

# Utah Conservation and Respect Report 2016

Protecting and enhancing the environment is a core principle for Rocky Mountain Power. While providing safe, reliable electric service to our customers, we strive to be good stewards by conserving natural resources, developing innovative solutions, growing renewable resources, reducing emissions, protecting habitats and more.



*Let's turn the answers on.*



# Energy Efficiency



Saving energy conserves natural resources, reduces emissions and helps keep electricity costs low. Rocky Mountain Power encourages customers to be wattsmart®. Together with our Utah customers in 2015, we achieved a **peak load reduction of 115 megawatts**. In addition, our energy efficiency efforts **saved more than 313,700 megawatt-hours of electricity**, creating benefits equivalent to:

- Powering nearly 34,000 homes for a year.
- The electricity generated by 57 utility-scale wind turbines.

Our energy efficiency programs are projected to meet 87 percent of our projected load growth companywide for the next decade.

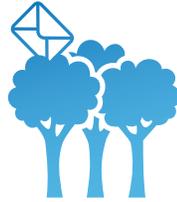
Some of our wattsmart energy-saving programs in Utah include:

- Home Energy Savings – customers can get cash back on energy-efficient appliances, windows, insulation and heating and cooling equipment. 
- Home Energy Reports – customers receive reports with comparative energy usage for similar homes and information on how to reduce their energy usage.
- Cool Keeper – this device helps keep energy costs down for all of us by coordinating air conditioner use on select weekdays during the summer. Participants receive an annual \$20 thank you credit.

- **wattsmart® Business** – provides technical services and incentives to commercial, industrial and agricultural customers for upgrading equipment and processes to increase energy efficiency.
- Irrigation Load Control – offers incentives to irrigators who agree to curtail their electricity use during designated periods.
- Energy benchmarking – in 2015, we introduced Resource Advisor to help customers better manage commercial building performance.



# Paperless Billing and Reusable Envelopes



The only thing better than recycling paper is saving paper. With **31 percent** of our customers choosing paperless billing at the end of 2015, we are saving more than **267,000 pounds of paper** envelopes and bills each year. In addition, the company provides a two-in-one, reusable envelope for customers who still prefer a paper bill. Each year, the reusable envelope is expected to **conserve 3,216 trees, 3.7 million gallons of water and electricity equivalent to the annual use of 62 homes**, all of which were required to manufacture the paper for the payment envelopes used previously.

# Renewable Resources

Wind, hydro and geothermal resources currently make up more than 19 percent of the company's owned generating capacity. We support prudent and cost-effective renewable resources through power purchase agreements, ownership, leasing and by continuing to offer programs that help customers install their own renewable resource systems. We own 13 wind projects and purchase additional wind and solar resources. The American Wind Energy Association named our company the **second largest rate-regulated utility owner of wind resources in the nation**.

Our most recent Integrated Resource Plan includes power purchase agreements for more than 1,100 megawatts of new wind and solar projects expected to be completed by the end of 2017.

In 2015, we committed to the American Business Act on Climate Pledge. This pledge demonstrates the

company's ongoing efforts to transition towards a sustainable energy future.

Elements of our innovative Utah Sustainable Transportation and Energy Plan – STEP – will move ahead this year. STEP programs work to improve air quality, support economic development and promote energy savings.

To benefit customers, the company partnered to create an energy imbalance market. The real-time market helps optimize the electric grid, lowering costs, enhancing reliability and more effectively integrating renewable generation.

Rocky Mountain Power's **Subscriber Solar** program offers an affordable and convenient way for customers in Utah to meet their electricity needs with locally generated solar power without having to install rooftop solar panels. The **20-megawatt solar farm** to serve the program is under development in Millard County, Utah,

and is expected to begin generating power in 2017.

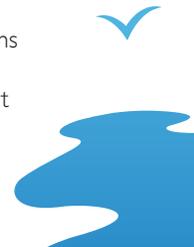
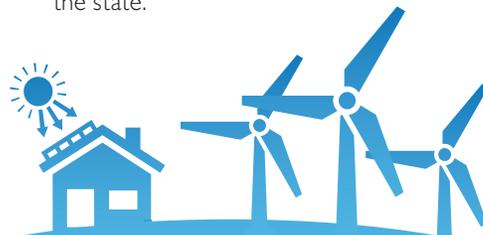
Blue Sky<sup>SM</sup> is a voluntary program customers can participate in to support the development of renewable energy resources in the Western U.S., including community-based projects. Blue Sky renewable energy is separate from, and in addition to, what Rocky Mountain Power buys or generates to serve customers.

**More than 106,600 customers** are enrolled in Blue Sky in the six states our company serves, including more than **42,000 customers in Utah**. During the last 16 years, Utah customers supported renewable energy equal to planting more than 16.5 million trees. Participants also have helped fund 118 new community-based renewable energy projects across the state.

# Wildlife and Habitat Protection

Protecting wildlife habitat is central to our goal of protecting the environment. We focus on preserving forests, grasslands and wetlands; reducing hydroelectric facilities' impact on fish and wildlife; and implementing avian protection plans.

In 2015, we conducted avian-protection training for field employees and installed protective equipment on **10,900 power poles and in 70 substations** companywide. We reframe poles and install covers on conductors to prevent birds from making electrical contact. In areas where bird collisions are a risk, lines are marked to make them more visible. We also install platforms to provide nesting sites away from energized lines. These efforts benefit birds and other wildlife and improve service reliability.



