



About the Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation

We do business as a region.

In Metro Denver, we've found that, in business development as in business itself, collaboration and teamwork pays off.

The Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation (Metro Denver EDC), an affiliate of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce, is the nation's first and only truly regional economic development entity in which many area economic development groups have joined together to represent, and further, the interests of an entire region. Our partners include 70 cities, counties, and economic development organizations in the seven-county Metro Denver and two-county Northern Colorado region.

Our work to create a competitive environment that attracts companies and jobs is backed by the region's business community, with primary funding coming from private-sector investors, as well as participating cities and counties. Strategic initiatives include Mobility, Tax Reform, Existing Business, National Marketing, Denver International Airport/International Flights, and Special opportunities.

Our philosophy toward bringing business here is unique. Each of the Metro Denver EDC's economic development partner organizations is committed to the economic vitality of the entire region. As an ambassador for the area, each is ready and able to communicate the benefits of Metro Denver first and individual communities second.

When our clients – site selectors or companies – come to visit, we focus on their needs. Without pressure, we provide all the information needed to make an informed decision. For companies considering relocation or expansion, you won't find a better resource than the Metro Denver EDC.

For additional information, e-mail info@metrodenver.org, call 303.620.8092, or visit us at 1445 Market Street in downtown Denver.

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For additional information, see the
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Metro Denver: Mile High Advantages

A business climate as uplifting as our 300 days of sunshine.

Metro Denver is simply one of the best places in the country to live and work with the advantages of an educated workforce, a collaborative business environment, and a multimodal transportation system that will take us years into the future.

Regionalism – the Metro Denver region is recognized nationally and even internationally for its collaborative approach to economic development. With community-wide support for the arts, bi-partisan dialogue among the region's mayors, and proactive efforts to attract major sporting events, collaboration and enthusiasm abound in Metro Denver. Working together for a vibrant future is how we do business in Metro Denver.

Workforce – A core of young, highly educated workers (third in the U.S. for percentage of residents with a bachelor's degree) populate Metro Denver. They come from all over the U.S. and the world, and once they discover Colorado, they seldom leave. Our combination of health, family, and career opportunities make for a balanced life that's nearly impossible to match.

Health and Wellness – Attribute it to our 300+ days of sunshine, our exceptionally mild climate, or the Rocky Mountains in our backyard. The fact is Metro Denver has a balanced lifestyle that translates into a productive workforce that experiences less absenteeism and places fewer demands on the healthcare system. Colorado has the nation's lowest obesity rate and is among the five lowest states for heart disease, diabetes, and cancer rates.

Infrastructure - Although the Metro Denver region faces many of the same growing pains as other major metropolitan areas, it took charge of its future by building a new international airport, proactively designing a multimodal transportation system, and intelligently planning residential, commercial, and retail development. The result is the nation's leading model for smart growth to accommodate growing population areas.

Sustainability – You simply won't find such an intense focus on sustainability – plus all the elements to deliver on its promise – anywhere else in the nation. With the state's governor, local mayors, companies, universities, and companies in sync, Metro Denver has laid the groundwork for Colorado to become the nation's renewable energy capital.

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Metro Denver: Business Environment

This is a place that stimulates business.

With a population of 2.8 million people, Metropolitan Denver has a dynamic and diversified economy and the third-most highly educated workforce in the United States. Denver is known internationally as the "Mile High City" and is the center of commerce and industry for the Rocky Mountain West.

Location & International Trade - Denver's central U.S. location on the 105th meridian at the midpoint between Tokyo and Frankfurt makes it a strategic location for conducting international business. With its unique Mountain Time Zone location, Denver is the largest U.S. city offering one-bounce satellite uplinks to world satellite networks and real-time connections to six out of seven continents in one business day.

Canada, Mexico, Japan, China, and Taiwan were among Colorado's top-five largest trading partners in 2007, for a total export value of \$7.35 billion. Metro Denver is home to 32 Foreign Consulates. These Foreign Consulates work with the region's economic development groups to expand bilateral trade and economic relations as well as increasing trade promotion and cultural exchange.

Companies – With a competitive environment, sound transportation infrastructure, and low operational costs, Metro Denver is home to some of the country's most successful and diverse companies. In fact, Colorado has maintained an "A" rating for business vitality in the Corporation for Enterprise Development's Development Report Card for the States every year since 1991.

With some of the fastest-growing counties in the nation, Metro Denver attracts businesses and keeps them. Our competitive environment and variety of industries bring companies here. Metro Denver's pervasive optimism, 300 annual days of sunshine, and its location at the doorstep of the Rocky Mountains makes it difficult to think of being elsewhere.

Companies that have established headquarters in the region over the past two years include Fast Enterprises, Molson Coors, Pro-Build Holdings, The Revere Group, Rio Tinto Minerals, Vestas Blades, Vodafone, United Launch Alliance, and Western Union.

