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**EVERY DAY IS EARTH DAY ON THE E-470 TOLLWAY**  
*22 solar energy collector sites reduce carbon emissions*

AURORA, CO – April 22 is Earth Day, a worldwide celebration in support of protecting the environment.

While many industries and government entities are proactive in heeding the aim of Earth Day, roadway operators do not normally come to mind as being Earth Day adherents. But for one roadway, the extensively solar powered E-470 tollway in eastern metro Denver, Earth Day is a year-round commitment. This dedication kicked off five years ago in March 2012 when E-470 flipped the “on” switch for its miles-long solar power installation.

E-470’s goal is to avoid generating 24,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions over the solar program’s first 20 years. E-470 officials say that’s equivalent to eliminating the need for 61,000 barrels of oil that otherwise would be needed for conventional generation of electricity.

E-470’s array of 22 solar energy collectors are in place along a 17-mile stretch of E-470 that is situated mostly within the Aurora city limits, and not far from the Denver International Airport. In the E-470 corridor, solar-generated electricity helps power streetlights, variable message signs, toll collection equipment, plaza and maintenance facilities and the E-470 headquarters building. The solar equipment installed along the tollway’s right-of-way is linked to Xcel Energy’s power grid. In 2016, the E-470 solar installation generated nearly 1.2 million kilowatt hours, of which E-470 used 465,111 kilowatt hours. The unused portion is banked to draw on for future use.

E-470 entered into a 20-year solar power purchase agreement with New York-based Adamas Energy Investments, LLC to install the solar equipment and continue its maintenance at no cost to E-470. E-470’s only obligation is to purchase electricity from Adamas (at a below-market cost per kilowatt hour) and provide the use of the land for installation and maintenance.

E-470 Director of Operations and Deputy Executive Director Dave Kristick, who oversees the solar program, says E-470’s program is likely the most extensive of its kind of any toll road in the country. The program is so innovative that in 2013 it earned the Presidential Award from the International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association (IBTTA). The award is the association’s most prestigious honor.

E-470 Executive Director Tim Stewart, who will become IBTTA’s president later this year, said many toll roads have lots of adjoining land that would make them attractive to energy investors looking to follow the model used at E-470. “Of course, to make it work, there must not just be plenty of land but, as we have here in Colorado, there must be plenty of sunshine, too.”

As a continuation of E-470’s commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainability, E-470 will also be installing electric vehicle charging units for public use at the E-470 headquarters building, to be announced at a future date this summer.

*E-470 is the 75-mph toll road that runs along the eastern perimeter of the Denver metropolitan area. The road is not taxpayer-funded and is financed, constructed, operated and governed by the E-470 Public Highway Authority. E-470 is composed of eight local governments: Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas counties, and the municipalities of Aurora, Brighton, Commerce City, Parker and Thornton.*

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