



AURORA

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Aurora Renewable Energy Industry

A Leader in Renewable Energy Development

Renewable energy is a burgeoning industry within the state of Colorado. The world faces a finite supply of fossil fuels and in response to a dramatic shift in federal policies, programs and budget priorities, Colorado is emerging as a leader in many areas of renewable energy including solar, wind, bio-fuels, hydropower, geothermal, and biomass technologies.

Colorado ranks fourth in the nation for its 2008 concentration of renewable energy and energy research employment (16,610). The 2007 average salary for a renewable energy and energy research worker is \$76,110 (\$66,840 nationwide).

Colorado has approximately 16,610 private-sector renewable energy and energy research workers in nearly 1,510 companies. In fact, renewable energy employment grew 11.5 percent in the state from 2007 to 2008; the national growth for the same period was 2.3 percent.

SolarTAC

The Solar Technology Acceleration Center (SolarTAC) in Aurora is the first shared solar technology center of its kind in North America, occupying 74-acres at the 1,762-acre Aurora Campus for Renewable Energy. It is an integrated, world-class test facility where the solar industry can research, test, validate, and demonstrate solar technologies. Its mission is to increase the efficiency of solar energy products and rapidly deploy them to the commercial market. SolarTAC is a partnership of the Colorado Renewable Energy Collaboratory, the city of Aurora, Xcel Energy, Abengoa Solar, SunEdison, and Midwest Research Institute (MRI). SolarTAC will provide a solar facility where member companies can bring their technologies for testing and demonstration, particularly solar technologies at the early commercial or near-commercial stage of development. SolarTAC will also help promote better interface between technology developers and solar energy users by offering solar equipment suppliers an opportunity to show potential customers new technologies performing under actual field conditions.

SolarTAC is divided into three areas including Common Areas, Solar Thermal Area (solar to heat technology) and Photovoltaics Area (solar to electricity technology) and consist of three areas of research: proprietary, shared among members and public.

The initial phase will be developed over the next three years and includes an Abengoa Solar facility (on five acres in the Solar Thermal Area) and a SunEdison facility (on five acres in the Photovoltaics Area) that are targeting to begin constructing late summer 2009 for testing of proprietary components. Xcel Energy will be permanently relocating the Award Winning CU Solar Decathlon exhibit to the site to serve as a visitors' center and solar exhibit in the near future. MRI is actively recruiting additional companies to participate and invest at the site.

Members

Xcel Energy

Xcel Energy is a major U.S. electricity and natural gas company with regulated operations in eight Western and Midwestern states. Xcel Energy provides a comprehensive portfolio of energy-related products and services to 3.3 million electricity customers and 1.8 million natural gas customers through its regulated operating companies. Company headquarters are located in Minneapolis.

Sun Edison

Sun Edison is North America's largest solar energy services provider and operates across a global marketplace. Sun Edison provides solar-generated energy at or below current retail utility rates to a broad and diverse client base of commercial, municipal and utility customers.

Abengoa Solar

Abengoa Solar is a company that focuses on developing and applying innovative technologies to generate solar power, with offices in the U.S. in Arizona, Colorado and California. It is a subsidiary of Abengoa of Spain, an international technology company with approximately \$5 billion dollars in annual sales, which applies innovative solutions for sustainable development in the infrastructure, environment and energy sectors.

Operated by Midwest Research Institute

MRI, a not-for-profit scientific research organization with 1,800 employees nationwide, performs contract research and laboratory consulting services for clients in government, industry, and academia.

Partners

Colorado Renewable Energy Collaboratory

The Colorado Renewable Energy Collaboratory is a renewable energy research partnership among the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) the Colorado School of Mines, Colorado State University and the University of Colorado. The Collaboratory seeks to develop and commercialize renewable energy technologies, promote economic growth in Colorado, the Rocky Mountain Region and the nation with renewable energy industries, and educate our nations' finest energy researchers, technicians and work force. Legislation created the Collaboratory in 2007, which receives \$2 million annually in state funding for three years.

City of Aurora

Comprised of 151 miles, Aurora extends into Arapahoe, Adams and Douglas Counties. Having more than 300 days of sunshine a year, unmatched views of the Rocky Mountains and an unparalleled parks and recreation system makes Aurora an ideal location for its residents and visitors alike. The city's pro-business attitude, excellent infrastructure, and educated workforce fuel a dynamic economy. As the third most populated city in Colorado, more than 308,000 people call Aurora home.