

East Central Colorado RC & D, Inc.



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Community Energy Coordinator Positions

Community Energy Coordinator (CEC) - The general purposes of the grant are to build local capacity and position the East Central Colorado region for activities related to the 'new energy economy'. The project period is expected to be 2 1/2 years;

- to develop the region's long range strategic sustainability plan and related action plans;
- to provide for knowledge transfer from the GEO to the public;
- to position businesses and the public in the region to more readily access GEO energy programs;
- to respond to funding opportunities for state and national economic development and other relevant activities related to energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Locally, the **East Central Colorado RC & D council (ECCRCD)** applied for \$120,000 opportunity through the Colorado Governors Energy Office (GEO) to create two part-time community energy coordinator positions to service a four county region. Partner contributions for office space and utilities have been offered, in addition to initial start up administrative assistance through the council.

The project idea was initiated in **February 2009**, when the ECCRCD council hosted the first of two renewable energy strategy sessions for local county, municipal, and community leaders. Wind energy development had become a viable economic opportunity but without planned growth, zoning issues and associated energy development activities around rural communities seemed daunting. This core group supported the concept to apply for the CEC funding mechanism made available in **October 2009**. The ECCRCD council was awarded the grant in **December 2009**. The advisory board will convene in **January 2010** to begin a strategic planning process to implement local actions; job announcements pending.

Partnerships -

State of Colorado-
Governors Energy
Office (GEO)

East Central Counties -
Cheyenne, Elbert, Kit
Carson, and Lincoln

**Communities providing
initial letters of support**
- Burlington, Cheyenne
Wells, Flagler, Seibert,
Simla,

Conservation Districts -
Burlington, Cheyenne,
Double El, Flagler, High
Plains, Kiowa, and
Prairie

**Utilities providing
initial letter of support -**
K.C. Electric Association

In-kind technical assistance - USDA – NRCS
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Project Sponsor-
East Central Colorado
RC & D, Inc.