



William Brown <swctaos@gmail.com>

Renewable Taos Newsletter - December 2018

William M. Brown <swctaos@gmail.com>

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Reply-To: swctaos@gmail.com

To: William Brown <swctaos@gmail.com>



Newsletter

Welcome to our Renewable Taos Newsletter.

Please click on images and blue highlighted text for more information.

BABY STEPS ON CLIMATE ACTION NOT ENOUGH

"In the climate emergency we're in, slow success is no success."

Durwood Zaelke, [COP24 Climate Summit, Katowice, Poland, December 2018](#)

[Durwood Zaelke is Founder and President of the Institute for Governance & Sustainable Development \(IGSD\) in Washington, DC and Paris, France](#)

The ongoing criticism of meaningful action on our climate crisis is **"too little, too late."** The criticism continued with the results of COP24. In Poland, the United Nations consensus and rulemaking process once again proved to be far too slow to treat the scale and urgency of our globally shared problem.

This means other entities need to step up efforts to reign in greenhouse gases emissions, whether these entities control economic sectors or policies at regional, state and local levels.

**RENEWABLE TAOS
NEWSLETTER
Volume 3, Issue 12
December 30, 2018**

**NEW MEXICO NEEDS LOTS
MORE SOLAR AND WIND
POWER TO REPLACE COAL
& NATURAL GAS**



**JOIN RENEWABLE TAOS
AND HELP BUILD CLEAN
ENERGY GENERATION
THROUGHOUT OUR STATE**

Remember this: Cheaper, cleaner and readily available energy today from wind, solar and battery storage facilities is being driven by bottom-line economics. Despite political promotions of more expensive and dirtier fuels, major energy suppliers are moving towards more economical clean energy for their customers.

Consider Xcel Energy, electricity supplier for millions of customers across seven USA states including New Mexico. Xcel began its cleaner energy program in 2005, and through 2017 reduced its CO2 emissions by 35 percent. Xcel projects its CO2 emissions to be 50% below 2005 levels by 2022, 60% by 2030, and 100% by 2050. By 2022, Xcel will have closed 20 of its coal-fired power plants.



"For the last five years, our average residential electricity and natural gas bills have declined, and our goal is to keep bills flat or at the rate of inflation while we invest in clean energy. That's because we can put low-cost, emissions-free wind energy on our system today without sacrificing reliability and save on fuel and other costs that come with operating fossil-fueled plants."

Throughout New Mexico and Colorado, customers are looking at what Xcel Energy is doing and asking why other electricity providers are not doing the same. United Power of Colorado is asking its electricity wholesaler, Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association, Inc., to reconsider its bylaws and business model in light of Xcel Energy's success in providing cleaner electricity at substantially lower costs.



"Uppermost on our list of concerns is cost. Since United Power abuts Xcel Energy's service territory in many locations and competes with Xcel Energy for large industrial loads, competitive pricing for power is paramount to United Power. Unfortunately, we have discovered that Xcel Energy's wholesale combined demand charge and energy charge, for the amount of energy that United Power

TAKING CHARGE OF OUR FUTURE



UCLA
Institute of the
Environment and
Sustainability

"What these latest (extreme) events call for is not for us to wring our hands and wonder when the end is coming, but for us to be conscious of our history, our role in shaping our environment, then figure out how to manage it."

Jon Christensen, UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability

A NEW MEXICO ADMINISTRATION FRIENDLY TO CLEAN ENERGY BEGINS ITS WORK IN JANUARY 2019



**DO YOUR PART!
DEMAND CLEAN ENERGY FOR
ALL OUR ENERGY USES**

Tell our political

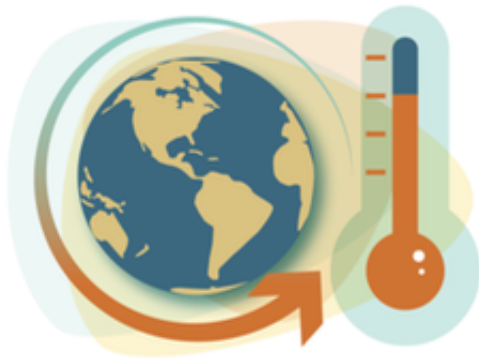
currently uses on an annual basis is 28.5% lower than Tri-State's wholesale combined demand charge and energy charge. This wholesale cost differential between United Power and our neighbor and competitor is a serious problem."

