



PRESS RELEASE

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**Colorado Transportation Blueprint
Paving the Way to Fuel Savings and Emissions Reductions**

Boulder, CO– Anticipating that climate legislation requiring an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 will be enacted in the near future, the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP) investigated available strategies to reduce CO₂ emissions from the transportation sector. Released today, the *Colorado Transportation Blueprint for the New Energy Economy* concludes that projected CO₂ emissions in 2040 can be reduced by over 40% while simultaneously reducing transportation costs, saving consumers billions of dollars, and supporting thousands of new jobs in the state.

“Converting the state’s transportation system to make it sustainable for the 21st Century will take time and require leadership from the State, but it will liberate Colorado’s economy from dependence on strategically vulnerable sources of petroleum, bring new jobs to Colorado, and significantly reduce the costs of personal travel and transporting freight,” explained Bob Yuhnke, SWEEP’s Transportation Director and co-author of the Blueprint.

The Blueprint demonstrates that about \$34 billion in net economic savings can be achieved between 2010 and 2040 by:

1. replacing gasoline fueled cars and diesel trucks with battery powered motors that can be charged nightly from the grid by electricity generated in Colorado;
2. accommodating future growth by co-locating new development with enhanced transit services to provide mobility that is faster, less expensive and more convenient than auto trips; and
3. improving the fuel efficiency of existing vehicles.

The Blueprint analyzes all the transportation strategies considered in every climate action plan adopted by nearly 30 states, and by the transportation plans adopted for some metropolitan areas that have decided to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Blueprint concludes that strategies available to the State can achieve the 80% reduction target by 2050 only if augmented by further regulatory action at the federal level to improve vehicle fuel efficiency well beyond the levels proposed by the Obama Administration for 2016. National fuel efficiency standards applicable to new vehicles after 2016 will be needed to achieve the low greenhouse emissions available from electric powered vehicles.

The Blueprint also concludes that because of Colorado’s rapid population growth, the 80% reduction target can be achieved with advanced vehicle technologies only if the rate of increase in vehicle miles travelled is slowed to the rate of population growth. Keeping average personal

travel by car at current levels can be achieved by accommodating the State's new residents with housing, commercial development and public services in locations where most trips can be accomplished on transit, walking and bicycling.

State Representative Claire Levy observed that "A modern and efficient transportation system is vital to Colorado's economic success. Colorado cannot afford to waste precious resources on obsolete and ineffective ways of addressing congestion and mobility. SWEEP's comprehensive analysis makes it clear that transportation investments must be closely coordinated with new development so that Colorado's transportation system is attractive to clean, high-tech industries, and so it can provide mobility to the 4.5 million new residents who are expected to be added to Colorado's population by 2050. SWEEP demonstrates that by implementing smart development policies Colorado can save billions of dollars in transportation costs, which can then be redirected to other essential needs."

"We cannot protect human civilization from the threats of climate change without better managing and transforming how we power transportation systems," said Michael Replogle, Global Policy Director and founder of the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy, and an advisor to the US Department of Transportation. "SWEEP's unique comprehensive analysis of transportation strategies is most timely, charting a path not only for Colorado, but for the entire nation. This is a valuable contribution to the global discussion of energy policy."

The complete *Colorado Transportation Blueprint* is available for download at http://swenergy.org/pubs/Colorado_Transportation_Blueprint.pdf.

About SWEEP: The Southwest Energy Efficiency Project is a private not-for-profit organization promoting greater energy efficiency in Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming. For more information, see www.swenergy.org