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Denver Energy Challenge provides additional incentives for residents to purchase renewable energy

September 16, 2009 - The City & County of Denver, Xcel Energy, Denver Public Schools, the Governor's Energy Office, and the Sierra Club have teamed up to help Denver residents reduce their carbon footprint while helping ten local high schools fund clean energy projects.

Mayor Hickenlooper, Denver Public School Superintendent Tom Boasberg, Governor's Energy Office, and Xcel Officials announced the official launch of the Denver Energy Challenge on Sept. 16. The program provides residents with a new incentive to register for Xcel Energy's Windsource program. This incentive includes a donation for each new registrant, which will help fund energy efficiency or renewable energy projects at North, South, East, Montbello, West, Manual, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Lincoln, and Kennedy High Schools.

Available through Xcel Energy, Windsource allows residents to purchase some or all of their electricity from renewable sources for a small premium over the cost of purchasing electricity from traditional sources.

School donations will be awarded on a points system based on the amount of renewable energy Denver residents register for before May 9, 2010. Each school is eligible to earn up to \$12,500 towards funding renewable energy or energy efficiency projects.

"The Denver Energy Challenge offers a new spin on a great existing program by allowing residents the opportunity to not only reduce their carbon footprint, but also help one of their local schools," says Mayor Hickenlooper.

In 2007, the City & County of Denver launched the Greenprint Climate Action Plan, which aims to reduce the city's per-capita greenhouse-gas emissions by 10 percent by 2012 through a combination of policy changes and supporting and promoting renewable energy projects.

The Colorado Carbon Fund aims to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from motor-vehicles, air travel, natural gas use, and special events. This fund is fueled by donations and as a local incentive 20 percent of all donations will go towards community greenhouse-gas reduction projects in Denver.

Details about the Denver Energy Challenge can be found at www.DenverEnergy.org.