

NEWSLETTER  
Volume 1 Issue 2  
February 23, 2016



**GASP!  
THEY'RE DESTROYING OUR SECURITY BLANKET**

Renewable Taos will host an event on March 26 at [Op. Cit. Books](#) in Taos to promote local author Robert M. (Bob) Fitch's new book, [GASP!](#) Dr. Fitch wrote the book to explain, in basic terms, why our climate is changing and what we can do about it. The program will include presentations by Dr. Fitch and members of Renewable Taos. Mark your calendars and plan to join us at Op. Cit. Books in the John Dunn House Shops. Buy or bring your hard copy of **GASP!** and get it signed. We will be pleased to answer your questions about climate change and renewable energy.

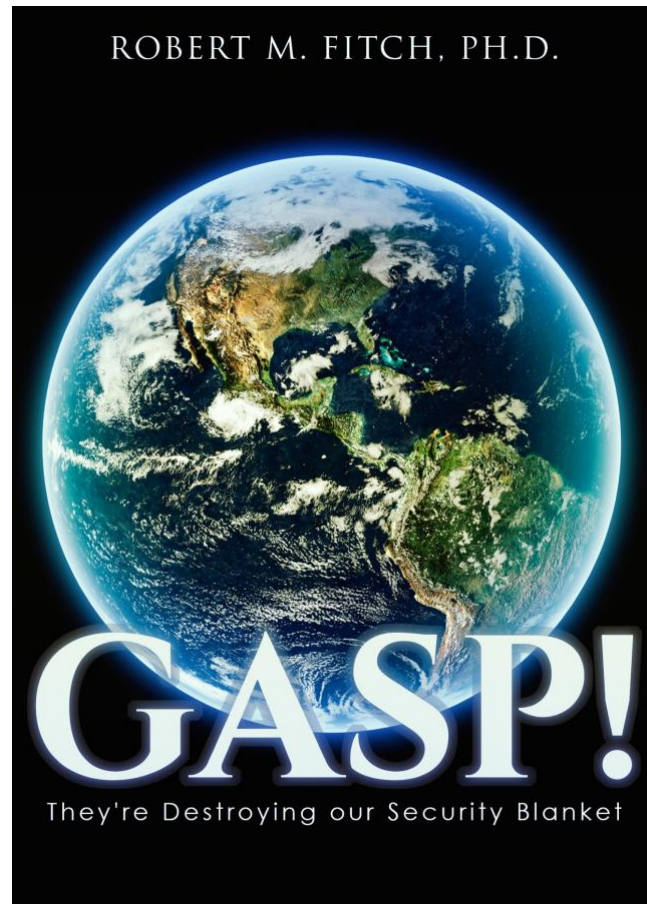
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## BIPARTISAN US STATE GOVERNORS GROUP SUPPORTS MORE CLEAN ENERGY

Seventeen Republican and Democratic Governors signed a new [Accord for a Clean Energy Future](#) on February 16, 2016. The agreement calls for their states to work together to modernize their power grids and expand wind and solar energy. The agreement is based specifically on the economic benefits of clean energy from local sources, and does not mention climate change.

Focusing on the economic bottom line appeals to those with different political leanings. It helps get past the counterproductive quarreling over taking action towards a clean energy future. It speaks the language of local jobs, local economic development, and saving money.

