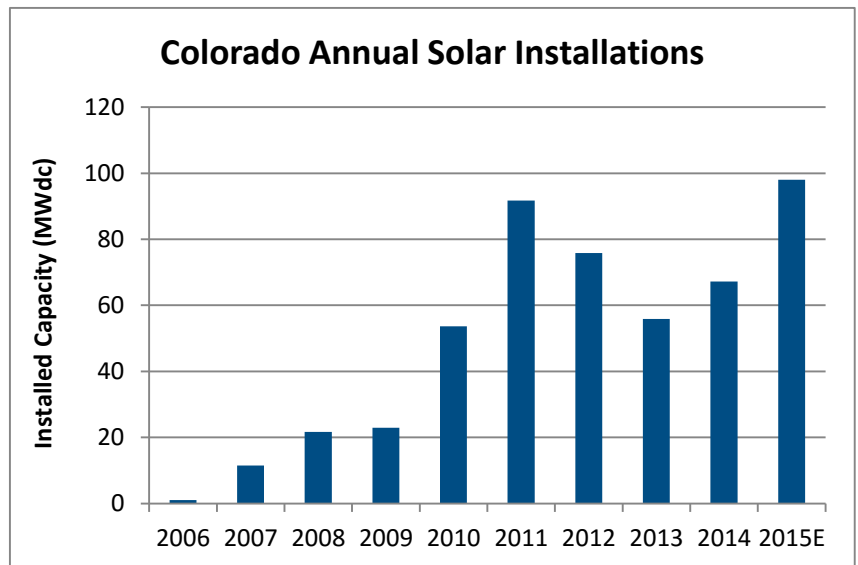


Solar Spotlight: Colorado

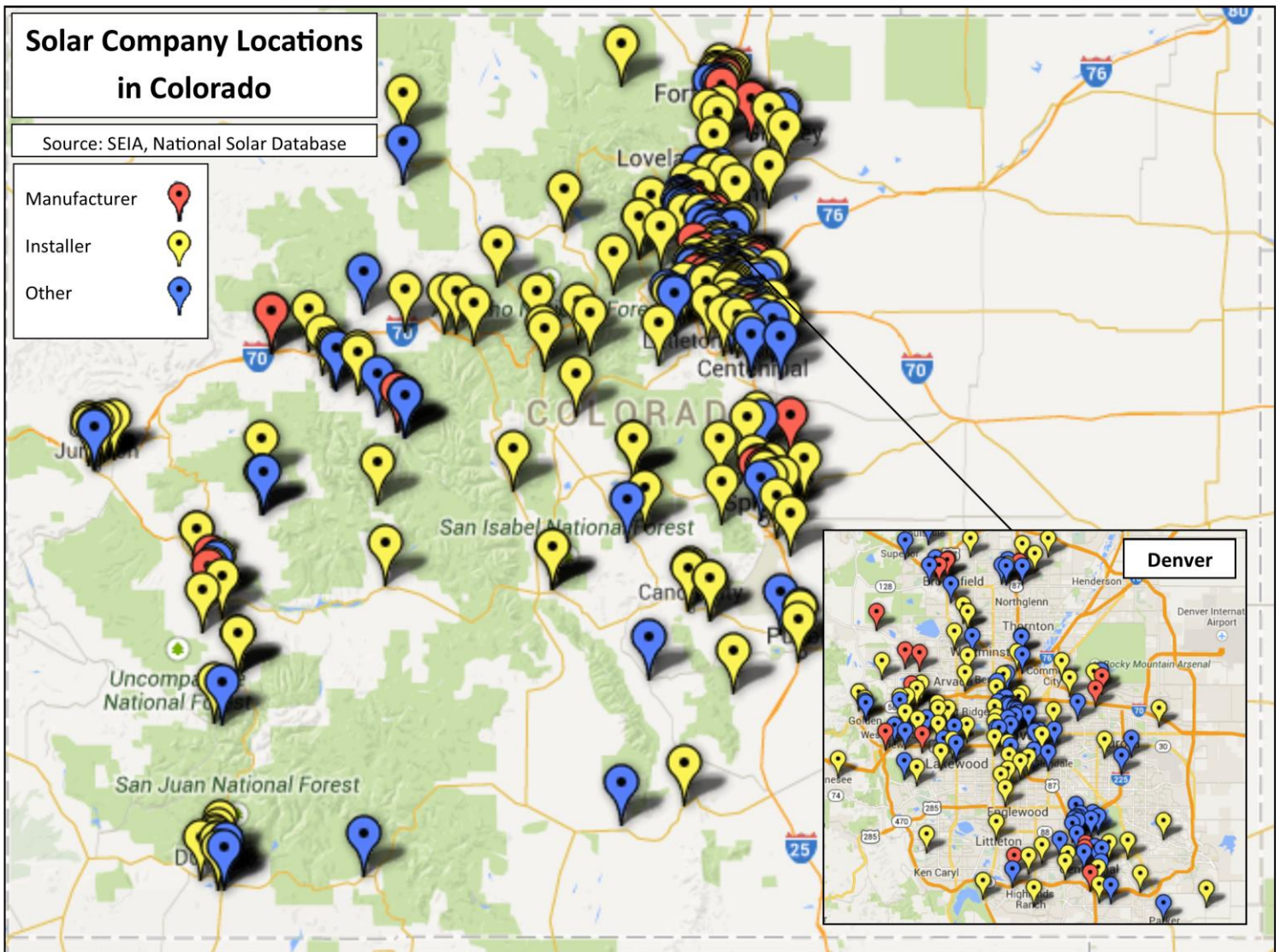
At a glance

- There are currently more than **388 solar companies**¹ at work throughout the value chain in Colorado, **employing 4,200 people**². These companies provide a wide variety of solar products and services ranging from solar system installations to the manufacturing of components used in photovoltaic panels. These companies can be broken down across the following categories: 41 manufacturers, 12 manufacturing facilities, 189 contractor/installers, 26 project developers, 29 distributors and 105 engaged in other solar activities including financing, engineering and legal support.
- **19 MW of solar energy were installed** in Colorado in the second quarter of 2015. This marks a 38% increase over the last quarter and a 62% increase over the same quarter last year. Colorado ranked 11th nationally in second quarter installations.³
- In 2014, Colorado **installed 67 MW of solar electric capacity**, ranking it 13th nationally. Of this capacity, 42 MW were residential and 25 MW were commercial.
- The **430 MW of solar energy currently installed** in Colorado ranks the state ninth in the country in installed solar capacity. There is enough solar energy installed in the state to power 82,000 homes.
- In 2014, **\$212 million was invested on solar** installations in Colorado.
- Average installed residential and commercial photovoltaic system **prices in Colorado have fallen by 24% in the last year**. National Prices have also dropped steadily- by 6% from last year and 53% from 2010.



Notable Projects

