

## Boulder Municipalization Study

### Xcel Energy—An Industry Innovation Leader

The City of Boulder has released study information concerning how it believes it can finance a takeover of Xcel Energy's electric utility system and service in the city and in certain areas of Boulder County. That study is being used as justification for Boulder to continue spending millions of dollars and city resources to possibly and forcibly acquire the electric utility business from Xcel Energy, most likely through a condemnation (eminent domain) process expected to take years to complete.

To ensure those customers potentially affected by Boulder's decision have a more complete perspective on the issue, Xcel Energy will provide a series of issue briefs that examine key assumptions and conclusions in Boulder's study.

#### **A national leader in renewable energy**

Boulder's study is actually a plan not for an innovative utility but for a traditional municipal utility. It is based, in large part, on the assumed availability of inexpensive wind power and the assumption that Xcel Energy and other Colorado utilities would not take advantage of such a low cost resource. Our actions and results as the nation's number one provider of wind power suggest otherwise.

Xcel Energy is far ahead of nearly all utilities in the country in the use of wind and solar power. While providing rates below the national average and reliable service above the national average, we are also one of the most aggressive utilities investing in new technologies and services to lower emissions, generate power from renewable sources and implement programs to reduce energy use. Just a few of our achievements are noted here.

- The **nation's #1 wind energy provider**, out of more than 3,000 electric utilities, nine consecutive years according to the American Wind Energy Association. In 2013, wind generation will make up about 24 percent of Xcel Energy's electricity sales in Colorado.
- Among the **top five utilities for solar generation**, according to the Solar Energy Power Association.
- On track to surpass our goals of **reducing carbon emissions by 20 percent** and having a **30 percent renewable energy mix by 2020**.
- 2012 **energy efficiency programs** in Colorado saved energy equal to one-third the amount used in Boulder in one year.
- **Utility Excellence Winner** in 2011, selected by the American Carbon Project.
- Included for six years in the **Dow Jones Sustainability Index**.

And, **Boulder is a major beneficiary of Xcel Energy's forward-thinking plans**, a benefit that would be lost if the city forms a municipal utility.

- Investing **more than \$28 million in solar incentives** to install more than 11 megawatts of solar in the Boulder community since 2006.
- **Boulder receives two to five times the program benefits.** Boulder customers make up 15 percent of the participants in Solar\*Rewards and 10 percent of participants in our energy efficiency programs, though the city represents only 3.4 percent of Xcel Energy's Colorado customers.
- Boulder customers typically **receive millions more in program rebates each year** than they pay into the programs. For example, in 2010, Boulder customers received \$5.5 million in rebates from Xcel Energy.
- **Millions of dollars in research with NCAR** to develop industry-leading wind and weather modeling software to improve system operations and incorporate as much wind power as possible.

Most of these benefits will be put in jeopardy by Boulder's pursuit of a takeover of Xcel Energy's electric distribution business. We hope you agree that the city's plan is the wrong direction.

**Get involved and let the Boulder City Council know you do not support their plan. Go to [xcelenergy.com](http://xcelenergy.com) or call Craig Eicher, Area Manager for Boulder County, at 303-245-2254 to learn more about how you can help.**

