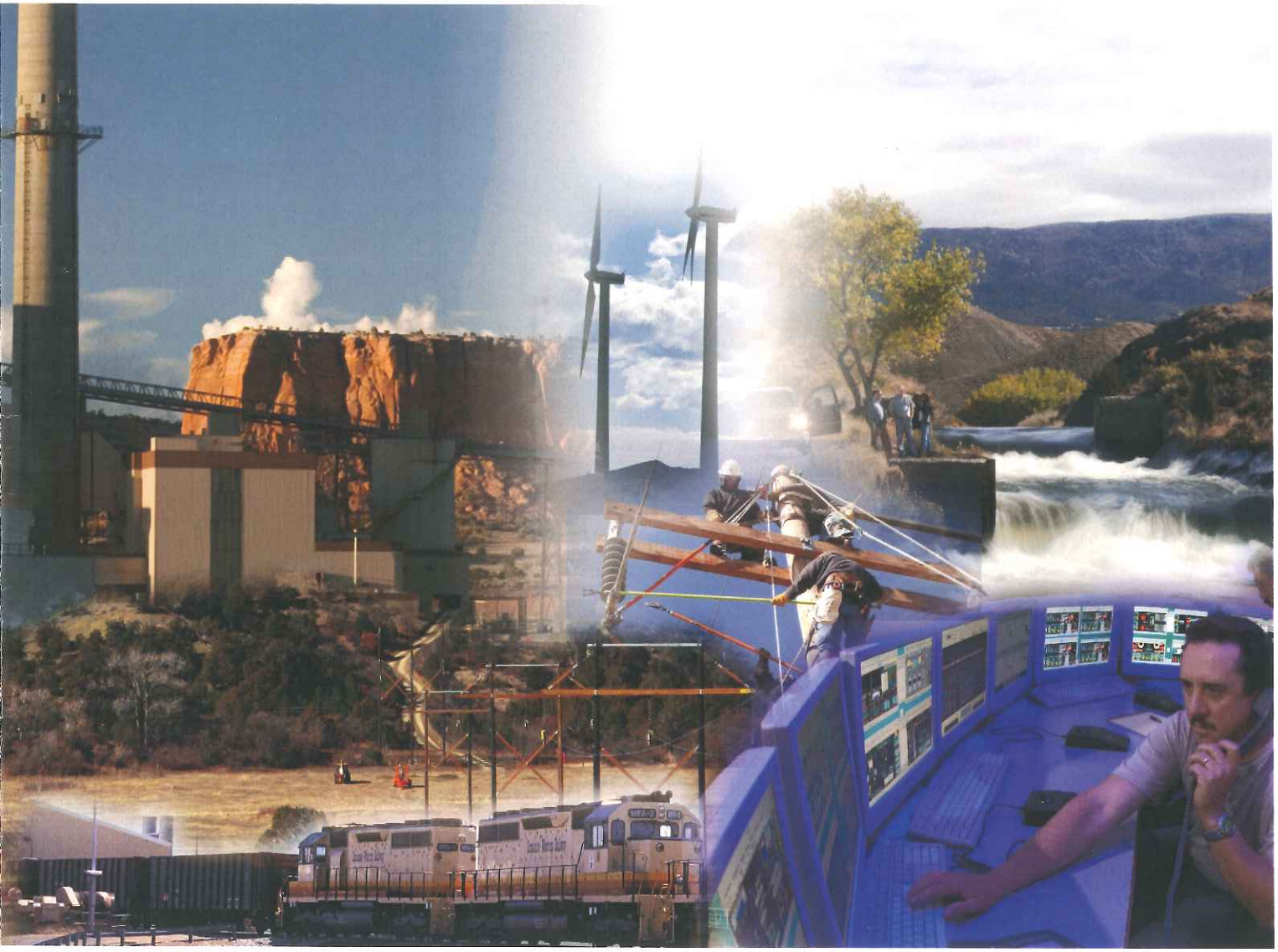
TRI-STATE
Generation and Transmission Association, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association is a wholesale electric power supplier headquartered in Westminster, Colo., owned by the 44 electric cooperatives that it serves. Tri-State generates and delivers electricity to its member systems throughout a 250,000 square-mile service territory across Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico and Wyoming, serving a population of approximately 1.5 million consumers.

