



Rocky Mountain Farmers Union

Cooperative & Economic Development Center

“Providing resources and support to create innovative cooperative solutions to pressing economic and social challenges.”

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Colorado Harvesting Energy Network Cooperative (CHEN Co-op)

1. RMFU Cooperative & Economic Development Center
2. What is a Cooperative?
3. CHEN Coop
4. Where are we now? Next steps?



RMFU Cooperative Development Center

- One of 12 USDA supported Cooperative Development Centers
- Established in 1996
- Identify Coop Projects to Provide Technical Assistance



Recent Activities...

- **High Plains Food Cooperative**
 - Consumer Members – Front Range consumers purchase from local agriculture producers in Colorado and Western Kansas
 - www.highplainsfood.org
- **Colorado Renewable Resource Cooperative, Inc.**
 - Producer/Marketing Members – foresters in Park County, CO Area seeking markets for wood chip biomass
- **Landowner Wind Associations**
 - Marketing Coop - 6 landowner wind association formed in Southeast Wyoming marketing wind resource and stronger negotiation position

What is a Cooperative?

A Cooperative is a Tool
that helps us reach a goal.

It is a Business
that is owned and controlled
by the people who use it.

Doing together what we cannot do alone!



Goals of Cooperatives:

1. To improve bargaining/marketing power
2. To reduce costs or risks.
3. To obtain products or services.
4. To create new and expand existing market opportunities.
5. To improve qualities of products or services.
6. *To increase member income.*



Steps in Starting a Cooperative

1. Exploratory meeting(s) with potential members-users – *Identify Economic Needs*
2. Steering Committee
3. Survey prospective members to determine use
4. Feasibility study and business plan
5. Incorporate
6. Elect board of directors
7. Membership drive
8. Acquire capital
9. Hire staff and acquire facilities
10. Begin operations





CHEN Co-op

- Colorado Working Landscapes (CWL) Initiative beginning in 2006
- Seeking to transition into Co-op to support local project developers
- Proposed project of the RMFU Cooperative & Economic Development Center

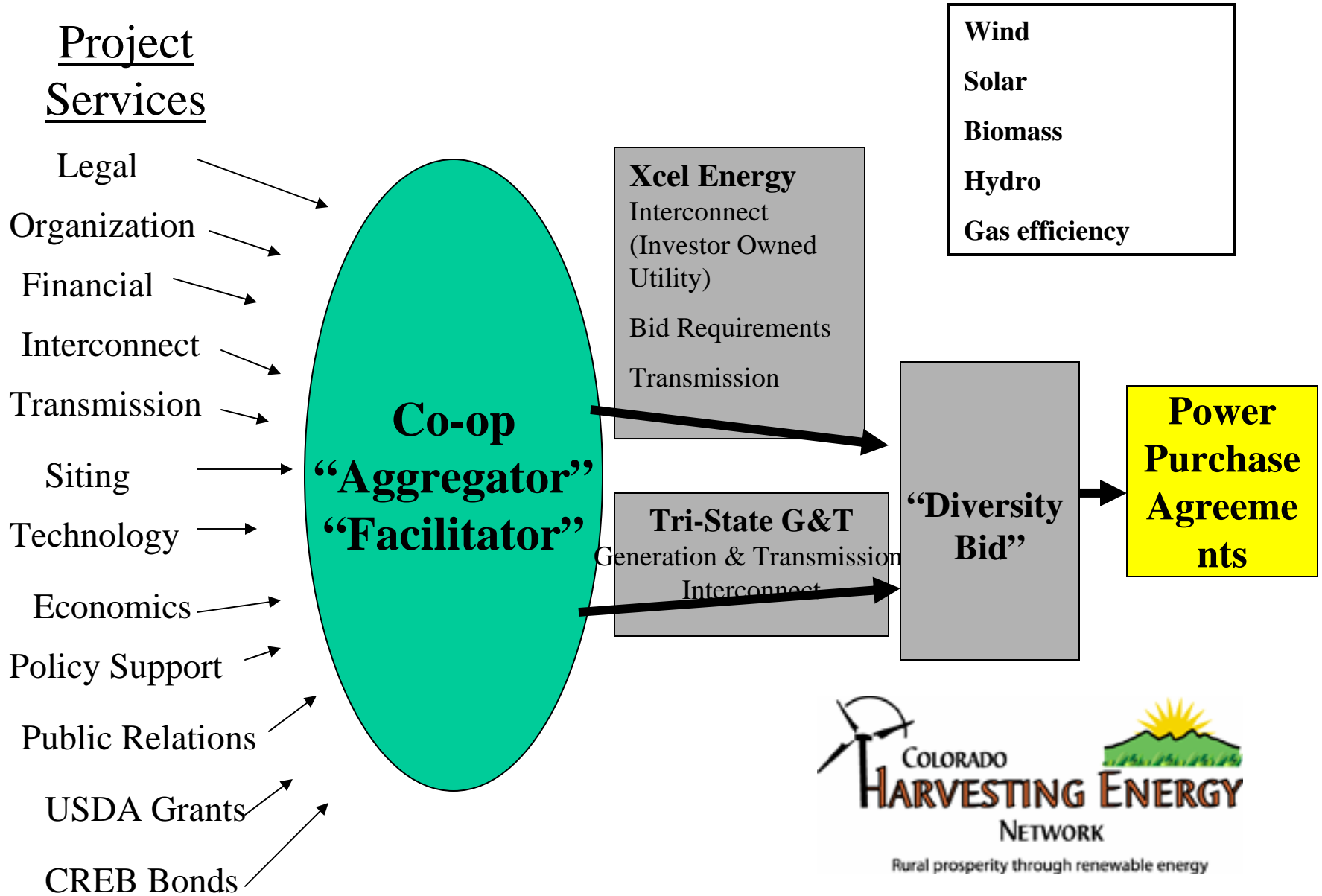




CHEN Co-op Purpose

- Services for community-based project developers (e.g. legal, finance, wind assessment, group purchasing)
- Establish mechanisms to connect multiple community-based projects with wholesale buyers
- Create models for local ownership of renewable energy projects
- Policy and Regulatory Input
- Education/Outreach – Market benefits of distributed and dispersed generation

Community Renewable Cooperative





CHEN Co-op

Consistent with many goals

Diversity of Projects (Wind, Solar, Small Hydro)

Meet Amendment 37 Benefits

Community Wind

PV Market

Central/Concentrated Solar

Least Cost Planning Reforms (Integrated Resource Plan)

Tri-State RE startup/RE coop

GEO Role

PUC Coordination

Wind for Schools

Rural Economic Development



Where are we? Next Steps?

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Contact us about your project

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