

The Community Clean Energy Program

Fact Sheet - Updated 5/20/26

The Community Clean Energy Program is a partnership between Rocky Mountain Power and Utah Renewable Communities designed to give customers in participating areas the option to receive net-100% renewable electricity.

Through the program, an equivalent amount of new clean energy, such as wind and solar, is added to the existing power grid for every unit of electricity customers use, without requiring individual investments like rooftop solar.

Key Benefits

- **Environment:** Supports healthier families, communities, and the environment by reducing pollution and keeping the air cleaner for generations.
- **Reliability & Economy:** Helps meet Utah's fast-growing energy demand, brings new energy online quickly, benefits the economy, and strengthens long-term energy reliability.
- **Transparency:** The program provides full transparency, clearly showing customers how their dollars are directly invested in the program and new clean energy generation.

Enrollment & Opt-Out Rules

- **Automatic Enrollment:** Nearly all Rocky Mountain Power customers in communities that adopt the ordinance will be automatically enrolled in the program.
- **Opting Out:** Customers can exit the program at any time. There are **no exit fees** if a customer opts out within the first six months after receiving their first program notice.

Rates & Costs

- **Residential Customers:** A fixed initial rate of **\$4.00 per month**. *(Note: Rates will be adjusted periodically.)*
 - **Income-Eligible Customers:** Residents enrolled in Rocky Mountain Power's HELP program (Schedule 3) will see a \$3.88 monthly rate matched by a \$3.88 bill credit, enabling them to participate for free.
- **Non-Residential Customers:** A volumetric rate of \$0.00609 per kWh, plus the \$0.12 monthly low-income surcharge.

Timeline & Next Steps

- **The deadline for ordinance adoption by participating communities is June 2, 2026.**
- **Late 2026:** Rocky Mountain Power will send the first official mailed notices and digital reminders to residential customers in participating communities.
- **Early 2027:** The program officially kicks off, and the new "Schedule 100" line item will start appearing on customer bills approximately 60 days after the first notices are sent.

Additional Information available in the following FAQs >

Internal document: to assist URC board members in responding to constituent questions

These FAQ are a combination of questions on the URC website as well as other questions we have heard from elected officials and constituents. We are providing this list of FAQ to you for use in communicating with constituents and in your community meetings, which is not restricted by the Utility Agreement.

FAQs

Q: How does the Utah Community Clean Energy Program work?

A: Rocky Mountain Power customers in participating communities will have the choice to pay a small increase on their electricity bill to support the addition of new utility scale clean energy to our grid. The goal is to add enough clean energy to the Rocky Mountain Power grid to match the amount consumed by participating homes and businesses annually (this is called net-100% renewable electricity). See the [How It Works page](#) on the URC website.

Q: Who is eligible to participate in the Utah Community Clean Energy Program?

A: Rocky Mountain Power customers in participating communities at the time of program launch are eligible to participate in the Program. By law, the Program is an opt-out program, meaning Rocky Mountain Power customers within participating communities will be automatically enrolled in the Program, but may opt themselves out if they prefer to not participate. The only customers in participating communities that will not be able to participate are those with their own solar panels on Schedule 135 (net metering). After the program launches, customers that move or are annexed into a participating community can also be part of the program.

Q: When will the Program begin? / When will eligible Rocky Mountain Power customers be automatically enrolled?

A: There are a few more steps that need to take place before the Utah Community Clean Energy Program can begin. If key regulatory and community milestones are met, the Program could launch in late 2026/early 2027. See the URC website for the latest [estimated timeline](#).

Q: How much will it cost residential Rocky Mountain Power customers to participate in the Utah Community Clean Energy Program?

A: Residential Rocky Mountain Power customers in participating communities will pay a fixed rate of \$4 per month to participate in the Program. Residents enrolled in Rocky Mountain Power's Home Energy Lifeline Program (HELP) will participate for free. Rates may adjust annually, and clear information will be shared here and on customer bills.

Q: How much will it cost businesses and other non-residential Rocky Mountain Power customers to participate in the Utah Community Clean Energy Program?

A: Businesses and other non-residential customers will pay a monthly rate based on their electricity usage. The approved rate for non-residential customers is \$0.00609 per kWh plus a low-income surcharge of \$0.12 per month. A business could estimate what this translates to by finding a past bill, taking the total kWh multiplied by 0.00609 and adding \$0.12 to see what the addition would be as part of the program.