- **Alamosa Solar Generating Project** was completed in 2012 by developer Cogentrix. This concentrating photovoltaics project has the capacity to generate 30 MW of electricity- enough to power over 5,400 Colorado homes.⁴
- Another utility scale project, the **Hooper Solar Project**, is currently under construction in Colorado and is scheduled to come online in 2016.⁵
- Several large retailers in Colorado have gone solar, including **Kohl's, REI, Safeway** and **Walmart**. **IKEA** has installed one of the largest corporate photovoltaic systems in the state with 1120 kW of solar capacity at their location in Centennial.⁶



¹ SEIA, National Solar Database, www.seia.org/research-resources/national-solar-database

² The Solar Foundation, 2014 National and State Solar Jobs Census, www.thesolarfoundation.org/solar-jobs-census/

³ This and all remaining bullets in this section from SEIA/GTM Research *Solar Market Insight*, www.seia.org/research-resources/us-solar-market-insight

⁴ SEIA, Major Solar Projects List, www.seia.org/research-resources/major-solar-projects-list

⁵ Ibid

⁶ SEIA, Solar Means Business, www.seia.org/research-resources/solar-means-business-report

Established in 1974, the Solar Energy Industries Association® is the national trade association of the U.S. solar energy industry. Through advocacy and education, SEIA® is building a strong solar industry to power America. As the voice of the industry, SEIA works with its 1,000 member companies to champion the use of clean, affordable solar in America by expanding markets, removing market barriers, strengthening the industry and educating the public on the benefits of solar energy. www.seia.org.