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**ACCELERATING & ADVANCING A SOCIALLY JUST CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY  
& SUPPORTING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE**

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## **SUMMARY OF CLEAN ENERGY FUNDING & FINANCING OPTIONS**

### **FUNDING SOURCES EXIST AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT, PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS, CLEAN ENERGY FUNDS AND CREDIT UNIONS**

Colorado communities interested in developing a solar or energy storage project should explore one or more of the different funding strategies outlined in this fact sheet.

In addition to its environmental benefits, solar can serve as a good long-term investment for residents, nonprofits, or local businesses by providing consistent utility bill savings. In the event of a power outage, energy storage can keep your building powered. Solar plus battery storage contributes to the community's potential resilience.

#### **LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING**

City, county, and state government webpages will show current funding opportunities.

- Colorado Energy Office lists **current funding opportunities**, such as the state's **C-PACE program**, which provides competitive financing options for solar, storage, and energy efficiency to nonprofits, businesses, and multifamily housing.
- Boulder County's **Partners for a Clean Environment (PACE)** program offers grants and rebates to nonprofits, businesses and multifamily housing that install solar.
- The County's **Office of Sustainability, Climate Action, and Resilience (OSCAR) Climate Equity Fund** will distribute up to \$2.5 million in 2025.
- **City of Boulder** provides grants for nonprofits and tax rebates for residents and businesses.

The **US Environmental Protection Agency**, **Department of Energy**, and **FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program** may be able to provide funding for solar and energy storage projects. National Laboratories, such as **NREL**, **PNNL**, and **Sandia**, may also provide technical assistance and funding.

#### **PHILANTHROPY**

Colorado foundations, such as the **Community Foundation of Boulder County**, the **Buck Foundation**, and the **Reiter Family Foundation**, provide small grants to climate initiatives.

Nationwide grant opportunities are oftentimes more competitive. Foundations and climate funds that have supported solar and energy storage projects in the past include: **Ford Foundation**, **Honnold Foundation**, **Institute for Sustainable Communities Climate Innovation Fund**. The **CO2 Foundation** funds innovative smaller-scale projects that can accomplish a lot in a short timeframe, which might otherwise fall through the cracks, supporting timely interventions for extreme weather and/or preparing communities for the impacts of a rapidly changing climate system. <https://co2foundation.org/funding-opportunity-3/>

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#### **DEVELOPING STORY**

##### **COLORADO SOLAR FOR ALL**

This national program was intended to create new or expand existing low-income solar programs, empowering over 900,000 households in low-income and disadvantaged communities to benefit from distributed solar energy.

The future of Solar for All is in question after the EPA sent notices of termination to awardees of the \$7 billion grant program, including the \$156 million already awarded in Colorado, on August 7, 2025. Watch this space - the funding may eventually be reinstated.

## SUMMARY OF CLEAN ENERGY FUNDING & FINANCING OPTIONS Continued

### UTILITY PROGRAMS

Communities should assess what incentives are available from their utility. Two common performance-based incentives for facilities that install solar and energy storage include:

- **Net energy metering** sells back excess energy generated by the solar array. The customer receives a credit on their bill proportionate to the electricity generated.
- **Time of Use rates** incentivize customers to shift their electricity usage to off-peak periods. With energy storage, customers can practice rate arbitrage to maximize savings during offpeak periods. Solar systems that participate in net-metering will receive more value for energy produced during periods of peak demand.

Xcel Energy, the largest utility in Colorado, offers an upfront rebate to install solar at commercial facilities in underserved communities. The **Solar\*Rewards program** is also eligible to community serving facilities, such as nonprofits and multifamily affordable housing regardless of location.

### XCEL ENERGY RENEWABLE BATTERY CONNECT

When you add an eligible solar charged battery to your home or small business and participate in **Renewable Battery Connect**, you enable Xcel to automatically manage your battery during periods of peak demand on the grid (called a load control event). Utilizing the battery during control events reduces energy use, which in turn reduces demand and helps stabilize the electric grid when it is stressed. For your participation, you will earn an upfront incentive. Additional benefits are available for income qualified and disproportionately impacted customers.

Eligible solar battery equipment includes Tesla's Powerwalls or current Enphase models. Review the **2025 Eligible Equipment List, Information Sheet** and **2025 Renewable Battery Connect Q&A** to learn more.

### FINANCING OPTIONS

Loans, leases and power purchase agreements (PPAs) provide access to the upfront capital needed to install a solar and energy storage project. The company managing a lease or PPA owns the solar or battery storage system for the contract term, receives the tax credit, and pays for maintenance through the system's lifetime. Under a lease, the facility is subject to a predictable, fixed monthly rate. Comparably, a PPA is usually structured like a variable rate lease that often has an escalator built in.

Mission-aligned financing partners can serve as a trusted partner through project development:

- **Clean Energy Credit Union** (Nationwide) low-interest loans for solar and storage.
- **Collective Sun** (Nationwide) loans, leases and PPAs for solar and storage.
- **Colorado Clean Energy Fund** low-interest loans for solar and storage.
- **Elevations Credit Union** (CO) loans for solar installations and energy efficiency upgrades.
- **Grid Alternatives' Energy Resilience Fund** (Nationwide) short and long-term loans (1-10 years), leases and PPAs for solar and storage projects.
- **RE-volv** (Nationwide) loans, leases and PPAs for solar and storage.

### BRIGHTWELL

**Brightwell** is a solar capital partner whose mission is to unlock the generosity of impact investors to change communities. Brightwell provides low-risk tax equity investment opportunities to investors to support organizations who want to go solar to reduce or eliminate their electric bill with no capital through a Brightwell investment.

## CLEAN ENERGY INCENTIVE NAVIGATOR CONTACTS

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