Community Power and Energy Democracy

Bringing Democracy to the CO Electricity Sector
Boulder Energy Future - 3D’s subject to 3R’s

- Decarbonize
- Decentralize
- Democratize
- Rates
- Reliability
- Renewables
Climate Mobilization Action Plan Format

- Renewable Energy Systems
- Equity & Resilience
- Regenerative Ecosystems
- Circular Materials Economy
PG&E Fires

- 1500 fires in 6 years
- Camp Fire razed Paradise, CA
- 85 dead
- $12B losses in 2018
What Can Be Done In Colorado?

- 3rd Party Audits of Transmission Systems (2 year intervals)
- Public Transparency of Audit Results
- Aggressive O&M
- Aggressive Vegetation Control
- Public Hearings in Threatened Communities
- Firefighter Training by Utilities on Best Practices
DG in USA

- DG Solar: 1.1 GW
- Utility Solar: 0.7 GW
- DG can avoid costly utility upgrades
- **Must have modern distribution system**
Local Input Needed - Distribution Planning

- Current Planning Ignores Local Input
- Requests to Local Utility for Seat at Table: ‘Hell, no!’
- **Resilience** Requires Modern Grid for
  - Enabling Local Micro-grids
  - Critical Facility Islanding
  - Neighborhood Gathering Centers with Standby Power
  - Islanding of Entire Neighborhoods During Floods, Fires, Disasters
- **Public Input Process Needed to Meet Local Distribution Needs**
Benefits of Decentralized Power

• Universal Access to Power Must Be Primary
• Individual Control of Resilience and Energy Costs
• Potential for Transactive Energy
• Function of Local Utility is Balancing and Last-Resort Power
• All Connected Users Pay for T&D System
• Businesses (70% of Load) Unlikely to Leave T&D System