



Dear Solar Owner,

We would like to invite you to join REOCA. We are a non-profit, 501(c)(4), in Pueblo, whose mission is to **protect and promote distributed renewable energy resources for the economy, the environment, and a sustainable future.**

We offer many services:

- Monitor the Public Utilities Commission for unreasonable increases that might affect our solar members.
- Watch the State Legislative Assembly to determine if any new state laws affecting the use of solar panels are passed.

We have seen other areas where there were requests not to pay the solar owner for excess energy produced at the same rate it sells to the general customer. Utilities elsewhere want to offer back only the wholesale value, which can change from \$.17 to \$.02 in some cases. We are staying vigilant of these activities.

In 2022, REOCA worked to ensure the new county solar ordinance didn't damage Renewable Energy (RE) in Pueblo. The first version didn't make sense for Pueblo. It was causing the industry to stop making bids and causing landowners harm. The new regulations are an improvement.

We followed energy-related bills, attended many meetings, and discussed with state legislators: Esgar, Garcia, Hansen, and the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to lower Black Hills Energy (BHE) bills. We talked with Senator Bennet's staff in DC and Denver about our efforts promoting Renewable Energy (RE).

REOCA has made PUC comments, including about the weather event in winter 2021, which had BHE asking for \$24M from customers. They did keep our power on, but contrast this with San Isabel Energy Association, where they will be giving customer refunds. As a result, BHE customers, including solar owners, will pay more for our bills.

With the help of Pueblo's Energy Future, we are following the latest 2022 BHE ERP where they plan to invest \$1.7 Billion in improvements. We testified at the November PUC phase 1 hearing held in Pueblo. Phase 2 will occur in 2023, when BHE's plans will be finalized. We are looking for good treatment of rooftop solar owners and no bill increases.

Other projects we are working on include understanding Community Choice Energy (CCE) active in the Colorado legislation. CCE will allow communities with investor-owned utilities to choose other electric generation providers. Ken is on the core energy team developing CHERP Solar Works Pueblo, a PV panel manufacturer. CHERP Solar Works Pueblo has the potential to add hundreds of local jobs.

These volunteer efforts are made possible by membership dues to REOCA. Our dues for a family membership, which includes two email addresses for the Newsletter, are only \$35 a year! A tiny amount for a great deal of value to protect our investments!

Please join us! Visit REOCA.org and click on “**Join Us/Wild Apricot.**” Wild Apricot is our membership management program.

If you have questions, please contact us at [membership@reoca.org](mailto:membership@reoca.org) or 719-420-1438.

Best Regards,  
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