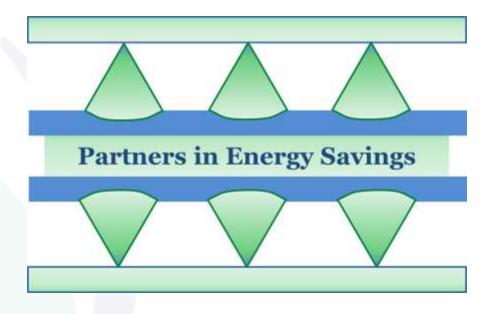


8<sup>th</sup> Annual Rocky Mountain Utility Efficiency Exchange

# Building Successful Partnerships — Lessons Learned from the PIES Experience

#### **Collaboration Members**















## Partners in Energy Savings (PIES)

#### **Collaboration Members**

- SourceGas
- Atmos Energy
- Colorado Natural Gas
  - Eastern Colorado Utility Co.
- Since 2009

ExcessIsOut.com
excess is out™



Since 2009, the three natural gas utilities have worked collaboratively to deliver a comprehensive energy efficiency program portfolio for their customers in Colorado.

This presentation will highlight the successes and identify the challenges of tailoring program offerings to meet the needs across three different utility service territories.

#### PIES – Effective Partnering Strategy



- Small utilities face unique set of challenges in designing and implementing demand-side management programs
  - Typically, emphasis on rules and evaluation is on large utilities
- Innovative solution
  - Strategic partnership
- Desired result is greater program participation and cost-savings, compared to what otherwise could be achieved with each utility acting independently

#### PIES Programs



#### **Energy Efficiency Programs:**

- Energy Assessments
- Natural Gas Rebate Program
- Income Qualified Program including Weatherization/Kits
- Energy Efficiency Kits
  - Hot Water Savings Kits
  - School Kits
- Custom



#### PIES Natural Gas Rebate Program Measures

Air Sealing
Attic Insulation
Boiler (85%-94.9%)
Boiler (95%)
Boiler - Proper Sizing
Crawlspace/Basement Insulation
Floor Insulation
Furnace
Furnace Maintenance
Furnace - Proper Sizing
Infiltration
Programmable Thermostat - Direct Install
Programmable Thermostat - Self-Install
Wall Insulation
Water Heater (Tankless)

#### Partnership Benefits



# Benefits associated with this collaboration include:

- Economies-of-scale
- Similar Program Protocols
- Integrated, consistent training on program protocols, guidelines, and installation best practices
- Channeling more funds for Rebate Incentives

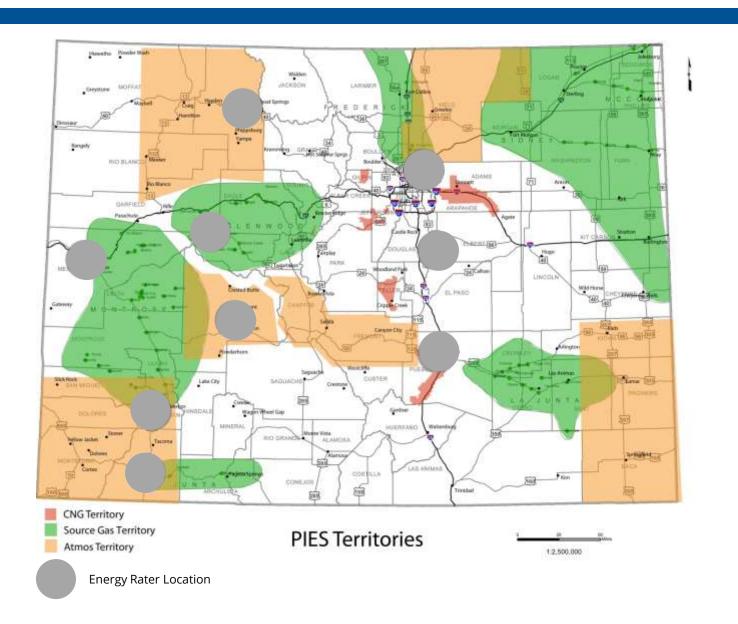
#### **SWOT Analysis**



- Strength
  - Sharing costs, administration, and lessons
- Weakness
  - Non-contiguous service areas; difference in customer profiles
- Opportunity
  - Analyze the data, serve customers more effectively
- Threat
  - Cost overruns and ambitious goals

# PIES

#### PIES Service Territories & Energy Raters



#### **Shared Outside Services**



#### **Shared Vendors**

- EGIA
  - Rebate processor
- CORE / Energy Smart
  - Energy Assessment
- Energy Outreach Colorado
  - Income Qualified
- Mesa Point
  - Custom
- Apex Analytics
  - Reporting and Planning