"United Power also feels that Tri-State's reluctance to embrace additional sources of renewable energy generation due to constraints of its largely fossil fuel generating fleet, creates growing problems with our environmentally conscious residential, commercial, and industrial Members. Our Members are looking for ways to reduce their carbon footprints, especially our large industrial Members (United Power's key accounts). Not being able to deliver on this need due to Tri-State's generation portfolio mix is also a serious problem for United Power and its growth trajectory and opportunities."

— James Vigessa, United Power Board Chairman, November 27, 2018

Renewable Taos is monitoring the energy landscape as it transforms throughout our region. We are looking for successful examples featuring clean energy economics to offer our local, state and federal political representatives. We will be pushing decisionmakers hard in 2019 to make New Mexico the clean energy leader we should be for our USA Southwest and our nation.

Please join us and our partners, and do your part by demanding clean energy and other climate action in 2019.



"Climate action offers a compelling path to transform our world for the better. Governments and investors need to bet on the green economy, not the grey."

— António Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations

LET'S MAKE A BIG MOVE TO ELECTRIC VEHICLES IN 2019

representatives, business leaders, energy providers, and everyone else in positions of influence that you want our entire region and state powered by clean energy.

"Ranging from city, state and regional governments to companies, investors, higher education institutions and civil society organizations, non-state actors are increasingly committing to bold climate action."



"These institutions are increasingly recognized as a key element in achieving the global emissions goals."

QUESTIONS ON CLIMATE CHANGE? OUR ENERGY FUTURE?



CLICK HERE AND SUBMIT YOUR QUESTION OR COMMENT

CENTER FOR STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (CSIS), WASHINGTON, DC REPORT ON NEW MEXICO'S ENERGY FUTURE

MAKE YOUR RESOLUTION TODAY TO TEST DRIVE AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE THIS YEAR

Renewable Taos was invited to work with the [Santa Fe County Sustainability Office](#) and the [Santa Fe Green Chamber of Commerce](#) on planning for events during National Drive Electric Week 2019. Electric vehicle dealers and out-of-town visitors liked our [2018 Taos EV Expo](#) so much that they are calling upon us for consultation and participation in Santa Fe.



NATIONAL DRIVE ELECTRIC WEEK IN TAOS, SEPTEMBER 8, 2018

Renewable Taos is already committed to hosting our Second Annual Taos Electric Vehicle Expo on September 7, 2019 in Taos. Join us in working throughout the year to engage in EV conversations, learn about EVs, and create our future of clean energy transportation.



In October 2018, the CSIS Energy and National Security Program and Sandia National Laboratories cohosted a workshop in Albuquerque, New Mexico with government, industry, and local leaders to explore the state of play and outlook for New Mexico's energy landscape.

The workshop addressed several key issues concerning the opportunities and challenges that New Mexico faces in the development of its oil, gas, and renewable energy resources, along with its electric power grid, and possible strategies to make the most of the state's energy potential.

LEARN MORE ABOUT KIT CARSON ELECTRIC CO-OP, GUZMAN ENERGY, PARASOL SOLAR, LLC AND THE WORK TOWARDS MORE SOLAR ENERGY FACILITIES IN OUR AREA



