



STEEL MEETS SOLAR AT COLORADO'S BIGHORN PROJECT

Pueblo's historic EVRAZ Rocky Mountain Steel Mill will be the first on the continent to rely on solar power. Come 2022, Bighorn Solar Project will be located onsite at the steel manufacturing facility. The project will consist of more than 700,000 solar panels capable of meeting 95% of the steel mill's annual energy demand and 90% of the plant's energy needs at the peak of production.

The EVRAZ steel mill is Pueblo's largest electricity user, not to mention a major source of the region's blue-collar jobs. Xcel Energy, the mill's power provider, will purchase the clean power generated by the solar farm under a long-term power purchasing agreement with Lightsource bp. With its 20-year, fixed rate structure, the project provides EVRAZ with predictable electricity costs following the [closure](#) of local coal-fired power plants.

The 300 MW project is expected to be one of the largest in the state, poising Colorado to continue leading the west in advanced energy deployment. The project is expected to decrease GHG emissions by approximately 433,770 metric tons of CO₂ annually—the equivalent of taking 92,100 fuel-burning cars off the road—in addition to creating \$22 million in local revenue.

BY THE NUMBERS

- **300 MW** of solar
- **\$22M** in local revenue
- **433,770** metric tons of CO₂ removed annually

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Bighorn Solar has been credited with keeping Pueblo's historic EVRAZ Rocky Mountain Steel Mill economically viable. The mill currently employs over 1,000 workers in the region, with construction from the project expected to support 300 more local jobs. The anticipated savings from the project will also assure reliable, low-cost energy prices for the mill and protect the plant's jobs long-term.

SUPPORT MORE PROJECTS LIKE THESE

Making the investment tax credit (ITC) for solar refundable, providing incentives to support domestic manufacturing, and encouraging advanced energy development in rural areas and areas impacted by coal plant closures can bring more projects like this to Colorado.