



COLORADO
Energy Office

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Public Utilities Commission Approves Xcel Clean Energy Plan

Colorado's Largest Utility Locks in Key Commitments in Line With Polis Administration's Goals to save people money on electricity

DENVER - In a decision that will play an important role in meeting the Polis Administration's bold climate and renewable energy goals, the Colorado Public Utilities Commission released a written order approving the first phase of Xcel Energy-Colorado's clean energy plan. By 2030, this binding settlement will deliver more than 80% of Xcel's customer electricity needs from renewable resources and reduce the utility's carbon dioxide emissions by at least 85% (compared to 2005).

"I'm enthusiastic about this plan to save people money and achieve faster pollution reductions while bringing new jobs to communities and investing in rural Colorado," said Gov. Polis. **"The free market is driving the transition to clean energy in a way that will help people hold on to more of their hard-earned money, clean our air, achieve energy independence, and continue our state's economic growth."**

Under the accepted settlement, Pueblo's Comanche Unit 3, which is scheduled to be Colorado's last coal-fired power plant, will end operations by Jan. 1, 2031. This timetable is four years earlier than previously proposed and decades before the plant's original retirement date of 2070. Comanche Units 1 and 2 are already set for retirement by 2025. In addition, the settlement, which featured key input from the Polis Administration, immediately changes how the plant will be operated, creating significant emission reductions and air quality improvements starting before 2025.

In addition, the shift to renewables saves money over time. Coal, at 4 cents per kilowatt hour, is now more expensive than cleaner renewables with new wind projects being built in Colorado at less than 2 cents per kilowatt hour, and new solar is around 3 cents.

The agreement, reached by a diverse collection of 19 different stakeholder groups, is in line with the **GHG Pollution Reduction Roadmap**. Released in January 2021, the roadmap lays out an achievable pathway to make progress toward the state's goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 26% by 2025, 50% by 2030 and 90% by 2050 (compared to 2005).

“The Polis Administration created the GHG Pollution Reduction Roadmap as an action-oriented plan to provide climate leadership, reduce pollution and ensure a clean energy transition,” said Colorado Energy Office Executive Director Will Toor. **“We thank our state’s largest utility for embracing those objectives and committing to a plan that exceeds the roadmap’s goals. It will save Coloradans money, open the door to more well-paid green jobs and continue the development of wind and solar generation for both urban and rural areas.”**

The settlement also makes a strong commitment to the workers and communities in Pueblo, Morgan County, and Hayden. This includes a detailed workforce transition plan that seeks to avoid any layoffs of company workers, provide opportunities to reinvest in Pueblo, and ensure a financial commitment to each community equal to approximately six years of lost property taxes in Morgan County and Hayden and 10 years in Pueblo.

“With this agreement, Xcel is helping ensure that Colorado’s historic coal regions and workers will not be left behind in the transition to clean energy,” said Wade Buchanan, Director of the Colorado Office of Just Transition. **“These communities and workers have long been an engine for Colorado’s prosperity, and this plan keeps a firm eye on providing a path for them to continue thriving in the future.”**

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