



RENEWABLE DENVER

Community Solar



Presentation to the Safety Committee

November 10, 2021

Jonathan Rogers

Renewable Energy Specialist

Jonathan.rogers@denvergov.org

Bills related to the Renewable Denver Community Solar program.

A) DOLA grant approved in 2020; B) Solar Master Operator Agreement submitted to Safety; and C) Capital Transfer bills through FINGOV.

A) Prior related request approved August 5, 2020

COUNCIL BILL NO. CB20-0677

1. Approving a new fund in the General Government Special Revenue Fund for the “Climate State Grants” program,
2. Approving and providing for the execution of a proposed Grant Agreement between the City and County of Denver and the Colorado Department of Local Affairs concerning the “Renewable Denver Initiative” (\$1,000,000 grant).

Signed August 5, 2020

B) Bill submitted to Safety Committee (11/10/21)

1. APPROVE MASTER OPERATOR AGREEMENT

Approves Master Operator Agreement with McKinstry Essention, LLC for the design, development, construction, operation, and maintenance of the community solar projects.
Contract Control Number: CASR-202160403-00.

C) Companion bills on consent through the FINGOV Committee (11/10/21)

2. ESTABLISH CLIMATE PROTECTION CAPITAL FUND

Establishes a new capital improvement fund (34804 Climate Protection Capital Projects) for expenditures related to planning, design, and construction of capital improvements for climate action, sustainability, and resiliency projects.

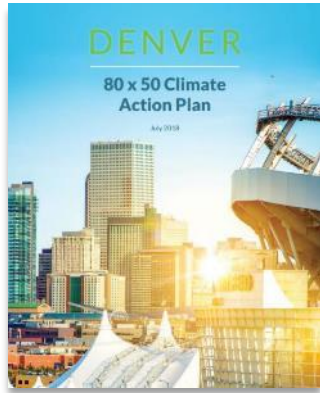
3. TRANSFER TO CLIMATE PROTECTION CAPITAL FUND

Approves the transfer of \$18,000,000 from the Climate Protection Special Revenue Fund 11880 into the Climate Protection Capital Projects Fund 34804.

Appropriates the transferred amount to be utilized for funding the capital portion of a contract (Contract Control Number: CASR-202160403-00) with McKinstry Essention LLC in the amount of \$18,000,000.

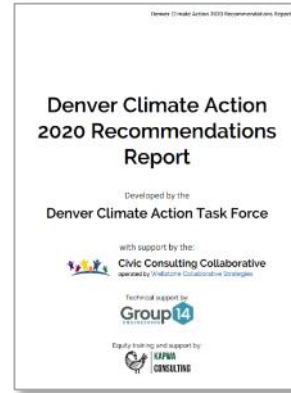
Denver needs rapid and equitable strategies for decarbonization

2018 commitment from the Mayor



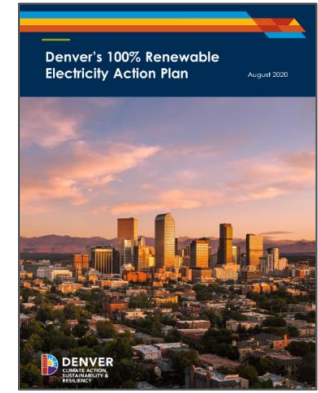
Reduce GHG emissions 80%
by 2050 from 2005 baseline

Bold recommendations from the public



Reduce GHG emissions 100%
by 2040 from 2005 baseline

Adopting a plan of action



100% renewable electricity
community wide by 2030

We can reduce greenhouse gas emissions **AND** advance equity.

Options to decarbonize Denver's electricity supply

1 Do nothing, hope the grid shifts to clean energy more quickly.



Denver does not meet its objectives and we are not resilient to climate.

2 Buy clean power through Xcel Energy's Windsource program.



~\$70 million annual cost to taxpayers that is not reinvested locally.

