



# Boulder County BetterBuildings Program

Colorado Utilities Exchange  
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Ann Livingston





# Agenda

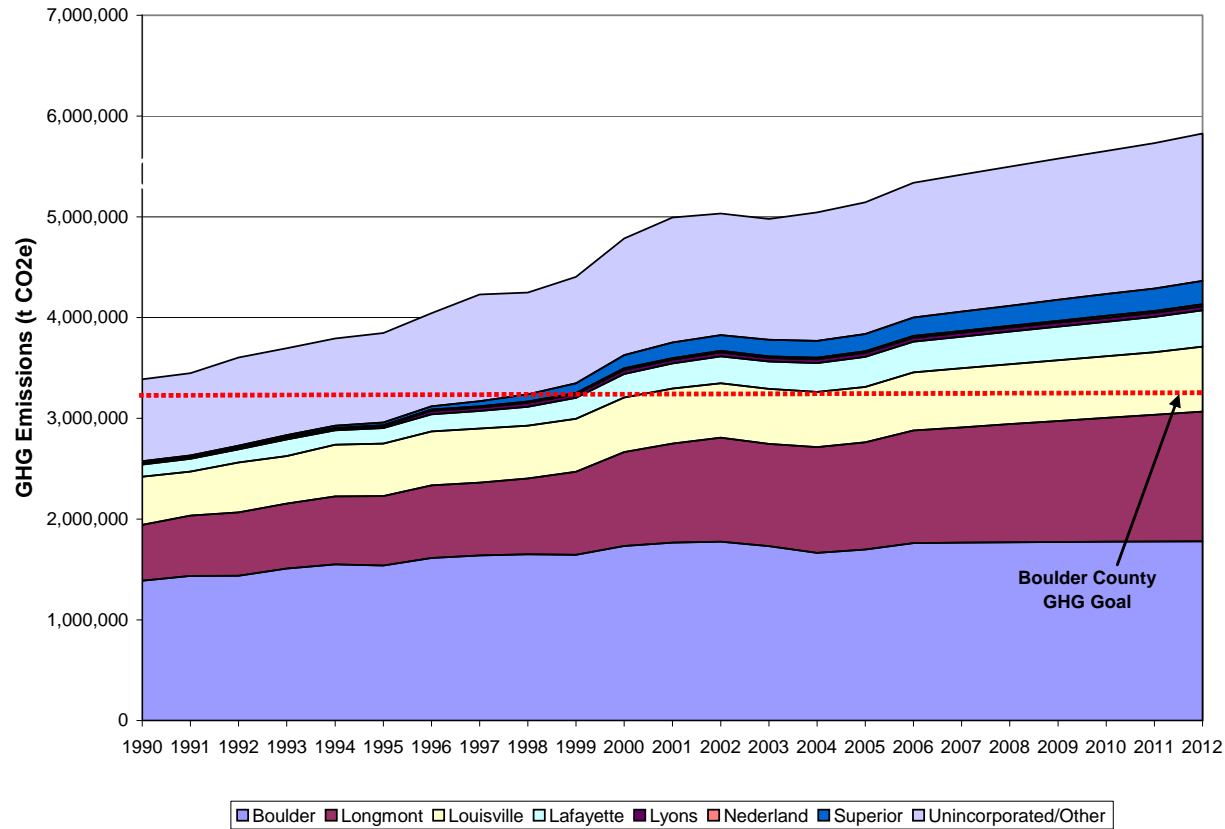
- How we got here
  - ❖ Past programs and development
- Where are we now?
  - ❖ DOE BetterBuildings Grant
- What will we offer? – program design
  - ❖ Residential, Commercial and Joint programs
- Our hopes for the future



## Boulder County

- 2005: Boulder County Commissioners passed two resolutions in support of Environmental Sustainability: Zero Waste and Energy
- 2005: Voters approved county dedicated property tax to fund sustainability measures
- 2008: Resolution supporting Sustainable Energy Plan

# GHG Inventory Results:



- Large increase in GHG emissions across the county
- 2012 trajectory = **85% above** 1990 Kyoto target.



