



Renewable Energy Mitigation Program (REMP)

Fact Sheet

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The Renewable Energy Mitigation Program (REMP) is a groundbreaking carbon fee program—the first of its kind in the world — designed in Aspen and Pitkin County, Colorado, in 1999 to mitigate the environmental impacts and greenhouse gases produced by snowmelt systems, pools and spas. The long-term goals of the REMP program are to fund energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, while speeding the Roaring Fork Valley’s progress toward a sustainable energy future.

How It Works

REMP is part of Aspen’s and Pitkin County’s Energy Code that applies to new construction, remodels and additions. Under REMP, homeowners and commercial property owners who choose to install energy using systems such as snowmelt, outdoor pools, spas, or — in Pitkin County — large square footage, have the option of installing a renewable energy system on site or choosing a mitigation payment option instead. Installing solar photovoltaics (PV), solar water heating, or geothermal heat pump systems are examples of renewable energy projects that can earn on-site renewable credits toward REMP.

REMP monies are collected by the County and City’s Community Development Departments when building permits are issued. The money is held by their respective Finance Departments until the Board of County Commissioners and City Council approve a REMP spending proposal. These proposals are developed and administered by the Community Office of Resource Efficiency (CORE), a local nonprofit organization whose board is made up of municipal, utility and citizen members. CORE uses the monies to fund grants and rebates in the Roaring Fork Valley for energy efficiency and renewable energy, with oversight from the City and County.

History

REMP was conceived in 1999 by three energy gurus: the late Randy Udall, CORE’s first executive director; Joani Matranga, a CORE staffer; and Stephen Kanipe, Chief Building Official from the City of Aspen. It was adopted in 2000 by the City Council and Board of County Commissioners as part of the building code. The money collected is used to fund projects that will eliminate twice as much pollution as the homeowner’s proposed energy project — a swimming pool, for example — will produce during twenty years of operation. For every dollar CORE has invested in the community through REMP fees, seven pounds of carbon dioxide have been avoided. Thanks to funding from REMP, since 2011 (when the current records were established) CORE has:

- realized \$2,959,622 in annual energy savings,
- avoided 22,432 metric tons of CO₂ (annual savings), and
- served 5,740 customers.

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Since its establishment in Aspen and Pitkin County, Colorado in 2000, REMP has been emulated by communities such as Eagle County and Mountain Village/Telluride, CO; Park City, UT; and Martha's Vineyard, MA.

Funding

By requiring structures to mitigate their environmental impacts, the payments to REMP have been used to fund several million dollars of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects to date. At any given moment, the REMP fund balance represents a three-year budget for the program. Historically, the CORE Board of Directors has approved spending of 30% of the REMP fund annually, an allocation which ensures the program's uninterrupted service to the community through the ups and downs of the economy and the construction industry.

Project Types

REMP funds are dedicated to energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in the Roaring Fork Valley. A remarkable variety of such projects are underway, including solar PV on affordable housing, smart meters for a local utility, and a carbon sequestration pilot project at a valley farm.

Information

More information on CORE's REMP-funded grants and rebates is available at www.aspencore.org, with free technical advising at energy@aspencore.org and 970.925.9775.