

Support Rooftop Solar February 3rd Public Hearing Information

WHAT:

Public Comment Session at the Public Utilities Commission on Xcel's Proposal to Rollback Net Metering

WHEN:

Monday, February 3, 2014 4:30 PM - 7:30 PM MST

WHERE:

Public Utilities Commission (Denver, CO)
Commission Hearing Room
1560 Broadway, Suite 250
Denver, CO 80202

Thanks to our public pressure, the Public Utilities Commission—encouraged by the Colorado Energy Office--agreed to hold a thorough review process on net metering for rooftop solar. This is great progress and a new beginning for our campaign to ensure a thriving rooftop solar market for many years to come.

Our Asks

Please start with the following asks:

- I want to thank the Commission and the Colorado Energy Office for providing the opportunity to fully explore the benefits of rooftop solar. We thank the PUC for their leadership on this important solar issue, and look forward to working through this new process to make sure that the benefits of rooftop solar are fully recognized.
- I urge the Commission to establish a series of informal workshops that all stakeholders can participate in. An informal workshop process will allow enough open and transparent dialogue and data sharing for the Commission to properly assess the true benefits of distributed solar resources.
- I urge the Commission to bring in a third party facilitator with deep knowledge of how to assess the benefits of solar to run this process.

Talking Points on Reverse

Share your personal story of why rooftop solar matters to you, and should be supported in the state.

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Example talking points:

- Rooftop solar is helping build a cleaner, safer and more resilient energy supply for all Coloradans.
- **Unfair:** Coloradans deserve the right to access clean, affordable energy and harness the power of sunshine that falls on rooftops across our state. That means that Coloradans who choose to produce their own energy through rooftop solar, should receive the same rate as the utility for that valuable electricity. Xcel's proposal to credit customers far less than the full retail rate is simply unfair.
- **Coloradans want more rooftop solar:** Both customer demand and polls continue to show Coloradans want more solar energy, not less. We should be making it more affordable for Coloradans to generate their own clean energy, not denying consumers the right to access rooftop solar as Xcel's proposal would.
- **Energy options:** Rooftop solar is helping Colorado families, schools, and businesses take charge of their power supply and their electricity bills like never before. Xcel should be serving this customer demand for a new approach to power rather than trying to find ways to prop up its old way of doing business.
- **Grid benefits:** This individual investment in solar power reduces the need for expensive and polluting fossil fuel power plants and transmission infrastructure. A study by an independent third party, Crossborder Energy, demonstrated that every year, these savings from rooftop solar total up to \$13 million in benefits for *ALL* Xcel customers.
- **Environment & public health:** Our competitive rooftop solar market is helping build healthier Colorado communities by reducing harmful air pollution and dangerous carbon emissions. Rooftop solar empowers Coloradans to make a direct, positive difference in the environmental and human impacts of our energy footprint.
- **Economy:** Solar is creating a vibrant new local energy economy: 246 solar companies employ 3,600 Coloradans, making the state 5th in the nation for amount of solar power installed. Overall, solar power has brought \$1.42 *billion* to Colorado's state economy since 2007. Solar brought \$187 million in private investment in 2012
- **A growing movement:** Xcel is also here today to talk about their RES compliance plan. Coloradans set that RES standard, first at 10% then 20% and now 30%, as one way we show support and public demand for renewable energy. Now Coloradans have begun to embrace another way to create more renewable energy through personally committing to build rooftop solar, providing clean energy for within our communities.