Montana State Legislature

2021 Session

Additional Documents

May include the following:

- Business Report
- Roll Call -Attendance
- Standing Committee Reports
- Tabled Bills
- Fiscal Reports
- Roll Call Votes
- Informational Item's
- Witness Statements
- Visitor Register
- Any other type of documents such as:

  Petitions, Pamphlets, Leaflets, Brochures, Emails, all documents given to Committee Secretary 24 hours after the meeting adjourned.

The original exhibit/items are on file at the Montana Historical Society and may be viewed there.

Montana Historical Society Archives, 225 N. Roberts, Helena, MT 59620-1201
Phone (406) 444-4774.
E-Document Specialist Susie Hamilton

BUSINESS REPORT

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE ENERGY, TECHNOLOGY AND FEDERAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Date: Friday, March 12, 2021
Place: Capitol

Time: 3:00 PM
Room: 472

BILLS and RESOLUTIONS HEARD:
SB 81 - Include prepaid wireless in 9-1-1 tax - Sen. Keith Regier (R)
SB 134 - Revise board of investment loans for coal-fired generation remediation - Sen. Jason Small (R)
SB 147 - Establish commercial property assessed capital enhancements program - Sen. Mary McNally (D)

EXECUTIVE ACTION TAKEN:

Comments:

REP. Derek Skees, Chair

The Big Sky Country

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ENERGY, TECHNOLOGY, AND FEDERAL RELATIONS

ROLL CALL

DATE: 03/12/2021

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT/EXCUSED
CHAIR SKEES	✓	
VICE CHAIR ZOLNIKOV		Excused
VICE CHAIR HAYMAN		Excused
REP. BINKLEY	✓	
REP. BREWSTER	✓	
REP. CUSTER		Excused
REP. DURAM	✓	
REP. KASSMIER	✓	
REP. KORTUM	✓	
REP. OLSEN	✓	
REP. PHALEN	✓	
REP. SULLIVAN	✓	

12 MEMBERS

MONTANA House of Representatives
Visitors Register
HOUSE ENERGY, TECHNOLOGY AND FEDERAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Friday, March 12, 2021
SB 134 - Revise board of investment loans for coal-fired generation remediation
Sponsor: **Sen. Jason Small (R)**

PLEASE PRINT

Name	Representing	Support	Oppose	Info
Peggy Trenk	TSRA	X		
Adam Height	MT AFL-CIO	X		
JOHN FORKAN	MT ST BLDG TRADES	X		
[illegible]	IBEW 44	X		
Molly Schrenk	MT Coal Council	X		
Bob Gilbert	Colstrip	X		
Shelby DeMars	MT Assoc. of Oil, Gas + Coal Counties	X		
Jessie Luther	Talen Montana	X		
Makenna Sellers	Northern Plains Resource Council	X		

Please leave prepared testimony with Secretary. Witness Statement forms are available if you care to submit written testimony.

MONTANA House of Representatives
Visitors Register
HOUSE ENERGY, TECHNOLOGY AND FEDERAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Friday, March 12, 2021
SB 147 - Establish commercial property assessed capital enhancements program
Sponsor: **Sen. Mary McNally (D)**

PLEASE PRINT

Name	Representing	Support	Oppose	Info
Adam Gill	MFFA			X
Makenna Sellers	Northern Plains Resource Council	X		
Rachel Prevost	MT Farmers Union	X		

Please leave prepared testimony with Secretary. Witness Statement forms are available if you care to submit written testimony.

MONTANA House of Representatives
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HOUSE ENERGY, TECHNOLOGY AND FEDERAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Friday, March 12, 2021
SB 81 - Include prepaid wireless in 9-1-1 tax
Sponsor: **Sen. Keith Regier (R)**

PLEASE PRINT

Name	Representing	Support	Oppose	Info
Geoff Feiss	MT Telecom Assn	✓		
Brian Thompson	MSPOA	✓		

Please leave prepared testimony with Secretary. Witness Statement forms are available if you care to submit written testimony.