Tri-State was founded in 1952 to provide a reliable, long-term, cost-based supply of electricity to its membership. Today the G&T serves the power needs of a diverse, growing membership and employs 1,200 people throughout its four-state service area. The association's mission is to provide its member-owners a reliable, cost-based supply of electricity while maintaining a sound financial position through effective utilization of human, capital and physical resources in accordance with cooperative principles.

For nearly 60 years, Tri-State has supplied energy to people and businesses in small towns and rural communities in the West, continually working to find innovative means of providing the power consumers need, including investing in new technology and renewable energy while improving energy efficiency. These efforts result in the reliable, affordable and responsible electricity people have come to expect from Tri-State.

Member systems

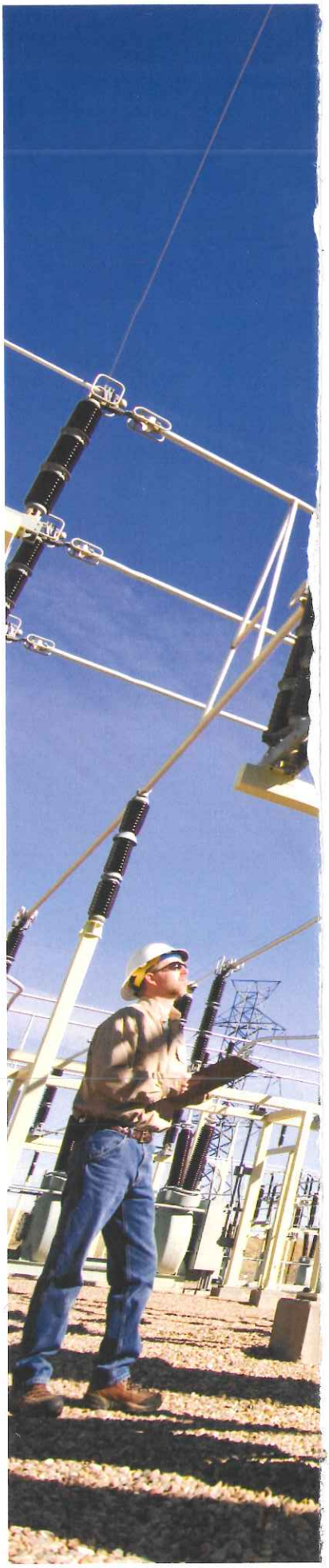
Tri-State's 44 member distribution systems (18 in Colorado, 12 in New Mexico, eight in Wyoming and six in Nebraska) directly supply electricity to rural residences, farms and ranches, cities, towns and suburban communities, as well as large and small commercial business and industries.

