



# RESOURCES FACTS

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## The marijuana industry has a big energy problem

- Indoor cultivation requires electricity to power high-intensity lights, frequent air exchanges and ventilation, and to maintain consistent temperatures and humidity levels day and night. As a result, the state now has numerous indoor warehouses that consume huge quantities of electricity. Experts estimate that a 5,000-square-foot indoor marijuana facility in Colorado consumes **six times more electricity per square foot than an average commercial business, and 49 times more than an average residence.** (Business Insider, July 18, 2016. <http://www.businessinsider.com/the-marijuana-industry-has-a-big-energy-problem-2016-7?IR=T&IR=T>)
- Experts estimate that nationwide, indoor marijuana cultivation accounts for nearly 15 million metric tons of carbon emissions annually – more than the annual energy-related emissions of South Dakota, Delaware, Rhode Island and Vermont, or the District of Columbia. (Business Insider, July 18, 2016. <http://www.businessinsider.com/the-marijuana-industry-has-a-big-energy-problem-2016-7?IR=T&IR=T>)
- Between 2012 and 2013, the latest data available, electricity use increased by 1.2 percent across the city and county of Denver. Commercial marijuana grows were responsible for nearly half of that uptick. (CPR, July 10, 2015. <http://www.cpr.org/news/story/how-much-electricity-does-it-take-grow-marijuana-colo-cities-are-finding-out>)



- **Indoor marijuana grow operations aren't as green as the weed they produce.** According to data from Xcel Energy and estimates from those familiar with indoor growing, a single light used to grow 16 square feet of pot consumes about half as much energy as the average Colorado house in a one-month time frame. (Boulder Weekly, March 2014 28, 2013. <http://www.boulderweekly.com/special-editions/boulderganic-magazine/power-use-and-marijuana-where-the-grass-isnrsquot-greener/>)

## The marijuana industry has a big water problem

- The average marijuana plant needs about **6 gallons of water a day**, depending on its size and whether it's grown inside or outside, according to a local report that cited research. (NBC News, July 8, 2014. <http://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/legal-pot/water-guzzling-pot-plants-draining-drought-wracked-california-n149861>)
- The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has recently published a study, the first of its kind, in the PLOS journal. The scientists, who studied the devastating environmental effects of marijuana cultivation in the region, concluded: *"Due to climate change, water scarcity and habitat degradation in northern California is likely to worsen in the future."* **"All the streams we monitored in watersheds with large scale marijuana cultivation went dry,"** said California Department of Fish and Wildlife Senior Environmental Scientist Scott Bauer, who is the lead author of the study. *"The only stream we monitored that didn't go dry contained no observed marijuana cultivation."* (RT, March 29, 2015. <https://www.rt.com/usa/244937-us-marijuana-cultivation-water/>)
- "Researchers estimate each plant consumes **6 gallons of water a day**. At that rate, the plants were siphoning off 180,000 gallons of water per day in each watershed—all together more than **160 Olympic-sized swimming pools over the average 150-day growing cycle** for outdoor plants." (Mother Jones, April 16, 2016. <http://www.motherjones.com/tom-philpott/2014/04/your-pot-habit-sucks-salmon0>)
- State regulators have known since 2012 that marijuana was **grown with potentially dangerous pesticides**, but pressure from the industry and lack of guidance from federal authorities delayed their efforts to enact regulations, and they ultimately landed on a less restrictive approach than originally envisioned. (Denver Post, October 3, 2015. <http://www.denverpost.com/2015/10/03/colorado-yields-to-marijuana-industry-pressure-on-pesticides/>)

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### Our Pueblo County and City ballot measures will do the following:

- Prohibit retail marijuana – retail stores, manufacturing, testing facilities, growing operations.

### What it does not impact:

- Personal use, home grows, hemp grows, and medical marijuana businesses.
- Retail marijuana is a failed approach. Pueblo should be about reducing, not promoting, marijuana use. **We believe voters will agree.**

*We are a coalition of leaders in business, public health, law enforcement, grandparents, parents, families, and citizens. We believe the health and safety of our community is more important than the marijuana industry. Pueblo is not safer or healthier with a growing marijuana industry promoting and selling a harmful drug.*