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The competitiveness of energy rates directly impacts the bottom line for all businesses in Colorado, but is especially important to the growth of primary employers in our region. Xcel Energy, with a broad coalition of businesses and other stakeholders, recently announced a plan to leverage historically low prices on natural gas, wind and solar – securing low cost energy for its customers.

The plan, called the “Colorado Energy Plan” represents a cost-effective approach to increasing the use of clean energy across Colorado while also supporting rural areas with up to \$2.5 billion new investment.

“We have a responsibility to meet our customers’ energy needs. Our customers expect us to provide low-cost power and increase the use of cleaner energy. As the state’s largest utility, it is important to us that we also support rural areas in Colorado, and this proposal’s investment will accomplish this goal,” said David Eves, president, Xcel Energy – Colorado. “The proposal could increase renewable energy to 55 percent by 2026, save customers money, and dramatically reduce carbon and other emissions.”

Similar initiatives in the past have supported jobs, local economies throughout Colorado, and provided new opportunities among the many suppliers supporting the energy industry – including manufacturers and primary employers in the north metro area.

Stakeholders anticipate that a proposed energy portfolio will be presented to the Public Utilities Commission during the first quarter of 2018, with a final decision expected in the summer of 2018.

According to Xcel Energy, the Colorado Energy Plan may only be advanced if the resulting portfolio of resources reduces, or at least does not increase, the cost of energy to Xcel Energy’s Colorado customers.