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Metro Denver: Industries

Companies locate here for growth in the knowledge-based economy.

From energy to aerospace, to bioscience, information technology - software, and financial services, Metro Denver offers a diversified economy of viable industries and the nation's third most highly educated workforce.

Aerospace - Colorado has the second-largest space economy in the U.S. The state's aerospace industry has critical mass with 55,850 workers, including 26,650 private employees and 29,200 military personnel. The state is home to four military commands, seven major space contractors, and 300 aerospace companies and suppliers.

Aviation - Denver International Airport, three general aviation reliever airports, and top aircraft manufacturing companies create a solid foundation for 14,230 workers directly employed by air transportation companies.

Bioscience - Eleven local higher education institutions with bioscience programs and numerous bioscience research assets support the region's bioscience industry. The industry is also enhanced by the opportunities to bring together academic, research, and corporate biotechnology institutions at the \$4.3 billion Fitzsimons Life Science District.

Energy - The integration of energy technology and the state's rich energy resource base place the region at the forefront of energy development. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in Golden is the primary national laboratory for renewable energy and energy efficiency R&D.

Financial Services - The region is one of the few areas outside of the northeast with a substantial financial services industry in three key market segments. A variety of trade associations and service firms supports the diverse financial services industry base of over 10,000 companies and 97,900 employees in the region.

Information Technology - Software - Colorado has the third highest high-tech workers per capita in the nation according to the AeA Cyberstates 2007 report. A strong entrepreneurial spirit fuels this industry, employing nearly 45,000 workers.

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Metro Denver: The Balanced Energy Capital of the West

As the "Balanced Energy Capital of the West," Metro has all the resources that support sustainability – plus the surroundings that inspire it. The integration of renewable energy and the state's rich energy resource base puts Metro Denver at the forefront of new energy development for the nation and the world.

Colorado ranked fourth in the country for renewable energy and energy research employment concentration and 10th for fossil energy employment in 2007. The state offers world-class energy research centers and universities such as the Colorado School of Mines (CSM) and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), the nation's primary laboratory for renewable energy and energy efficiency R&D.

In addition, a new research partnership between NREL, the Colorado School of Mines, Colorado State University, and the University of Colorado – coined the Colorado Renewable Energy Collaboratory – is working closely with the private sector to develop renewable energy technologies for rapid commercialization.

And there's further momentum to move Colorado's new energy economy forward with Governor Ritter's *New Energy Economy* plan, which created the state's renewable portfolio standard of 20 percent as well as the state's first-ever Climate Action Plan. Complimenting these efforts is Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper's *Greenprint Denver*, a comprehensive sustainability initiative with broad reaching ecologically-friendly practices.

CSU creates School of Global Environmental Sustainability

Colorado State University unveiled plans in July 2008 for the state's first School of Global Environmental Sustainability to streamline the university's internationally recognized environmental research and to prepare students for the growing "green" workforce. The School encompasses all environmental education and research at the university.

The School will act as a clearinghouse for university faculty in all eight colleges involving the environment. Students can complement their majors with environmental courses, which will help prepare them to solve increasingly complex global environmental challenges.

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Renewable energy companies set up shop in Metro Denver

ConocoPhillips announced plans in early 2008 to establish a new Global Technology and Corporate Learning Center in Louisville. This campus will be the hub for its research and development in making liquid fuels from renewable sources. ConocoPhillips will also create a worldwide learning center where it will bring thousands of employees to train on new energy technology applications. The new campus will be operational by 2012.

Vestas Wind Systems opened its first North American manufacturing plant in Windsor in 2008. The \$62 million, 400,000-square-foot facility will produce 1,200 wind turbine blades a year, eventually providing 650 manufacturing jobs. Vestas announced in May 2008 plans to expand its already large investment in Colorado with the addition of a nearly \$250 million manufacturing plant to build the steel towers that hold up its wind turbines.

Ascent Solar Technologies, Inc., a developer of state-of-the-art, thinfilm photovoltaic modules, announced in February 2008 the purchase of a large-scale manufacturing facility to house the company's new world headquarters and commercial manufacturing operations in Thornton. The plant has 120,000 square feet of office and manufacturing space. The expansion is expected to create approximately 300 manufacturing jobs.

AVA Solar, a Colorado State University-created startup, announced plans in early 2008 to open a facility in Longmont where it will mass-produce low-cost, high-efficiency solar panels. AVA's factory, which will transform ordinary window glass into solar panels, will be operational by the end of 2008 and will employ up to 500 people.

Clear Skies Solar, Inc., a leading developer of solar energy products and a full-service solar power integration provider, announced in April 2008 that it would open a new office in Golden to provide operations in the entire Colorado region and ultimately deliver engineering support to accommodate its growth in the Southwest.

