

Colorado Alliance of Sustainable Business Associations

This list details the needs and a selection of 2009 legislation impacting Colorado's sustainable business community.

Stimulating Business

Unmet Need:

Funding and coordination of college education and training programs

2009 Legislation:

Bill	Sponsor	Title	Description
HB09-1105	Rep. Kefalas	CO Innovation Investment Tax Credit	Creates the Colorado innovation investment tax credit (tax credit) to be applied against state income tax liability. Permits the tax credit for an equity investment in a qualified small business that is in the aerospace, bioscience, clean energy, or information technology industry. Establishes that the tax credit is equal to a specified percentage of the total investment evenly spread over the 2 tax years after the investment. Limits the tax credit to a maximum amount. Prohibits a tax credit from being refunded, but permits the tax credit to be carried forward a specified number of years. Requires the Colorado office of economic development (office) to determine the eligibility for the tax credit and to issue nontransferable tax credit certificates as evidence of eligibility and the amount of the tax credit. Requires a taxpayer to submit a copy of the tax credit certificate in order to claim the tax credit. Requires the office and the department of revenue to share information related to the tax credits.
SB09-016	Sen. Kopp... / Rep. King S...	Incentives to Harvest Bark Beetle Timber	Interim Committee on Wildfire Issues in Wild Land-Urban Interface Areas. Provides a 5-year exemption from business personal property taxes for qualified businesses that remove trees killed by bark beetles if such businesses assist in forest restoration efforts on the affected land after the beetle-killed timber is removed. Establishes a revolving fund to provide start-up revenues for new Colorado businesses that process and sell beetle-killed timber for beneficial uses.
SB09-031	Sen. Heath/ Rep. Riesberg	Clean Tech Research Grant Program	Creates the clean technology discovery evaluation grant program (program) in the Colorado office of economic development (office) for the purpose of improving and expanding the development of new clean technology discoveries at higher education research institutions (research institutions). Requires the office to administer the program and the director of the office to consult with a Colorado-based clean technology industry association in implementing the program.
HB09-1001	Rep. Rice/ Sen. Heath	Income Tax Credit for CO Job Growth	Establishes the Colorado job growth incentive tax credit for a specified period. Upon conditional approval and annual calculation by the Colorado economic development commission, allows a taxpayer to claim a credit for a specified number of consecutive months within the specified period the credit is available. Allows the commission to allocate the credits by issuing credit certificates to taxpayers who meet established criteria for a project in the state. Allows the credit to be carried forward for a specified time but not refunded. Establishes the methods for issuing credit certificates as well as the application process. Specifies how a credit is to be calculated. Grants the department of revenue rule-making authority.
HB09-1035	Rep. Riesberg/ Sen. Heath	Clean Tech Med Device Tax Refund	Allows clean technology companies and medical device companies that are headquartered in Colorado and that employ 50 or fewer employees (clean technology and medical device companies) to receive refunds of state sales and use taxes paid on the sale, storage, use, or consumption of tangible personal property used in Colorado directly and predominately in research and development of clean technology or medical devices during a calendar year (tax refunds). Limits the amount of the tax refunds that may be claimed by clean technology and medical device companies to \$50,000 per company per year.

Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency & Green Building

Unmet Needs:

Green Jobs Corps - Increase number of trained, skilled workers in renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors.
 Target programs to address the specific needs of underserved communities.
 Support Public Utilities Commission rate structures encouraging utility customers to adopt energy efficiency and renewable energy
 Resource efficient building codes and code enforcement
 Statewide solar incentives - continuance of solar rebate
 Tax credits for companies using renewables or taking energy efficiency measures
 Development of a smart energy grid

2009 Legislation:

Bill	Sponsor	Title	Description
SB09-039	Sen. Schwartz/ Rep. Curry	Conserve Energy Tiered Rates Incentive	Authorizes cooperative electric associations to approve revenue-neutral, reasonable rates, charges, services, classifications, and facilities that establish a graduated rate for increased energy consumption by residential customers, giving due consideration to the impact of such rate on low-income customers. Allows associations to utilize a community energy fund for energy efficiency, energy conservation, weatherization, and renewable energy purposes.
HB09-1107	Rep. Kerr A./ Sen. Gibbs	HOA Limits on Energy Efficiency Measures	Prohibits regulations of unit owner associations (HOAs), covenants, or deed restrictions that increase the cost of renewable energy generation devices (such as solar panels) by more than 10% or \$500, whichever is less, or reduce their efficiency by more than 10%. Prohibits HOAs from effectively prohibiting the installation of energy efficiency measures (such as awnings, evaporative coolers, or outdoor solar lights) by increasing their cost by more than 10% or \$200, whichever is less, or reducing their efficiency by more than 10%. In any litigation over the increase in cost or decrease in efficiency of an energy efficiency measure or a renewable energy generation device, awards attorney fees to the prevailing party. Requires applications for the installation of renewable energy generation devices and energy efficiency measures to be acted upon within sixty days, regardless of whether the HOA has a generally applicable standard, guideline, or policy in place when the application is made.
SB09-051	Sen. Carroll M./ Rep. Levy	Renewable Energy Financing Act	Amends the "Colorado Clean Energy Finance Program Act" to: Specifically include credit unions among the lenders that may make loans under the program; and Specifically include renewable energy developers and installers of solar panels and other renewable energy generation equipment among the contractors that may be certified under the program.
HB09-1126	Rep. Hullinghorst/ Sen. Shaffer B.	Encourage Solar Thermal Installations	Allows local governments to provide the same incentives for solar thermal installations as may now be provided for solar electric installations. Adds a corresponding exemption from state sales and use tax.
HB09-1149	Rep. Merrifield/ Sen. Carroll M.	Solar Home Prewire And Consultation	Requires commercial homebuilders to offer the prospective buyer of each home: - The option of having the home include, or be prewired for, a solar photovoltaic installation; and - A list of local solar installers who can assess the home's solar energy potential.

Resource Recovery

Unmet Need:

"Pay as you throw" waste collection

2009 Legislation:

Bill	Sponsor	Title	Description
To Be Introduced	Rep. Fischer	Ewaste Recycling	Promote reuse, refurbishment and recycling of electronics waste. Reducing the environmental impact over the life of the product, and creating more jobs.