

SUPPORT SB23-198: Clean Energy Plans

Senators Winter and Cutter; Representatives Weissman and Lindstedt

Background:

In January 2021, Governor Polis released Colorado's GHG Pollution Reduction Roadmap outlining a technology path modeled to achieve the climate goals adopted in the 2019 "*Climate Action Plan to Reduce Pollution*": to reduce economy-wide GHG pollution at least 26% by 2025, 50% by 2030 and 90% by 2050. The roadmap makes it clear that the power sector, as the keystone to reducing emissions in other sectors of the economy via electrification, must achieve at least an 80% reduction in GHG emissions from 2005 levels by 2030.

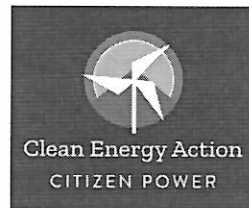
To help achieve these critical GHG emissions reductions, Colorado leaders passed HB 21-1266 "*Environmental Justice Disproportionate Impacted Communities*," which requires the state's seven largest utilities to file plans verified by AQCC, showing how they'll reduce GHG emissions 80% by 2030. This was a huge step towards locking in emissions reductions in the power sector. The legislation also established the Environmental Justice Action Task Force which finalized recommendations in November 2022, many of which involve utilities and the power sector.

Now, the power sector is changing rapidly, including with the passage of the federal Inflation Reduction Act, and Colorado legislators have yet another opportunity to ensure our utilities are meeting or beating greenhouse gas reductions. Proposed legislation, led by Senator Winter, Representative Weissman, Sierra Club, and NRDC, would future-proof clean energy plans in the state and deepen progress.

Benefits of Clean Energy Plan legislation:

- **Meeting science-based climate targets:** Colorado will benefit from updated tools and tracking mechanisms to ensure we're on track to meet significant GHG emissions reductions in the power sector, which are critical for state climate goals and climate progress.
- **Future-proofing the power sector:** The energy landscape has changed in recent years. For example, United Power and Mountain Parks Electric have announced that they intend to leave Tri-State Generation and Transmission's system in coming years to become new, independent utilities. When United leaves, it will become one of the largest utilities in the state of Colorado.
- **Better GHG accounting:** Colorado's plan for tracking GHG emissions needs an update to include emissions from wholesale power marketers that play a growing role in meeting Colorado's electricity needs. Wholesale power marketers should be held accountable to meeting emissions reductions too.
- **Transparency and procedural clarity:** The current process for submitting Clean Energy Plans lacks transparency, procedural clarity, and progress checks to ensure Colorado is on track to hit GHG emission reduction goals. Simple updates to clarify process and substantive requirements for Clean Energy plans are necessary, particularly to facilitate transparency and enable better stakeholder involvement.
- **Advancing equity:** It is important that policymaking now incorporate and implement recommendations from the State's Environmental Justice Action Task Force. This legislation would advance data sharing to track power generation impacts on disproportionately impacted communities, deepen public involvement in clean energy plans, and expand how many communities benefit from utilities' clean energy plans.

The following organizations and leaders are supporting this bill:



Marie Venner, Chair, **Colorado Small Business Alliance**

Steve Douglas, speaking as **former City Council Members and Planning Commissioners**

Fran Aguirre, President, **Unite North Metro Denver**

Thomas Lundy, Co-Chair of the **CDP Energy & Environment Initiative**

Dr. David Mintzer, Hospitalist, on the board of **Colorado Physicians for Social Responsibility**

Dr. Velma Campbell & Jamie Valdez, Colorado Lead, Mothers Out Front

Emmett Hogley, Co-Chair, **Montbello Neighborhood Improvement Association**

Maura Stephens, Coordinating Committee, **System Change Not Climate Change**

Jan Brown, **Citizens' Alliance for a Sustainable Englewood**

J.D. Ruybal, **COCRN Colorado Community Rights Network**

Kristi Douglas, Co-chair, **North Range Concerned Citizens**

Trupti Suthar, **Sunnyside United Neighbors, Inc (SUNI)**

Philip Beck and Elizabeta Stacishin, Co-founders, **Indivisible Ambassadors**

Bridget Walsh, **Greater Park Hill Community**

Paddy McClelland, Co-Chair, **Wall of Women**
Shannon Francis, Director, **Spirit of the Sun**
Jim Smith, President, Golden Realty, Co-Chair, **Colorado Businesses for a Livable Climate**
Moshe Kornfeld, Coordinator, **CO Jewish Climate Action**
Fred Kirsch, Director, **Community for Sustainable Energy**
Stefanie Klass, Co-Chair, **Colorado Call to Action and CatholicNetwork**
Debbie Thornburg James, **Mayfair Park Neighborhood Association Board**
Nic Venner, **Metro State Student and Our Children's Trust Juliana Plaintiff**
Amy Petré Hill, Founder and Community Chaplain, **Mental Health & Inclusion Ministries**
Rachael Lehman, Healthy Communities Chair, **I-70/Vasquez Blvd Citizens Advisory Committee**
Paolo C. Solorzano of the **Transit Riders Alliance and Colorado Cross Disabilities Coalition**
Anna Ramirez, **Working for Racial Equity** and **Southwest Organization for Sustainability**
Patrick Santana, **Vibrant Littleton** and **Littleton Business Alliance**
Yadira Sanchez, mother and longtime Denver resident **Elyria Swansea community**
Karen Bueno, Leaders Team, **Accelerate Neighborhood Climate Action**
Harmony Cummings, Co-Founder, **Green House Connection Center**
Jeff Hart, **former EPA staff member** and Co-Founder of Save EPA
Rev. Mark Meeks, Pastor, **Capitol Heights Presbyterian Church**
Sr. Anna Koop, **Sisters of Loretto**
Rabbi Eliot J Baskin, D Min, **Together Colorado**

For questions, please contact:

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