Q: How can someone opt out of the Program if they don't want to participate?

A: Customers can opt out any time after they receive the first notice from Rocky Mountain Power. Rocky Mountain Power customers in participating communities will receive mailed notices about the launch of the Program before the new clean energy charge appears on their bill. It is estimated that this won't happen until late 2026/early 2027. Customers will have six months to opt out for

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free. After that, there will be a \$30 termination fee for customers who opt out. Customers participating in Rocky Mountain Power's bill assistance program (HELP) will not have to pay the \$30 termination fee.

Q: What does this look like for renters?

A: It depends. If a renter is a direct customer of Rocky Mountain Power, receiving and paying their bills directly, then the noticing and opt out process will be just like described above. If the landlord pays the Rocky Mountain Power bill, then it will be the landlord or property owner's decision whether to stay enrolled or not, and whether to pass on the cost to participate to renters.

Q: What happens if someone moves into a community that is part of the program or if that community annexes new areas into their boundaries?

A: After the program launches, any new customers in a participating community, such as if they move or are annexed into a participating community, will become an eligible customer and will receive at least two notices with instructions for opting out of the program during a 60-day noticing period. Customers who opt out during this noticing period will not be subject to program charges. Those who do not opt out during the noticing period will become participating customers and will begin being charged the program rate following the end of this period and will be charged a termination fee to exit the program thereafter.

Q: Is financial assistance available for those who want to stay in the Program but can't afford an increase to their monthly Rocky Mountain Power bill?

A: Low-income households already receiving monthly assistance through Rocky Mountain Power's Home Electric Lifeline Program (HELP) will participate in the Program for free. Additionally, HELP customers who choose to opt-out of the Program after the free, 6 month opt-out window closes will not need to pay the \$30 termination fee. [Learn more here.](#)

Q: If lots of customers decide to opt out of the Program, will participants see higher rates for the long term?

A: The Program will seek to acquire renewable resources gradually – with one or two projects to start. As the number of eligible customers ultimately participating in the program is confirmed, additional renewable resources will be developed to meet the communities' clean energy goals. By law, the program rate may be adjusted periodically (no more than once per year.) If, after all the resources are built, there is a major drop in participation, the URC Agency will seek to stabilize rates using the financial backstop reserve fund and other mechanisms.

Q: Will Rocky Mountain Power customers enrolled in the Utah Community Clean Energy Program need to put solar panels on their roof?

A: No. The Program does not require the installation of any renewable energy resources on private property. Renewable energy resources for this program will be "utility-scale" in size. Individual customers wishing to install renewable energy on their property can still do so, but only if they want to. By no means will URC communities alter their support of home and business owners taking action like installing solar or making improvements to reduce energy use.

Q: How does the Utah Community Clean Energy Program compare to other renewable initiatives, such as solar on home and businesses and Blue Sky?

A: The Utah Community Clean Energy Program is designed to drive large-scale renewable energy development that is accessible to nearly all Rocky Mountain Power customers. Unlike Blue Sky (which is a certificate-based program), this Program will deliver electricity to the Rocky Mountain

Power system. Unlike a lot of rooftop solar arrangements, this Program will not require a large upfront investment or customer financing. And unlike Subscriber Solar, this Program will not be capped at 20 Megawatts and can scale up to match customer interest.

Q: How does participating in the Utah Community Clean Energy Program affect people with rooftop solar?

A: Homes with rooftop solar that participate in the “net metering” rate schedule 135 cannot participate, but other homes and businesses with solar panels can participate. Schedule 135 customers can leave Schedule 135 in order to participate, but doing so may not make sense financially. Other customers with solar panels can participate in the program.

Q: How does the Utah Community Clean Energy Program compare to large renewable energy projects associated with Schedule 32 or Schedule 34 customers?

A: Today, only extremely large electricity customers like universities, major companies, or municipal governments qualify to procure utility-scale renewable energy sources through special rate tariffs like Schedule 32 and Schedule 34. The Community Clean Energy Program seeks to extend a similar utility-scale renewable energy procurement option to all customers, large and small, within a participating community. The URC Agency will request proposals for new renewable resources, evaluate potential rate impacts, and vote on whether to acquire renewable energy resources. URC began its first solicitation in 2025.

