



Renewable Energy Guide

Using renewable energy sources is another method to help your building reach compliance with the Energize Denver Building Performance Policy.

Renewable energy use — whether generated onsite or purchased offsite from anywhere within Colorado or the Public Service Company of Colorado's (Xcel Energy) coverage area — counts directly toward your energy efficiency target. The city will subtract the energy you generate from your building's total energy use.

If additional equipment upgrades aren't in your current plan, or if you've already made all the equipment upgrades you can right now, using renewable energy is another way to keep your building on track to reach its energy efficiency target.

Eligible Renewable Energy

All renewable energy sources that can be measured in kWh (e.g., solar, wind, geothermal, hydropower, eligible biomass) will help your building reach its energy efficiency target. What matters for compliance with Energize Denver is whether you can measure and verify how much renewable energy your building is using.

- For every kilowatt hour (kWh) your onsite or offsite renewable energy source generates from January 1 - December 31 in your building's target year, the city **will remove 1 kWh from your building's reported energy use.**
- For onsite and offsite renewable energy located within the City and County of Denver (not subscriptions), the city **will remove 1.5 kWh for every 1 kWh generated.**

The city will calculate these credits on an annual basis, based on generation from the 12-month performance measurement period. The Technical Guidance has more details about how CASR will measure, assess, and credit renewable energy generation.



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Onsite Renewable Energy

Onsite renewable energy refers to a renewable energy installation (for example, solar panels) directly on the building or on the building's property. To be eligible to receive the renewable energy credit towards your target, you must show proof that you have installed renewable energy.

Offsite Renewable Energy

Offsite renewable energy refers to renewable energy that serves your building but is generated at a location other than your building's property. This can include a renewable energy installation you operate, participation in a renewable energy program, or a subscription to a community project (such as a community solar farm) that meets these requirements:

- The renewable energy source must be located within the State of Colorado or within Public Service Company of Colorado (Xcel Energy) territory.
- For an offsite renewable energy installation operated by your building:
 - Proof of interconnection and permission to operate.
- For a voluntary renewable energy program offered by Xcel Energy OR a community renewable energy project:
 - Evidence of a subscription, lease, or ownership share.
 - The term of purchase, subscription, or lease must be at least five (5) years.
 - To continue receiving credit, the agreement must be renewed at least every five (5) years for the life of the building.

Short-term Contract or Subscription Requirements

The city allows for short-term contracts or subscriptions to assist your building with its interim target only. These short-term contracts must meet several standards:

- They must be through an Xcel Energy program or a community project located in the State of Colorado or Public Service Company of Colorado territory.
- The contract must cover all 12 months of the measurement period (January 1 - December 31 of the target year).
- You must renew the contract annually for maintenance of the target through the next interim target date.
- If you wish to use renewable credits for your final target, you should replace short-term contracts with long-term contracts over time. Short-term contracts for renewable generation are only allowed for up to 20% of the building's electricity usage.



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See the Technical Guidance for more details about how the city measures, assesses, and credits renewable energy generation.

How to Report Renewables

[This video guide](#) will help you better understand how to report renewable energy for compliance with Energize Denver.

You will need to submit information on renewable energy generation every year when you submit your benchmarking report to receive the credit. To complete the [submission form](#), be prepared to provide the following:

- Total kWhs generated or purchased during the 12-month performance period
- Which type of installation or contract it is (long vs. short term)
- Were the RECs retained?
- A copy of the ownership paperwork or contract (you only need to submit this once)
- Upload one month's example of a bill or report that shows the kWhs generated in that year

The city will review your application to determine if the building is eligible for the renewable credit and will notify you by email about your application status.

ENERGIZE DENVER HELP DESK

Need more information on energy audits or additional guidance from our team?
Reach out to our help desk:

 Hours 8 AM-5 PM, M-F	 Phone (844) 536-4528	 Email for Buildings
		 25,000 sq. ft. and larger: energizedenver@denvergov.org
 Schedule a Phone Appointment: energyreporting.as.me/appointment		 5,000 - 24,999 sq. ft.: energizesmallbuildings@denvergov.org