



PublicService Commission &lt;psc@utah.gov&gt;

---

**Opposition to solar fee -- Doc. 13-035-184**

1 message

---

**Edwin Stafford** <ed.stafford@usu.edu>

Fri, May 23, 2014 at 9:13 AM

To: "psc@utah.gov" &lt;psc@utah.gov&gt;

Dear Public Service Commission:

I'm writing to express my opposition to Rocky Mountain Power's proposal to charge solar panel owners a \$4.25 monthly fee to be connected to the community's power grid.

I believe the key motivation behind the fee is stamp out growing solar competition in the local energy market and Utahns' desire to become independent of a utility monopoly that has been slow to innovate and move into cleaner, more price stable energy resources at a time when Utah's nationally-recognized poor air quality continues to threaten the public's health and the state's reputation.

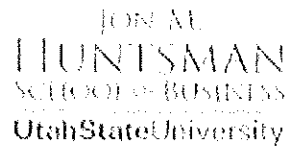
My biggest concern is that as carbon taxes and restrictions loom over Utah's energy market, as a monopoly, Rocky Mountain Power will simply be able to pass along those 'carbon adders' to the public. Thus, without the Utah Legislature encouraging innovation, Rocky Mountain Power doesn't have motivation to move to cleaner, non-carbon-based energy sources. Penalizing solar panel owners willing to make a difference is not good policy in light of our environmental challenges AND looming carbon taxes.

Public utilities must act in the interest of their ratepayers and constituents. Solar is good for Utah. Rather than penalizing solar adopters, Rocky Mountain Power should be updating its business model to facilitate solar development in the state.

I urge the Public Service Commission to rule against this solar penalty and request Rocky Mountain Power seek ways to encourage solar development in a way that is profitable for the company AND advantageous for ratepayers willing to spend tens of thousands of dollars to help move the state toward a cleaner, more environmentally sustainable society.

Sincerely,

Ed Stafford



**Edwin R. Stafford, Ph.D.**, Professor of Marketing

**Jon M. Huntsman School of Business** at Utah State University

Web site: [www.cleantech.usu.edu](http://www.cleantech.usu.edu)

email: [ed.stafford@usu.edu](mailto:ed.stafford@usu.edu) | office 435.797.3890 | fax 435.797.1091 | 3555 Old Main Hill Logan, Utah 84322-3555

**Scaling Wind, a new documentary**

*See Scaling Wind trailer*

*Next Utah Screenings:*

*St. John's Episcopal Church, Logan, UT, May 22, 7 p.m*

*Summer Citizens Speaker Series, Eccles Conference Center Auditorium, Utah State University, June 11, 6:30 p.m.*

*(with Wind Uprising)*

**Wind Uprising, a documentary**

<http://www.winduprisingmovie.com/>

*Summer Citizens Speaker Series, Eccles Conference Center Auditorium, Utah State University, June 11, 6:30 p.m.*

*(with Scaling Wind)*

**"High expectations are the key to everything!"**

*Sam Walton*