

# How Platte River Power Authority Is Accelerating Its Energy Transition

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FORT COLLINS, CO, USA, April 5, 2024 /EINPresswire.com/ -- [Platte River Power Authority](#), the community-owned wholesale electricity provider for Northern Colorado, has a history of bold initiatives. They were among the first utilities in the country to add scrubber technology, known as spray dryer absorber, on their coal-fired generation to reduce emissions. They became the first utility in Colorado to bring wind energy online. And in 2018, Platte River adopted a Resource Diversification Policy outlining a decarbonization goal by 2030 long before Colorado established statewide policies.



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Since 2018, Platte River has added nearly one million megawatt-hours of renewable energy to the system, including wind and solar and two-hour battery storage, demonstrating their commitment to move boldly toward a clean energy future. Platte River achieved a significant milestone when they joined an energy imbalance market in 2023, with plans underway to join a full organized energy market in spring 2026. And last year marked the first time Platte River supplied more power from renewable energy and surplus energy market purchases than it self-generated through coal and gas fired generation combined.

While utilities across the country are developing plans to transition to cleaner generation technologies in the next decade or two, Platte River's accelerated transition over the next several years presents unique challenges. The utility is addressing these challenges by deploying more wind and solar projects and taking a three-pronged approach to dispatchable capacity. This includes battery storage, a virtual power plant within the owner communities, and aeroderivative



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turbine technology, all to maintain system reliability.

Along with the clean energy transition, Platte River must navigate persistent effects from the global pandemic, including supply chain issues, inflation and rising capital costs. Much of this transition relies on emerging technologies with fewer qualified contractors, increasing demand and competition for renewable generation projects. Once contracts are signed, permitting and construction processes begin, all of which take time and can present their own hurdles.

Still, Platte River is determined to make this energy transition equitably for the four communities it has proudly served for more than 50 years.

“As part of our clean energy transition, our strategy balances the three foundational pillars that inform and guide our operations,” says Wendy Koenig, Town of Estes Park mayor and Platte River board member. “Accelerating clean energy technologies for this transition at the wholesale level helps maximize the benefit for all community members in Platte River’s service region, no matter their financial background.”

To learn more about Platte River’s commitment to a clean energy future, visit [prpa.org/future](https://prpa.org/future).

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