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

House FRET Committee Testimony Requests

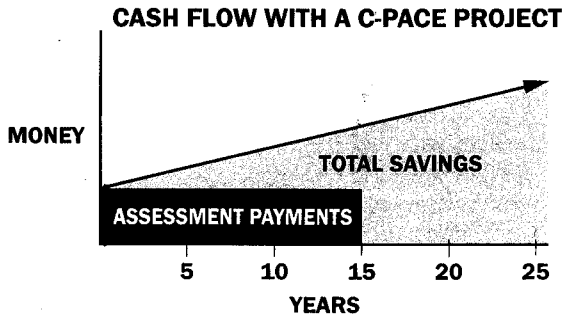
Bill	Name	Location	Email	Position	Affiliation
SB 81	April Grady	Helena, MT	April.Grady@mt.gov	Informational Witness	Montana Department of Administration
SB 81	Lee Baerlocher	Helena, MT	lbaerlocher@mt.gov	Informational Witness	Department of Revenue
SB 134	Molly Schwend	Laurel, MT	mschwend@montanacoalcouncil.org	Proponent	Montana Coal Council
SB 134	Jim Atchison	Colstrip, MT	jatchison@semdc.org	Proponent	Southeastern Montana Development
SB 134	John Williams	Colstrip, MT	mayor@cityofcolstrip.com	Proponent	City of Colstrip
SB 134	Dan Villa	Butte, MT	DVilla@mt.gov	Informational Witness	N/A
SB 147	Bryan Klein	Bozeman, MT	bklein@blackridgeco.com	Proponent	Black Ridge Companies
SB 147	Ed Gulick	Billings, MT	egulick@highplainsarchitects.com	Proponent	N/A
SB 147	Brett Doney	Great Falls, MT	bdoney@growgreatfalls.org	Proponent	N/A
SB 147	Dale Sexton	Livingston, MT	sydney@northernplains.org	Proponent	N/A
SB 147	Dan Durgan	Livingston, MT	sydney@northernplains.org	Proponent	N/A
SB 147	Jay Cederberg	Billings, MT	sydney@northernplains.org	Proponent	N/A
SB 147	Mary Callahan-Baumstruck	Lewistown, MT	ac.executivedirector@gmail.com	Proponent	N/A
SB 147	John Michael Mohar	Troy, MT	mohar@frontiernet.net	Proponent	N/A
SJ 3	Jim Atchison	Colstrip, MT	jatchison@semdc.org	Proponent	Southeastern Montana Development
SJ 3	John Williams	Colstrip, MT	mayor@cityofcolstrip.com	Proponent	City of Colstrip
SJ 3	Anne Hedges	Helena, MT	ahedges@meic.org	Opponent	Montana Environmental Information Center

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY ASSESSED CAPITAL ENHANCEMENTS

SAVING MONEY CONSERVING ENERGY CREATING JOBS

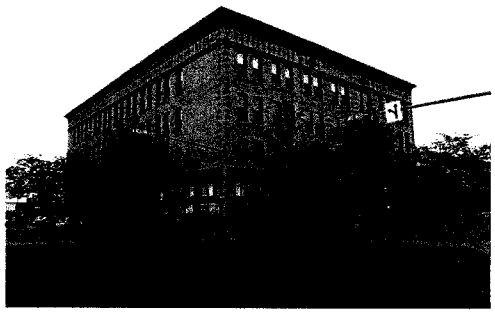
Many property owners face high utility bills caused by old, inefficient buildings in need of upgrades. These upgrades would save Montana's business owners more money on their utility bills than they cost over the long run, but the upfront costs can be hard to afford.

Commercial Property-Assessed Captial Enhancements (C-PACE) is a solution to these financial challenges. C-PACE is a financing tool that allows property owners to secure 100% upfront financing for energy efficiency and water conservation upgrades to commercial buildings. The cost of these upgrades is repaid as a small assessment on the property's annual tax bill. C-PACE financing is designed so that the **annual energy savings from these upgrades is greater than the assessment on the annual property tax bill.**



To bring C-PACE to Montana, the Montana legislature must first take action to allow C-PACE financing. Once C-PACE is enabled, Montana counties can choose to allow it locally.

