

Update on Renewable Energy Siting

Presentation by the Colorado Energy Office
December 2024



Senate Bill 24-212

- SB 24-212 provides resources to local governments to assess, site and permit utility-scale renewable energy projects while considering community values, including impacts to lands and wildlife.
- CEO, with assistance from DNR, will submit a report (Siting Study) to the General Assembly by September 30, 2025 that will:
 - evaluate and assess existing local government processes for the siting of commercially viable renewable energy projects and commercial energy transmission facilities,
 - evaluate the impact of renewable energy projects and commercial energy transmission facilities on wildlife resources and the use of wildlife mitigation, and
 - review decommissioning policies and best practices for community benefit agreements, as well as analyze the the range of fees imposed by local governments.
- Directs the Colorado Energy and Carbon Management Commission (ECMC) to provide technical support for local governments updating their land use codes and assessing individual projects

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SB 24-212 Stakeholder Process

- In preparing the report, CEO will provide opportunities for municipal and county governments; renewable energy project developers; conservation organizations; local stakeholders, including property owners; tribal governments; electric utilities; and labor organizations to provide input and shall allow opportunity for public comment before the final report is completed.
 - Step 1: Survey questions (Deadline of Dec 6)
 - Step 2: Webinars with stakeholder groups discussing findings from surveys and answer stakeholder questions (Early January)
 - Step 3: Incorporate survey and feedback into draft report (Jan-March)
 - Step 4: Provide opportunities for comment on Draft report (March-June)
 - Step 5: Finalize report and submit to General Assembly by Sept 30, 2025 (report will be available on CEO's website).

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Funding and Technical Assistance Opportunities

- CEO has established a new Local Government Climate Solutions Division to help implement programs and funding opportunities
- Renewable Energy Siting through Technical Engagement and Planning (R-STEP) (DOE):
 - Will provide technical assistance to local governments to support planning, siting, and permitting of utility-scale renewable energy projects in Colorado,
 - Will establish a Technical Assistance Hub for local governments to access resources and request technical support on planning and siting of new large-scale renewable projects, and
 - R-Step partnership plans to hold education and outreach events throughout Colorado
- Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program (EPA):
 - \$60 million will go to the local government climate action accelerator (begin Summer 2025)
 - local governments can apply for funds to support developing policies and projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions across four categories: Buildings; Land Use, Waste and Transportation.

Thank you

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