

# Community Renewable Energy Program

Review of past process, update  
on program design, and  
preview of future milestones

April 6, 2022  
Town of Alta

The logo for UTAH100 COMMUNITIES is contained within a large white circle on a dark grey background. It features a yellow silhouette of the state of Utah. The text "UTAH100" is written in a bold, dark grey sans-serif font, with "UTAH" in a smaller size than "100". Below it, the word "COMMUNITIES" is written in a smaller, all-caps, dark grey sans-serif font. At the bottom of the yellow Utah shape, there is a white, stylized wave or mountain range graphic.

UTAH100  
COMMUNITIES



## Objectives

- Refresher: what is the Community Renewable Energy Program
- Review the Town of Alta's path to getting involved
- Share the vision & key principles shaping the Agency's work
- Update on Agency participation status & structure
- Report progress & next steps for the Agency in working towards the program vision
- Preview key items for Council review:
  - Utility agreement
  - Draft ordinance
  - Low-income plan

# Utah Community Renewable Energy Program

- A unique to Utah program enabled by Utah legislation passed in 2019
- Creates a pathway for our Alta residents and businesses to choose net-100% renewable electrical energy as their power source by 2030
- Opportunity to influence decisions that will inject a significant amount of new renewable energy into the electric grid
- Substantially different than existing utility renewable energy options in scale, scope, and access



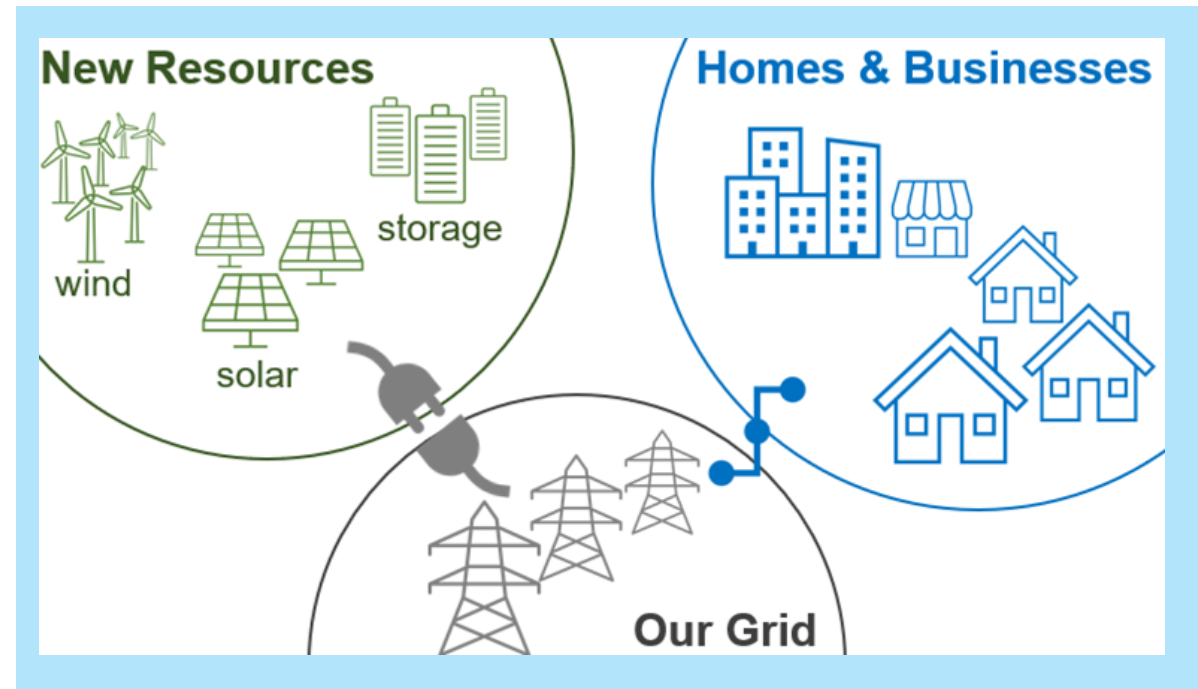
# How will the program work?

