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November 2008

Hello,

Greetings from the Governor's Energy Office (GEO). We hope you enjoy this month's edition of the GEO E-news.

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#### The Governor's Excellence in Renewable Energy Awards

The GEO has announced the second annual "Governor's Excellence in Renewable Energy Awards" to recognize individuals, businesses, institutions and nonprofits that are advancing renewable energy in outstanding ways in Colorado.



The awards were created to honor outstanding contributions that protect Colorado's environment and provide clean power through the promotion, usage, implementation and technology development of renewable energy in Colorado.

All Coloradans are encouraged to nominate candidates for a "2008 Governor's Excellence in Renewable Energy Award." For more information on the awards and to submit an online nomination, visit the Governor's Energy Office website at [www.colorado.gov/energy](http://www.colorado.gov/energy)

### Energy Performance Contracting Program Continues to Grow

The GEO's Energy Performance Contracting Program continues to work with state agencies, higher education institutions, counties, municipalities, and school districts, to improve the energy efficiency of their existing buildings. This month the GEO expanded its partner list with 4 new entities, bringing the total number of partners that have joined the program in the past year to 61.

If you are interested in learning more about how you can improve the efficiency of your buildings with little or no capital funding, visit [the GEO website](#).

### High Performance Design Program Request for Proposals

The GEO is working to change the way buildings are designed and built to capture environmental improvements from the start of the project, before opportunities are lost forever.

"High performance design" helps reduce consumption of natural resources and minimize environmental impacts, increases productivity of building occupants, decreases maintenance and utility expenses, and provides an overall better building within the constraints of typical construction budgets.

The GEO is currently soliciting proposals for consulting services for the High Performance Design Program. To view the Request for Proposals visit the [Colorado BIDS website](#).

### The GEO is Now Accepting Partnership Applications for its Residential Programs

The GEO is currently accepting applications from partners interested in administering its residential programs. The GEO is looking to partner with local governments, non-profits, and utilities on these programs for communities, who will administer these programs at a local level to homeowners. The residential programs include Energy Saving Partners, ENERGY STAR New Homes, and Insulate Colorado.

Learn more about each program, and access the program applications on [the GEO website](#).

### Weatherization Day Highlights Free Services for Colorado Households

On October 30th Governor Bill Ritter Jr., the Governor's Energy Office (GEO), the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP), and Sun Power, Inc. a local service provider celebrated "Colorado Weatherization



Day" at a home in Denver. The event highlighted the free services and available cash assistance that offer relief from higher utility bills due to the heating season. This year's demonstration home received a new furnace, insulation in the attic, new evaporative cooler, efficient lighting, new refrigerator, and smoke and carbon detectors, all at no cost to the homeowner.

The GEO's Energy Savings Partners (E\$P) Program and the Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) work together to help families manage their energy costs. LEAP represents an immediate response to the situation and E\$P offers a long term solution.

Low-income households struggling with their utility bills can receive help through LEAP, which began accepting applications November 1. The program provides cash assistance to help families and individuals pay winter home heating costs.

Weatherization has provided Colorado's neediest families with safe, warm, comfortable homes through energy saving measures. Homes that are weatherized can see their average monthly energy bill can be reduced by 15 to 30 percent. For every dollar invested in weatherization, at least \$1.30 in energy-related benefits is returned.

Sun Power, the weatherization agency serving Denver and Jefferson Counties, has weatherized nearly 12,000 homes.

The Mile High Youth Corp. (MHYC) is also involved in energy efficiency programs in the Denver area by teaching urban youth about the audit process and working with LEAP and E\$P as they perform energy audits and other low-cost energy upgrades. Their goal is to help prepare our up and coming work force for the Governor's New Energy Economy. MHYC is important to the future development of efficient green energy in Colorado.

For more information or to find out how to qualify, contact E\$P and LEAP at 1-866-HEAT HELP (1-866-432-8435) or in Denver, call Sun Power at (303) 382-1514. You can also visit [the GEO website](#).

