

**Utilities Policy Advisory Committee (UPAC)**

**Wednesday, November 4, 2026**

**8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

Blue River Board Room

121 S. Tejon Plaza of the Rockies or Microsoft Teams

[Join the Meeting Now](#)

**Dial in by phone**

[+1 719-733-3651,,781980586#](#)

|                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |            |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>8:00 a.m.</b>  | <b>1. Call to Order</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |            |
| <b>8:02 a.m.</b>  | <b>2. Approval of UPAC Meeting Minutes</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Decision   |
|                   | ○ UPAC Regular Meeting Minutes: January 14, 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |            |
| <b>8:05 a.m.</b>  | <b>3. Distributed Energy Strategies Assignment Introduction and Draft Timeline</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Discussion |
| <b>9:30 a.m.</b>  | <b>4. Colorado Springs Utilities: Distributed Energy Programs and Strategy</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Discussion |
| <b>10:30 a.m.</b> | <b>5. Customer Comment</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Discussion |
|                   | Customers can provide comments in person, by joining the meeting from a computer or by phone using the link above. If you would like to speak during the customer comment period, please sign up to speak through <a href="mailto:BoardSubmissions@csu.org">BoardSubmissions@csu.org</a> prior to the meeting. |            |
| <b>10:45 a.m.</b> | <b>6. Committee Member General Discussion</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Discussion |
| <b>11:00 a.m.</b> | <b>7. Adjournment</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |            |

Next meeting: December 2, 2026

Note: UPAC Bylaws, Rule 6: Customer and Public Comment: (b) At the discretion of the Chair, or the majority of the Committee Members present, customers and members of the public will be allowed to comment or ask questions concerning items discussed at regular meetings or concerning matters discussed at special meetings. Comments or questions by individuals will be limited to five minutes each, and all customer or public comments will not exceed twenty minutes on any agenda item unless time is extended by the Chair or majority of the Committee Members present.

**Utilities Policy Advisory Committee (UPAC) Minutes  
Wednesday, January 14, 2026**

Blue River Board Room  
121 S. Tejon Plaza of the Rockies or Microsoft Teams

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Kate Danner called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Present – Committee Chair Kate Danner, Committee Vice Chair Michael Bordon (online), Committee Member Larry Barrett, Committee Member Chris Meyer, Committee Member Scott Smith, Committee Member David Watson, Committee Member Gary Burghart, Alternate Committee Member Albert Badeau and Alternate Committee Member Tom Carter

**2. Approval of UPAC Meeting Minutes**

Committee Member Smith made the motion to approve December 3, 2025 Regular UPAC meeting minutes. Committee Member Burghart seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Committee Member Smith made the motion to approve December 9, 2025, Special UPAC meeting minutes. Committee Member Burghart seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**3. Finalize Geothermal Energy Assignment Recommendation**

Board Chair Danner and Ms. Bethany Schoemer, Senior Strategic Planning and Governance Specialist, led the review of the presentation for UPAC's Geothermal Energy Assignment recommendation to the Utilities Board.

Members revised language to better reflect market and technical realities and clarifying that habitat and ecosystem impacts are primarily associated with construction. The committee further clarified that water constraints in Colorado are not excessive, noting the potential to use non-potable water, and updated the presentation to reflect that federal land development may benefit from accelerated permitting.

The discussion concluded with reviewing project timelines, members agreed to reference an estimated seven to 10 or more years for geothermal development using the Fervo Energy project as a demonstrative example.

Committee Member Burghart made the motion to accept the Geothermal Energy Assignment Recommendation, and Committee Member Watson seconded the motion. The recommendation passed unanimously.

The committee took a break at 9:15 a.m. and returned at 9:21 a.m.

**4. Ethics, Open Meetings and Colorado Open Records Act (CORA) Review**

Mr. David Beckett, City Attorney's Office, provided the annual review of ethics and the Colorado Open Records Act. Guidance was provided on conflicts of interest, gifts and hospitality, CORA, and open meetings law.

