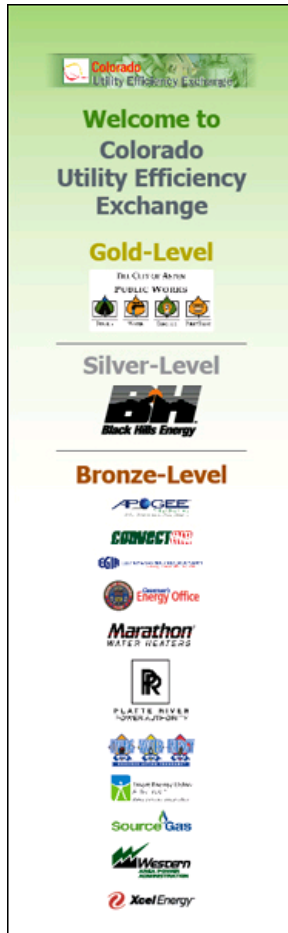


# CUExchange News

latest from the Colorado Utility Efficiency Exchange

## Support our sponsors



Did you make a contact, but lose a business card? Visit [www.utilityexchange.org](http://www.utilityexchange.org) and download the full attendance list on the agenda page!

So ends another Colorado Utility Efficiency Exchange. Connections were made, ideas discussed, partnerships formed, plans laid for the future. The presentations were stimulating, the scenery was stunning and the food was good (a little *too* good—luckily, Aspen Meadows has a fitness center, and the city has some lovely hiking trails).

It went very well, if we do say so ourselves, thanks to everyone who participated, with particular gratitude to our sponsors and advisory committee. If you would like to share your feedback and appreciation with them, you'll find links at [www.utilityexchange.org/colorado/index.html](http://www.utilityexchange.org/colorado/index.html).

### CURE FOR INFORMATION OVERLOAD

The CUExchange had an excellent turnout this year, not surprising considering the packed agenda. From the opening keynote presentation by Jeff Ackermann of the Colorado Public Utilities Commission to closing remarks from Aspen Utilities Efficiency Manager Jeff Rice, it was a busy, information-filled three days.

That's because there is so much happening in our industry. Large and small utilities are launching ambitious programs like Xcel Energy's 2009 energy-efficiency plan and Black Hills Energy's aggressive push to acquire renewable resources. Federal and state agencies and non-profits are collaborating with utilities to make energy efficiency affordable for homeowners. Rebates and incentives are reshaping the market. New and proven technologies—and new ways to use proven technologies—are giving power providers and consumers the ability to shape loads and control energy use in ways only imagined before. It's a lot to absorb.

Thursday's concurrent breakout sessions were a perfect illustration of the conundrum. Attendees shuttled back and forth between the residential and commercial tracks trying to take in everything they could.

It's understandable that you might have missed something, but not to worry. The presentations are online at [www.utilityexchange.org/colorado/agenda.html](http://www.utilityexchange.org/colorado/agenda.html). Refresh your memory about the finer points of smart metering, share with your board Midwest Energy's strategy for improving efficiency in rental units or borrow ideas from DOE's *Building America* program for partnering with home builders in your area. All right from your desktop.

### IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Your coworkers may ask why you attended the CUExchange (and if they don't ask, tell them anyway). There are plenty of good reasons, and here are some you gave us:

"I was in the restaurant business until this year, so I'm still learning the vocabulary of the utility industry," said Sam Irmen, efficiency technician with the city of Aspen. "This has been a great opportunity to see what other utilities have done. Here in Colorado, for example, we look at California programs and wish we could have that kind of penetration."

Irina Krishpinovich of California-based Quantum Energy Services and Technology sees it another way. "It's exciting to see all that's happening in Colorado, and how much support the state is giving to efficiency programs. And it's really beautiful here in Aspen," she added.

"Partnership just means working together, and building mutual respect and admiration," noted Irmen.

"I have more than learned the value of cooperation," concurred Midwest Energy Director Michael Volker. "I would really like to see an event like this in Kansas."

---

**LET'S DO THIS  
AGAIN SOMETIME**

To be specific, Oct. 21-23, 2009. Because of your growing interest and enthusiasm, we've already reserved Aspen Meadows for next year's CUEexchange.

Do your part to make the next event an even bigger success—tell your colleagues and coworkers about the CUEexchange. And most of all, make plans to join us!

---

Mutch Usera, Energy Services director at Black Hills Energy and a return speaker, hopes to interest South Dakota power providers in holding a CUEexchange. "I always learn something at these events," he said. "And the beer is free!"

**THE DOG DAYS OF OCTOBER**

It couldn't have been the Rocky Mountain weather, which was perfect, but there was certainly something in the air that brought out the canine analogies at the 2008 Colorado Utility Efficiency Exchange.

Speakers described their utilities as big dogs, small dogs, even the fleas on the dog. Aspen Utilities' Energy Services department was like a Labrador running around, getting into everything. Smart Energy Living Alliance was a guide dog, helping partners and consumers to reach their energy-efficiency goals. Katherine Johnson was a pit bull of a timekeeper, making sure daily sessions stayed on schedule.

Even the government got into the act. The Governor's Energy Office is designing renewable energy programs for "the middle of the pack, rather than the lead or tail dogs." Lew Pratsch called DOE's *Building America* program the veterinarian that helps ailing dogs—inefficient buildings—get better.

Thursday night we put on the dog at the Double Dog Pub in downtown Aspen. There are rumors that some howling at the moon occurred.

We put out the fire and called in the dogs Friday at noon. Participants had much to think about on the way home: potential partnerships, DSM and demand response programs, new ways to improve customer relations and the bottom line. They came to Aspen as lone wolves in a wilderness of energy-efficiency programs and left prepared to be leaders of the pack.

**ALL GOOD THINGS MUST CHANGE**

Even with a winning formula like the CUEexchange, it is important to keep things fresh. What would you like to see on next year's agenda? More technology? More trade partners? Maybe a consumer expo? Visit [www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=eqvpG0v3tvQVO3sM3JanmQ\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=eqvpG0v3tvQVO3sM3JanmQ_3d_3d) to tell the advisory committee what you liked about the CUEexchange and how we could improve it.

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Oct. 21-23, 2009**  
**For the Colorado Utility Efficiency Exchange**  
**At Aspen Meadows**