

THE \$20 BILLION BONANZA



Best Practice Electric Utility Energy Efficiency Programs and Their Benefits for the Southwest

Colorado Highlights

The Bottom Line: Households and businesses in Colorado can save \$4.8 billion through greater commitment to energy efficiency.

Energy efficiency is the lowest-cost, cleanest, and least risky resource available to electric utilities in Colorado. By implementing best practice energy efficiency programs, electric utilities in Colorado would:

- Save their customers nearly **\$5 billion net**
- **Cut electricity use in 2020 by 22%** and peak demand by 20%
- **Avoid 7.5 large power plants**
- Save 11.5 billion kilowatt hours per year by 2020, equivalent to **the electricity use of 1.3 million typical households**
- Support **7,000 new jobs** and boost economic activity in the state
- Cut air pollution and **improve public health**
- Reduce CO₂ emissions by 5.4 million metric tons per year by 2020, equivalent to taking **1.1 million passenger vehicles off the road**
- Reduce water consumption by **2.5 billion gallons** per year by 2020

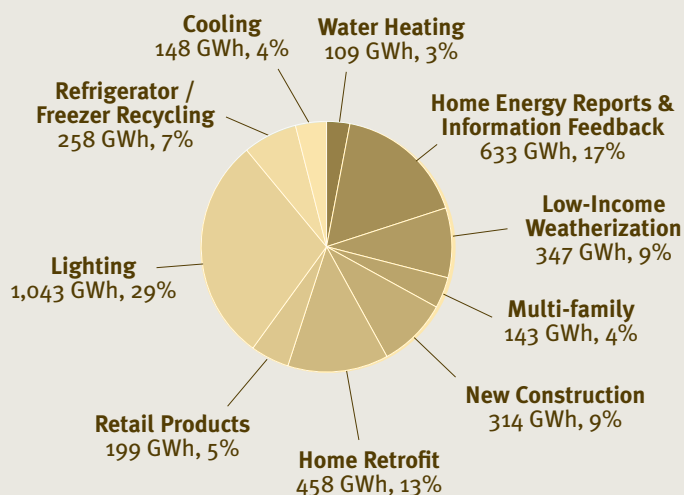
We'll Get There by Employing Best Practices

To reap the benefits listed above, Colorado utilities should ramp up their energy efficiency funding significantly during 2013–2020.

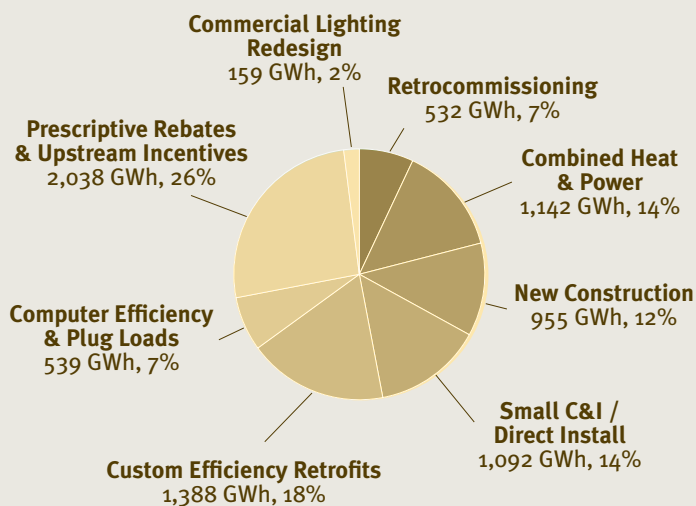
Best Practice utility energy efficiency programs include education, technical assistance and financial incentives for all customers.

Utilities should promote all cost-effective energy efficiency measures including energy-efficient lighting, appliances, air conditioning systems, electronic devices, control systems, building envelope retrofits and better performing new homes and commercial buildings.

TOTAL RESIDENTIAL ELECTRICITY SAVINGS IN 2020 BY PROGRAM (GWh)



TOTAL COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICITY SAVINGS IN 2020 BY PROGRAM (GWh)



THE \$20 BILLION BONANZA — Colorado Policy Recommendations

Colorado's Investor-Owned Utilities Are Making Progress in Expanding Energy Efficiency Programs.

Progressive policies are the key to achieving the energy savings and other benefits summarized below:

- **Adopt Higher Goals:** The Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) should strengthen energy savings goals for investor-owned utilities in the state.
- **Reward Performance:** The PUC also should maintain performance-based incentives that reward utilities for reaching or exceeding energy efficiency goals.
- **Maximize Participation and Electricity Savings:** Electric utilities and the Colorado PUC should fully fund all cost-effective efficiency programs.
- **Include Smaller Utilities:** The Colorado legislature should adopt energy efficiency program requirements for all utilities in Colorado so that households and businesses throughout the state receive comprehensive energy efficiency services.

