## **Utility Scale Rooftop Solar**

Ability of neighborhood solar to defer new electrical facilities





# **Purpose of presentation**

- Describe Rocky Mountain Power's in-depth study of neighborhood solar to offset the need to build new infrastructure (power plants, substations and lines)
- Outline Rocky Mountain Power's progress on Utah carbon reduction goal
- Describe Rocky Mountain Power's support of customer-owned renewable energy

### Customer use on the rise



- Rocky Mountain Power residential customers use about 26% more electricity than 20 years ago
- To meet our obligation to serve, additional power supply resources, substations and power lines are needed to meet growing customer use
- New facilities are expensive and difficult to permit
- Advocates want different solutions

## Can rooftop solar defer new facilities?



- Customers questioned substation expansion in an established neighborhood
- Public opposition delayed conditional use permit
- Undertook subsequent study of rooftop solar to determine its ability to meet customer use

## Scope of the solar opportunity





| Category          | Type of Building              | Median Roof<br>Footprint | Median # of<br>PV Panels | Minimum #<br>of PV Panels | Maximum #<br>of PV Panels | Average Usable<br>Roof Area |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Residential       | Single Family Residential     | 171 m <sup>2</sup>       | 25                       | 0                         | 119                       | 13.81%                      |
| Multi-Residential | Apartments, Condos, etc.      | 173 m <sup>2</sup>       | 32                       | 0                         | 397                       | 19.88%                      |
| Sm. Commercial    | Restaurant, Commercial Retail | 349 m <sup>2</sup>       | 136                      | 6                         | 340                       | 31.31%                      |
| Lg. Commercial    | Offices, Hospitals, Churches  | 430 m <sup>2</sup>       | 160                      | 16                        | 917                       | 32.74%                      |
| Unknown           | Unknown Land Use              | 196 m <sup>2</sup>       | 26                       | 2                         | 262                       | 14.57%                      |

## **Determining panel location**



- Evaluated roof shading on every structure
- Determined solar exposure
- Locate solar panels where they produce the most energy



# Study aims to maximize solar output

- Two-thirds of rooftops are suitable for solar panels (237 of 356)
- Total number of panels 13,304
- Study uses high efficiency panels; solar energy to electricity = 19%











































# **Estimated solar production**

Solar Energy Conversion:

- ✓ 2,210 MWh annual energy production
  - 1,560 MWh during summer months (May-Sept.)

Maximum Solar Power Output – as calculated

- ✓ June 21 = 1.52 MW (summer solstice)
  - Temperature Corrected = 1.45 MW at 76° F

Solar Output on Circuit Peak

- ✓ August 2 = 0.54 MW (2010 circuit peak)
  - Temperature Corrected = 0.48 MW at 93° F

Projected 2011 Circuit Peak = 4.6 MVA



### Solar contribution to peak