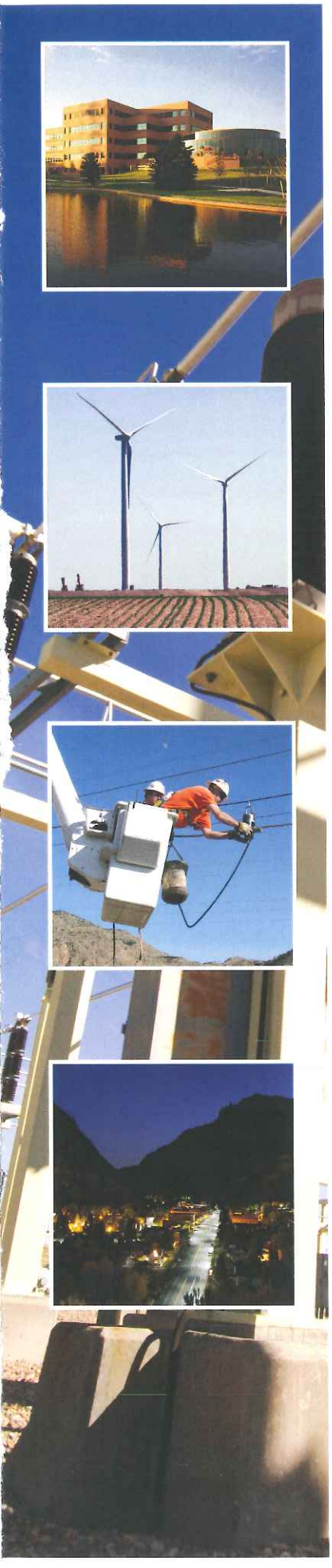
Each of the association's member cooperatives is a not-for-profit, democratically-controlled organization owned by the consumers it serves and is governed by members who actively participate in the voting process. Tri-State's board of directors is made up of one representative from each of its 44 member co-ops.

Diverse generation portfolio

Tri-State's power is generated through a combination of owned baseload and peaking power plants that use coal and natural gas as their primary fuels, supplemented by purchased power, federal hydroelectricity allocations and renewable resource technologies. To meet the steady growth in demand for electricity, the association has added new energy resources to its generation mix over the years and today, Tri-State has more than 3,800 megawatts of capacity available in its diverse generation resource portfolio.

Like most major power suppliers, Tri-State focuses on both the present and future power requirements of its members that ultimately deliver the power to end-use consumers. Its resource planning process involves projecting future needs, assessing the existing assets available to meet those needs and identifying any resource gap so that it can continue to provide reliable and affordable electricity.





Renewable energy

To expand its renewable resource portfolio, in 2009 Tri-State signed agreements to purchase power generated at two renewable projects – the Kit Carson Windpower Project in east-central Colorado and the Cimarron Solar Project, located in northeastern New Mexico.

The Kit Carson wind facility, a joint project between Tri-State and Duke Energy, consists of 34 1.5-megawatt G.E. turbines, generating 51 megawatts of electricity – enough power to serve the needs of 12,000 to 14,000 average homes. The Cimarron Solar Project includes 500,000 photovoltaic panels designed to generate 30 megawatts of electricity, meeting the equivalent needs of 9,000 average homes. The project, one of the nation's largest, is a joint development between Tri-State and First Solar, Inc., with Southern Company being the facility's owner and operator in conjunction with Turner Renewable Energy.

Additionally, Tri-State continues to be one of the region's principal buyers of federal hydropower. The association will continue to add renewable power to its portfolio to further diversify its energy resources and to meet renewable portfolio standards on behalf of its member co-ops.

In an effort to encourage the proliferation of local and community-based renewable energy projects, Tri-State has in place a Member Local Renewable Project Policy. This renewable incentive program is aimed at providing members with financial assistance from Tri-State for the development of local renewable energy projects that help meet renewable portfolio standards. Projects that have come online include small-scale solar, micro-hydro and heat recovery technologies – which complement Tri-State's growing utility-scale renewable portfolio.

Transmission system

Tri-State owns (wholly or jointly) or has maintenance responsibilities for a vast multi-state, interconnected transmission network consisting of more than 5,200 miles of high-voltage line across its service territory, along with an extensive network of substations, telecommunications sites, maintenance centers and warehouse facilities. Maintaining and expanding the system to ensure safe and dependable power delivery is a key element in the association's mission of providing reliable and affordable electricity.

With the existing transmission system reaching points of being fully subscribed, Tri-State's current efforts are focused on rebuilding and expanding portions of its critical infrastructure to enhance power reliability and stability to its member co-ops, while also creating opportunities for the development of new energy resources. The association also is positioning itself as a potential participant in a number of planned regional projects that economically and operationally support its transmission goals while providing value to its membership.

