Renewable Energy Incentives and Policies in Colorado

Participation in the RCPP Irrigation Hydropower Program precludes you from receiving renewable energy tax credits from the IRS. Even so, several other tax incentives, financing options, renewable energy policies, and local programs may provide additional assistance with your hydro project. The following list provides information to help you take advantage of these opportunities.

**DSIRE - Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency®**
This Web based resource provides a mostly comprehensive database of policies and incentives at local, state, and federal levels. This is a great place to look for more information on the following programs.

[http://www.dsireusa.org/](http://www.dsireusa.org/)

**C-PACE (Colorado Commercial Property-Assessed Clean Energy Financing)**
This unique financing option is newly available in some Colorado counties. C-PACE is designed to allow businesses to invest in renewable energy and energy efficiency projects with no up-front investment and positive net cash flow from the first day of operation. C-PACE finances the project through a county property tax assessment that stays with the property (and the project’s energy benefits) even if you sell the property. This option is effective if the cost of the monthly tax assessment is less than the monthly energy cost savings from the project. Property owners can pay off the assessment at any time with no penalty.


**Colorado Renewable Energy Property Tax Assessment**
Please refer to this website for information on how state and county tax assessors will assess property taxes on your renewable energy project.

[https://www.colorado.gov/dola/renewable-energy](https://www.colorado.gov/dola/renewable-energy)

**EZ Investment Tax Credit Refund for Renewable Energy Projects**
Colorado's Enterprise Zone (EZ) program provides tax incentives to encourage businesses to locate and expand in designated economically distressed areas of the state. The income tax credit is equal to 3% of the renewable energy project investment located in an enterprise zone.

**Net Metering**

Net metering policies set provisions for utility customers to connect their own renewable energy systems to the local utility company and receive retail rates for the energy produced by their system, including net excess generation. Colorado’s Renewable Energy Standard guarantees availability of net metering to utility customers in Colorado for eligible community-owned (e.g., community solar gardens) and on-site renewable energy systems. The maximum capacity, retail prices, and other details vary for each utility.

Contact your utility or electric association for more details.

http://www.coloradorea.org/electric-co-ops-2/

**Regional and Local Programs**

Numerous communities and electric associations around Colorado provide additional incentives for renewable energy and energy efficiency, including technical assistance and financial incentives. The Colorado Energy Office can help you identify and contact these organizations.

https://www.colorado.gov/energyoffice

**Clean Energy Economy for the Region (CLEER)**

CLEER helps communities save energy and build a clean energy economy by bringing together local governments, schools, businesses, community organizations and households into a cohesive effort and united partnership. CLEER provides community clean energy programs for Garfield Clean Energy, Glenwood Springs Electric, and the Town of Carbondale.

http://www.cleanenergyeconomy.net/

**Energy Smart Colorado**

Energy Smart Colorado is a growing network of member organizations around the state that share the same mission – to make energy improvements simple and affordable. Each participating county operates an Energy Resource Center (ERC) with energy advisors who can provide access to information, financing (including rebates and loans), and a skilled workforce.

http://www.energysmartcolorado.com/

**La Plata Electric Association - Renewable Generation Rebate Program**

La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) offers an incentive, not to exceed the cost of the system, to residential and small commercial customers who install a photovoltaic (PV), wind, or hydropower facility. To be eligible for the rebate, the system must be grid-tied and located in LPEA’s service territory. Systems 10 kilowatts (kW) or less are eligible for an upfront incentive.

http://www.lpea.coop/renewables/REC_payment.html