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Renewable Taos Newsletter - February 2017

1 message

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To: William Brown <swctaos@gmail.com>

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Newsletter

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

RENEWABLE TAOS WORK FEATURED IN THE TAOS NEWS

Don't miss [The Taos News coverage of the Work-Study Session prepared by Renewable Taos for our Taos County Commissioners](#). Reporter Charlene R. Johnson did a fine job of covering the session, and we appreciate the positive publicity for our organization and its members. The paper devoted almost a full page of coverage in the Thursday, February 23rd print edition, p. A4. We will follow up on our ongoing work with Taos County and others in our March 2017 Newsletter.

KIT CARSON & GUZMAN RENEWABLE ENERGY PARTNERS LAUNCH LONG- TERM SOLAR PARTNERSHIP

In a recent [Press Release](#), Kit Carson Electric Co-op (KCEC) and [Guzman Renewable Energy Partners \(GREP\)](#) set the stage for our renewable energy future.

**RENEWABLE
TAOS
NEWSLETTER
Volume 2
Issue 2
February 25, 2017**

**PULL TOGETHER
FOR MORE SOLAR
POWER!**

Not only will GREP be our wholesale electricity provider, the company “..will also serve as the exclusive solar energy partner to KCEC.”

GREP and KCEC will begin a process in 2017 to install up to 30 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy in the KCEC service area. This capacity will include solar arrays and battery storage to be constructed during 2017-2022. Details are available online for your review and comment in the [Kit Carson Electric Solar Deployment Plan](#).

Our new, local solar power generation with energy storage will give the KCEC service area a substantial boost in offsetting our use of coal-fired power from the San Juan Generating Station. By 2023, most or all of our daytime electricity will come from local solar power stations. As storage units come online, we will see more of our evening electricity demands also met by stored solar energy.

Not only will we be supplied with cleaner energy, we will reap the benefits of stabilized — and even declining — electricity costs. GREP and KCEC estimate savings to electricity customers of more than \$50 million over the next ten years. This savings is calculated against prevailing rates and projected rate increases for electricity generated from fossil fuels.

Guzman Energy is proving to be the kind of energy partner who pays attention to the wants and needs of citizens in our region. GREP principals recently visited Taos, and held meetings with many local groups, including political representatives, environmental NGOs, solar installers, and others. Meetings like these, with the wholesale electricity provider meeting with local citizens, were unprecedented in the history of KCEC.



**JOIN RENEWABLE
TAOS TODAY!**

**KIT CARSON & GUZMAN
ENERGY ARE PLUGGING
INTO THE SUN**



**READ THE KIT CARSON ELECTRIC
CO-OP SOLAR DEPLOYMENT PLAN,
NOW ONLINE FOR YOUR REVIEW AND
COMMENT**

**WE STILL RELY HEAVILY ON
FOSSIL FUELS**



CHRIS RILEY

PRESIDENT, GUZMAN ENERGY

Guzman Energy President Chris Riley met with Renewable Taos principals on February 10th, and spent two hours answering our questions about our renewable energy future. This important interchange confirmed that we now have an energy partner with a renewable energy vision that corresponds to our own.

During 2017, GREP will be buying renewable energy from the regional grid that can be counted as part of our Taos area electrical energy mix. By 2018, we should have some eye-catching new numbers to define our renewable energy progress. We look forward excitedly to cutting deeply into the fossil-fuel component of our electric energy mix.

Renewable Taos strongly supports the new partnership between GREP and Kit Carson. We urge everyone to recognize the benefits of this unique collaboration. Please encourage our political representatives, business leaders and others to join us in building our new clean energy economy.

LIGHTS OUT FOR GREATNESS

Four decades ago, **Art Rosenfeld** created the field of energy efficiency. His recent passing reminds us once again how his great idea, expertly employed,



AS OF EARLY 2017, ABOUT 96% OF ELECTRICITY AND MORE THAN 99% OF ALL ENERGY FOR TAOS & VICINITY COMES FROM FOSSIL FUELS. THESE INCLUDE COAL, NATURAL GAS (METHANE), PROPANE, GASOLINE AND DIESEL FUEL.

GUZMAN RENEWABLE ENERGY PARTNERS IS BUILDING A PRESENCE IN NORTHERN NEW MEXICO.



GUZMAN NOW HAS CONTRACTS TO SUPPLY ELECTRICITY FOR KIT CARSON ELECTRIC CO-OP, THE CITY OF AZTEC, AND THE JICARILLA APACHE NATION.

