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## RT NEWSLETTER TEST - PLEASE REPLY WITH COMMENTS

1 message

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# Newsletter

Welcome to our new **Renewable Taos Newsletter** email format. We hope this makes your viewing and reading easier. Click on images and blue highlighted font for links to supporting information. As always, please reply to me or other Renewable Taos members with questions or comments.

Thanks! — Bill Brown

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

**Don't miss** our Renewable Taos event Saturday, 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 includes presentations by Dr. Fitch and members of Renewable Taos. 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.

## **NEWSLETTER**

**Volume 1 Issue 3**

March 23, 2016

**ARE YOU A  
MEMBER?**

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**JOIN NOW!**

**WE WANT  
YOUR  
FEEDBACK  
ON ALL  
ASPECTS OF  
OUR WORK!**



## TRI-STATE WANTS TO PENALIZE CO-OPS FOR BUYING LOCAL RENEWABLE ENERGY

In 2015, Tri-State member cooperative [Delta-Montrose Electric Association \(DMEA\) in Colorado](#), won an historic decision allowing the co-op to purchase renewable energy from a local facility. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) ruled in favor of DMEA's position on purchasing renewable energy in amounts far above those imposed by Tri-State's contract. The FERC decision apparently applies to all Tri-State's member co-ops, including Kit Carson Electric.

This year, Tri-State is trying to penalize DMEA by adding a "rate penalty" on the renewable energy DMEA purchases from local projects. This threatens not only local renewables generation, but also the local economic development that comes with it.



Renewable Taos supported DMEA in its 2015 appeal, and we are supporting DMEA again in 2016. In a letter to FERC on behalf of the Board of Renewable Taos, Bob Bresnahan wrote earlier this month:

*"We are strongly opposed to Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association's request for a lost revenue penalty for Rural Electric Cooperatives that purchase renewable energy from Qualifying Facilities. The penalty would be burdensome for Tri-State customers and their members. It would violate the intent of PURPA (the Public Utilities Regulatory Policy Act of 1978) which explicitly protects developers of renewable energy facilities. And, it would effectively negate your 2015 ruling in favor of Delta-Montrose Electricity Association (DMEA)."*

Tri-State continues to oppose a rapid buildup of renewable energy. Tri-State actively fights the EPA's Clean Power Plan, as evidenced by its recent [Press Release](#). For these and many other reasons, Renewable Taos continues to support Kit Carson Electric's separation from Tri-State, and contracting with a wholesale electricity provider that is willing to work with us rather than against us towards a clean energy economy.

**WE WANT  
YOUR  
FEEDBACK  
ON ALL  
ASPECTS OF  
OUR WORK!**

## SUPPORT KIT CARSON IN OUR ONGOING BATTLE WITH TRI-STATE

Please sign our [Renewable Taos Petition to the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission \(NMPRC\)](#). This petition is to show our support for [Kit Carson Electric Cooperative and its Board](#). It will put Kit Carson on sound financial footing, allow us to break free from Tri-State, permit additional development of solar energy locally, and save us the considerable expense (as much as \$400,000) of participating in a rate hearing.

Breaking free from our current contract with Tri-State that extends to 2040 is really the most important thing Kit Carson can do. The rates we pay Tri-State under that contract are double the going wholesale rate for electricity in our region. We can use the difference to pay the exit fee from the contract and actually stabilize, then lower our per kilowatt hour rates over the next few years.

We've looked into this carefully and are confident that it is the best thing for our community. If you have any questions, please address them with a reply to this email, or to one of our members. Also, please forward this request to other Kit Carson Electric Cooperative members.

## CATCHING THE SUN



**Catching the Sun** is a new documentary film by Shalini Kantayya. The film's webpage offers the following:

*"An unemployed American worker, a Tea Party activist, and a Chinese solar entrepreneur race to lead the clean energy future. But who wins and who loses the battle for power in the 21st century?"*

*"Through the stories of workers and entrepreneurs in the U.S. and China, Catching the Sun captures the global race to lead the clean energy future. Over the course of a solar jobs training program, Catching the Sun follows the hope and heartbreak of unemployed American workers seeking jobs in the solar industry. With countries like China investing in innovative technologies and capitalizing on this trillion-dollar opportunity, Catching the Sun tells the story of the global energy transition from the perspective of workers and entrepreneurs building solutions to income inequality and climate change with their own hands. Their successes and failures speak to one of the biggest questions of our time: will the U.S. actually be able to build a clean energy economy?"*

The film will begin screening in the USA in New York City from April 1-7, 2016. We will keep an eye out for possibilities of hosting a screening in Taos during the next few months. As always, Renewable Taos will welcome a volunteer willing to organize the logistics for a screening.

**ARE YOU A MEMBER?**

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## NEW BLM RULES ON METHANE EMISSIONS

Renewable Taos, Inc. works with many local, state, regional and national organizations on a variety of climate change and renewable energy topics. Among these is the [Western Environmental Law Center \(WELC\)](#) with offices in Taos, NM, Eugene, OR and Helena, MT. The Executive Director of WELC is Taos' own [Erik Schlenker-Goodrich](#).

On January 22, 2016 the U.S. Bureau of Land Management released its proposed rule to begin minimizing methane waste from oil and natural gas operations on USA federal lands. The WELC works daily on methane waste and the many other excesses of the fossil fuel industry in our region.



WELC's issued a [Press Release](#) about the new BLM rule in January, with an update on the Rule's interplay with [Canadian natural gas production](#). For background on the evolution of the BLM rule, see the links in the WELC Press Releases and [WELC's Reforming Oil & Gas Operations](#).

The BLM is taking public comment on its methane waste rule, and soon will be holding meetings in our American West for additional comments. The Conservation Voters of New Mexico provide an [online petition to the BLM](#) to support strong methane capture rules for fossil fuel operations on public lands.



NATURAL GAS FLARING

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## OUR MISSION

**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

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**JOIN NOW!**

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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.



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

This message was sent to Renewable Taos Members by [swctaos@gmail.com](mailto:swctaos@gmail.com)

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