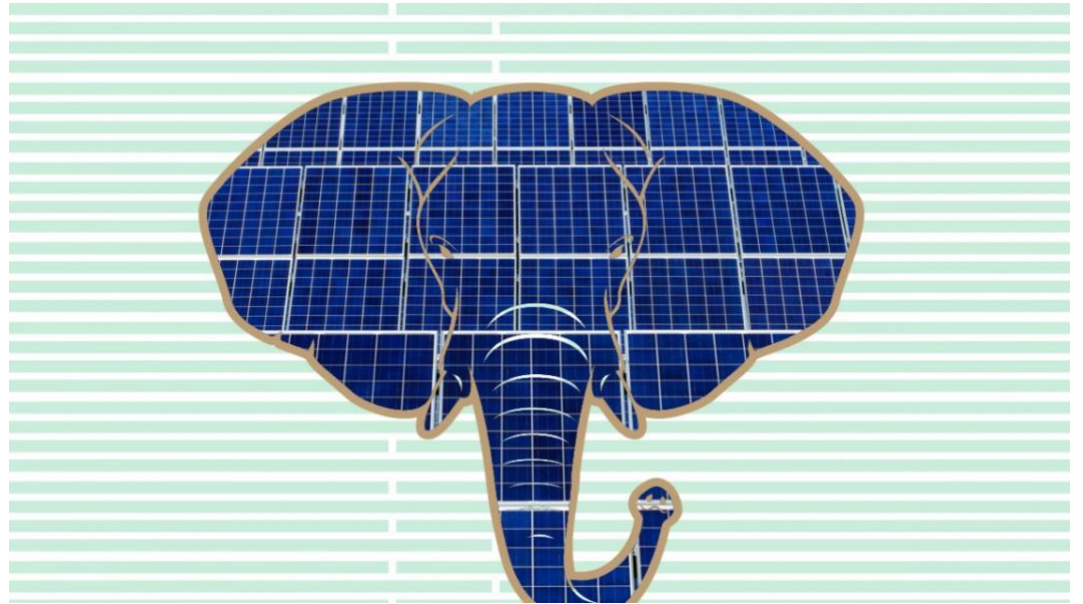
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Sadly, New Mexico is not among the signatories to the Governor's Accord despite our exceptional wealth of wind and solar resources that could be easily developed. Nonetheless, we might take to heart the lessons of promoting renewables on the basis of cost, energy price stability, and economic growth as others around the nation are doing.

See a brief on the Governor's Accord by Julian Spector in [The Atlantic CityLab](#), February 17, 2016.