GO SOLAR TODAY ON YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS

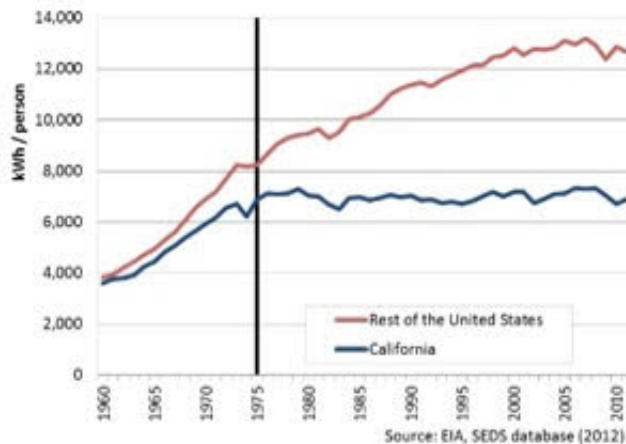


makes a difference in all our lives.

Inspired by the gasoline crisis of the early 1970s, Art decided to calculate how much energy could be saved by turning off unused lights. On a Friday evening, he went around his lab building at the University of California Berkeley switching off lights in empty rooms. This singular act led to an energy conservation program at UC Berkeley, and catapulted Rosenfeld from particle physics into full-time work on energy and our environment.

Rosenfeld influenced California, national and international energy policy throughout the rest of his life. His work led to establishing California's building energy efficiency standard in 1978. A stunning result of his work is labeled "The Rosenfeld Effect," depicted in the graph below.

From the time California began to employ energy efficiency statewide in the mid-to-late 1970's, per capita electricity consumption in CA has remained steady. Even today, Californians consume roughly 7,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity per person each year. The rest of our country's consumption has swollen to about 12,500 kWh per person annually.



THE ROSENFELD EFFECT

Total per capita electricity use has stayed relatively flat in California for the past four decades, while it has risen sharply in the USA as a whole.

Rosenfeld was one of the founders of the **American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE)** in 1980. ACEEE today remains a powerful and influential voice for advancing "...energy efficiency policies, programs, technologies, investments, and behaviors." Renewable Taos relies on ACEEE materials as part of our work in promoting energy-efficiency policies and practices for our region.

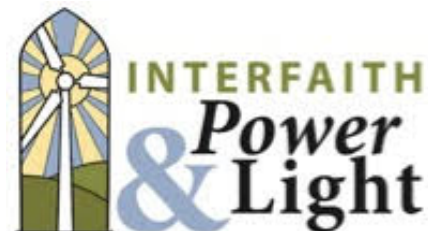
GET TO KNOW OUR LOCAL SOLAR SYSTEM INSTALLERS

CHOOSE YOUR NEXT CAR TO RUN ON SOLAR POWERED ELECTRICITY



TELL OUR COUNTIES, TOWNS AND VILLAGES TO INSTALL ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS NOW!

Renewable Taos members are working with New Mexico Interfaith Power & Light (NMIPL) to spread the word about how to build renewable energy to benefit all New Mexico citizens. The NMIPL initiative runs through Earth Day, 2017.





ART ROSENFELD, "THE GODFATHER OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY"

Art Rosenfeld's influence on energy dollar savings and carbon emissions reductions are incalculable. They can only be estimated in billions of dollars saved and billions of tons of CO2 not emitted into our atmosphere.

If you don't know about Art Rosenfeld, you will be amazed by his accomplishments, and a philosophy near and dear to the heart and mission of Renewable Taos. Follow the links in this article to learn more about his outstanding career, and to honor his memory, please remember to turn out the lights.

CLOSING THE NAVAJO COAL-FIRED POWER PLANT IN 2019

On February 13, 2017, utilities that own the [Navajo Generating Station](#) voted to close the coal-fired power plant when their lease expires in 2019.

The vote is a fundamental economic decision. The 2,250-megawatt (MW) power plant near Page, AZ has become too expensive to operate.

Entities like Nevada Energy and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power have either sold their interests in the plant, or plan to do so in the near future.



For volunteer opportunities, flyers, events, and more information about this initiative, contact

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WE WANT NEW MEXICO TO BE A BIG PART OF RENEWABLE AMERICA



READ THE RENEWABLE TAOS REGIONAL MARKET LETTER

TELL OUR POLITICAL AND BUSINESS LEADERS STATEWIDE TO MAKE OUR STATE A MAJOR SOURCE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY

THE NAVAJO COAL-FIRED GENERATING STATION NEAR PAGE, ARIZONA IS ONE OF THE LARGEST POLLUTERS IN OUR AMERICAN WEST

Other entities like Peabody Energy that supplies coal for the plant still want to find a way to keep the plant running. Nonetheless, continuing to operate the plant past 2019 appears to be an uphill battle.

Those concerned about impacts on the Navajo and Hopi Nations insist that the tribes develop and own wind and solar power stations. These facilities would allow the tribes to remain in the energy business while replacing the waning coal-based economy.

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, February 2017



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