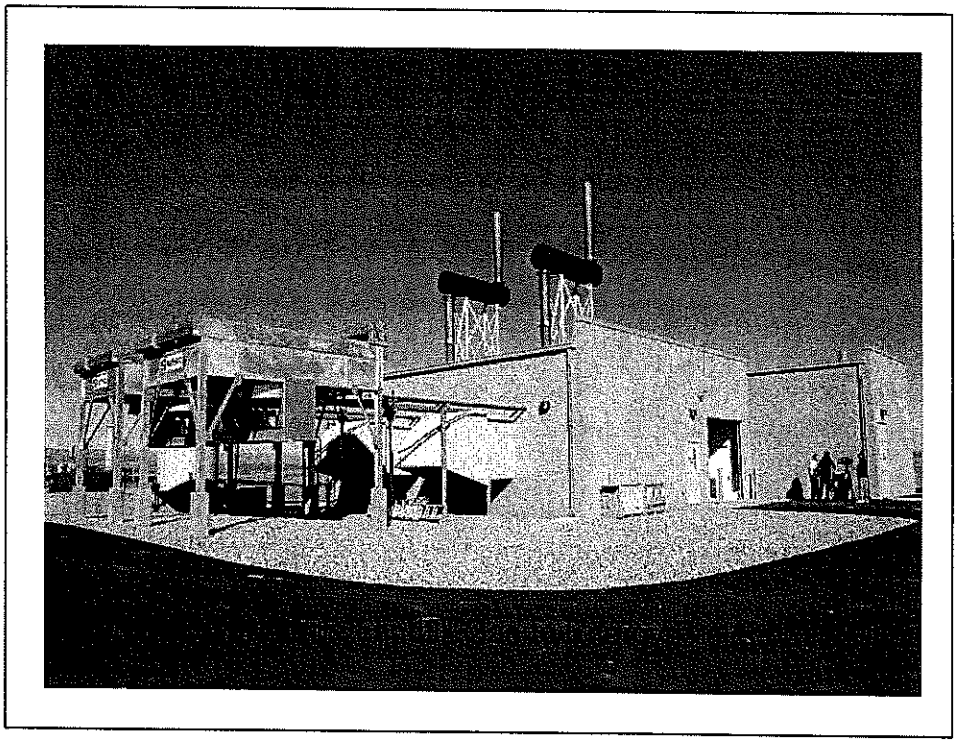
Garfield County Airport Solar Array facts:
858 kW (3,575 - 240-watt panels)
Five acres at the Garfield County Airport in Rifle, Colorado
Projected Annual Output: 1,500,000 kWh, $170,000 of savings, 2.7 million lbs. of CO_2 saved
Lifespan: 50 years

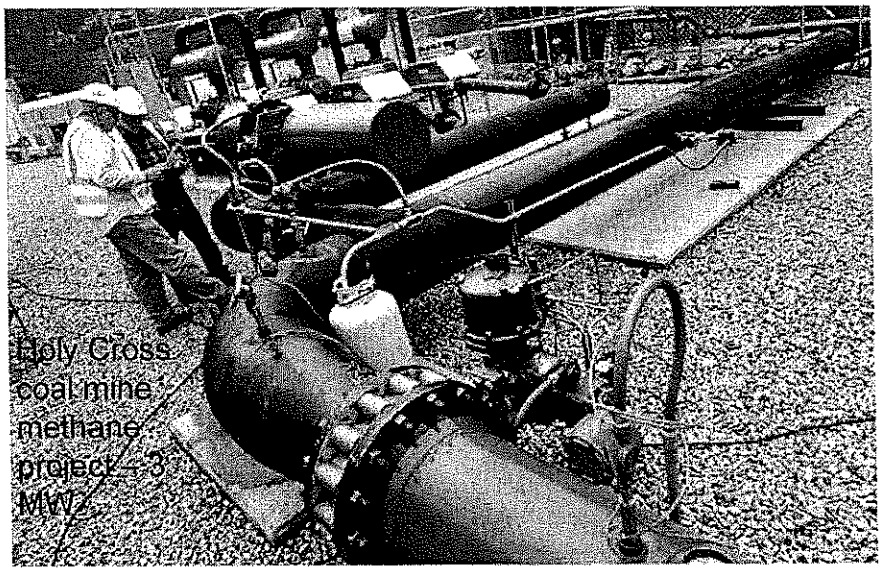
Poudre Valley REA Carter Lake Hydroelectric Project (2.6 MW)





