



COLORADO
Energy Office

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Office of Gov. John Hickenlooper

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Colorado Energy Office Releases Coal Mine Methane Market Research

Report highlights opportunities to capture methane from Colorado mines

DENVER – Mar. 31, 2016 – The Colorado Energy Office today announces the release of a [Coal Mine Methane Market Research Report](#). The report reveals that methane emissions from coal mines in Colorado have the potential to generate upwards of 89 megawatts (MW) of electricity, and identifies 34 MW as the most technically feasible opportunities.

“This report identifies specific areas in Colorado where we have the opportunity to turn methane emissions - something that is typically a wasted asset with undesirable mine safety and environmental impacts - into a beneficial resource that can stimulate local economic development, said Christopher Worley, director of policy and research at the Colorado Energy Office.

Methane emissions can be an important energy resource released during and after coal mining operations. Depending on the quality and volume of gas, captured methane can be used in a variety of applications, such as electricity generation, direct pipeline sales or a fuel source for heating or cooling within the mining operation. Electricity generated from coal mine methane is a qualifying eligible resource under Colorado’s Renewable Energy Standard. There is one developed project currently in the state, operated by Vessels Coal Gas located at the Elk Creek Mine.

Of the six major coal basins in Colorado containing large amounts of recoverable, high quality coal, three coal basins contain methane volumes sufficient enough to potentially generate commercial electricity, according to the report: the Uinta Basin in western Colorado and the Raton Mesa Basin and San Juan River Basin in southern Colorado. Of all the mines evaluated, the mines with the highest value for coal mine methane recovery are located near the North Fork Valley spanning Delta and Gunnison counties, and near the town of Redstone in Pitkin County. The report contains a detailed inventory of over 30 active and inactive coal mines in Colorado and reported coal mine methane emission volumes.

To download a copy of the report, please visit the Colorado Energy Office website link at [Coal Mine Methane Market Research Report](#).

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About Colorado Energy Office

The Colorado Energy Office works to improve the effective use of all of Colorado's energy resources and the efficient consumption of energy in all economic sectors that benefit the economic and environmental health of the state. Visit the website at www.colorado.gov/energy.