



**Governor's  
Energy Office**

**E-NEWS**

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**March 2008**

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Leading Colorado to a New Energy Economy through energy efficiency, renewable and clean energy resources. →

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Advancing E85 and Biodiesel in Colorado →

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

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**GEO Hosts Forum to Discuss Residential Energy Efficiency Services Program**

GEO invites community and energy efficiency organizations interested in delivering residential energy efficiency services to participate in a forum on Thursday, April 3. GEO has recently modified its Energy Saving Partners (ESP) program to extend beyond traditional weatherization services, in an effort to have a broader outreach and impact for Colorado's low-income families.

ESP delivers critical energy efficiency measures to reduce energy consumption and costs for qualifying households, while improving home safety and comfort. ESP will now offer three levels of residential energy service measures to low-income families.

The goal of the meeting is to engage energy experts, communities, and current program partners in a facilitated discussion on how best to address the energy efficiency needs of Colorado's income qualified households, while improving program cost-effectiveness and overall energy savings. GEO is looking for input

into how these services can best be delivered to achieve those goals. For an overview of the Energy Saving Partners Program visit [GEO's website](#).

Contact Nikki Kuhn via email at [Nikki.Kuhn@state.co.us](mailto:Nikki.Kuhn@state.co.us) by Thursday, March 27, to learn more or RSVP. The forum will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the GEO office.

### **Governor Ritter Celebrates Grand Opening of Vestas Wind Blade Plant in Windsor**

Gov. Bill Ritter celebrated the grand opening of Vestas Blades' wind blade manufacturing plant earlier this month, touting the production facility's 650 jobs as a monumental investment in Colorado's growing New Energy Economy.

"Thank you, Vestas, for coming to Colorado, for investing in Windsor, and for helping us change the way we produce and ultimately consume energy in a way that benefits our environment, our economy and our communities," Gov. Ritter said during today's ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new production plant.

"Vestas is one of our pioneering partners and anchor tenants in the manufacturing end of Colorado's New Energy Economy," Gov. Ritter said.

"Vestas may be the first, but it won't be the last. Today marks a pivotal moment in Colorado's history. What we're doing here puts Colorado, and the nation, on a path toward a more secure and independent energy future."

The 400,000-square-foot Vestas plant will produce 1,800 giant wind blades a year and employ 650 people when fully operational. This is Denmark-based Vestas' first North American manufacturing plant.

Gov. Ritter and Vestas announced today that the company will donate the first blade produced in Windsor so that it stays in Colorado. The Governor's Energy Office will work with Vestas to identify a recipient and location for the installation.

"Congratulations, Governor, for putting Colorado at the forefront of the nation's charge toward alternative energy," James P. Cain, U.S. Ambassador to Denmark, said during today's ceremony. "Without your passion and commitment, we would not be here celebrating today."

### **GEO Announces 18 Insulate Colorado Partners**

Late last month, GEO announced that 18 matching grant award recipients, representing 43 statewide community partners, were selected for the 2008 Insulate Colorado program. The recipients will receive funding to be distributed as financial incentives directly to homeowners for the proper installation of either attic or exterior wall insulation in conjunction with the completion of basic air sealing practices. GEO has allocated \$416,800 of Clean Energy funds to the program.

For more information about Insulate Colorado, [visit GEO's website](#).

### **A Performance Contracting Success Story: Eaton School District**

In 2005, Eaton, a small rural school district in Weld County, began looking for ways to improve the comfort level of their facilities. With the help of the Governor's Energy Office (GEO), Eaton was able to use performance contracting to undertake a comprehensive facilities improvement project that would increase comfort, reduce utility costs, and improve the learning environment. Best of all, they did it without having to dip into their limited financial capital.



Read the entire case study, "Turning Energy Savings into a Better Learning Environment", [on GEO's website](#).

### **Woody Biomass Development Funding Available**

GEO is pleased to announce the availability of \$100,000 to support the development and implementation of woody biomass heating projects in Colorado. This funding will be used for the development of woody biomass projects that are focused on using local and sustainable wood supplies. Commercial and industrial projects using locally available wood chips, cords or pellets are encouraged to apply.



More information on the Community Woody Biomass for Thermal Program can be found at on [GEO's website](#).

