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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Summit County supports renewable energy through Blue Sky

COALVILLE, Utah — Summit County is stepping up its support for renewable energy in a big way through Rocky Mountain Power's Blue Sky program. This month, officials enrolled the county government at the Blue Sky Champion Partner level. The county is supporting 30,700 kilowatt-hours of renewable energy credits each month from a regional wind farm, representing 10 percent of the electricity used at all county-owned facilities.

Over a year's time, Summit County's support for renewable energy through the Blue Sky program will avoid 224 tons of carbon dioxide emissions. This is equivalent to the environmental benefit of taking about 39 cars off the road for one year or planting more than 5,200 trees.

As a result of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, Summit County has received federal stimulus funds to retrofit the lighting in many county facilities, including all of the lights in the County Courthouse in Coalville. The county expects to save \$3,500 per year in electricity costs because of the lighting retrofits, and receive nearly \$5,600 in incentives for participating in Rocky Mountain Power's FinAnswer program in conjunction with the efficiency upgrades. These combined savings will more than cover 100 percent of Summit County's costs to purchase Blue Sky renewable energy credits to help offset energy use at its facilities.

"By signing up at the Blue Sky Champion level, Summit County is making a public statement that we are committed to supporting renewable energy generation in our region," said Ashley Koehler, Summit County sustainability coordinator. "There is already strong support for renewable energy among residents and businesses in the county, and we are encouraging everyone to be more aware of where their energy comes from and to get involved and make a difference for today and for future generations." On Wednesday, February 16, the County Council will be accepting a certificate of recognition from Rocky Mountain Power for their environmental stewardship and participation in this program.

Blue Sky provides an easy way for Rocky Mountain Power customers to support wind-powered electric generation and other renewable energy facilities in the region. When a customer enrolls in Blue Sky, Rocky Mountain Power purchases Green-e Energy-certified renewable energy certificates on their behalf from wind energy facilities in the western United States. Blue Sky funds also have helped support the development of smaller community-based renewable energy projects, including seven in Summit County.

In 2009, Summit County received a \$24,000 Blue Sky funding award to place a solar energy system at the Utah State University Extension Office, located in Coalville. This award was made possible in part due to strong community participation in the Blue Sky program by Summit County residents and businesses, as well as the project itself being a strong candidate and meeting all of the required criteria.

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Other community-based renewable energy projects in the Summit County to receive Blue Sky funding include solar energy systems at the Swaner Nature Reserve, Park City Historical Society and Museum, Park City Ice Arena, Ecker Hill Middle School and Creekside Park, all in Park City, and the Summit County Friends of Animals – Browns Canyon Facility.

The Park City area, including the Snyderville Basin, is participating in the Environmental Protection Agency's Green Power Community Challenge, and is currently ranked 12th in the nation for renewable energy credit purchases and 10th for community participation in a green power program. Additionally, Park City leaders have initiated a community challenge to encourage even more residents and businesses in the area to sign up for Blue Sky. Information is available at www.rockymountainpower.net/parkcity.

“It is ever so exciting to see Summit County support the Blue Sky program as it truly sets an example to all of us that we should do our part to make a difference environmentally. I congratulate the county for taking this important step,” said Rocky Mountain Power's Chad Ambrose, customer and community senior manager.

In addition to Summit County, other county and city governments in Utah that support Blue Sky renewable energy include: American Fork City, City of Alpine, City of Cedar Hills, City of Lindon, City of Moab, City of Richfield, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, Grand County, Ogden City, Park City, Basin Recreation (Summit County), Park City Fire District, Town of Alta, Town of Castle Valley, Town of Rockville, Town of Springdale. State agencies in Utah that support Blue Sky include Utah Department of Environmental Quality and Utah Geological Survey State Energy Program. Utah State University's Moab Campus and Zion National Park Visitor Center also support Blue Sky.

About Rocky Mountain Power

Rocky Mountain Power is headquartered in Salt Lake City and provides electric service to more than one million customers in Utah, Wyoming and Idaho. As part of PacifiCorp, one of the lowest-cost electricity producers in the United States, Rocky Mountain Power and Pacific Power provide approximately 1.7 million customers in six western states with reliable, efficient energy. The company works to meet growing energy demand while protecting and enhancing the environment. Visit www.rockymountainpower.net.

About Blue Sky

More than 34,000 Rocky Mountain Power customers in Utah, Wyoming and Idaho buy Blue Sky renewable energy. In April 2010, the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory again ranked the company's Blue Sky program second in the nation in the number of customers buying renewable power, and third in the nation for renewable power sales volume. To learn more about Blue Sky or to sign up, visit www.rockymountainpower.net/bluesky or call 1-800-769-3717.