## Existing Programs

- Residential Energy Action Program
  - ❖ 4 years audits energy counseling = 2000 homes
  - ❖ \$7k avg investment
- ClimateSmart Loan Program
  - ❖ 612 households
  - ❖ \$3,500 (EE only) and \$13,000 (RE & EE)
- Energy Corps
  - ❖ Direct install, homeowner education = 400 homes
  - ❖ Social Networks



# The BetterBuildings Grant

- Department of Energy Competitive Grant
  - Part of \$80 billion Recovery Act investment in clean energy & energy efficiency
- Awarded 25 projects across U.S.
- Goal to save consumers ~\$100 million annually while creating tens of thousands of jobs



## The BetterBuildings Grant

- Applied, December 2009, awarded, May 2010
- \$25 Million over 3 years
- Boulder County, Denver, Garfield County, MMC/DRCOG with assistance from the Governors Energy Office
- **Goals:** Access to Information, Services, and Finance
  - ❖ Multi-faceted, holistic approach to energy efficiency
  - ❖ Focus on residential and commercial sector



## Current Grant Status

- RFPs awarded for 3 service areas:
  - ❖ Residential, Commercial & Joint Services
- Looking ahead: “soft launch” of programs late Oct-Dec
- Full launch anticipated January 2011





## Residential Program Overview

- **The overarching program goal** is to provide a one-stop shop for energy efficiency in order to overcome traditional barriers to consumer investment in energy efficiency.
  - ❖ Energy audits with focused, one-on-one assistance, financial incentives and ongoing customer support.



## Program Details: Residential

- “Two Techs and a Truck”
- Run through Program Administrator
- Auditor and energy concierge
  - ❖ Auditor evaluates home & concierge interprets + direct installs
  - ❖ CFLs, low-flow showerheads, water heater blankets, programmable thermostats, power strips & up to 30 minutes of air sealing.





## Program Details: Residential

- Energy Concierge: facilitates conversion from audit to action.
- Incentives/rebates drive homeowners to take action
- Concierge helps homeowners find contractors, apply for rebates, microloans, other financing options
- Cost = same or close to Xcel Energy Audit





# Commercial Program Overview

A three-pronged approach to working with businesses:

- 1) **Learn It**: promote behavior change through geographically targeted or sector based “energy sweeps”;
- 2) **Tune It**: work with businesses to make their existing equipment more energy efficient;
- 3) **Change It**: provide implementation assistance and rebate incentives to enhance investments in new energy efficient equipment.



## Program Details: Learn It

- Direct business outreach through Energy Sweeps
  - ❖ Door-to-door delivery of services
  - ❖ Assessment of efficiency opportunities offers direct installs
  - ❖ Helps identify contractors, offers implementation, rebate assistance & M&V
- Reach up to 200 businesses during pilot phase





## Program Details: Tune It

### Refrigeration Equipment Tune-up



### Air Compressor Equipment Tune-up



- Provide immediate improvements by performing preventive maintenance, minor repairs, and adjustments to refrigeration & air compressor equipment.



## Program Details: Change It

### Equipment installation or replacement:

Lighting, HVAC replacement, Insulation, Motors, Air compressors, etc.

- **Implementation assistance**
  - Interpret audits/prioritize recommendations
  - Direct to qualified contractors
- **Financial incentives**
  - Local, utility & state rebates and tax incentives
  - Microloans and rebates



# Partnerships

- Utilities:
  - Xcel assisted with application, letter of support, and ongoing partnership including design assistance, marketing assistance, and implementation assistance
  - Longmont: program design assistance, marketing assistance
- Contractors and labor
- Workforce
- Other





## Hopes for the Future

- Market transformation
- Energy efficient upgrades become the “norm” and a desired action
- Self sustaining programs
- Continued job growth and development of sustainable jobs market
- Closer partnerships with utilities



**Thank you**

**Questions?**

Contact Information:

Susie Strife

[sstrife@bouldercounty.org](mailto:sstrife@bouldercounty.org)

303-441-4565