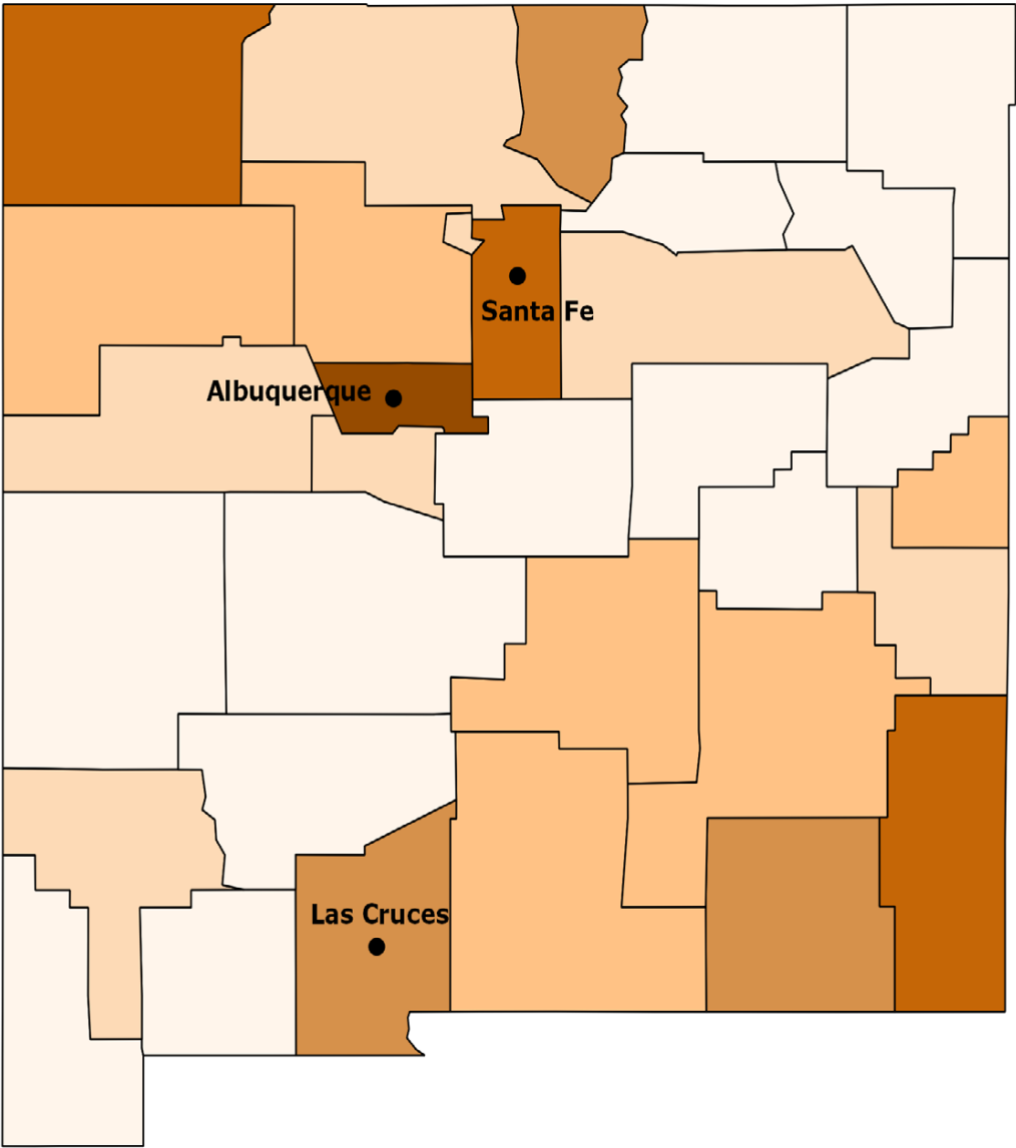


Elephant Solar Panels by Dylan Petrohilos [ThinkProgress 02/19/16](#).

## NEW MEXICO SOLAR JOBS & WAGES GROW IN 2015

Speaking of jobs, the latest [New Mexico Solar Jobs Census 2015](#) from The Solar Foundation shows that NM is ninth among the 50 states and Washington D.C. in solar jobs per capita. NM is 28<sup>th</sup> in total solar companies, and tenth in homes powered by solar. The report says Taos County supports at least 55 solar jobs. The projected solar jobs growth for 2016 for NM is 234, a growth rate of 12.3 percent.

However, NM has a cumulative installed solar capacity of an anemic 361.4 megawatts as of late 2015. This is only about four and one half percent of our state's total electricity generation, so we have a long, long way to go to offset our use of fossil fuels and nuclear power with solar power.



