CSU FACT SHEET: DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY GRANT TERMINATIONS

As of October 3, 2025

Background

Seven Colorado State University projects are included in the Department of Energy (DOE) cancellation list. Four ongoing research projects would lose a total of $18.9 million, ceasing operation and cutting funding for 32 jobs, including 7 graduate students and 1 undergraduate student. In addition, 3 active projects that have not yet started would lose a total of $324.7 million in already-approved federal support. We were also subrecipients on other cancelled awards, although we are still gathering details on those impacts.

Impacted CSU projects – Active/Ongoing

METEC: *Capabilities Enhancement for Methane Emissions Technology Evaluation Center (METEC) to Decarbonize Natural Gas Resources*

- **Total DOE award:** $19,499,432 (**funding at risk:** $16,065,357)
- **DOE award number:** DE-FE0032276
- **Status:** Active as of March 2024
- **What it does:** Foundational funding for Methane Emissions Technology Evaluation Center (METEC). METEC is a one-of-a-kind large-scale emissions testing facility where researchers collaborate with oil and gas industry partners and solution developers to create best practices in emissions leak detection, technology and training. METEC provides rigorous testing, field campaigns, and advanced emissions modeling to evaluate and improve methane and other gas detection solutions across diverse environments.
- **Benefits:** This work delivers trusted, science-based data that lowers deployment risks, informs policy and industry practices, and drives more effective strategies for reducing emissions. It directly supports the oil and gas industry nationally, helping companies operate more efficiently and economically by reducing methane leaks and increasing the value of LNG for export.
- **Personnel impact**: 11 CSU employees in fiscal year 2026, including 1 graduate student.

Algal Biorefinery Conversion of Utility CO2 to High-Value Products (ABC-UC)

- **Total DOE award:** $1,999,915 (**funding at risk:** $1,083,788)
- **DOE award number:** DE-FE0032229
  Status: Active as of May 2023
- **What it does:** The ABC-UC project developed and demonstrated a process to capture industrial CO2 and convert it into high-value products using algae. A Colorado company (Living Ink) is supported under this award, as is research at the University of Wyoming.
- **Benefits:** The project is focused on developing an algae-based biorefinery process to convert carbon dioxide from coal-fired power plants to high-value products such as ink and carbon nanofiber materials for electronics. This approach turns waste emissions into economic opportunities while advancing carbon-neutral technologies that benefit industry and the environment.
- **Personnel impact**: 6 CSU employees in fiscal year 2026, including 1 graduate student and 1 undergraduate student.

Decarbonized District Energy System with Renewably Fueled Combined Heat, Power, and Cooling

- **Total DOE award:** $2,193,685 (**funding at risk:** $1,077,056)
- **DOE Award number**; DE-EE0010280
- **Status:** Active as of October 2022
- **What it does:** Captures engine-produced heat waste and converts it into cooling via a turbo-compression cooling system. CSU's Decarbonized District Energy System integrates renewable

fuels, a flexible combined heat and power unit, a heat-activated chiller, and onsite solar to provide low-carbon heat, power, and cooling for campus energy needs.

- **Benefits:** This project demonstrates how renewable fuels and advanced technologies can decarbonize district energy systems, creating a scalable model for sustainable and resilient energy infrastructure that can be used by universities, businesses, and communities to save money and energy. This work also has important applications in addressing the power and cooling needs of data centers. This project's technology has been selected to participate in Chevron's Studio program to scale up and commercialize for the AI data center market, which is now at risk.
- **Personnel impact**: 2 CSU employees in fiscal year 2026, including 1 graduate student.

METEC: *SABER - Site-Air-Basin Emissions Reconciliation*

- **Total DOE award:** $3,000,000 (**funding at risk:** $673,785)
- **DOE award number**: DE-FE0032288
- **Status:** Active as of August 2023
- **What it does:** The SABER study develops and validates methods to reconcile top-down and bottom-up emissions measurements by combining regional-scale observations with detailed facility-level data in the Denver-Julesburg and Upper Green River basins.
- **Benefits:** The project is an effort to more accurately estimate and reconcile greenhouse gas emissions in an energy-producing basin, a region where fossil fuels are pulled from underground to produce energy. This work creates more accurate, scalable approaches for estimating oil and gas emissions, helping industry and policymakers make better-informed decisions to reduce greenhouse gases.
- **Personnel impact**: 13 CSU employees in fiscal year 2026, including 4 graduate students.

Impacted CSU projects – Active but not initiated

Methane Emissions Reduction Program (MERP) - *Collaborative Approach to Reducing Emissions (CARE) for Marginal Convention Wells (MCW)*

Definition: Marginal conventional wells (MCW): also known as stripper wells, are low-producing wells that often have disproportionately high-methane emissions.

- **Total DOE award:** $299,999,930 (**funding at risk:** total amount)
- **DOE award number**: FE0032657
- **Status:** Obligated but not initiated; 44.5 months duration.
- **What it would do:** This project would develop, test, and tailor practical solutions for MCW site operators while building local training programs to ensure a skilled workforce can implement them.
- **Benefits:** The project would deliver solutions that make small, older oil wells cleaner, safer, and more efficient. By reducing deployment costs, lowering risks, and creating long-term local workforce capacity, the project would help operators adopt proven solutions more efficiently and sustainably.
- **Personnel impact**: N/A

Methane Emissions Reduction Program (MERP) - *Full Scale Validation and Deployment of Comprehensive Methane Reduction Solution for NG Pipeline Engine-Compressor Sets*

- **Total DOE award:** $4,669,746 (**funding at risk:** total amount)
- **DOE award number**: FE0032660
- **Status:** Obligated but not initiated; 44.5 months duration.
- **What it would do:** CSU would develop and deploy an ultra-low emissions retrofit system for natural gas pipeline compressor engines to drastically cut methane releases.
- **Benefits:** The project would work with a leading manufacturer of energy systems to co-develop and demonstrate solutions for methane emission reduction from natural gas engine-compressor sets, with a goal of reducing engine methane emissions by up to 90%. By reducing engine methane

emissions to below 0.5% and eliminating vent gas emissions, the project would help lower greenhouse gas impacts in the natural gas sector.
- **Personnel impact**: N/A

Methane Emissions Reduction Program (MERP) - *North-Central Methane Center (NCMC)*
- **Total DOE award:** $20,000,000 (**funding at risk:** total amount)
- **DOE award number:** FE0032699
- **Status:** Obligated but not initiated; 44.5 months duration.
- **What it would do:** CSU's North-Central Methane Center would develop accurate, transparent, multi-scale methane emission measurements across key oil and gas infrastructure in the region's producing basins. This project would develop a comprehensive emissions inventory across energy production basins in eastern Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Mississippi, and Nebraska.
- **Benefits:** These measurements would improve state and federal emission inventories, supporting more effective methane reduction strategies and policies.
- **Personnel impact**: N/A