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### **Colorado Representatives Participate in Geothermal Trade Mission**

Last month, representatives from the GEO, utilities, local communities, the Colorado legislature and the oil industry participated in a trade mission to Nevada to learn firsthand about utility-scale geothermal power development. Nevada generates over 300 MW of geothermal power, enough power for 300,000 homes, and plans to develop another 1000 MW over the next 10 years.

Geothermal power plants can supply emission-free electric power, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, from a renewable source: the heat stored below the earth's surface.

Participants discussed Nevada's successful development process for geothermal power plants, visited leading geothermal developments and shared policy recommendations.

Geothermal power is a potentially vast resource in Colorado, but the development potential remains largely unknown. Colorado's Geothermal Working Group, an effort supported by the GEO, is working to determine Colorado's potential for geothermal energy and increase its use by linking the power industry, geothermal users, and governments with technical and institutional support, educational outreach, and limited cost-shared funding. To learn more about Colorado's Geothermal Working Group, visit [the GEO website](#).

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### **School District Installs Their First Solar System**

Colorado's School District 11 celebrated as they installed a series of solar photovoltaic panels to provide 20 to 30 kilowatts of power to the district's transportation and maintenance building, a fourth of the building's electrical consumption.

The panels are an addition to the district's aggressive conservation

program. Since establishing the program 10 years ago, the district has cut its energy consumption by 25 percent, putting an extra \$7 million dollars a year back into classrooms.

The solar panels cost roughly \$250,000. However, a \$92,000 rebate from Colorado Springs Utilities and a \$25,000 grant from the GEO helped D11 to cut that cost nearly in half.

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### **New Energy Economy Conference Raises Nearly \$24,000 for Low-Income Energy Assistance, Efficiency**

The second annual Colorado New Energy Economy conference raised \$23,974.95 in net proceeds for Energy Outreach Colorado (EOC), a non-profit organization that provides energy assistance to low-income customers across Colorado.

More than 800 people attended the full-day conference, which was held on October 14, at the Colorado Convention Center. The conference was sponsored by the Governor's Energy Office, Public Utilities Commission, the Department of Local Affairs, and the Office of Consumer Counsel. The state agencies partnered with the Colorado Municipal League, Colorado Counties Inc., and EOC.

Proceeds from the conference were donated for the second year to EOC, which distributes funds raised through three major programs - energy assistance, energy efficiency for affordable housing, and energy education and outreach. More than 100 assistance organizations across Colorado receive EOC funds to help low-income families and seniors in their communities to be able to afford home energy by getting bill payment assistance and help to lower their energy bills.

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### **Event Spotlight**

The GEO is proud to support the University of Colorado at Boulder's Science Explorers program, a unique professional development program for teachers offering day-long, activity-based science workshops to teams composed of a teacher and five students.

The program offers workshops throughout the state to teachers and students in grades five through eight. This year the program has chosen Renewable and Alternative Energy as the theme for the workshops. The content and activities support Colorado Content Standards.

To learn more, and for a schedule, visit the [Science Explorers website](#).

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### **Upcoming Events**

For more information about these events, visit the [GEO website](#).

11/16 - 11/19/2008 Behavior, Energy and Climate Change Conference  
Sacramento, California

11/19 - 11/21/2008 Greenbuild 2008  
Boston, Massachusetts

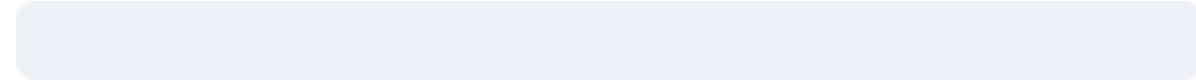
11/20/2008 Colorado Renewable Energy Society Monthly Meeting  
Denver, Colorado

11/20 - 11/21/2008 Southern Colorado Sustainable Communities  
Conference  
Colorado Springs, Colorado

12/1 - 12/2/2008 ENERGY STAR Summit

Denver, Colorado

12/10 - 12/11/2008 Virtual Energy Forum  
Online  
12/2/2008 The Balanced Energy Economy Series  
Denver, Colorado



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