3 Expand local solar while advocating for systemic change.

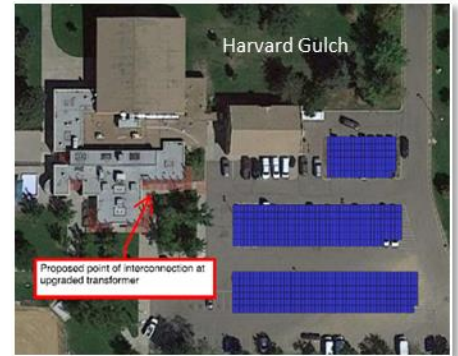
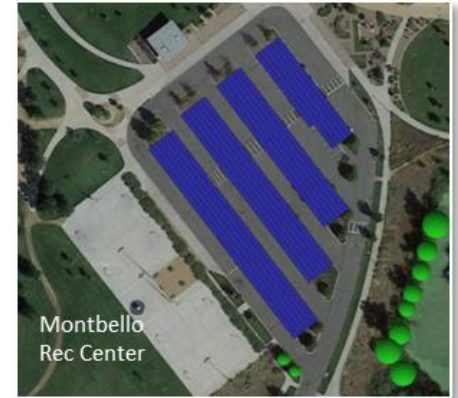
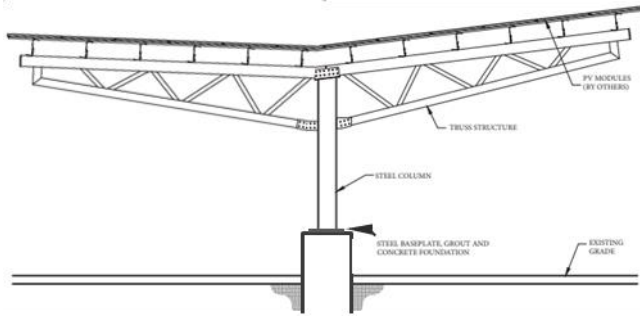


Adds clean power to the grid, creates local jobs, and saves \$ on bills.

The Renewable Denver Community Solar Initiative

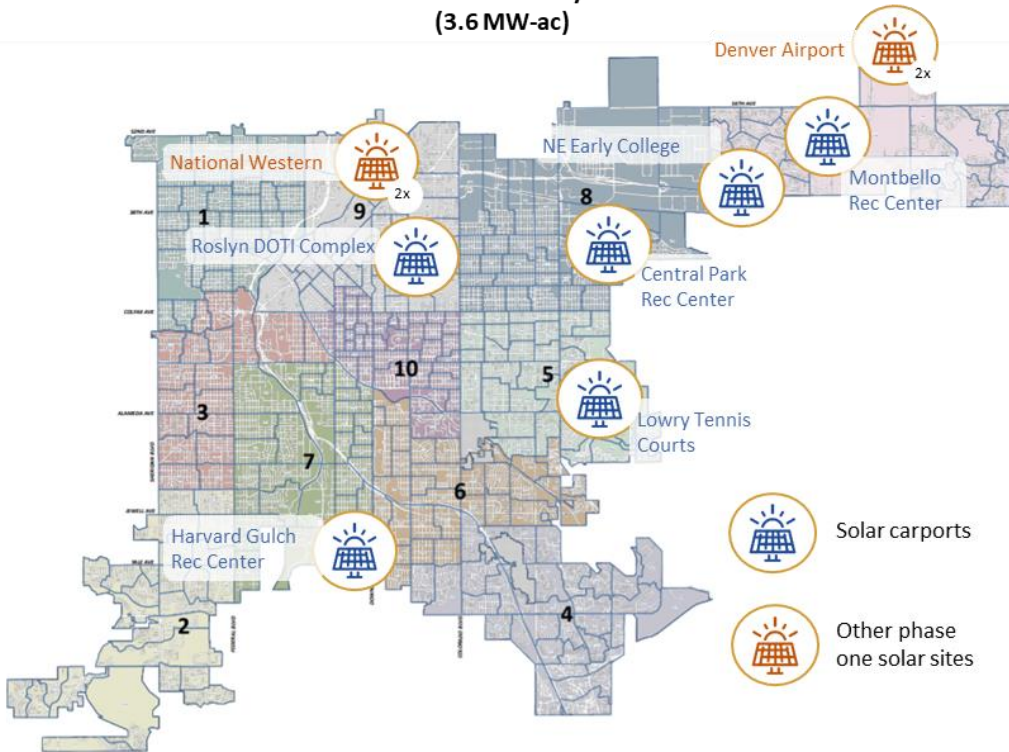
The Renewable Denver Community Solar Initiative

- ✓ Ten projects approved by Xcel Energy in its 2020 application cycle (3.6 MW-AC)
- ✓ Power shared between city facilities, low-income housing, and Denver residents
- ✓ Workforce training and student education
- ✓ Energy cost savings with reinvestment in income-qualified support programs
- ✓ Top 10 Most Noteworthy Local Government Renewables Deals of 2020 (ACCC)



The initiative is a citywide effort to build, host, and share the benefits of solar.

