



COMMUNITY CHOICE ENERGY

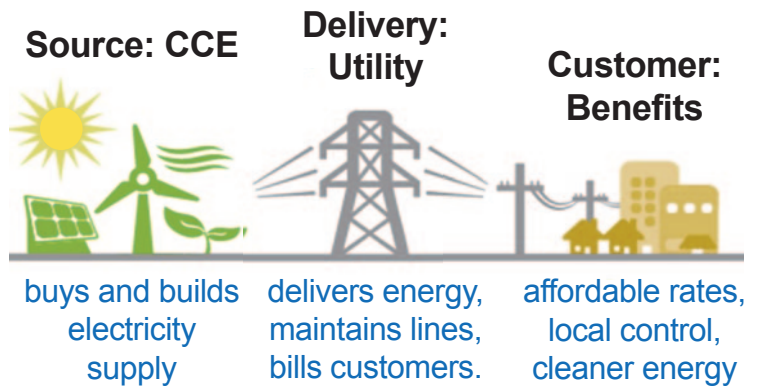
Good for Colorado

What Is Community Choice Energy (CCE)?

★★ CCE is also known as “Community Choice Aggregation” (CCA) in some states.★★

- * CCE would allow cities and counties, or groups of cities and counties, that are served by an Investor-Owned Utility (“IOU” – Xcel or Black Hills), to choose alternative wholesale electricity suppliers on behalf of their residents and businesses.
- * Electricity would still be *delivered* by the utility, which would continue to own and operate its power lines and provide customer service. This differs from a municipal-owned utility, which is responsible for all functions performed by an investor-owned utility, not just the electricity *supply* like a CCE.
- * Individual customers would be able to opt out of the CCE and purchase their electricity from the utility as traditional “bundled service” if they wish. Typical opt-out rates in California are 5-10%.

How Community Choice Energy Works



Has It Been Done Before? Yes!

14 million customers are served by community choice energy providers in California. Compare this with Xcel Energy’s 1.5 million electric customers in Colorado.

Some lucky communities in Colorado are already able to shop around and several have left suppliers like Xcel and Black hills to **get better rates and cleaner electricity.**

Examples include cities like Fountain and Steamboat Springs.

Benefits of CCE:



Lower Rates – A CCE option would harness the power of market competition to help bring down rates. Most customers currently

have no option for electricity other than buying from a monopoly provider. Electric rates will become increasingly important as customers rely more and more on electricity (for example when using electric vehicles and heat pumps).



Improved Health – A CCE option can accelerate the transition to clean renewable energy and away from polluting fossil fuels like coal and methane (“natural gas”).



Social Justice – Lowering the cost of electricity and moving away from polluting fossil fuels is especially important for low-income citizens. Polluting fossil generation is often located in frontline communities.



Help with the Climate Crisis – With wildfires, floods, and drought currently impacting communities, ranches, farms, and businesses across the state, accelerating the transition away from fossil fuels is a top priority. A CCE option can speed the process.



Economic Engine – CCEs can keep more of our energy dollars circulating in our local economies, rather than being sent out-of-state. Competition also unleashes beneficial innovation (think: smart phones).

Status

NOW: Legislation has been drafted that would enable the formation of CCEs here in Colorado. This enabling legislation builds on the lessons learned from other states and steers clear of the potential drawbacks identified by the PUC investigation.



“If Colorado adopts community choice and sets a high bar for future local energy collaboration and fair cost responsibilities, it will give Colorado communities a much better way to meet energy and climate challenges of the 21st century.”

—Gerald Braun, Chair, Integrated Renewable Energy Systems Network

* **Background - December 2022:** The Public Utilities Commission issued a report in response to 2021 legislation. The report showed *no reason not to move forward* with a CCE option here in Colorado. It identified obstacles to be avoided and listed potential opportunities and benefits to be obtained from CCE.

- Links to the PUC report and a “Summary and Response” to the report are available on the Empower Our Future website: <https://empowerourfuture.org/cce>

How to Help Make CCE Available to Your Community

- * **Contact your State Representative and State Senator** and encourage them to support the CCE enabling legislation, which we anticipate will be announced soon.
 - To find your state Senator and Representative in the Colorado State Legislature, go here: <https://www.leg.colorado.gov/find-my-legislator>
- * **Contact Governor Polis** to let him know you support the CCE enabling legislation.
 - Call the Governor's office at (303) 866-2471
 - Email the Governor at this address: Governorpolis@state.co.us
- * **Talk to your friends and neighbors about the CCE benefits** that most appeal to you.
- * **Find informative online videos and other CCE resources here:** <https://empowerourfuture.org/cce/>
- * **Join the Empower Our Future mailing list here:** <https://empowerourfuture.org/contact>

Additional Resources

- * **California Community Choice Association** – www.cal-cca.org/
- * **U.S. EPA page on Community Choice** – www.epa.gov/green-power-markets/community-choice-aggregation
- * **LEAN (Local Energy Aggregation Network)** – <https://www.leanenergyus.org/>

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Advancing a socially just clean energy economy
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