### **Conference a Success**

GEO would like to thank all those responsible for the February "Can Our Forests Meet Our Energy Needs Conference." The event, held at Colorado State University, highlighted and reviewed the numerous opportunities for renewable energy from Colorado forests. Congratulations to Mike Eckhoff, CSU and the dozens of student and faculty volunteers.

### **Forest Health Executive Orders Signed**

Governor Ritter recently signed two executive orders responsible for the creation of the Colorado Forest Health Advisory Council. The Council will bring together local, state, federal and private interests to identify and implement short-term actions and long-term forest health strategies.

Harris Sherman, executive director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, and Jeff Jahnke, State Forester and director of the Colorado State Forest Service, will co-chair the Council. The 24-member group also will be composed of city, county, state, federal and private stakeholders and representatives from the woody biomass industry, water suppliers, conservation groups and sportsmen. GEO is honored to be a member of the Council and will look to promote the development of sustainable renewable energy woody biomass projects throughout the state.

### **Governor's Biofuels Coalition Update**

The Governor's Biofuels Coalition (GBC) has continued to celebrate biofuel station developments throughout the cold winter months. To date, 56 biofuels stations are selling E85 and biodiesel. Stay tuned for grand opening events on the Western Slope! For more information about the GBC, including a link to an alternative fuel station locator, [visit GEO's website](#).

### **Anaerobic Digestion Funding Available**

GEO has funding to support feasibility reviews and/or project development for on farm anaerobic digestion projects. Information and an application can be found on [the GEO website](#).

### **Clean Transportation in Commerce City**

The Department of Energy announced earlier this month that Fuel Tek Inc., a Commerce City company, has been awarded funding to retrofit existing diesel vehicles to natural gas and propane. Such retrofits allow for vehicle owners to

use natural gas or propane available at fueling stations in place of diesel fuel. Fleet managers interested in learning more about the project should contact Wes Biggers at 720-941-2791 or [wbiggers@fueltek.biz](mailto:wbiggers@fueltek.biz).



### **GEO Presents: Greening Facilities in the New Energy Economy**

Learn from experts in energy efficiency, renewable energy technologies and green operational strategies as well as financing approaches and incentives.

Learn about energy performance contracting as a way to green your facilities while energy savings pay for cost-effective solutions. Get started on a path to greening your facilities now with technical assistance from the Governor's Energy Office.

This seminar is presented in partnership with the Colorado Energy Services Coalition. The event will take place May 1 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Tri-State Generation & Transmission in Westminster. For more information, and to register visit [the event website](#).

### **Accelerating Change for Energy Efficiency and Renewables Conference April 8-9**

GEO is proud to support the Accelerating Change for Energy Efficiency and Renewables Conference. The focus of this innovative conference is showing how social marketing, education and outreach can be used to mobilize citizens in communities to adopt energy efficient practices and renewables. The conference is being presented by E Source and Summit Blue Consulting and is scheduled for April 8-9, in Denver, CO. For more information, visit [the event website](#).

### **Upcoming Events**

For more information about these events, visit [GEO's Events website section](#).

3/24/2008 Energy Rater Training  
Berthoud, Colorado

3/25 - 3/29/2008 2nd Annual Solar Industry Seminar  
Fort Collins, Colorado

3/25 - 3/29/2008 CoSEIA Conference  
Fort Collins, Colorado

3/25/2008 Green City Webinar  
The World Wide Web

3/28/2008 New Frontiers in Energy Summit 2008  
Denver, Colorado

4/3/2008 2nd Annual Global Warming Expo  
Boulder, Colorado

4/6- 4/8/2008 2008 Waste to Fuels Conference & Trade Show  
Orlando, Florida

4/8 - 4/9/2008 Accelerating Change for Energy Efficiency and Renewables  
Denver, Colorado

4/8 - 4/9/2008 Fifth Annual North Carolina Sustainability Energy Conference  
Raleigh, North Carolina

4/10 - 4/11/2008 2nd Annual Energy Efficiency Finance Forum  
Arlington, Virginia

4/21 - 4/24/2008 Powering Toward the Future, IEEE PES Transmission and  
Distribution  
Chicago, Illinois

4/23 - 4/25/2008 EDCC 2008 Spring Conference  
Burlington, Colorado

4/24/2008 CRES Monthly Meeting: "Power of the People: America's New  
Electricity Choices"  
Denver, Colorado

5/1/2008 Greening Facilities in the New Energy Economy  
Westminster, Colorado

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