Once the program is approved and ready to launch, participating communities will, in coordination with Rocky Mountain Power:

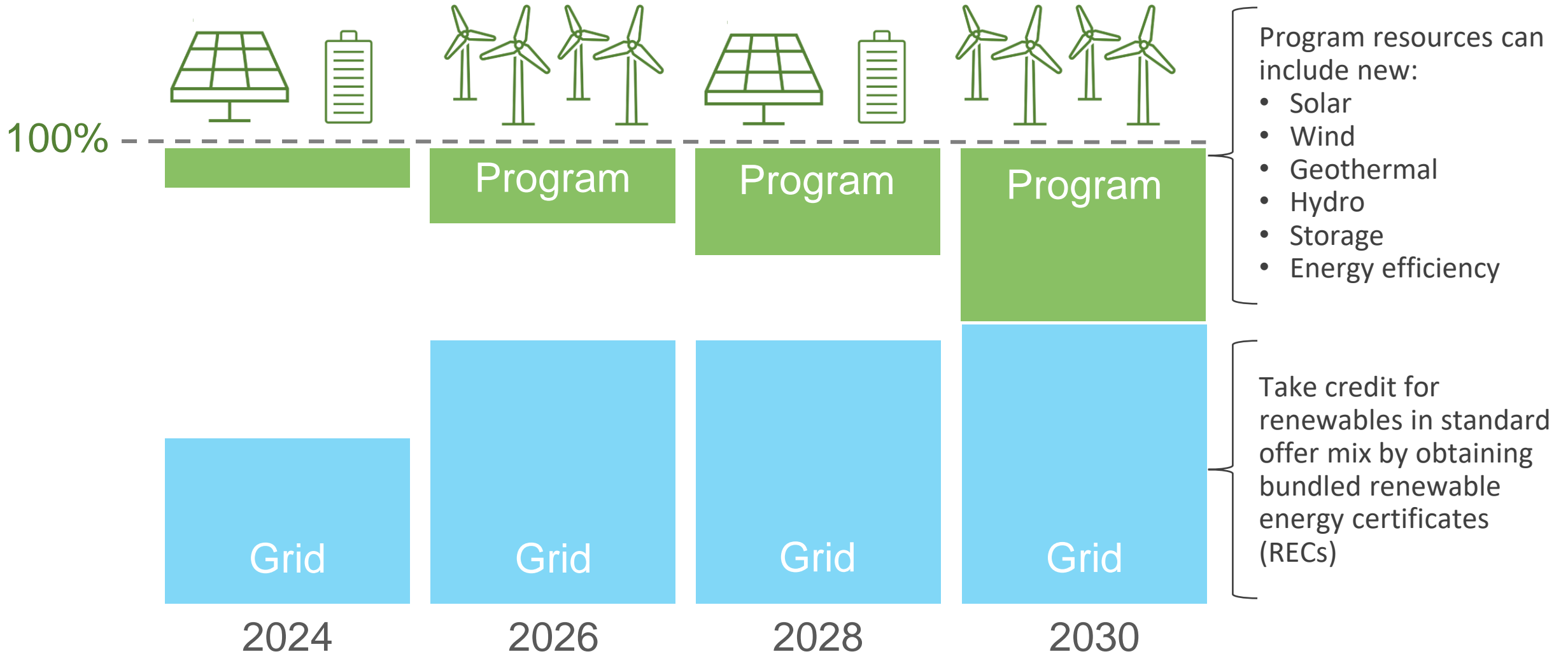
- procure new renewable energy resources
- connect those resources to the existing electric grid.

Customers will be automatically enrolled in the program and will have the option of opting out.

If Alta adopts an ordinance to finalize our participation, we will have a voice in the procurement of those new resources.