Alternate Member Carter asked if there have been any major changes with the CORA policy in the prior year. Mr. Beckett stated there have been no fundamental changes.

The committee addressed questions concerning conferences, document retention obligations, and procedures related to litigation holds.

**5. Customer Comment**

There were no customer comments.

**6. Committee Member General Discussion**

Committee Members noted the next assignment will be discussed at the Utilities Board Working Committee meeting on January 20, 2026, and will be pending approval at the February 18, 2026, Utilities Board meeting.

Members requested updates on legislation developments concerning the Ray Nixon Power Plant.

**7. Adjournment**

Chair Danner adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.



# **Utilities Policy Advisory Committee (UPAC) Assignment Scope**

November 4, 2026

# What are Distributed Energy Strategies?

Distributed Energy Strategies are the coordinated use of customer- and utility-sited energy solutions to optimize the electric system, reduce costs, enhance reliability and resilience, and defer or avoid traditional infrastructure investments while maintaining customer choice.



# Assignment Objective and Purpose

## Assignment Objective:

Recommend policy principles for how distributed energy resources (DERs), distributed energy strategies (DES) and other customer or utility-sited solutions should support Colorado Springs Utilities' future energy system.

## Purpose:

Evaluate the policy choices Colorado Springs Utilities should consider as distributed resources become a larger part of system planning and operations. The assignment should establish community priorities, decision criteria, roles, and governance principles rather than select specific technologies, vendors, projects, or tariffs.

# Question 1: What policy principles should guide how customers, facilities, and communities are prioritized?

UPAC should recommend fair and transparent principles for determining where programs or investments should be focused to ensure mutual benefit. Considerations may include:

- Criticality of the facility or service
- Existing reliability or resilience needs
- Potential systemwide and community benefits
- Cost-effectiveness and alternatives
- Customer interest and ability to participate
- Equitable access to benefits and avoidance of undue cost shifts
- Potential to support military installations, emergency services, water infrastructure, commercial areas, neighborhoods, and residential customers

The recommendation should establish a prioritization framework, not identify specific projects or locations.

## Question 2: What policy principles should guide CSU's approach?

UPAC should evaluate the appropriate balance among utility investments, customer-led solutions, market-based approaches, and operational strategies. Considerations may include:

- When CSU should invest directly versus enable customer- or third-party-led solutions
- What role rates, incentives, standards, and market signals should play
- How CSU should compare distributed solutions with centralized resources and traditional grid investments
- How non-energy benefits, such as resilience, emergency preparedness, and military readiness, should be considered
- What criteria should support decisions to pilot, expand, modify, or discontinue a program

The recommendation should provide durable decision principles that can be applied as technologies and markets evolve.

## Question 3: What customer participation, governance, and regulatory principles are needed?

UPAC should recommend principles that protect customers and system reliability while enabling useful participation. Topics may include:

- Voluntary participation, customer choice, and the ability to opt out
- Data access, privacy, cybersecurity, and informed consent
- Utility, customer, and third-party roles and accountability
- Interconnection, interoperability, measurement, verification, and program transparency
- Alignment with applicable retail, wholesale market, and resource adequacy requirements

The recommendation should focus on governance and consumer protections rather than detailed tariff design.

