The future is bright: reflecting on 2019 highlights

It’s been an exciting year at Colorado Springs Utilities. I’d like to share some of our accomplishments:

**Deliver quality** – We’re making progress on our first utility-scale solar and battery project. By the end of 2023, when the project is online, we will power more than 100,000 homes annually with carbon-free energy. We’re also on-track to complete significant upgrades to the Philip H. Tollefson Water Treatment Plant next year.

**Commit to the community** – To assure energy reliability and resiliency, we are exploring new partnerships with our military customers to include future sites of new electric generation. These solutions will provide possible replacement power, allowing for the decommissioning of the Martin Drake Power Plant and support the military’s goal of independent, back-up power.

**Organizational excellence** – We created a new division focusing on planning and project management of all our utility services. This leverages staff thinking and experience while creating efficiencies across our organization. In our commitment to safety, we improved joint training efforts with local fire departments and other first responders.

**Focus on the customer** – Standard & Poor’s upgraded our credit rating to AA+. This strong financial rating helps keep rates as low as possible for our customers. Also, we signed a contract to upgrade our smart meters beginning next year to give you more information to better manage your utilities use.

In Service,
Aram Benyamin, CEO

We hosted the national APPA Lineworkers Rodeo, Mar. 29, 2019, showcasing the skill of lineworkers and generating about $1 million for our local economy.
Electric vehicle chargers installed

In support of our Energy Vision, we recently installed electric vehicle chargers at some of our facilities thanks to funding from a Charge Ahead Colorado grant. We are dedicated to offering sustainable solutions that support the environment and reduce our carbon footprint. The chargers are located at these facilities:

1. Conservation and Environmental Center, 2855 Mesa Road, available 24/7.
2. Leon Young Service Center, 1521 Hancock Expressway, available 24/7.
3. John Pinkerton Service Center, 7710 Durant Drive, available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

These chargers will enable us to increase electric vehicles in our fleet. Currently, we have eight battery electric vehicles and 27 electric hybrids. Visit csu.org to learn more.

Planning our energy future

Work on our Energy Integrated Resource Plans continues as goals were recently established thanks to public input. These goals will guide us in our commitment to meet the energy needs of the community for the next 30 years.

Resilient and reliable
• Industry leading reliability and resiliency while avoiding potential stranded assets.
• Support economic growth of the region.

Cost-effective energy
• Maintain competitive and affordable rates.
• Further advance energy efficiency and demand response.

Environmentally sustainable
• Grow renewable portfolio.
• Timeline for decommissioning assets.

Reduces our carbon footprint
• Meet all environmental regulations with specific metrics that include reducing our carbon footprint.
• Reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

Uses proven state-of-the-art technologies
• Proactively and responsibly integrate new technologies.