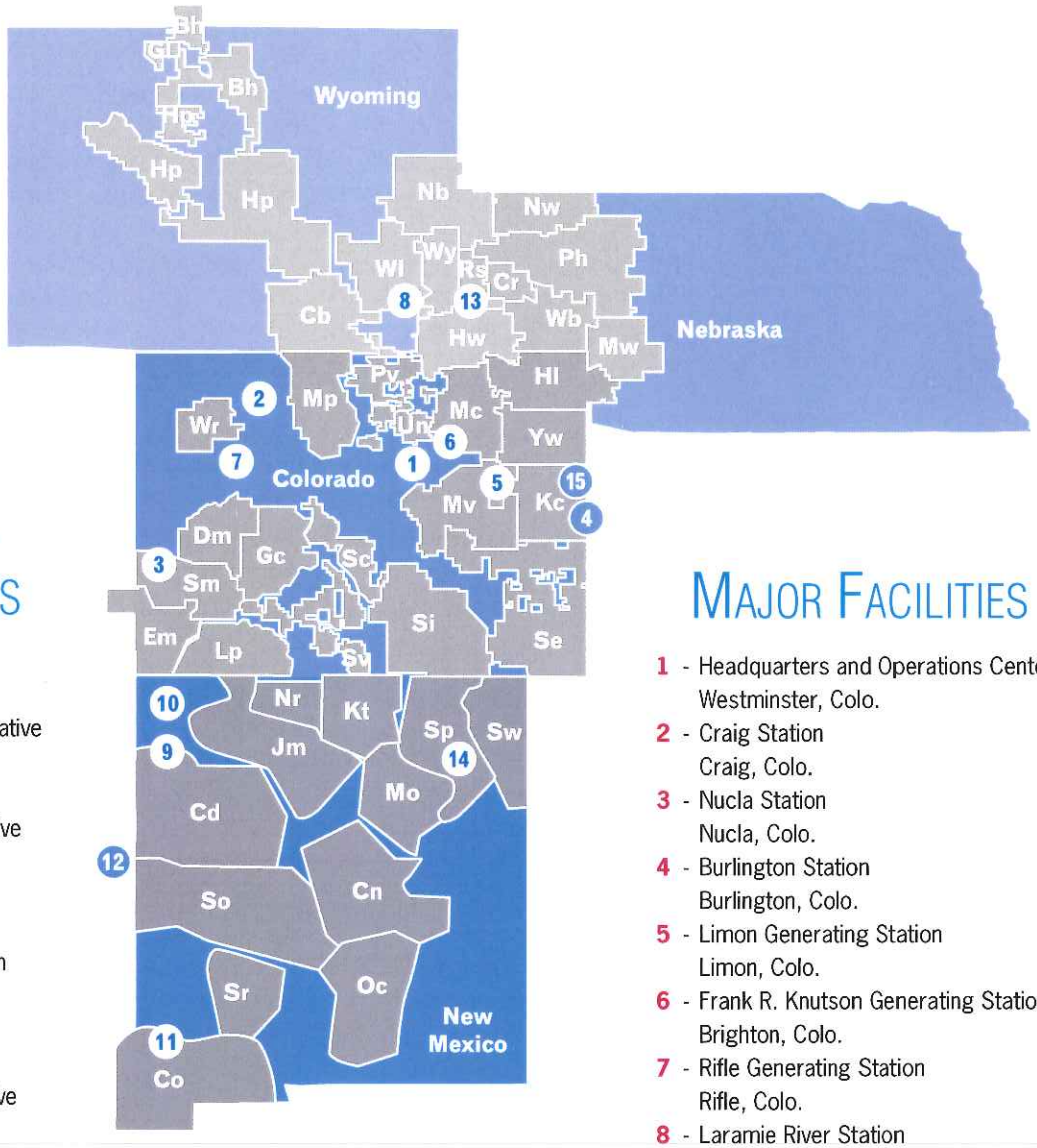
Energy efficiency

While pursuing innovative means of producing and providing energy is an ongoing effort, enhancing the efficient generation, delivery and use of power is an important focus of Tri-State and its member co-ops. Tri-State recognizes that one of the most significant opportunities for energy efficiency starts with its existing facilities, where the association has taken numerous steps to identify and pursue improved operating efficiencies within its power plants and transmission system.