The **Colorado Renewable Energy Collaboratory** announced in April 2008 the creation of the Center for Revolutionary Solar Photoconversion (CRSP) to find ways to directly convert the sun's energy to low-cost electricity and fuels. CRSP will be dedicated to basic and applied research at the Collaboratory's four member institutions, the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory, the Colorado School of Mines, Colorado State University, and the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Renewable Energy Systems Americas, Inc. (RES-Americas), one of the country's leading wind farm developers, announced plans in March 2008 to move its corporate headquarters from Austin, TX to Broomfield. The company will relocate 70 jobs from Texas in addition to making 70 local hires.

Siemens Energy announced in June 2008 that it will establish its U.S. wind turbine R&D competence center in Boulder. The facility is expected to employ an estimated 50 people and will focus on atmospheric science research, aerodynamic blade design, structural dynamics, and wind turbine dispatch prediction and reliability.

Woodward Governor of Fort Collins plans to add up to 100 new high-paying jobs at a new production line in Northern Colorado for its wind turbine inverter business. Inverters convert a wind turbine's output into electrical power compatible for the grid.





Metro Denver: Transportation & Infrastructure

An expanding infrastructure keeps Metro Denver on the fast track.

Metro Denver is a model for the country when it comes to solving transportation challenges, taking steps to reduce sprawl and create new neighborhoods along transit. The region has a history of making bold and intelligent transportation and land-use decisions to shape its future.

Denver International Airport - Two decades ago, Metro Denver's citizens approved plans for an expansive international airport. Completed in 1995, Denver International Airport (DIA) is the only major U.S. airport built within the last 25 years. And to keep pace with growing passenger traffic, DIA is now undergoing over \$1 billion in enhancements. In 2007, Denver International Airport served 49.9 million passengers and ranked as the fifth-busiest airport in North America and the 11th busiest in the world. Denver serves as a gateway for domestic travelers into Europe with nonstop service to London/Heathrow, Frankfurt, and Munich.

FasTracks - DIA served as a catalyst for other big projects, namely the \$6.1 billion FasTracks mass transit expansion – the largest build out of a U.S. mass transit system since the Washington D.C. Metro. FasTracks will include a commuter rail line between DIA and downtown Denver's Union Station, and will connect every corner of the Denver region with 122 miles of light rail, commuter rail, and bus rapid transit by 2017.

Union Station - Downtown Denver's historic Union Station will be the central hub of the new regional transit system. Subsequently, it is undergoing a \$1 billion redevelopment as part of the Regional Transportation District's FasTracks project. In 2006, Continuum/East West was selected as the master developer of the historic transit center, which will include 19.5 acres of offices, residences, and retail – a 24-hour center of urban activity.

T-REX – The T-REX (Transportation Expansion Project) was the largest multi-modal project during its five-year construction process. T-REX added 19 miles of light rail and improved 17 miles of highways and bridge infrastructure in southeast Denver, connecting the region's two largest employment centers – the Denver Tech Center and Denver's Central Business District. Construction began in 2001 and finished in November 2006, on budget and two years ahead of schedule.

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Metro Denver: Redevelopment **Reinventing our urban and suburban landscape.**

In addition to up to 50 new transit-oriented developments, Metro Denver is experiencing exciting redevelopments throughout the region:

Stapleton - The construction of Denver International Airport left the site of the old airport free for redevelopment into the Stapleton community. Stapleton is the largest urban infill project in the country. Over the next 15 years, more than 12,000 homes, three million square feet of retail, and 10 million square feet of commercial development (including a 200-acre bioscience park) will take shape. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded Stapleton an Environmental Achievement Award.

Lowry - Another key parcel was vacated due to the closure of the Lowry Air Force Base, and is now the site of the thriving multifaceted Lowry community. The idea behind Lowry was to take an existing urban area, give it new life, and avoid adding to the problem of urban sprawl. That dream is now a reality. In fact, Lowry has been so successful that it received the Governor's Award for Smart Growth and has become a model community for urban-infill projects across the country.

Fitzsimons Life Science District - The former Fitzsimons Army Medical Hospital is being transformed into the largest medical-related redevelopment in the country, the Fitzsimons Life Science District. When fully developed, the 578-acre, \$4.3 billion Fitzsimons Life Science District and adjacent Anschutz Medical Campus will employ more than 30,000 life science workers.

CityCenter Englewood – CityCenter Englewood is the first project in Colorado – and among a handful nationally – to replace a suburban shopping mall with a living, breathing, mixed-use downtown. This 55-acre public/private project provides a model for intelligent regional design that directs development into established cities served by transit.

Belmar - The closure of an aging mall gave rise to a new town center for the city of Lakewood, called Belmar. The nationally recognized, 103-acre mixed-use development combines retailers, restaurants, cafes, theatres, offices, residential units, art studios, parks, and plazas within 22 city blocks.

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