

# Stop the Utility Power Grab in Colorado

## SOLAR CUSTOMERS DESERVE FULL CREDIT WITH NET METERING

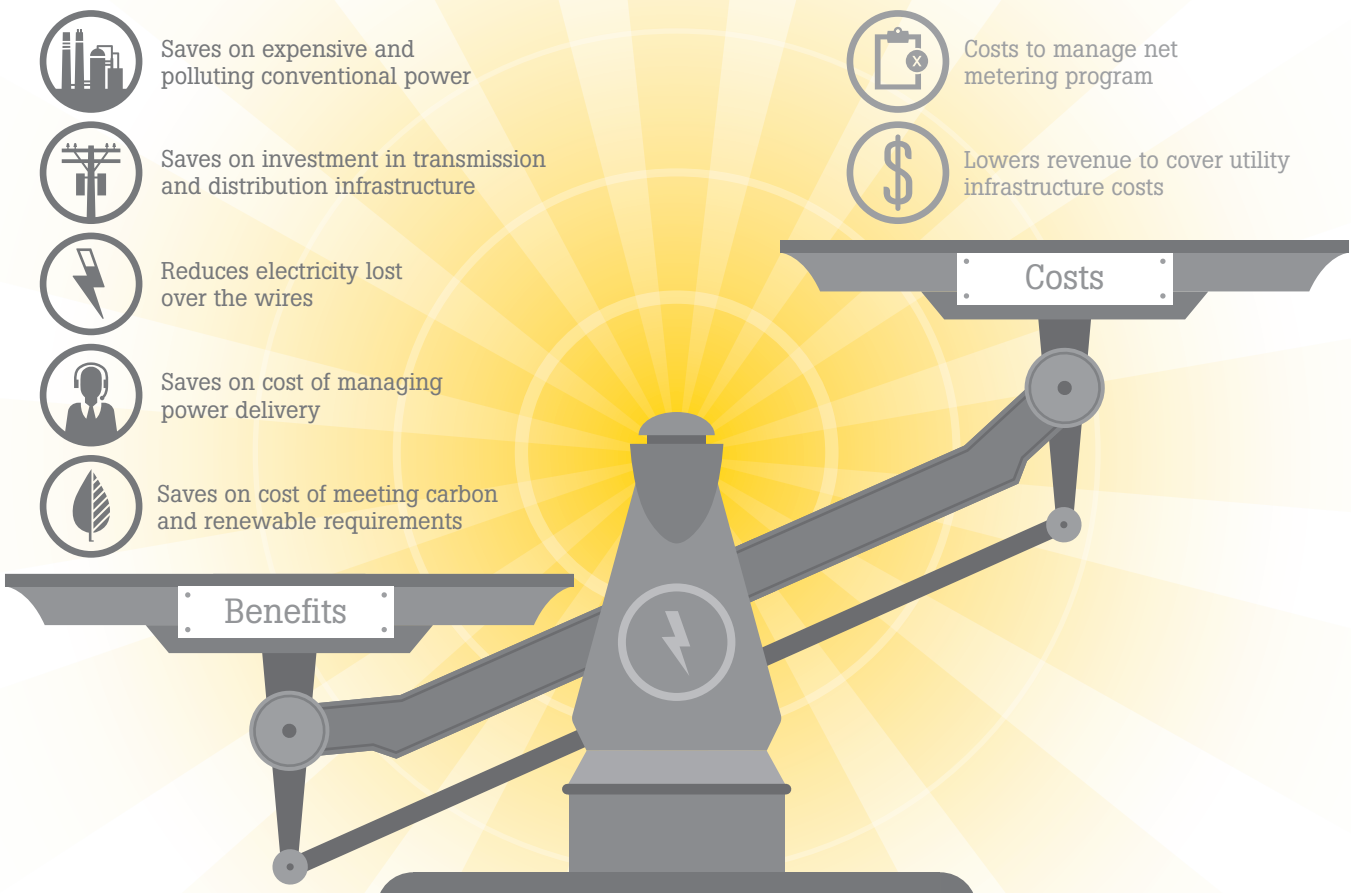


### Like rollover

minutes on a cell phone bill, net metering gives renewable energy customers full credit on their utility bills for the excess clean power they contribute to the grid.

Available in 43 states, this simple billing arrangement is one of the most important policies for encouraging rooftop solar.

## Private investment in local clean energy benefits solar and non-solar Coloradans alike.



In California, net metering grid benefits outweigh the costs by **\$92.2 Million per year**. Actual costs and benefits are specific to each utility. However, the size of California's solar market and its unique tiered rate structure make it a strong test bed for the economics of net metering. A net benefit in California indicates a likely net benefit in many other states as well.

# Xcel is casting a long shadow on Colorado rooftop solar

The utility is using shady math and backroom tactics to make their case:

## The utility's rooftop solar study has not undergone commission or public review.

The Colorado PUC has only just begun its process for reviewing this study of the costs and benefits of Colorado's net metering program -- and yet Xcel is already using its biased results to make solar a bad deal for Coloradans.

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## The utility's study is flawed: it severely undervalues rooftop solar's benefits to Colorado.

Individual customer investment in solar delivers high value power, creating a host of benefits to the grid including savings on conventional generation, transmission and distribution investments, line losses, and avoided environmental compliance costs. But the utilities' math undervalues these very real grid benefits.

= Overinflated cost claims used to undermine net metering success.



## Utility cost claims are a red herring.

The truth is: Xcel's proposal is an attempt to protect its old way of doing business.



- Coloradans are paying \$1.3 Billion for a new coal plant with a poor operational track record.
- Xcel makes a guaranteed rate of return on infrastructure that it can own and operate.
- Distributed solar represents a challenge to Xcel's traditional centralized, monopoly model.
- Xcel should be finding ways to work with rooftop solar -- not stand in the way of innovation & customer choice.

## Net metering works for Colorado.



**60%**

support for clean energy  
powering Colorado homes.



**\$187** Million

in private investment in 2012.



**3,600**

solar jobs statewide.



**5th**

in the nation for the amount of  
solar power installed.

Net metering is good for ratepayers, the economy and the environment.

The interests of a few monopoly utilities should not  
outshine the rest of us.

Learn more at [www.protectnetmetering.org](http://www.protectnetmetering.org)

Prepared by: The Vote Solar Initiative

References: Evaluating the Benefits and Costs of Net Energy Metering in California, Crossborder Energy, January 2013. Sierra Club polling. National Solar Job Census 2012, The Solar Foundation. SEIA/GTM Market Insight. Vote Solar analysis.