# Program vision for achieving net-100% by 2030



## Key principles for the program

- Meet participating communities' collective goals for making net-100% renewable electrical energy available to residents and businesses by 2030
- Design the program and implement low-income protections to make the program rate affordable and to minimize the impact on low-income customers
- Collaborate effectively as an Agency, with our legal and technical experts, with RMP, and state regulators
- Continually improve communications to make this complex program understandable for non-technical experts

# How Alta got involved

## 2019 Legislative Session

Utah legislature passed HB 411, the Community Renewable Energy Act

## 2019-2020

Utah Public Service Commission (PSC) adopted administrative rules

## December 11, 2019

Town of Alta adopted net-100% renewable energy goal, making us an *eligible* community

## March 10, 2021

Town of Alta voted to join the Community Renewable Energy Program

## January 26, 2022

Town of Alta appointed Mayor Bourke & Chris Cawley as Board members



Agency  
Participation  
Status

*Community Renewable Energy Agency  
Member Communities (16)*

Town of Castle Valley  
Grand County  
Millcreek  
Moab  
Park City  
Salt Lake City  
Summit County

Alta  
Cottonwood Heights  
Francis  
Holladay  
Kearns  
Oakley  
Ogden  
Salt Lake County  
Springdale

*Remaining eligible communities (7)*

Bluffdale  
Coalville  
Emigration Canyon Township  
Kamas

Orem  
West Jordan  
West Valley City



# Community Renewable Energy Agency Structure

## Community Renewable Energy Agency

- Interlocal Government Body
- 16 of 23 eligible communities joined so far
- Outside counsel & energy consultants

## Community Renewable Energy Agency Board

- 2 board members per community
- Monthly Meetings
- Officers:
  - Chair: Dan Dugan, Salt Lake City
  - Vice Chair: Angela Choberka, Ogden
  - Treasurer: Jeff Silvestrini, Millcreek
  - Secretary: Emily Quinton, Summit County

## Program Design Committee

Springdale, Ogden, Summit County, Park City, Millcreek, Holladay, Salt Lake City

- Coordinate and negotiate with RMP, other state agencies
- Bring recommendations to board regarding program design, utility agreement, key program design decisions

## Low-Income Plan Committee

Ogden, Cottonwood Heights, Park City, Kearns, Summit County, Salt Lake City, Castle Valley

- Research, study, consult with community members to develop options for communities to adopt in their required low-income plans
- Support program design committee with recommendations around low-income components

## Communications Committee

Alta, Moab, Cottonwood Heights, Salt Lake City

- Manages website, supports Board with communications assets, develops press releases
- Will be critical to support communities with outreach & education before and during program launch

