

CHOOSE RENEWABLE ENERGY



Over 150 attended our Renewable Taos Lecture Series event on November 7

Luis Reyes of Kit Carson Electric Cooperative and Bill Brown of Sage West Consultants spoke to a meeting of 150 people at the KTAO Solar Center the evening of Nov. 7. The meeting was the third in the Renewable Taos Lecture Series and was co-sponsored by Renewable Taos and Sol Luna Solar. Reyes and Brown discussed the current state of renewable energy in North Central New Mexico. Electrical energy use in the Kit Carson service area has actually declined since 2000 according to Reyes. This is due in part to the slowdown in new home building and the improvements in home efficiency. There has been a significant build-out of solar energy installations in our area during the last seven years. On a sunny day all the electricity used in Questa all the way north to the Colorado border is generated by solar photovoltaic (PV) arrays. Kit Carson was recognized as the utility of the year by the Solar Electric Power Association last month as a result of

the new arrays. Progress in local renewable energy is temporarily limited because of an agreement with Tri-State that requires that Kit Carson acquire 95% of its energy from Tri-State. Reyes said that Kit Carson was one of two NM rural electric coops that voted against this agreement and has worked steadily to expand local generation of renewable energy. Reyes pointed out that energy from home and business installations that are tied to Kit Carson's grid do not count against the 5% limit. Bill Brown pointed to solar technologies like concentrated solar power which would enable generating all our energy locally. The benefit to our local economy would include stabilization of energy costs as well as the potential to keep our energy dollars at home. Reyes stated that 70% of our electricity costs go directly to Tri-State.

