

Colorado's Solar Future

2022-2025 Xcel Renewable Energy Plan



Background

Colorado is one of the first states in the country to pass a state-specific Renewable Energy Standard. This policy requires utility companies serving 500,000 or more customers in Colorado to reach carbon-free energy production by 2050. The utility's Renewable Energy Standard (RES) plans are then reviewed by the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (CPUC).

Xcel Energy, a Colorado utility, files periodic RES plans that determine how much rooftop solar, community solar, and battery storage Xcel intends to add.

Xcel RES Plan 2022-2025

On December 21, 2021 Xcel turned in their RES plan for 2022-2025. While Xcel's RES plan includes programs for low income, or **income-qualified (IQ) customers**, these programs fail to provide IQ customers fair and equitable access to solar. With this case open, the general public and advocates are encouraged to provide comments. Anyone can request Xcel to implement better-designed income-qualified solar programs that serve to benefit all of their customers.

Why this matters

Lower income households have paid an estimated \$100 million of the total \$918 million (PSCo 2021-08 RESA Report) towards Renewable Energy Standard through their electric bills. And yet, most fail to receive the benefits. While the public can obtain solar energy through rooftop systems, this option is available only to those who own a house or have good credit. Community solar offers an alternative to renters, but often lacks enough funding or utility support to reach everyone in need.

The CPUC's case is an opportunity for the public to voice their support for millions of dollars to be invested in low-income solar programs. This would help stabilize energy costs, reduce energy burden, create jobs, promote entrepreneurship, and develop local economic opportunities.

How to participate

You can attend two [remote public comment hearings](#). One on **Tuesday June 21, and will start at 5 pm** and one on **Tuesday September 6, and will start at 5 pm**. There will be simultaneous Spanish translation available for both hearings. Also you can send written comments to the PROCEEDING NO. 21A-0625EG at the Public Commission website.