Q: If a County is a participating community, what does that mean, only unincorporated areas? What if a previously unincorporated part of a County gets annexed or incorporated after the program launches?

A: If participating counties adopt the program ordinance by June 2nd, customers in unincorporated areas within those counties will be able to participate in the program. If an area is annexed or incorporated in the future, a customer previously eligible will still be able to participate.

Q: Will the program rate go down over time?

A: When the Public Service Commission approved the initial program rate of \$4/month for residential customers, the Commission indicated it was possible for rates to go down over time. The Commission will review program rates periodically and rates may be adjusted no more than annually.

Q: Does the program improve air quality?

A: The program won't necessarily have a dramatic impact on local air quality, but every little bit of renewable energy adds up, especially given the increased demand in our region for electricity and the fossil plants that operate here. The resources built for the program will increase the chance that pollution-free energy can be used by the grid on any given day, helping to avoid air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions that would otherwise be created by non-clean energy sources.

Q: Who owns the clean energy that is built for the program?

A: Per statute, the clean energy facilities built for the program can be owned by a third party (the developer) or Rocky Mountain Power. These will be long term contracts. Ownership is really no different than how this works for Rocky Mountain Power all the time. Power plants are sometimes owned by the utility, sometimes by a third party.

Q: Have any communities adopted the ordinance so far?

A: Yes, as of May 20, these communities have adopted the ordinance so far: Springdale, Summit County, Salt Lake City, Emigration Canyon, Moab, Park City, Ogden, Alta, Francis, Salt Lake County, Grand County, and Castle Valley.

Q: Why is this an opt-out program (as in, eligible customers are automatically enrolled with the option to opt-out)?

A: The program is defined as an opt-out program via the Community Clean Energy Act and Administrative Rules governing the program. This structure was supported by communities engaged in the 2019 legislation, including Salt Lake City, Park City, and Summit County, and has continued to be supported by the local governments involved in the Utah Renewable Communities (URC) coalition. The opt-out structure has not been adjusted by either the State Legislature or via the Public Service Commission. The Community Clean Energy Act gives individual communities the authority to decide whether to adopt the program (via ordinance by June 2, 2026) and then in communities that do adopt the program, individual customers have the option whether to remain in the program or opt out.

Local polling has consistently shown that residents in Utah want more renewable energy.** The opt-out structure enables maximizing the amount of renewable energy developed through the program and makes it easy and seamless for customers to stay enrolled, while ultimately maintaining customer choice. The opt-out feature also differentiates the Community Clean Energy Program from other existing programs like Blue Sky.

***Utah State University engaged Utahns with a survey in 2023 that revealed a clear preference for renewable energy such as wind and solar, with over 70% of responses being in favor of these solutions. This is similar to results from Colorado College and its annual Conservation in the West survey.*

Q: Where does the residential rate of \$4 per month actually go?

A: The \$4/month residential rate was approved by the Public Service Commission and will be used to pay for costs associated with bringing online the new clean energy resources. This includes resource development costs and administrative costs to set up and run the program. Administrative costs include providing notices to new customers over time, phone support, staff and technical support, and other necessary costs to ensure the program functions well. The significant majority of program rates goes to funding the clean energy resources themselves. The rate also includes a small monthly surcharge to provide a bill credit to allow qualifying low-income customers to participate for free.

Q: Why is there a \$4 charge for this program? Shouldn't renewable energy be cheaper?

A: State law requires that no costs for (nor benefits of) the Community Clean Energy Program be shifted to non-participating Rocky Mountain Power customers. Because Community Clean Energy Program participants remain RMP customers and benefit from the same reliability, transmission service, and baseload power resources, they will continue to pay their share of those costs (this is the "regular" part of your power bill). The Community Clean Energy Program is entirely additive. We are adding new clean energy to the grid that would not be developed otherwise to fulfill our net-100% renewable energy or similar goals. Therefore, our program participants are paying for these resources through the \$4 clean energy line item.

The "regular" part of your bill is determined by a regulated utility planning process and reflects both long term "Integrated Resource Plans" (or IRPs) and rate adjustment filings by Rocky Mountain

Power at the Public Service Commission. IRPs are updated every two years and involve Rocky Mountain Power examining the economics of resource costs to serve all customers. The IRP is also influenced by state and federal priorities, such as the availability of favorable tax credits or other policies. The rate set for the Community Clean Energy Program followed a totally separate but also regulated process at the Public Service Commission.

