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Renewable Taos Newsletter - April 2018

1 message

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Sun, Apr 29, 2018 at 10:15 AM



Newsletter

Hello, All — Remember to click on images and blue highlighted text for more information.

RENEWABLE TAOS HAS A NEW WEBSITE



Explore our new website and tell us what you think. We are adding new materials and improving the site as we take on new work and challenges. Send comments to info@renewabletaos.org

IS IT JUST A DROUGHT — OR

RENEWABLE TAOS NEWSLETTER

**Volume 3, Issue 4
APRIL 29, 2018**

**BE A PART OF OUR
EXCITING RENEWABLE
ENERGY TRANSITION**

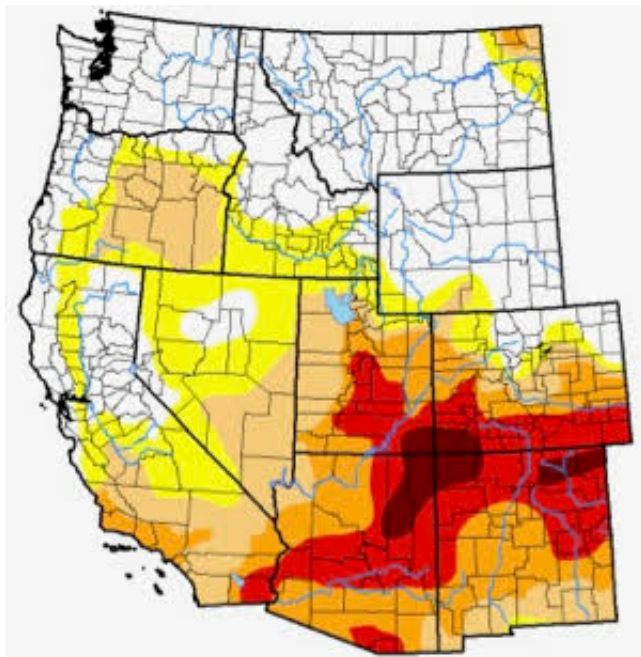


**JOIN RENEWABLE TAOS
TODAY!**

SOMETHING ELSE?

As our climate changes, we need new words to describe what is happening. Today the concept of "drought" as most people understand it does not fit conditions throughout our southwestern USA.

Drought implies a temporary condition of water shortage, with an expectation that "normal," more stable conditions will someday return. But we are now in a state of **aridity** where dryness is increasing and permanent. And our southwestern climate has already changed so much that long-term moisture averages are no longer meaningful.



We don't need a legend to understand this drought map for April 26, 2018. The Four Corners area is now in its 18th year of rapidly changing into a permanent desert. The rest of the area in red and orange is on a similar track because of climate change.

Learn more about the reality facing residents of the Four Corners area in **a story produced by KUNC Community Radio for Northern Colorado.**

Understand the meaning of drought, aridification, and the "new normal" as they apply to the Colorado River Basin. **The Colorado River Research Group March 2018 report** explains our need for new words and thinking to guide decisive action for our water future.

Colorado River Research Group, An independent, scientific voice for the future of the Colorado River

"Aridification is the process of a region becoming increasingly dry.

It refers to long term change rather than seasonal variation."



"Aridification is often measured as the reduction of average soil moisture content. It can be caused by natural or anthropogenic means such as climate change, reduced precipitation, increased evaporation, lowering of water tables or changes in ground cover.

Its major consequences include reduced agricultural production, soil degradation, ecosystem changes and decreased water catchment runoff."

DO YOU WANT TO WORK ON RENEWABLE ENERGY AND OUR CLIMATE CRISIS?



THE NEW MEXICO CLIMATE ACTION CALENDAR SHOWS THE WHAT AND WHERE AND WHO IN OUR STATE

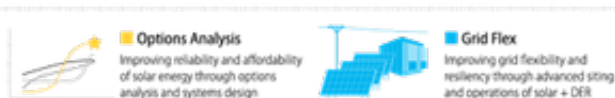
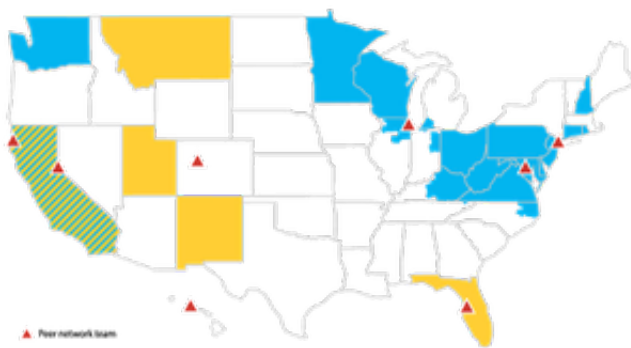
NREL SOLAR ENERGY INNOVATION NETWORK PROJECT LAUNCHED APRIL 10TH

KIT CARSON ELECTRIC, GUZMAN ENERGY & RENEWABLE TAOS TEAM FOR NATIONAL SOLAR ENERGY SOLUTIONS

The **U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)** selected our Taos-based team to participate in a nationwide renewable energy research effort. Our team is headed by **Kit Carson Electric Cooperative**, and includes members of **Guzman Energy** and Renewable Taos.