The association's long-standing Energy Efficiency Credits program helps and encourages consumers, businesses and local governments to use power more wisely. Over the years, the program has been expanded to include ENERGY STAR®-rated household appliances, a wider deployment of energy-saving technologies such as LED lighting and support for smart grid technologies. Tri-State also promotes demand-side programs that help meet the unique needs of rural consumers and businesses. Combined, these efforts make the entire system more proficient, productive and sustainable.

Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc.

The power behind your local electric co-op



Tri-State's 44 Member Systems

Bh – Big Horn Rural Electric Company
Cb – Carbon Power & Light
Cn – Central New Mexico Electric Cooperative
Cr – Chimney Rock Public Power District
Co – Columbus Electric Cooperative
Cd – Continental Divide Electric Cooperative
Dm – Delta-Montrose Electric Association
Em – Empire Electric Association
Gl – Garland Light & Power Company
Gc – Gunnison County Electric Association
Hp – High Plains Power
Hw – High West Energy
Hl – Highline Electric Association
Jm – Jemez Mountains Electric Cooperative
Kc – K.C. Electric Association
Kt – Kit Carson Electric Cooperative
Lp – La Plata Electric Association
Mw – The Midwest Electric Cooperative Corp.
Mo – Mora-San Miguel Electric Cooperative
Mc – Morgan County Rural Electric Association
Mp – Mountain Parks Electric
Mv – Mountain View Electric Association
Nb – Niobrara Electric Association
Nr – Northern Rio Arriba Electric Cooperative
Nw – Northwest Rural Public Power District
Oc – Otero County Electric Cooperative
Ph – Panhandle Rural Electric Membership
Pv – Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association
Rs – Roosevelt Public Power District
Si – San Isabel Electric Association
Sv – San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative
Sm – San Miguel Power Association
Sc – Sangre De Cristo Electric Association
Sr – Sierra Electric Cooperative
So – Socorro Electric Cooperative
Se – Southeast Colorado Power Association
Sw – Southwestern Electric Cooperative
Sp – Springer Electric Cooperative
Un – United Power
Wb – Wheat Belt Public Power District
Wl – Wheatland Rural Electric Association
Wr – White River Electric Association
Wy – Wyrulec Company
Yw – Y-W Electric Association

Major Facilities

1 - Headquarters and Operations Center
Westminster, Colo.
2 - Craig Station
Craig, Colo.
3 - Nucla Station
Nucla, Colo.
4 - Burlington Station
Burlington, Colo.
5 - Limon Generating Station
Limon, Colo.
6 - Frank R. Knutson Generating Station
Brighton, Colo.
7 - Rifle Generating Station
Rifle, Colo.
8 - Laramie River Station
Wheatland, Wyo.
9 - Escalante Generating Station
Prewitt, N.M.
10 - San Juan Generating Station
Farmington, N.M.
11 - Pyramid Generating Station
Lordsburg, N.M.
12 - Springerville Generating Station
Springerville, Ariz.
13 - David A. Hamil DC Tie
Stegall, Neb.
14 - Cimarron Solar Project
Springer, N.M.
15 - Kit Carson Windpower Project
Burlington, Colo.