C-PACE will save Montanans money on their energy bills while creating economic activity—and jobs—that build thriving communities. That's why a broad coalition of Montana businesses, municipalities, organizations, and individuals have come together in support of C-PACE. **Join us in bringing C-PACE to Montana today!**



ELIGIBLE UPGRADES

- Insulation
- New heating and cooling systems
- Lighting improvements
- Water-efficient fixtures and more

ELIGIBLE PROPERTY TYPES

- Businesses
- Schools
- Hospitals
- Non-profit buildings
- Multi-family housing
- Agricultural properties

State and local government buildings are NOT eligible for C-PACE.

09/20

www.NorthernPlains.org • (406) 248-1154 • 220 S. 27th St., Billings, MT 59101

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

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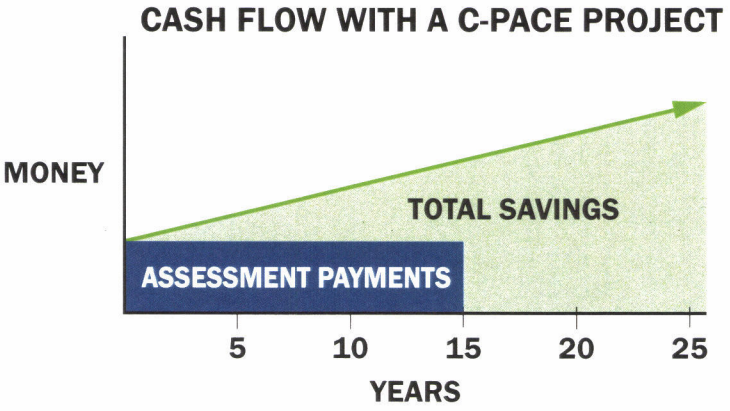

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What is Commercial PACE?

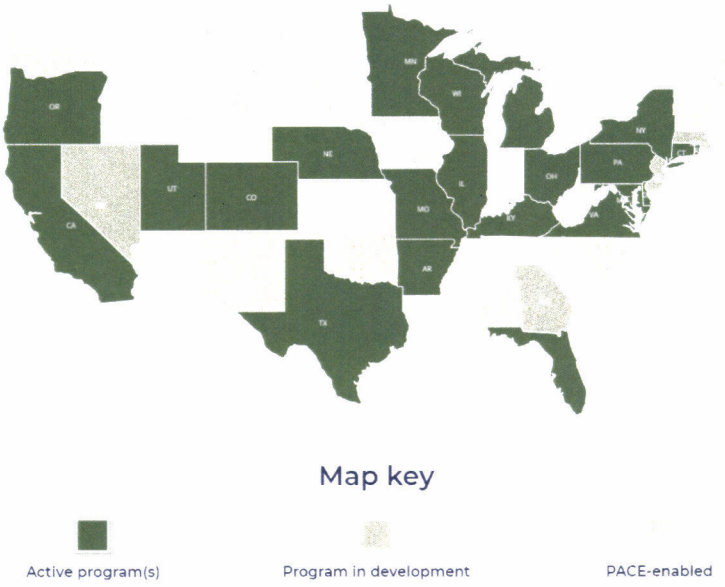
A Public-Private Partnership

C-PACE builds a bridge between Montana businesses, lenders, and state and local governments. Local governments place property assessments and facilitate repayment because C-PACE meets their economic development goals. Montana lenders support C-PACE because it is another tool to help them deploy capital in the community. Business owners support C-PACE because it helps them save money on their utility bills.

Tried and True

C-PACE is enabled in 37 states across the U.S., plus Washington D.C. This financing tool is being used to make meaningful clean energy upgrades to buildings from soccer stadiums to local coffee shops. Assessment financing has been used in the United States for decades to fund improvements to private properties that meet a public purpose.

PACE Nationwide in 2020



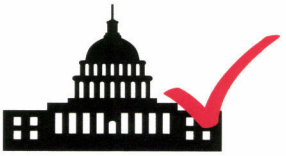
Accessible to Everyone

C-PACE financing requires no upfront investment and covers all costs, including the cost of an energy audit and/or an application fee. Property owners must be current on their property taxes, have an appropriate assessment-to-value ratio, and pass a credit review.