RDCS 1: Ten Solar Panel Arrays in Phase One (3.6 MW-ac)



The solar carports symbolize equitable clean energy action for the community.

The project team has met with local neighborhood organizations and community stakeholders to discuss the projects and answer questions.

The program has been met with resounding support.

- ✓ Montbello 20/20
- ✓ Lowry United Neighbors
- ✓ Rosedale Harvard Gulch Neighborhood Association
- ✓ Central Park United Neighbors
- ✓ NWC Campus Services and Partnerships Committee and Board
- ✓ Denver Sustainability Advisory Council
- ✓ Denver Public Schools
- ✓ Energy Outreach Colorado

Creating community benefits is central to the initiative.

Investing in a Local and Equitable Workforce

- ✓ Solar training programs focused on providing workforce development in under-employed communities



Student Engagement and Career Exploration

- ✓ Clean energy activities, solar field trips, and high-school internships with Denver organizations.

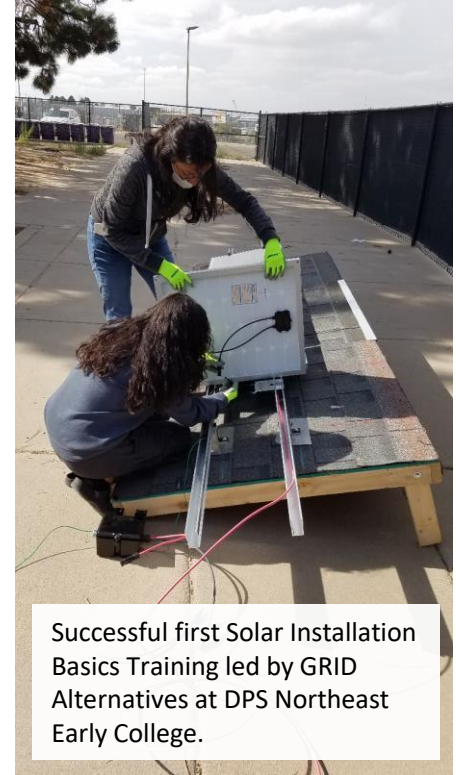


Energy Services & Bill Savings for Income-Qualified Residents

- ✓ Qualify for free energy efficiency services, appliance rebates, and cash assistance on energy bills.



30% of electricity dedicated to low-income households



Successful first Solar Installation Basics Training led by GRID Alternatives at DPS Northeast Early College.

Denver's approach is widely recognized for leadership in energy and sustainability.



**#4 Sustainable
Destination in the world**
(only city in North America)



\$1,000,000 grant award
Renewable and Clean Energy
Challenge Grant



**Top 10 Most Noteworthy
Local Government
Renewables Deals of 2020**

Recap: Bills related to the Renewable Denver Community Solar program.

Bill submitted to Safety Committee (11/10/21).

Approves Master Operator Agreement with McKinstry Essention, LLC
(Contract Control Number: CASR-202160403-00.)

Companion bills on consent through the FINGOV Committee (11/10/21)

- 1) Establish Climate Protection Capital Fund
- 2) Transfer To Climate Protection Capital Fund

Next steps

November 2021

Ordinances/contract proceed through City Council

End of 2021 – Q1 2022

Finalize design packages, obtain necessary permits, finalize construction schedule

Participate in community meetings to follow up on the program plan and opportunities for local residents.

Work with DPS and EOC to identify families to receive the donated solar credits (ongoing basis as needed).

Q2 2022 – Q1 2023

Complete construction on the ten solar projects over four phases. Tentatively:

Spring 2022) DEN, two ground-mount solar trackers;

Summer 2022) Carports at Lowry, Harvard Gulch, and NE Early College;

Fall 2022) Carports at Central Park and Montbello rec centers;

Winter 2022) National Western Rooftops.

Provide project development updates and connect local residents to the community-based program elements (i.e., workforce training opportunities, energy support services, and student activities).

Create public facing educational materials to accompany the solar deployments

Additionally, CASR is pursuing approval from Xcel Energy to bring solar to more Denver neighborhoods in future program cycles.