What is an Electric and Natural Gas Integrated Resource Plan (IRP)?
Our Electric and Natural Gas IRPs are long-term plans that provide direction on how we can best meet future demand for energy. They consider both supply-side (generation) and customer-side (efficiency and load management programs) options to determine the best path forward.

Why are IRPs important?
Planning is integral to everything we do. It is especially important in determining how we invest in energy production resources and our commitment to meet the future energy needs of our community. The IRPs consider many views of the future to help determine how we best meet our Energy Vision.

What’s the approach to IRP planning?
Our IRPs are based on a planning approach that considers various evaluation criteria, such as resource options and business strategies, and recommends a portfolio of resources that best aligns with our Energy Vision. This approach allows us to evaluate the portfolios based on the metrics established in each of the four strategic pillars.

Why are we updating the IRPs now?
We are required to conduct an Electric IRP once every five years for purchasing federal hydroelectric power from the Western Area Power Administration. The IRPs are being updated now because the utility marketplace and our community are changing rapidly, to include local economic development, technological advances, changing market conditions, retiring of coal-fueled generation, customer preferences and regulatory drivers.

How will the IRPs be used going forward?
The IRPs will provide a long-term, broad direction to guide our investments in items such as emissions reduction, distributed generation, fuel supply, grid modernization and efficiency and load management programs.

What are the goals of the IRPs?
The IRP goals align with our Energy Vision.
• Industry leading reliability and resiliency while supporting economic growth of the region.
• Maintain competitive and affordable rates while advancing energy efficiency.
• Grow renewable portfolio and establish timelines for decommissioning of assets.
• Meet environmental regulations and reduce our carbon footprint and reliance on fossil fuels.
• Proactively and responsibly integrate new technologies.
Why is the timeline of the IRPs important?

It will take more than a year to develop our next Electric and Natural Gas IRPs and will conclude when the Utilities Board approves a portfolio.

### Phase I

**Summer 2019:** Development of the project scope including goals and guiding principles to lay the foundation for developing the plans.

**Fall 2019:** Development of model inputs to include identifying sensitivities, resource options and business strategies.

### Phase II

**Winter 2020:** Develop portfolios and establish evaluation criteria in which to score the various portfolios.

**Spring 2020:** Analyze, evaluate and conduct a risk analysis on each of the portfolios to determine a recommended plan. Each of the portfolios will be rated based on the evaluation criteria developed early in the process.

### Phase III

**Early Summer 2020:** Present recommended portfolio with metrics to Utilities Board.

**Late Summer 2020:** Utilities Board votes to select a preferred portfolio to support the Energy Vision.

How will decisions be made?

We don’t plan for the future alone. To develop these IRPs, our team of experts is working with UPAC, a citizen-advisory committee appointed by the Utilities Board. This committee reviews, analyzes and provides recommendations to the Utilities Board on specific issues or policies. For this assignment, its function is to recommend a portfolio to our Utilities Board that best meets the IRPs’ goals and guiding principles and incorporates public input.

In each of the three phases, UPAC will make a recommendation to our Utilities Board to approve:

1. Reference case, inputs and sensitivities, goals and guiding principles
2. Portfolio evaluation criteria and weighting
3. Portfolio selection

Why is it important for me to get involved?

Your participation can influence our energy future. As a community-owned utility, we value your input concerning the future composition of our generating resources, as well as your expectations for service reliability and energy costs. We believe you should have a say in how we power Colorado Springs.

SO, HOW DO I GET INVOLVED? There are multiple public engagement opportunities:

- Attend one or more of the monthly UPAC meetings on the first Wednesday of every month.
- Attend our public workshop on **Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2020 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.** at **Library 21C**, 1175 Chapel Hills Drive.
- Provide your comments via email at **energyvision@csu.org**.
- Visit **csu.org** to learn about the latest developments of the process.