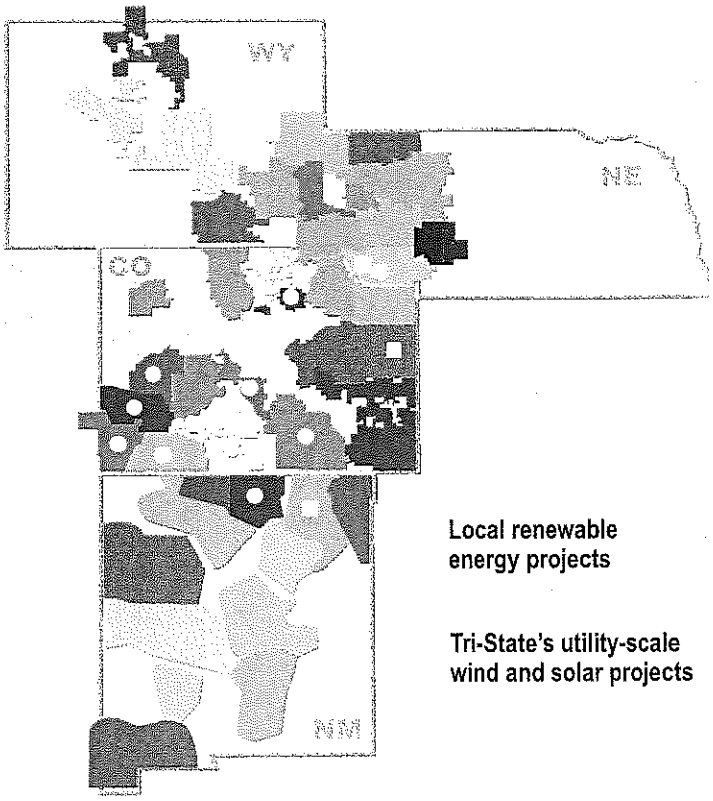
P.O. Box 33695 • Denver, Colorado • www.tristate.coop

Cultivating home-grown resources

Electric cooperatives have a unique role in the development of local, community-based renewable energy and distributed generation projects. Tri-State has an aggressive, first-of-its-kind in the nation program to incentivize the development of local renewable projects within its members' service territories – which to date add up to 44 megawatts of renewable electricity.

The incentive program enables Tri-State members to develop local renewable resources that diversify their resource base. From small hydropower systems, to recovered heat projects at natural gas processing plants to leading the way in community solar gardens – electric co-ops are harvesting energy resources and keeping the economy buzzing at the same time.

Currently, eleven Tri-State member co-ops receive power from a variety of local renewable energy projects.



Local renewable energy projects

Tri-State's utility-scale wind and solar projects

Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc.
1100 W. 116th Avenue, Westminster, CO 80234
tristate.coop

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Electric co-ops are harnessing the power of nature's resources

The sun shines brightly in the West, the wind blows swiftly across the plains and water flows freely throughout the Rocky Mountains. Tri-State and its member co-ops are committed to harnessing these renewable sources of energy and incorporating them into our generation mix to deliver value to electric cooperative consumers throughout our service territory.

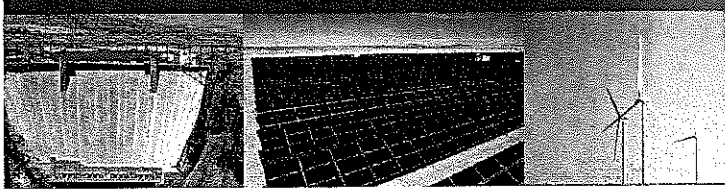
Tri-State's renewable energy portfolio is growing at a pace that makes sense for our member co-ops and the rural communities they energize. Today, we receive power from several utility-scale facilities:

Hydroelectricity

Approximately 12 percent of the power Tri-State delivers to its member co-ops comes from the federal hydropower system.

Wind

Tri-State has long-term contracts to purchase all the electricity generated at the 51-megawatt Kit Carson Windpower project (Burlington, Colo.) and the 67-megawatt Colorado Highlands Wind project (Fleming, Colo.).

Solar

Tri-State purchases all the power generated at the country's largest cooperative solar site – the 30-megawatt Cimarron Solar Facility in northeastern New Mexico.