



2008 Legislative Summary

[HB08-1025](#): Governor's Energy Office

Sponsors/Cosponsors: *Representatives – Weissmann/Tupa*

Public Summary: Establishes the duties and powers of the Governor's Energy Office within the Office of the Governor.

[HB08-1160](#): Net Meter Municipal & Rural Electric Utilities

Sponsors/Cosponsors: *Representatives – Solano/Shaffer & Isgar*

Public Summary: Requires municipally owned utilities and cooperative electric associations to provide net metering for residential and commercial or industrial customers with system size limits.

[HB08-1164](#): New Solar Energy Technologies

Sponsors/Cosponsors: *Representatives – Solano/Schwartz*

Public Summary: Encourages the Public Utility Commission to fully consider new solar technologies when they are evaluating new power generation construction projects.

[HB08-1207](#): Procure Environmental Preferable Products

Sponsors/Cosponsors: *Representatives – Kefalaz/Bacon*

Public Summary: Clarifies that the analysis of increased cost for state agencies to purchase environmentally friendly products includes the cost of ownership and a life cycle analysis. Requires the Governor's Energy Office to maintain a list of nationally recognized entities that certify products as environmentally preferable.

[HB08-1227](#): Sunset Continue Public Utilities Commission

Sponsors/Cosponsors: *Representatives – Madden/Tapia*

Public Summary: Extends the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) until 2019. Matters included in this legislation related to GEO and energy policy: Adds eligibility requirements for Low-Income Energy Assistance (including 185% Federal Poverty Level and citizenship or legal resident requirements). Any utility considering a gas or electric tariff is required to notify GEO. In the matter of hearings over rates disputes, the PUC is instructed to "consider whether to adopt retail rates structures that enable the use of solar or other renewable energy resources in agricultural applications, including, but not limited to, irrigation pumping."

[HB08-1270](#): CICs Allow Energy Efficiency Measures

Sponsors/Cosponsors: *Representatives – A. Kerr/Tupa*

Public Summary: Extends existing prohibitions on covenants and deed restrictions that limit the use of solar energy devices to include other renewable energy generation devices and energy-efficiency measures: wind-electric generators, shade structures, shutters, garage or attic fans, evaporative coolers, energy-efficient outdoor lighting devices and retractable clothes lines.

[HB08-1335](#): Building Excellent Schools Today

Sponsors/Cosponsors: *Representatives* – **Romanoff/Groff & Schwartz**

Public Summary: This comprehensive bill restructures the funds and funding processes for public school capital construction projects. The green building standards and energy-efficiency guidelines shall be based on the “Greening of State Government” Executive Order, as well as additional Executive Orders and GEO policy directives.

[HB08-1350](#): Financing Renewable Energy

Sponsors/Cosponsors: *Representatives* – **Madden/Romer**

Public Summary: Local governments and the Colorado Clean Energy Development Authority (CEDA) may issue bonds to finance capital improvements for energy efficiency retrofits and the installation of renewable energy fixtures for private residences and commercial property.

[HB08-1368](#): Tax Property Used to Produce Renewable Energy

Sponsors/Cosponsors: *Representatives* – **Buescher/Brophy**

Public Summary: Directs counties to use the same procedures as the State Assessor to exclude renewable energy systems from property tax assessments. Offers local governments the option to exempt components used in renewable energy systems from their sales and use tax.

[HB08-1375](#): Long Appropriations Bill

Public Summary: Allocates \$2 million to the Clean Energy Fund, managed by the Governor’s Energy Office, to support investment in new energy technologies.

[HB08-1387](#): Low-Income Energy Assistance Funding

Sponsors/Cosponsors: *Representatives* – **Buescher/Veiga**

Public Summary: Continues funding for energy-related assistance to low-income households through fiscal year 2011-12.

[SB08-078](#): Energy Efficiency Historical Preservation Grant

Sponsors/Cosponsors: *Representatives* – **Renfroe/Sonnenberg**

Public Summary: Requires the State Historical Fund to allow the use of energy-efficient materials and technologies (specifically, energy-efficient windows, window assemblies, insulating materials, and heating and cooling systems) by grant recipients, as long as the appearance of the historic property is not affected.

[SB08-081](#): Renewable Energy Authority

Sponsors/Cosponsors: *Representatives* – **Schwartz/Madden**

Public Summary: Removes the requirement that the Colorado Renewable Energy Authority return to the state 50% of revenues from licensing of any patent, trademark or copyright, which was in conflict with federal laws, so that the Colorado Renewable Energy Collaboratory can receive federal grants.

[SB08-117](#): Limit Local Building Permit Fee Solar Panels

Sponsors/Cosponsors: *Representatives* – **S. Mitchell/McNulty**

Public Summary: Limits building permit fees for solar energy devices in cities and counties statewide to “the lesser of \$500 or actual costs in issuing permits” for residential applications and \$1,000 for nonresidential application.

SB08-147: Increase Energy Efficiency State Buildings

Sponsors/Cosponsors: *Representatives* – **Gordon/Hodge & Levy**

Public Summary: Adds low-income housing projects and facilities constructed with severance tax revenue to existing energy-efficiency requirements for state-assisted facilities.

SB08-184: Colorado Clean Energy Finance Program

Sponsors/Cosponsors: *Representatives* – **Romer/Levy**

Public Summary: Creates the Colorado Clean Energy Finance Program within GEO to provide loans to homeowners for “clean energy improvements: any repair of or addition or improvement to residential real property ... that improves the energy efficiency of the property or replaces all or a portion of the energy from nonrenewable sources ... with energy from renewable sources.”

SB08-189: Colorado Carbon Fund Special License Plates

Sponsors/Cosponsors: *Representatives* – **Johnson/Levy**

Public Summary: Creates a Colorado Carbon Fund special license plate for drivers who make a donation to the Colorado Carbon Fund to offset a minimum percent of their vehicle’s annual carbon dioxide emissions.

SB08-221: Bonds Forest Health Watershed Projects

Sponsors/Cosponsors: *Representatives* – **Romer & Gibbs/Scalan & White**

Public Summary: Authorizes the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority (CWRPDA) to issue up to \$50 million in bonds for the purposes of funding watershed protection and forest health projects.