- Johnson Consulting
  - M & V
- AM Conservation
  - Hot Water Savings Kits
- Resource Action Programs
  - School Kits
- Blue Onion
  - Marketing

#### Expenditures



- Variable Costs allocated by customer count
- Fixed Costs spread evenly among the three utilities
- Contracts with vendors are individual to utility's agreement but RFPs and terms are agreed upon by all three partners

#### Implementation Success and Challenges



- The PIES group has utilized the online application rebate process for two years
  - Ability to continuously monitor rebate budgets ensuring that we don't have an overrun
  - Challenge due to providing a single method of rebate application
    - Most problems solved by customer speaking with a customer service agent when they don't have access to a computer or internet

#### Implementation Success and Challenges



- Recent Improvements due to Lessons Learned:
  - Complete revamp of the "Excess is Out" website
  - Improved, streamlined approach to the rebate application process
  - Refresh marketing materials such as brochures and commercials
  - Contracted with new Energy Assessment administrator with similar geography and connections
  - Additional incentive dollars on some prescriptive rebate measures if the customer followed through on the assessment recommendations

#### Implementation Success and Challenges



- Good customer satisfaction ratings
  - But awareness scores still low in certain areas
- Climate differences among the service areas create varying net energy saving estimates
- Unlinked program databases create tracking gaps
- Some contractor dissatisfaction due to application processing issues

#### A Look at Each Utility: Colorado Natural Gas



#### Colorado Natural Gas

- 2014 Budget and Goals
  - \$250K
  - -5000 Dth
  - 750 Participants
- 2013 Budget and Goals
  - \$240K
  - 12,416 Dth
  - 1,802 Participants

#### Colorado Natural Gas



- Founded in 1997 to provide natural gas service to the mountain communities west of Denver and Colorado Springs
- Serve over 20,000 customers in Colorado
- Over 1,200 miles of natural gas mains installed

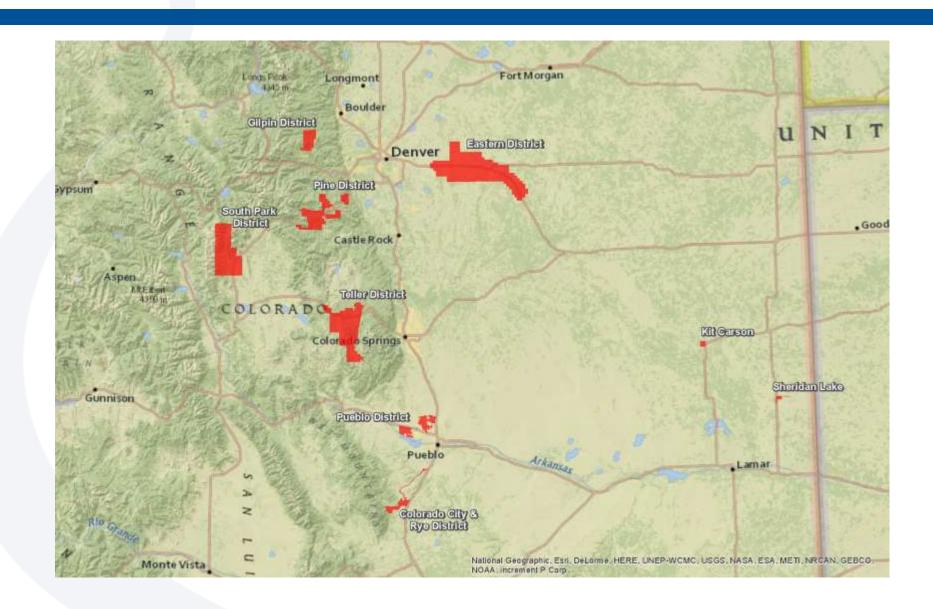
#### Residential Energy Assessments



- Planning and goals can't be applied as a portion of the total collaboration. Participation and Energy Savings goals need to be customized.
  - Example: CNG Energy Assessment goals were reduced by 50% from 2013 to 2014 after the next triennial plan had been vetted based on past performance
  - Income Qualified program has performed well by exceeding projected energy savings. In the fourth quarter of 2013, increased the cap on the singlefamily program for the effect of more financial benefit per customer and to align the energy savings with incentives

#### Colorado Natural Gas Service Territory





#### 2014 Pro Challenge Program Ad





#### A Look at Each Utility: SourceGas



#### SourceGas

- 2014 Budget and Goals
  - \$779K
  - 22,000 Dth
  - 1,804 Participants
- 2013 Budget and Goals
  - \$795K
  - 30,000 Dth
  - 2,649 Participants

