The Platte River Power Authority 2022 Strategic Budget is produced in alignment with the long-range strategic plan, under the direction of the organization’s leadership, to provide community leaders, stakeholders and the public with a transparent roadmap of Platte River’s tactical, operational and capital plans for the coming year.

The foundation for Platte River’s 2022 budget represents ongoing investments to transform the organization based upon its strategic plan and core operations. These are aligned with Platte River’s core pillars of system reliability, environmental responsibility and financial sustainability. The pillars guide the decision-making process that directs the resource allocations, revenues and expenses detailed in the budget.

Expenses are managed from a broad perspective with the goal of operating the system in a safe, efficient, compliant and reliable manner while expanding environmental stewardship. Platte River communicates and collaborates with the owner communities to align processes and outcomes to the benefit of all customers.

Platte River provides stable and financially sustainable wholesale rates – currently the lowest in Colorado. Platte River’s rate philosophy includes implementing incremental increases to its owner communities to provide a more predictable path of smaller, more consistent annual rate increases. The 2022 budget includes a 3.2% average wholesale rate increase that will take effect Jan. 1, 2022.
Platte River’s core pillars

- Reliability
- Environmental responsibility
- Financial sustainability

Strategic initiatives

$37.6 million, 16% of operating and capital

- Enhanced customer experience, $13.4 million, 6%
- Communications and community outreach, $1.8 million, 1%
- Resource diversification and alignment, $13.1 million, 5%
- Infrastructure advancement and technology development, $9.3 million, 4%

Activities

- Energy efficiency, administration of audit and rebate programs
- Public engagement, electric vehicle microsite, effective internal and external communications, workforce development
- Creation of transition and integration services division, noncarbon resources, organized energy market evaluation and preparedness, operational flexibility, distributed energy resources, coal optimization
- Controls systems, substation improvements, airflow spoilers, enterprise resource planning, cybersecurity, Windy Gap Firming Project through construction of the Chimney Hollow Reservoir

Core operations

$201 million, 84% of operating and capital

- Generation including fuel, $113.5 million, 48%
- Transmission, $29.8 million, 12%
- Purchases including wind, hydropower and solar energy, $57.7 million, 24%

Activities

- Rawhide Energy Station and Craig Generating Station preventive, proactive maintenance and capital improvements for reliability, efficiency and environmental compliance
- Full year of generation from solar resource added in 2021
- Proactive capital investments including environmental improvements, Hamilton Reservoir dam restoration, pipeline reroute, transmission line rebuild, switchgear and transformer upgrades, safety and HVAC projects
- Staffing additions to support organizational changes and focus on strategic initiatives

Operating expenses and capital additions

- $238.6 million
  - Core operations 84%
  - Strategic initiatives 16%