# Trees

To maintain a safe corridor around power lines, our crews worked on more than **679,200 trees** companywide along 16,450 miles of transmission and distribution lines in 2015. Trees are the most common cause of power outages when branches fall on lines during high winds and storms.

Since 2002, the company has been recognized with the Tree Line USA award from the National Arbor Day Foundation for our tree-friendly practices. We also offer tree certificates for Arbor Day planting projects in partnership with communities.



# Reducing Vehicle Emissions



We are proactively partnering with automobile

manufacturers and others to plan, develop and drive requirements for electric vehicles and their interface with the power grid. We maintain a pulse on alternative fuel technologies and provide information on our website about purchasing and charging electric vehicles.

Automatic Vehicle Locator equipment has been installed in 2,196 company vehicles to help us use less gasoline and promote a healthier environment. Company vehicles **drove 2.35 million fewer miles in 2015** and the fuel economy rose 13.6 percent. The avoidance of 6,171 tons of greenhouse gases was equivalent to taking 1,200 passenger vehicles off the road for a year.

The company also placed four new 37-foot, plug-in hybrid electric bucket

trucks into service companywide to help linemen do their jobs more quietly and with fewer emissions.

Through the company's idle-free policy, smarter vehicle routing, and emphasis on improving fuel economy, **more than 600,000 gallons of fuel were saved in 2015.**

Rocky Mountain Power also has joined with other Utah businesses to participate in the Emergency Business Air Quality Initiative to help reduce vehicle emissions during the inversion season. The initiative is a partnership of Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce members and the Utah Clean Air Partnership and is supported by the Utah Department of Air Quality. As part of this partnership, Rocky Mountain Power sends air quality alerts to all its Utah employees so they can limit trips and take advantage of transit passes that are provided by the company.

# Recycling



Rocky Mountain Power recycles as much as possible and properly disposes of all other wastes. Proceeds from recycling are reinvested into the company to reduce operating costs.

In 2015, Rocky Mountain Power recycled more than **169,800 gallons of used mineral, transformer and motor oils.**

We also shredded and recycled paper documents with the environmental equivalent of saving 449 trees, 53 barrels of oil and 185 gallons of water.

In addition, the company has established systems for recycling toner, batteries, cardboard, carpet and plastics.

# Air Quality

As we work to provide safe, reliable and reasonably priced electric service for customers, we are continuously developing and implementing strategies to improve our emissions performance.



Since 2005, we have invested in pollution control technology and retired coal plants that have reduced emissions by:

- 60 percent for sulfur dioxide
- 43 percent for nitrogen oxides
- 65 percent for mercury

Further, through investments in energy efficiency, renewable resources, and other air quality initiatives we have **lowered our carbon emissions rate<sup>1</sup> from 1.81 to 1.607 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> per kilowatt-hour.**

<sup>1</sup> This is the emissions rate for electricity that is delivered to customers. Data is from 2005 to 2014.

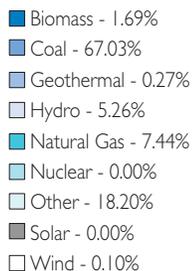
# Generation Sources

Electricity can be generated from many sources. In 2015, we had a company-owned net generating capacity of 10,894 megawatts and purchased additional power from other suppliers as needed. The resource mix used to meet our customers' energy needs, including purchases, has changed in recent years, as shown in the charts below.

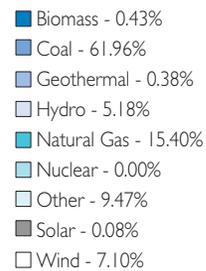
We plan to continue to transition our energy resource mix from baseload thermal to renewables and flexible resources by using state-of-the-art technology and coordination across our large geography, and through our partnership in the energy imbalance market. Our most recent Integrated Resource Plan assumes that approximately 2,800 megawatts of existing coal capacity will either be retired or converted to burn natural gas by 2034.

## ENERGY RESOURCE MIX

2005\*



2015\*



\*This information is based on Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Form 1 data. The Rocky Mountain Power "energy resource mix" is based on energy production and not resource capability, capacity or delivered energy. All or some of the renewable energy attributes associated with wind, solar, biomass, geothermal and qualifying hydro facilities in Rocky Mountain Power's energy resource mix may be: (a) used in future years to comply with renewable portfolio standards or other regulatory requirements, (b) sold to third parties in the form of renewable energy credits and/or other environmental commodities or (c) excluded from energy purchased. Rocky Mountain Power's energy resource mix includes owned resources and purchases from third parties.



**Here are a few simple things customers can do:**

- Be wattsmart – save energy and money
- Sign up for Subscriber Solar or Blue Sky<sup>SM</sup> renewable energy
- Choose paperless billing



**wattsmart**

As we strive to transform the future of electricity in the West, through innovation, flexibility and strategic partnerships, we'll continue to look for ways to operate efficiently and responsibly. To learn more about our commitment, visit [rockymountainpower.net/respect](http://rockymountainpower.net/respect).



*Let's turn the answers on.*

© 2016 Rocky Mountain Power 4/16  
Carbon emissions rate of 1.607 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> per kwh from 2014. All other figures reported from 2015, unless otherwise noted.