# Major milestones (timeline is subject to change)

Summer - Fall 2021

- 1 Launch Agency and put essential structure in place

Early 2023

- 4 Upon program approval, communities pass ordinance to enter program

Fall 2021 - Summer 2022

- 2 Design program: rates, cost projection, etc. Develop low-income plans

Second half of 2022

- 3 RMP files Program Application for State review & approval

2023-2024

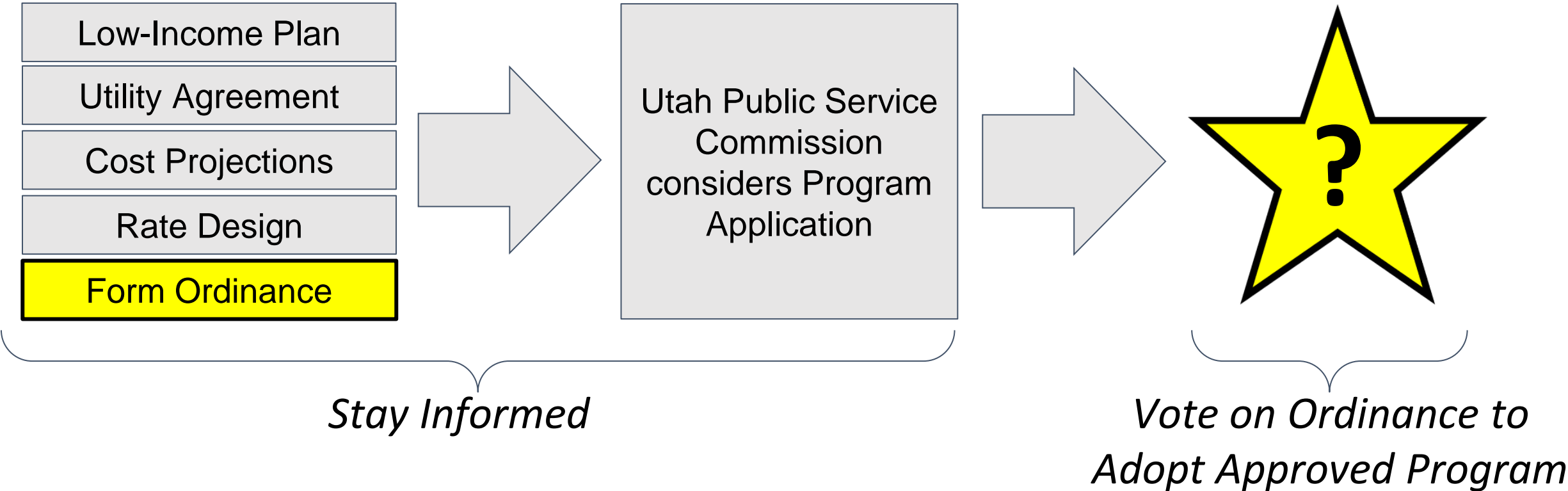
- 5 First renewable energy procurement, program begins

Before utility bills reflect program

- 6 Customer are notified about program, choice to opt-out

# Alta Town Council's role

Big picture: For Alta to become part of the Community Renewable Energy Program, the town council will need to **adopt a form ordinance** that references the **approved program**.



# Community Renewable Energy Program (CREP) Policy considerations (1 of 3)

## Program scale and alternatives

- Does Alta want to support the creation of a new clean energy program that will meaningfully shift Rocky Mountain Power's (RMP) overall energy mix toward cleaner sources?
- While significantly smaller in scale, are opt-in programs like RMP's Blue Sky and Subscriber Solar reasonable alternatives in providing renewable energy choices?
- If the CREP is not the mechanism to achieving our net-100% renewable electricity target by 2030, are there alternatives that could provide comparable renewable energy benefits to our community?
- Does our community want to have a say in where our electricity comes from?
  - While not constrained to Utah, the CREP could generate hundreds of millions of dollars of statewide economic development

# Community Renewable Energy Program (CREP) Policy considerations (2 of 3)

## Program costs vs. benefits

- Are the benefits of moving to net-100% renewable electricity by 2030 significantly more than RMP's non-binding forecast of 65% renewable electricity by 2030 (and 72.5% non-emitting, including hydro and nuclear)?
  - *Note: the proposed nuclear project technology has not yet been licensed and has not been constructed anywhere else in the world. Firm costs and timeline are not yet available.*
- Are there benefits beyond environmental considerations that should be considered? (for example, tourism, public education, recognition for leading on the issue, etc.)
- Do the overall environmental benefits of the program outweigh any additional cost burden (if any) to our community, particularly low-income residents

# Community Renewable Energy Program (CREP) Policy considerations (3 of 3)

## **Local Government Capacity and Appropriate Role**

- Does the CREP fit within or expand existing sustainability or climate programs?
- Is entering the CREP an appropriate governmental action?
- Once our community has committed to being in the CREP, that commitment is enduring
  - However, RMP customers in our community can opt out or exit the program, subject to program requirements
- Does our local government have sufficient resources to manage the CREP going forward?
  - If not, is there capacity to allocate additional resources to the CREP and/or other sustainability efforts? (for example, additional staff, project funding, etc.)
- Are opt-out programs, together with public outreach, appropriately transparent when initiating new programs?