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### New Mexico Solar Jobs

Employment by County

- 0 - 10
- 11 - 20
- 21 - 50
- 51 - 100
- 101 - 500
- 501 +

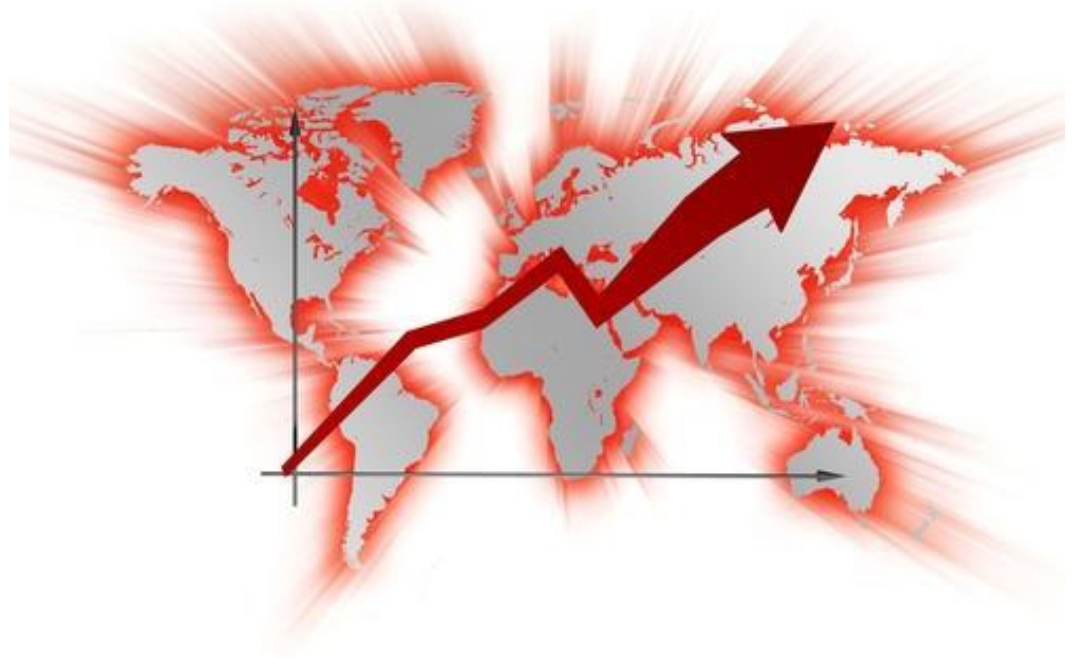
THE WORLD IS EMBRACING CLEAN ENERGY

Global investment in renewable energy now exceeds that of fossil fuels. Policies to improve energy efficiency and make energy systems more flexible are increasing. These and other factors confirm worldwide momentum towards sustainable, clean energy systems.

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According to [Professor Catherine Mitchell of the University of Exeter \(UK\) Energy Policy Group](#), "While the world is still dependent on fossil fuels, because energy systems have long lives, it has got to the point where more than half of global electricity system investment is in renewables rather than fossil fuels investment. It is a sign that globally we have moved our public policy discourse and investor preferences from the old 'dirty' energy system to a clean one."

This is a welcome change in the conversation surrounding energy and climate change. However, the policies we create need to result in substantial actions if we want to reign in our global greenhouse gases emissions. Please urge our local, state and federal political representatives to step up efforts towards the clean energy future that we all deserve.




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**RENEWABLE TAOS SUPPORTS  
THE KIT CARSON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
RATE INCREASE PROPOSAL**

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Renewable Taos, Inc. is circulating a petition appealing to the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC) for timely review and approval of the electricity rate increase recently proposed by Kit Carson Electric Cooperative, Inc. (KCEC). We are satisfied that the increase is justified by increased costs, and by reduced revenues resulting from the closing of the Chevron Molybdenum Mine in Questa and improvements in energy efficiency. We believe that the increase will guarantee continued quality service and contribute to future energy price stability. We need this rate increase to ensure our smooth and rapid transition to renewable energy for all our energy demands in the KCEC service area.

For a thorough analysis of the meaning of KCEC's rate increase proposal, see the recent [Peter J. Adang, Kit Carson Blog](#) posts, especially for December 2015-February 2016. Peter Adang recently retired from the [KCEC Board of Trustees](#) serving District 1 (Taos & Vicinity). Feel free to contact any Renewable Taos principal to discuss our position. Please consider signing our petition to the NMPRC on behalf of KCEC members.



**Support Kit Carson Electric Cooperative  
Invest in our Clean Energy Future**

## **RENEWABLE TAOS MISSION**

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Renewable Taos is dedicated to promoting and facilitating a full transition to renewable energy and energy efficiency in Taos County and our surrounding region.

We advocate for local generation of renewable energy with an emphasis on local ownership. We build community partnerships to facilitate the transition to renewables, and propose and support projects. We recognize that energy efficiency is integral to the transition to renewable energy. We also work with other organizations to change the political climate in the state and country to facilitate the transition to renewable energy and energy efficiency.

**Contact Information:**

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<http://www.renewabletaos.org>

**Edited by: William M. Brown, February 2016**

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