



NW Energy Coalition

for a clean and affordable energy future

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Coalition contacts:

Marc Krasnowsky, marc@nwenergy.org, (206) 621-0094; cell (425) 281-0668

Diego Rivas, diego@nwenergy.org, (406) 461-6632

Governor keynote, dialogue with NorthWestern CEO headline May 19 clean energy conference in Missoula

Business, utility and public-interest leaders to address critical state and regional issues at NW Energy Coalition event

MISSOULA, Mont. – Montana Gov. Steve Bullock and NorthWestern Energy president and CEO head a long list of leading regional energy experts and decision-makers who'll be speaking at the NW Clean & Affordable Energy Conference on Thursday, May 19, at the Holiday Inn Missoula Downtown.

The NW Energy Coalition, now celebrating its 35th anniversary, brings the region's premier clean energy conference to Montana every other year. These conferences traditionally bring together leaders from utilities, clean energy businesses, and consumer/environmental organizations to address pressing state and regionwide clean energy issues.

This year's conference builds on that tradition. Speakers, panelists and attendees will discuss:

- Opportunities for cleaner and more affordable energy development in Montana.
- The emerging solar market and policies needed to continue growth.
- Strategies for advancing energy efficiency in rural areas.

(Go [here](#) for the full agenda, including all speakers.)

Gov. Bullock's keynote address at 8:30 a.m. will set the stage. Bullock will outline his energy blueprint for Montana and look at how energy efficiency programs, renewable energy development and smart transmission can position Montana to take advantage of the new clean energy economy in the West.

Panels on carbon emissions reduction opportunities and Montana's solar energy potential will follow. U.S. Sen. Jon Tester will speak via video after lunch, followed by a lively dialogue between NorthWestern Energy CEO Bob Rowe and all conference attendees.

Topics will include solar and wind development, transmission to support new renewables development, the future of Colstrip and innovation in energy efficiency acquisition.

A panel discussion of opportunities and challenges for bringing energy efficiency to rural and other hard-to-reach markets will wrap up the program.

Thursday's activities conclude with a 5 p.m. reception at the hotel. The Coalition's full membership, state caucuses and board will meet on Friday.

Registration (\$90 for Thursday or \$100 for both days) covers all sessions, including breakfasts and luncheons. For the full agenda and to register online visit www.nwenergy.org/conference. Scholarships are available – call Coalition outreach associate Kat Plimpton at (206) 621-0094.

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NOTES TO MEDIA:

- Members of the working press are welcome and encouraged to attend any of Thursday's sessions, including the luncheon, at no charge. Please let us know if you think you're coming (call or email [Marc](#) or [Kat](#)) and please announce yourself at the registration desk when you arrive.
- Advance interviews may be arranged by contacting NW Energy Coalition communications director Marc Krasnowsky or Montana policy associate Diego Rivas (contact information above).

The NW Energy Coalition, formed in 1981, is an alliance of some 100 environmental, labor, civic, faith and human service organizations, progressive utilities and businesses in Montana, Idaho, Oregon, Washington and British Columbia.