It is true (and great news) that renewable energy provides very cost-effective electricity since it has no fuel costs and the technology is mature. This keeps the cost of our program as affordable as possible, while also achieving important environmental benefits. However, because the Community Clean Energy Program is an additive program, it is not part of the IRP planning process, and its costs are determined separately.

We encourage the utility to also prioritize renewable energy development to serve its overall load – not just that procured through the program.

Q: Where will the clean energy projects be built?

A: The [Utah Renewable Communities' RFP](#) solicited projects within the PacifiCorp-East or PACE balancing authority area (corresponding to the Rocky Mountain Power (RMP) division of the company's footprint). This allowed consideration of projects that can interconnect directly to the PacifiCorp transmission system and be located in Idaho, Utah, or Wyoming. The RFP scoring system granted additional points to projects located in Utah, giving them an advantage in the selection process. The location of the project(s) that are ultimately selected will be made public when the power purchase agreements (PPAs) for those projects are filed with the Utah Public Service Commission (PSC) for consideration and approval.

Q: When will the resources serving the Community Clean Energy Program be built?

A: URC is currently working with Rocky Mountain Power to negotiate one or more contracts for the first program resource(s). Once contracts are signed, these projects may take an estimated 1-3 years to be completed. The timing will depend on factors like the level of participation in the program which will influence how quickly the program can cover resource costs, as well as the construction timeline of the clean energy project developers.

Q: I saw something in the news that Rocky Mountain Power is not planning to develop more renewable energy any time soon. What does that mean for the program?

A: In short, this does not impact the Community Clean Energy Program's ability to drive the development of new clean energy projects, and, in fact, it means that our program is currently one of the only ways that clean energy is being developed right now. If the utility continues the status quo of not investing in renewables, it could mean that, over the long-term, the program would need to bring on more clean energy to meet the net-100% goal of URC members since these goals rely on the clean energy serving all RMP customers *and* that developed by URC. Note that Rocky Mountain Power's 20-year long term Integrated Resource Plans are developed and filed with the Public Service / Utility Commissions in the states they operate – a totally separate process than the Community Clean Energy Program docket with the Utah Public Service Commission.

Q: What factors influence whether or not the communities can meet the net-100% goal?

A: The feasibility of and time required to meet the net-100% goal shared by many URC members will depend on factors like, but not limited to, participation rates in the program, the cost of resources bid into future URC solicitations for program resources, and the outcome of URC's

attempts to argue for retaining the renewable energy certificates (RECs) associated with program resources.

Q: Is getting involved in how the grid is powered an unusual role for local government to play?

A: In Utah, local governments play various roles in the electricity sector. Some local governments are power providers - typically called municipal utilities. The Community Clean Energy Program is an option for local governments who are served by Rocky Mountain Power to play a role in having a say about how the grid is powered. Prior to the Community Clean Energy Act and still today, cities in Utah can opt to follow a process to municipalize electricity. However, many find this to be a complex and costly process. Therefore, the Community Clean Energy Program offers a unique chance for local governments to provide their constituents with a say in how the power they use is generated.

Q: I'm a business and I want to be able to say I use 100% renewable energy. Can I do that if I am a participant in your program?

A: No, at least not initially. The program aims to add more clean energy resources over time depending on the level of participation. The URC also plans to continue to argue that the program should be able to retain and retire renewable energy certificates (RECs) associated with program resources. These factors will influence what the program is able to accomplish in terms of any specific net renewable energy goals.

Additional Questions Received from Kearns:

Q: What is Rocky Mountain Power planning to do with the money from this program? Is there a written document or resource that explains RMP's financial involvement?

A: The initial rate that participating customers will pay and what those rates cover is an important part of the Public Service Commission's (PSC's) approval of the program. Here is detailed information to help answer this question.

The \$4 per month per residential customer initial rate includes \$3.88 per month to cover **program costs** (discussed below) and \$0.12 per month to help cover the cost of providing an enhanced bill credit to qualifying low-income customers to participate free of charge.