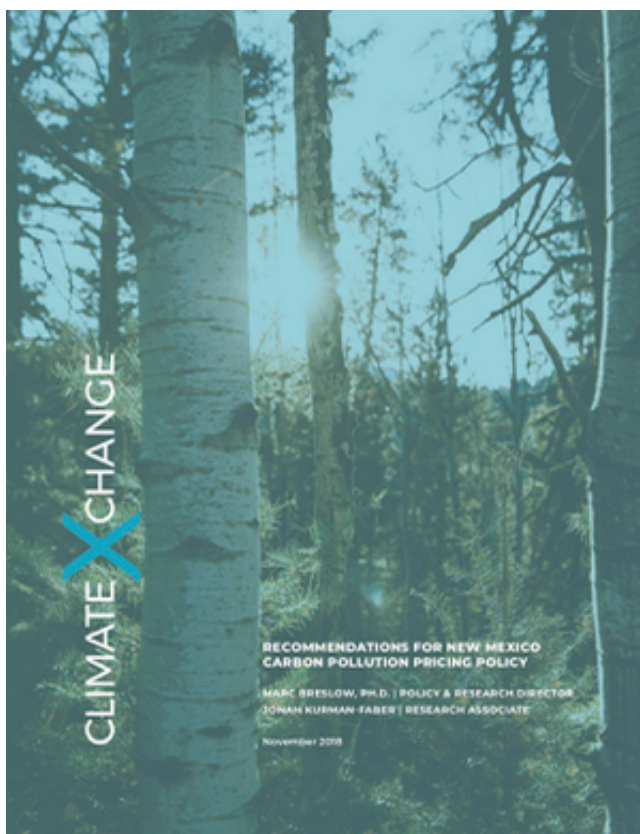
Picuris Pueblo Solar Array near Vadito & Peñasco, NM

DID YOU KNOW?

BURNING ONE GALLON OF GASOLINE PRODUCES ABOUT 20 POUNDS OF CARBON

National Drive Electric Week, September 14-22, 2019, is a nationwide celebration to heighten awareness of today's widespread availability of plug-in vehicles and highlight the benefits of all-electric (EV) and plug-in hybrid-electric (PHEV) cars, trucks, motorcycles, and more. They are fun to drive, are less expensive and more convenient to fuel than gasoline vehicles, are better for the environment, promote local jobs, and reduce our dependence on oil.

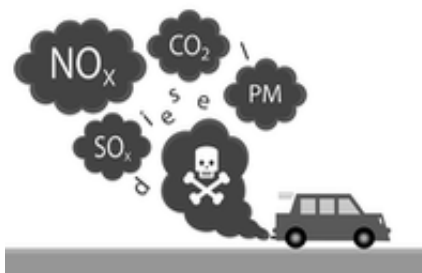
NEW MEXICO CARBON PRICING POLICY



CLIMATEXCHANGE offers a report that "...responds to the New Mexico State Senate's 2018 SM023 (Senate Memorial 23), calling for a study to be done on "how a carbon fee could be implemented in New Mexico and its effects on the economy, jobs, health and greenhouse gas emissions." The present study provides recommendations and supporting evidence for the implementation question."

"We make 24 recommendations, addressing four principal facets of a carbon fee policy: which sources of greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) should be covered; what rate the fee should start at and how it should increase over time; how should the revenues be used; and how should the system be administered."

DIOXIDE (CO₂) PLUS OTHER TOXIC GASES AND PARTICLES



HALF OF OUR GREENHOUSE GASES EMISSIONS IN TAOS COUNTY COME FROM PASSENGER CARS AND LIGHT TRUCKS BURNING GASOLINE AND DIESEL FUELS.

GET ACTION ALERTS, SPECIAL MESSAGES, AND ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS ON ENERGY AND CLIMATE



SIGN UP FOR YOUR FREE MONTHLY RENEWABLE TAOS NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

RENEWABLE TAOS ON FACEBOOK

Renewable Taos recommends that you read this document for its potential effect on NM legislation in 2019. However, please inform your political representatives and advocacy groups that the recommended beginning carbon fee per ton of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) of \$10 is far too low to be meaningful. Decisionmakers should adhere to the secondary recommendation that much higher fees would be justified.

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 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, December 2018



**POST YOUR QUESTIONS
AND COMMENTS, AND
LEARN ABOUT WHAT WE DO
- AND WHAT YOU CAN DO -
TO ENSURE A CLEAN
ENERGY FUTURE FOR ALL**



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Renewable Taos, Inc.
PO Box 1453
Taos, NM 87571-1453
<https://www.renewabletaos.org>

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