#### SourceGas



- Serve approximately 92,000 sales customers in Colorado territory
  - 86% Residential with 61% of load
  - 12% Small Commercial with 16% of load
  - 2% Large Commercial with 22% of load
  - 0.34% Seasonal with 2% of load
- Customers and Load by Region
  - Western Slope 61% customers, 68% load
  - Southwest 6% customers, 4% load
  - Arkansas Valley 11% customers, 9% load
  - North Central 15% customers, 12% load
  - North Eastern 7% customers, 7% load

#### SourceGas



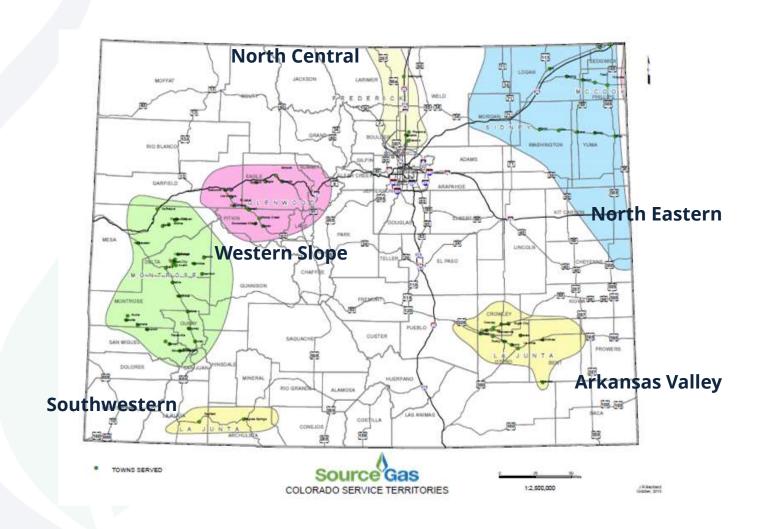
### Program participation by Area (2011- June 2014)

- Energy Assessment
  - Western Slope 98.83%
  - North Central 1.17%
- Prescriptive Rebate
  - Western Slope 50%
  - Southwest 2%
  - Arkansas Valley 4%
  - North Central 36%
  - North Eastern 8%

- Low Income
  - Western Slope 75%
  - Southwest 0%
  - Arkansas Valley 19%
  - North Central 2%
  - North Eastern 4%
- School Kits
  - Western Slope 41%
  - North Central 41%
  - North Eastern 18%

#### SourceGas Service Territory - Colorado





#### SourceGas – Looking forward



- Maintaining and maximizing trade allies
  - Contractor workshops
  - Community events
  - Contests and initiatives
- Progress
  - Employee education
  - Customer awareness
  - Creative marketing

#### A Look at Each Utility: Atmos Energy



#### **Atmos Energy**

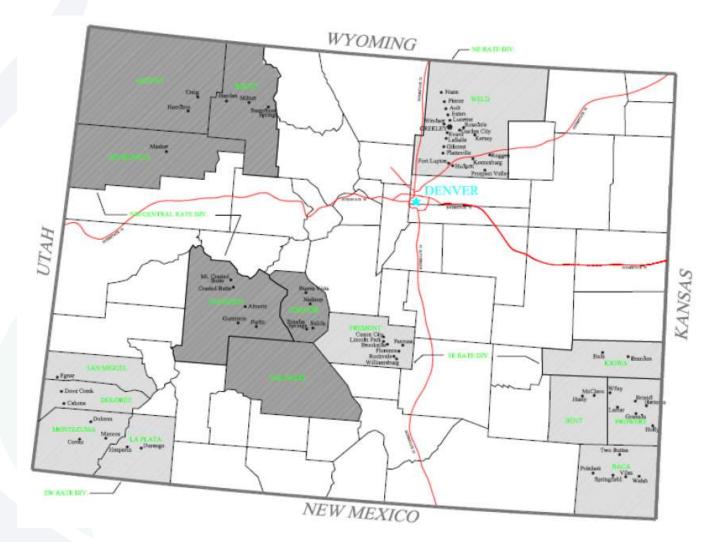
- 2014 Budget and Goals
  - \$606k
  - 18,929 Dth
  - 1,955 Participants
- 2013 Budget and Goals
  - \$718k
  - -16,385 Dth
  - 2,365 Participants



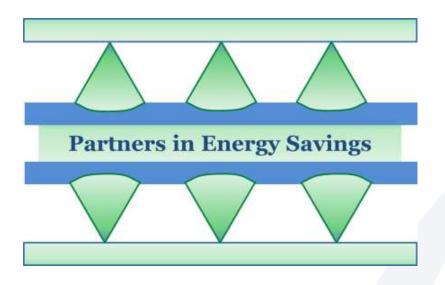
- Serve approximately 112,000 active gas customers in Colorado.
- Division Office in Denver and Greeley is the largest community served.
- Elevations of towns served range from 11,000' to 3,800', from Sky Resorts to Agriculture.

#### **Atmos Energy**





Confidential



## **Questions?**