The \$3.88 per month residential rate (and the \$0.00609/kWh initial rate charged to non-residential customers) will be used to cover PSC-approved **program costs**. Those program costs include: 1. the cost of acquiring the clean energy itself (**resource costs**), and 2. the costs of running the program (**administrative costs**). There are two types of administrative costs that get funded by the program rates charged to participating customers:

- **Startup costs** – costs required to implement the program incurred by the Company prior to commencement date (the date when revenue collection begins):
 - Will be "fronted" by the Company as required by the program timeline prior to the collection of revenues
 - Get paid back to Company once revenue collection begins
 - Includes: activities like updating the RMP billing system, customer service training, establishing a phone support system

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- **Ongoing administrative costs** – ongoing costs required to administer the program covered by rates:
 - Noticing for new customers
 - On-going Agency costs
 - Refresher training for customer service

The PSC order approved the following payment order for how rate revenue will be used/sequenced to cover program costs:

1. Start-up costs (estimated to take 1-3 months of program rates to pay back)
2. Administrative reserve fund (to build up 2 years' worth of ongoing administrative costs)
3. Resource reserve fund (to cover the cost of power from the clean energy projects)

While actual revenues and costs will vary depending on the number of customers that stay opted into the program, those customers' level of electricity consumption, the clean energy resources selected, the net cost of those resources, and other factors, the majority of rates will go towards resources with the remainder for the administrative costs outlined above. This means that the majority of revenue (i.e. rates paid by customers) go to the clean energy resources supported by the program.

There is a common misconception that RMP will make money off of the program resource. Utilities like RMP make a return only when *they* invest money in resources. They do not make *any* regulated return on Power Purchase Agreements (PPA's) with third-party renewable energy developers, which is how the Community Clean Energy Program will function. This is because RMP is simply purchasing the output (energy) from the renewable resource on behalf of our program participants. A PPA does not become a part of the utility's asset base (or "rate base" which is what generates their profit). In short, the program requires RMP to purchase the output of a renewable resource when it would not do so otherwise. It does not go towards RMP's bottom line in any way.

We also want to note that transparency is important not just to URC, Rocky Mountain Power, and the Public Service Commission, but also the Division of Public Utilities and Office of Consumer Services who are parties to the Community Clean Energy Program docket at the PSC. There will be reporting requirements put in place to ensure that the parties' desire for transparency is met.

Q: Once these projects are built and paid for, and the program has met its goals, can RMP at any point take that power and sell it to California, Wyoming, or surrounding states? These are concerns that were raised by constituents.

A: Any PPAs put in place for projects acquired to serve the Community Clean Energy Program will likely be long term contracts - often PPAs can be for 15-25 years. A standard practice is that there are options for what happens at the end of one of these long-term contracts, and this will have to be evaluated in the years to come by URC and Rocky Mountain Power depending on how the program is performing in relation to our goals. We envision that URC will continue to be a stakeholder in these decisions down the road.

As stated in response to the previous question, RMP does not make a profit off the program and can't sell the energy from URC resources to anyone other than URC customers. If there ever comes a time that the URC resources produce more than net-100% of URC Program load, the

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URC customers would just continue to pay for the resource output as always, and RMP doesn't get to go sell that extra energy and profit from it somehow. For this reason, however, URC aims to not over procure clean energy resources and will strive to only build resources to match participating customer load.

Q: Is there some type of quarterly oversight update that the URC board, or another entity, plans to create in order to update participating customers on how the program is going?

A: As part of the program approved by the PSC, RMP will file an annual report that will include key metrics about program participation, costs, and other parameters. The report will include recommendations to the PSC regarding rate changes if needed, but the PSC will have the final say in approving new rates. This reporting process will be co-developed through a Commission-ordered working group made up of URC, RMP, the Utah Division of Public Utilities, and Utah Office of Consumer Services (Utah's consumer advocacy agency for utility-related matters), and other parties to the docket. Communities that adopt the program ordinance will continue to have a vote on the URC Board, and the Board will have a final say in whether to move ahead with each new energy project under consideration and that decision will be further subject to PSC approval. Importantly, any resource acquisitions that are projected to impact rates by more than 10% will require supermajority votes by the URC Board both by number of communities (one vote for each community) *and* by electricity consumption in each community for approval, setting a high hurdle to drastically raising rates.