## Question 4: What DER and DES policies have peer utilities adopted, and which policy approaches should CSU consider?

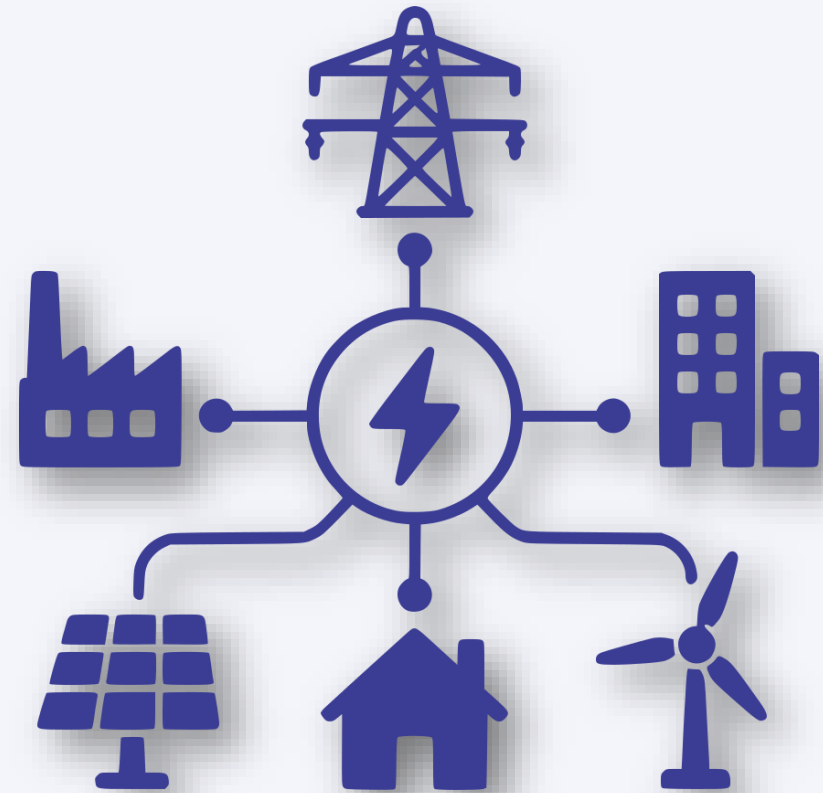
UPAC should review a representative group of municipal, cooperative, and investor-owned utilities, with emphasis on utilities facing similar growth, affordability, resilience, military, and grid-integration considerations. The review should compare:

- Policy objectives and governing principles
- Utility ownership, customer ownership, and third-party participation models
- Program eligibility, customer protections, and equity provisions
- Compensation, incentives, cost recovery, and cost-allocation approaches
- Treatment of VPPs, demand response, managed charging, storage, microgrids, and non-wires alternatives
- Integration with resource planning, distribution planning, resilience planning, and wholesale market participation
- Performance measures, lessons learned, and conditions that made policies transferable or non-transferable

*UPAC should identify leading practices and explain which approaches appear suitable for CSU, which would require modification, and which should not be pursued.*

# Requested Deliverables

1. A recommended policy framework defining the role of DER and DES in Colorado Springs.
2. A prioritization framework for customer segments, facilities, and community needs.
3. A peer-utility policy review with leading practices and applicability to CSU.
4. Recommended principles for investment, customer participation, governance, cost allocation, consumer protection, and program evaluation.
5. A phased roadmap identifying recommended policy actions, including appropriate pilot or program opportunities.
6. Key risks, implementation barriers, and issues requiring additional technical, legal, financial, or regulatory analysis.



# Scope Boundaries

- UPAC should provide policy guidance and community perspective, not detailed engineering design.
- The assignment should not select vendors, approve projects, establish specific tariffs, or predetermine technology choices.
- Where technical or regulatory questions require specialized analysis, UPAC should identify the issue and the policy decision it informs.

# Next Steps

- Vote on the UPAC assignment scope (approve as drafted or recommend revisions).
- Assignment recommendation must be submitted to the Utilities Board by March 17, 2027, according to UPAC Bylaws (before next municipal election).

# Timeline

- November 4: Review the assignment and Colorado Springs Utilities presentation
- December 2: Platte River Power Authority & Peer Review Research (Government Affairs)
- January 13: Xcel or United Power? or APPA or NREL?
- February 3: Finalize Recommendation (“working session”)
- March 3: Assignment conclusion (“working session”)



Colorado Springs Utilities

*It's how we're all connected*

# UPAC Distributed Energy Strategies Assignment

## Policy Framework for Colorado Springs Utilities

### What are Distributed Energy Strategies

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### Assignment Objective

Recommend policy principles for how distributed energy resources (DERs), distributed energy strategies (DES) and other customer- or utility-sited solutions should support Colorado Springs Utilities' future energy system.

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