



# Mesa County Energy Master Plan

## Project Overview

### Purpose of the Energy Master Plan

The Energy Master Plan will be a policy document related to energy development that will be adopted by the Board of County Commissioners. This phase of the Energy Master Plan will identify:

- The known energy resources and opportunities within Mesa County,
- The potential impacts on the community associated with the development of those resources,
- An analysis of current energy related policies in Mesa County, and
- A set of recommended clear and understandable policies that will guide reasonable regulation and development of energy resources and mitigation of the impacts.

The Energy Master Plan will be implemented in coordination with the community and the energy industries through the planning and development review processes.

### Energy Resources

Mesa County contains natural resources used in the development of energy for Colorado and the United States. The Board of County Commissioners has directed staff to prepare an Energy Master Plan to identify the location of these resources, identify potential impacts to the community, and prepare a plan to address these impacts.

The Energy Master Plan is focused on all energy resources in the county including natural gas, petroleum, coal, uranium, solar, wind, and other renewables.

Energy provides an excellent opportunity for economic growth within Mesa County in terms of jobs, capital investment, housing and secondary (spin-off) industries. It is understandable that the development of energy resources will also influence existing community infrastructure in terms of transportation, the environment, noise,



viewsheds, air, soils, wildlife, and watersheds. Mesa County recognizes and appreciates the importance the Energy Master Plan will have in identifying potential opportunities and impacts. It will be a policy document directing energy development to appropriate locations and describing measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts on sensitive areas and the community.

### Land Use, Socioeconomic, and Environmental Considerations

Energy exploration, development and consumption will have an influence on the following areas:

- Conversion of land to industrial uses
- Environmental considerations including noise, air quality, soils, wildlife, and water quality
- Viewsheds and watersheds
- Avian protection
- Resource conservation
- Transportation
- Economic growth and diversification
- Waste management
- Site design

### Potential resource impacts result from:

- Development of traditional energy resources including extraction, processing, and delivery
- Development of renewable energy resources
- Siting of energy generation and transmission facilities

Addressing potential impacts of energy development through best management practices, best available technologies, policies, and regulations adopted by the Board of County Commissioners will provide clear guidelines, requirements and expectations to the community and energy industries prior to application for development. Development and implementation of the Energy Master Plan will allow the integration of Land Use, Transportation, Real Estate Development Processes and Fiscal Planning. It will provide clear direction to planning requirements, development of appropriate infrastructure, and tools to ensure compatibility with the community.

### Status of the Energy Master Plan

The Energy Master Plan is still under development and is designed to provide guidance to anyone interested in the future of Mesa County including:

- A. The energy industry
- B. Private landowners
- C. County staff during the review of applications; and
- D. The general public.

### Schedule

These Public Meetings are your opportunity to provide comments and direction on this phase of the Energy Master Plan to the Board of County Commissioners. Please use the Public Comment Form to submit your comments. The schedule below illustrates the remaining steps before completion of this phase of the Energy Master Plan in April 2009.

Thank you for your participation.

TASKS	2009			
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR
Public Meetings (January 13-15 and 20-22)	●●			
Draft Policies Analysis Report		●		
Draft-Final Resource Maps		●		
Final Resource Maps			●	
Final Energy Atlas			●	
Draft-Final Policy and Recommendations Report			●	
Final Reports and Maps for County Review				●
Work Sessions and Presentations to County				●
Complete Website Enhancements				●

### Questions and Additional Information

For more information on the Mesa County Energy Master Plan please visit the Energy Master Plan website: [www.mesacounty.us/planning/EnergyMasterPlan.aspx](http://www.mesacounty.us/planning/EnergyMasterPlan.aspx)

You may also call Mesa County at (970) 244-1650 or send an e-mail to [mclrange@mesacounty.us](mailto:mclrange@mesacounty.us)