

# 2017 Colorado Renewable Energy Plan

## Continuing our transition to a more sustainable energy future

We all share the goal of satisfying Colorado's growing energy demands in the most reliable, clean and affordable way possible. Xcel Energy's 2017 Renewable Energy Plan proposes a three-year roadmap to continue providing the clean energy options that our customers want and value, in an economical way, and ensuring ongoing compliance with Colorado's standard.

### Delivering a sustainable energy future

The 2017 Renewable Energy Plan charts our course forward and allows us to continue delivering on our commitment to customers by:

- Expanding renewable power offerings;
- Providing solutions that support your environmental preferences and sustainability goals;
- Aligning with our bold plan for Colorado to power customer choice, power new green technologies and empower economic development.

### We are committed to solar

Xcel Energy supports solar energy in all its forms and the growing number of customers who are interested in it.

- Our Renewable Energy Plan will significantly add solar capacity each year, from 2017 through 2019, to both our Solar\*Rewards and Solar\*Rewards Community programs.
- The plan recommends reopening the large-size Solar\*Rewards program for the first time since 2012. The large-size offering is designed for customers with greater energy needs, such as convention centers, universities, or other school or business campuses.
- In a separate filing made earlier this year, we proposed a new program called Solar\*Connect which, if approved by regulators, will give customers another simple and convenient way to go solar.
- In February, Xcel Energy and solar developers announced an agreement to add up to 60 megawatts (MW) of community solar gardens in 2016. In the agreement we also committed to participate in ownership of up to 4 MW of community solar gardens to exclusively serve low-income customers and nonprofit organizations. This will create another solar power choice for customers who may not otherwise have access to renewable energy.



The 2017 Renewable Energy Plan allows us to provide Coloradans with a wide range of cost-effective clean energy choices, help customers embrace green technologies and work together to continue lowering our environmental footprint.

### Improving the cost of Windsource®

For the past 11 years, Xcel Energy has served customers with more electricity from wind power than any other U.S. utility. Our Windsource program is one of the largest utility green pricing programs in the country and allows customers to purchase renewable energy to offset their energy use.

- Windsource is an easy way to participate in renewable energy programs. It offers a convenient entry-level program for a large segment of our customer base and helps customers meet their green initiatives with certified Renewable Energy Credits (RECs).
- Market research demonstrates that the strongest driver for program participation is cost. Our plan recommends lowering the premium cost of our Windsource program to help attract new participants and better meet customer needs.
- We have recommended changing the Windsource premium to \$1.50 per 100 kilowatt-hour block. The change better represents today's market-based pricing and is a 30 percent reduction over the current premium price of \$2.1588 per block.



### Diversifying Colorado's carbon-free energy mix

We know our customers have different clean energy wants and needs—and one size does not fit all. Our plan offers a range of solutions that works well for residential and business customers, home owners and renters, nonprofit organizations and a wide range of facilities.

- Today, about 20 percent of Colorado's energy supply comes from renewable sources—and we remain on track to surpass the state's 30 percent renewable energy standard by 2020.
- In addition to wind and solar, the 2017 Renewable Energy Plan includes 20 MW of recycled energy, to be made available in an open-offer program. Recycled energy uses energy that would normally be wasted and converts it into electricity or steam. It's an appealing option for our larger commercial customers and can help boost energy efficiency.
- As our renewable energy portfolio grows, we are working to better integrate these resources onto our system, too. We have projects underway that are improving system operations, renewable energy forecasting and storage.

**Learn more about this plan at [xcelenergy.com/rates](http://xcelenergy.com/rates) (select "Filings").**

**Discover more about our vision for Colorado at [xcelenergy.com/coenergyfuture](http://xcelenergy.com/coenergyfuture).**