

## **What's Next: *We the Power & Craig, America***

### **What does the term “equitable energy transition” mean?**

It is crucial for our future health and safety that we transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy. Some, particularly the oil and gas industry, have called this transition impossible. However, the reality is that this transition is already happening locally and around the world. As seen in *Craig, America*, we must ensure that we are not leaving any communities, such as those who have relied on coal, behind during this period of change. We must instead use this as an opportunity to create a more sustainable economy. A transition away from fossil fuels that supports a holistic shift to a healthier and more equitable future for **all** is what we must focus on to create true positive change.

### **What is an energy co-op and how can it support renewable energy transitions?**

A cooperative is a business model where the customers also own the company. Customers, known as “members” in a co-op are given power and input to shape the company by democratically voting for the Board of Directors. Co-ops are particularly effective in the energy space, where traditional for-profit utility providers often have monopolies and therefore are not incentivized to serve the priorities of their customers. An energy co-op however, gives members the ability to influence the future of the utility. Here in Eagle County, we're lucky that our electric utility, Holy Cross Energy, is a co-op whose members have voted in progressive leaders committed to a renewable energy future. Holy Cross has set a goal to provide 100% renewable energy by 2030, and they expect to provide 90% renewable energy by the end of 2024.

### **What can you do to support the transition to renewable energy sources?**

- Electrify! As mentioned above, Holy Cross Energy is well on their way to 100% renewable electricity. One of the best things you can do to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is to transition your home or business to being all-electric. There are many rebates available through Walking Mountains and Holy Cross Energy, and our Energy Coaches are here to help you. Please [contact us](#) for more information.
- Participate in Holy Cross Energy's [PuRE program](#). For a small surcharge each month, you can ensure that your electricity is powered by 100% renewable energy and support utility-wide renewable energy transition by being a PuRe participant.
- Support economic development in towns in transition! We are lucky to live very close to Craig, so you can personally support their economic development as they transition away from coal. Head to the beautiful Yampa Valley and support local businesses and the recreation economy.