



# Solar Friendly Communities

## **Rebecca Cantwell, Senior Program Director**

Rebecca Cantwell brings years of communications and policy leadership experience to her work on solar energy in Colorado. She is the Senior Program Director for the Colorado Solar Energy Industries Association, the award-winning nonprofit that leads Colorado's solar industry with nearly 200 solar businesses as members.

Rebecca leads the team that created Solar Friendly Communities, an innovative program to reduce solar soft costs by recognizing local governments who elect to streamline a variety of practices outlined in "12 Best Practices: A Roadmap to a Solar Friendly Community." In the program's first year, all of Colorado's five biggest cities and nine others chose to participate in the program and win valuable recognition as Solar Friendly Communities. Program details are available at the website: [solarcommunities.org](http://solarcommunities.org).

Rebecca also leads COSEIA's efforts on Colorado's Million Solar Roofs, a campaign to build awareness and support for the goal of increasing solar installations in Colorado to roughly 3 Gigawatts, or 10 times the current level, by 2030. Details at [www.gosolarcolorado.org](http://www.gosolarcolorado.org).

She is also involved in all phases of Colorado's solar energy policy work and in communicating that policy to stakeholders and the general public.

Rebecca previously worked as a Community Energy Coordinator for two Colorado counties, spearheading clean energy work and leading development and passage of a Strategic Sustainability Plan. She has managed numerous renewable energy and energy efficiency programs. She also serves as the editor and publisher of Smart Energy Living, an online magazine available at [www.smartenergyliving.org](http://www.smartenergyliving.org).

Rebecca came to her work on clean energy after a nationally award-winning career as newspaper and magazine journalist. She served as an editor at Interactive Week, The Denver Post and the Rocky Mountain News and reported on most of Colorado's big stories of recent decades.

Rebecca has a B.A. from Swarthmore College and an M.S. from Columbia University.