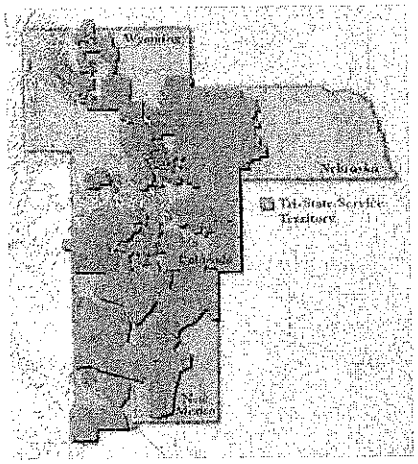

Williams Four Corners Waste
Heat Recovery Project (5.8 MW)
La Plata Electric Association





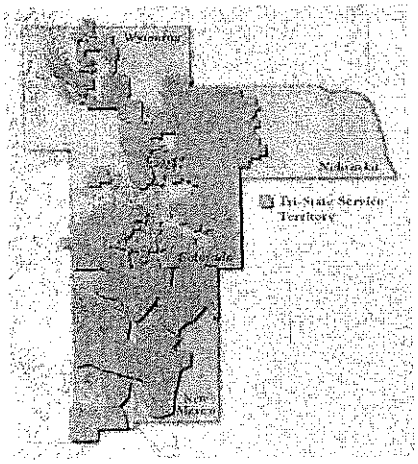
Engineers Don Willbanks, left, and Jay Thompson inspect the pipeline carrying methane gas from the nearby Oxbow Mine in Somerset. As part of the 3MW LLC project owned by Aspen Skiing, the gas will be converted to electricity and used to power Aspen Skiing's operations. (*Photos by Chris Council, Aspen Daily News*)

COLORADO
EnergyWise
Project



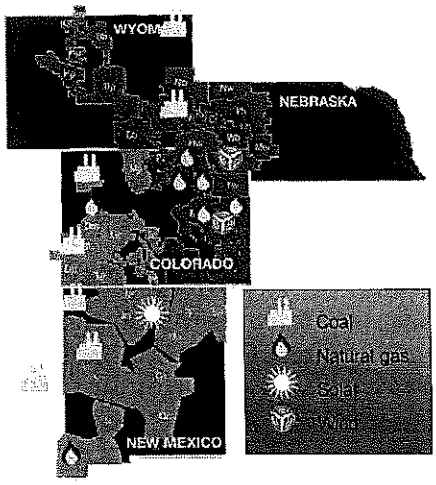
TRI-STATE G&T

- Not-for-profit wholesale co-op
- Power supplier to 44 members
- Member systems serve approximately 1.5 million customers
- 200,000 square miles of service territory
- 5,300 miles of transmission
- Own all or part of 12 generation plants in 4 states



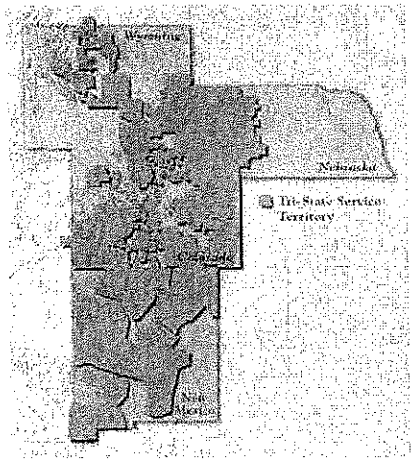
TRI-STATE G&T

- Capital assets = $4.3 billion
- 2012 revenues = $1.3 billion
- Full-time employees = 1,500
- Serve 18 CO co-ops (of 22)
- Serve 56 of 64 CO's counties
- CO property tax=$16.2 million
- Sales = 55% C/I; 32% resident.; 8% irrigation; 5% misc.



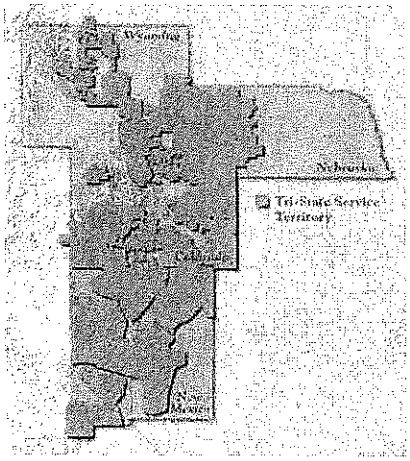
SUPPLY RESOURCES

- Base load coal resources - 1,869 MW
- Intermediate and peaking load natural gas and oil resources - 857 MW
- Renewable energy - 773 MW
- Contracts, non-resource specific - 485 MW
- Total - 3,984 MW



TRI-STATE G&T

- Affordable
- Reliable
- Environmentally responsible



TRI-STATE G&T

- Self-governed by board
  - Each member represented
- Board sets rates; makes resource decisions
- Postage stamp rate
- Interstate business