Our team will work on "Options Analysis" to develop practical approaches to attaining 100% renewable energy. Our partners will be the City of Orlando, FL, the City of San Diego, CA, the Montana Renewable Energy Association, and Utah Clean Energy.

Other teams from the areas shown in blue will work on improving the flexibility and resiliency of the national grid using renewables. We will be in communication with these teams throughout the project.



The Solar Energy Innovation Program's cohorts bring together teams from across the country to address shared challenges and drive problem solving and innovation for tomorrow's electric grid.

Our team's research will explore new ways to improve the affordability, reliability and resiliency of electric grids managed by more than 900 electric cooperatives nationwide. This is a major project extending into 2019 and beyond.

The project validates our work over the past several years on a new, renewable energy economy for our northern New Mexico region. We are proud to be involved in this effort. It demonstrates the nationally recognized business model and direction coming

OUR ALLIES INCLUDE THE BEST SOLAR INSTALLERS IN NEW MEXICO



VISIT OUR LIST OF PARTNERS AND CHECK OUT THEIR WEB SITES

SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER, ACTION ALERTS AND OTHER SPECIAL MESSAGES



VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE FOR BACK ISSUES OF OUR NEWSLETTER AND MANY OTHER DOCUMENTS

from our relatively small community through the leadership of Kit Carson Electric Cooperative and Guzman Energy.

SOLAR JOBS REPORT FOR NEW MEXICO

The American Jobs Project in collaboration with the University of New Mexico Bureau of Business and Economic Research offers a new report on solar technology jobs in New Mexico.



THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO
BUREAU OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC
RESEARCH

"Extensive research and over sixty interviews with stakeholders and experts in New Mexico have identified the advanced solar industry as a promising job creator and economic driver in the state."

The April 2018 report, "A Guide to Creating Jobs in Advanced Solar Technology," says a lot about what is possible for solar workforce development in New Mexico. However, the map on page 28 of the report suggests a need for northern New Mexico educational institutions to offer solar-relevant certificates and/or associate degrees. The map on page 29 nonetheless shows a strong component of solar "value chain assets" in Taos County.

Renewable Taos, UNM-Taos, Northern New Mexico College in Española (NNMC) and others are working to establish certificate programs for a renewable energy workforce. UNM-Taos and its Taos Education and Career Center (TECC) are offering a new, experimental course, "Introduction to Renewable Energy Workforce" that runs from January through May 2018. Northern New Mexico College is home to the Solar Energy Research Park and Academy (SERPA). NNMC is also looking towards a more formal curriculum in renewable energy.

Renewable Taos prioritizes education about all aspects of renewable energy. Since 2012, we have sponsored, co-sponsored, or participated in many educational programs and events throughout New Mexico and Colorado. We look forward to stepping

Electrify America - a division of Volkswagen - will install a network of ultra-fast electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at locations across the U.S.



The stations have been chosen specifically for everyday charging convenience at popular retail and refueling locations.

USE AMAZON SMILE WHEN YOU BUY YOUR ELECTRIC BICYCLE



AMAZON WILL MAKE A DONATION TO RENEWABLE TAOS IN YOUR NAME

up our efforts with our local institutions of higher learning in 2018.

BANKING ON SUNSHINE

WORLD ADDS - AND INVESTS IN - FAR MORE SOLAR THAN FOSSIL FUEL POWER GENERATION IN 2017

The world - led by China - installed a record 98 **gigawatts (GW)** of new solar capacity in 2017. This amount outpaced the net additions of any other renewable, fossil fuel or nuclear technology.



Frankfurt School
FS-UNEP Collaborating Centre
for Climate & Sustainable Energy Finance

*"The Global Trends in Renewable Energy Investment 2018 report, published on April 5th by **UN Environment**, the Frankfurt School-UNEP Collaborating Centre, and **Bloomberg New Energy Finance**, finds that falling costs for solar electricity, and to some extent wind power, is continuing to drive deployment."*

China led all countries in renewable energy investment by a wide margin with \$126.6 billion in 2017. Europe invested \$40.9 billion, and the USA invested \$40.5 billion.

In total, the world invested \$279.8 billion in renewables excluding hydropower in 2017. About 157 gigawatts (GW) of new renewable energy went online - far outpacing the 70 GW of fossil fuel generating capacity added.

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, April 2018

USA ELECTRICITY GENERATING CAPACITY IS SLIGHTLY MORE THAN 1,000 GIGAWATTS (GW)



THE USDOE OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RENEWABLE ENERGY PROVIDES A NICELY ILLUSTRATED ARTICLE ON THE POWER OF ONE GIGAWATT

FOR EXAMPLE, 1 GW IS EQUIVALENT TO THE OUTPUT OF 4.6 MILLION STANDARD SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) PANELS



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8 attachments



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