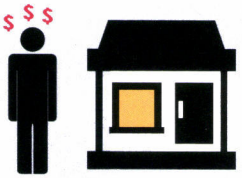
Voluntary

C-PACE is 100% voluntary. **Once a state passes C-PACE-enabling legislation, cities and counties can choose whether or not they want to enable the program for their jurisdiction.** Cities and counties will have the ability to opt into a statewide C-PACE program administered by a trusted third-party. In communities that choose to participate in the C-PACE program, a C-PACE assessment is only paid by the property owner of the building receiving the upgrades.

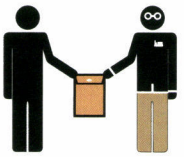
HOW A C-PACE PROJECT WORKS



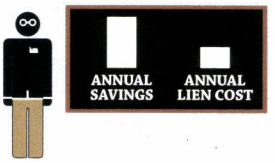
1. *The County* chooses to enable C-PACE.



2. *The Property Owner* gets a baseline energy audit to identify needed efficiency upgrades.

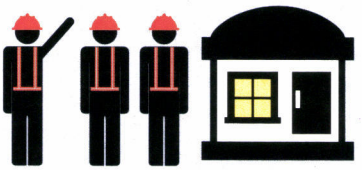


3. *The Property Owner* submits a project application to the C-PACE program administrator.

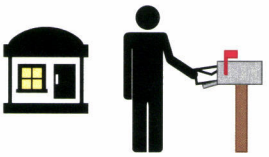


4. *The Program Administrator* reviews the application with an independent review of energy projections.

5. Approved projects are sent to C-PACE participating *Banks and Investors.*



6. Contracts are signed and *workers are hired.*



7. *The Property Owner* begins long-term savings on their utility bills. C-PACE is repaid as an assessment on property taxes.

THE OUTCOME:

*Property Owner*s win by saving money and improving their buildings.

Local Workers win by getting more job opportunities.

Banks and Investors win by making low-risk investments.

Counties win by generating economic activity and increasing property values.

Why Commercial PACE?

Montanans of all types and stripes want to bring C-PACE to Montana because it will help hardworking Montanans save money, create good-paying jobs for the local workforce, drive economic development, and build thriving communities.

Creates Local Jobs

When building owners can finance the up-front cost of an energy efficiency upgrade, more upgrades are undertaken. This creates more work for HVAC (heating, ventilation, air conditioning), lighting, insulation, and electrical contractors as well as renewable energy installers.

No Cost to Taxpayers

C-PACE programs do not use public money. Eligible upgrades are funded using private capital, and a small fee on each project pays for program administration costs, including any cost to state and local governments.

Transferrable

C-PACE financing is an investment in the property, not a loan to the property owners. C-PACE upgrades are permanently attached to the property and save money for the current property owner. When the ownership of a C-PACE property changes hands, the upgrades stay with the property; therefore the assessment stays with the property.

Why Enable Commercial PACE in Montana?

In our current economic climate, supporting the locally-owned businesses of Main Street Montana is more important than ever. Commercial Property-Assessed Capital Enhancements (C-PACE) will give local businesses every opportunity to thrive. C-PACE is a voluntary, opt-in financing tool that uses no public money. Small-business owners across the state could start seeing savings through energy upgrades to their buildings. C-PACE already has wide support from businesses and local governments across Montana, from banks to breweries.

Join us in shaping a clean energy future that works for all Montanans!

Learn more about CPACE and its growing list of Montana-based supporters by visiting:

www.mtpace.com.

C-PACE Supporters Across Montana

AMERESCO
Green • Clean • Sustainable

Air Controls

revitalize CONSTRUCTION, INC

SOLAR MONTANA

WILD JOE'S

THE WD RANCH LLC

FARRAN REALTY PARTNERS

NORTHERN PLAINS RESOURCE COUNCIL

MAST & CO. BUILDERS

BLACKRIDGE COMPANIES

ACE Electric, Inc.
ELECTRICAL AND COMMUNICATIONS CONTRACTORS

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NeighborWorks® MONTANA

Yellowstone ELECTRIC CO.

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