



William Brown <swctaos@gmail.com>

Renewable Taos Newsletter - March 2017

1 message

William Brown <swctaos@gmail.com>
To: David Munoz <dmunoz@taosnet.com>

Sun, Mar 26, 2017 at 4:52 PM



Newsletter

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

XCEL ENERGY INVESTING BILLIONS FOR WIND ENERGY ACROSS SEVEN STATES

NEW MEXICO SITE WILL PROVIDE 522 MEGAWATTS OF NEW RENEWABLE ENERGY – ARE THERE OPPORTUNITIES FOR TAOS & VICINITY?

Xcel Energy, Inc. plans to spend \$3.5 to \$4.4 billion on building wind farms and purchasing wind power across seven states from the upper Midwest to Colorado, Texas and New Mexico.

The Minnesota-based company will add 1,550 megawatts of renewable energy from seven wind facilities in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Iowa. Wind farm additions in Colorado, New Mexico and Texas will add an additional 1,830 megawatts of wind power to Xcel’s renewable energy portfolio.

International giant **Vestas Wind Systems** will provide most of the wind turbines from its production facilities in Brighton and Windsor, Colorado.

**RENEWABLE
TAOS
NEWSLETTER
Volume 2
Issue 3
March 26, 2017**

**HELP US POWER
TAOS & VICINITY
WITH OUR
ABUNDANT SUN
AND WIND**



Xcel Energy Inc. proposes to build or buy 3,380 megawatts of renewable wind energy — enough to power more than 1,000,000 homes.

Xcel intends to build and own the **Sagamore Wind Project** to be located just south of Portales, NM. This facility will be rated at 522 megawatts, making it the largest to date in New Mexico when completed. Construction would begin in 2018 pending approval by the **New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC)**. The project, expected to come online in 2020, will include about 250 wind turbines.

Xcel's plans are big news for reducing carbon emissions. If the planned wind projects are operational by 2021, Xcel will have cut its carbon emissions by more than 45 percent compared with 2005 levels. Further, Xcel will have increased wind power to about 35 percent of its total power portfolio by 2021.

More wind power for New Mexico also benefits our citizens of Taos and vicinity. Kit Carson Electric Co-op's (KCEC) wholesale energy provider, Guzman Renewable Energy Partners, can buy wind power from eastern New Mexico at very low prices. This power can be routed to KCEC customers via the **Four Corners Electricity Trading Hub**, thereby offsetting our use and extra costs of coal-fired electric power.



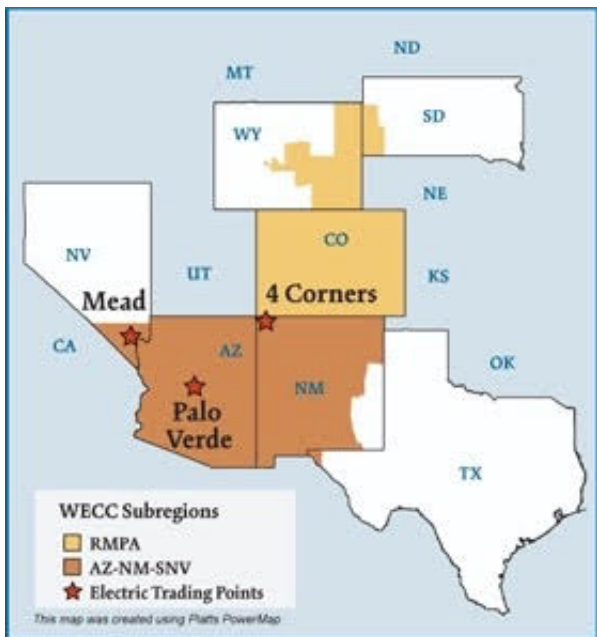
**JOIN RENEWABLE
TAOS TODAY!**

**KIT CARSON & GUZMAN
ENERGY ARE
EMBRACING THE SUN
FOR OUR LOCAL
ENERGY DEMANDS**



**READ ABOUT HOW KIT CARSON
ELECTRIC CO-OP AND GUZMAN
RENEWABLE ENERGY PARTNERS
ARE LAUNCHING A
PARTNERSHIP TO BRING SOLAR
POWER TO ALL OUR LOCAL
COMMUNITIES BY 2023.**

**RMI - THE ROCKY
MOUNTAIN INSTITUTE
OUR PARTNER AND
ADVISOR**



WESTERN ELECTRICITY GRID SUBREGIONS AND TRADING HUBS, INCLUDING FOUR CORNERS TO WHICH TAOS IS CONNECTED

(FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION)



"RMI advances market-based solutions, engaging businesses, communities, and institutions to cost-effectively shift to efficiency and renewables."

RENEWABLE TAOS HAS PARTNERED WITH RMI SINCE 2013 TO LEARN MORE ABOUT GETTING TO A 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY FUTURE.

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES NATIONWIDE ARE GOING BIG ON SOLAR

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NMRECA) recently reported that, by the end of 2017, the total solar energy capacity of America's electric cooperatives will be five times what it was two years ago.

Our co-ops are projected to add about 480 megawatts (MW) of new solar power in 2017. New Mexico is second only to Georgia for solar power among 44 USA states where electric co-ops are installing new solar facilities.



OUR LOCAL SOLAR SYSTEM INSTALLERS WILL PLUG YOU INTO THE SUN



CONTACT THEM TODAY FOR INFORMATION AND COST ESTIMATES

Community solar array, Minnesota Lake Region Electric Cooperative, Pelican Rapids, MN

NRECA data show that 68% of co-ops are motivated by increasing customer satisfaction, 58% cite consumer demand for solar energy, and 43% point to the declining costs of solar power.

UPGRADING OUR ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

Our massive electricity infrastructure needs continuous maintenance and improvements. As a local example, in the San Luis Valley just north of Taos County, Xcel Energy is investing about \$30 million in 2017 for transmission line rebuilds, new power transformers, and electrical substation upgrades.

Xcel will also add modern communications conduits (broadband) along transmission corridors — today a feature of nearly all new transmission builds and upgrades.

In our immediate area, electrical transmission lines built 30 to 40 years ago will always need rebuilds, upgrades and additions. How this happens will demand input from all sectors of our society.

The transmission corridor in southwestern Taos County (image below) contains two lines built 3-4 decades ago. They cross private and Pueblo lands, and lands controlled by the Town of Taos, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the State of New Mexico. Both lines in the corridor are currently owned by **Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc.**

THERE ARE MANY ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHOICES TODAY



OUR COUNTIES, TOWNS, VILLAGES, BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS NEED MORE ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS NOW!

WHAT CAN A MEGAWATT OF POWER DO?



ONE MEGAWATT OF POWER, AVAILABLE AROUND THE CLOCK, CAN SUPPLY ELECTRICITY DEMAND FOR ABOUT 1,500 RESIDENCES IN THE KIT CARSON ELECTRIC CO-OP SERVICE AREA.

SOLAR POWER MUST BE AUGMENTED WITH STORAGE TO MAKE POWER AVAILABLE IN THE ABSENCE OF SUNLIGHT.

KIT CARSON AND GUZMAN ARE PLANNING FOR BATTERY STORAGE ADDITIONS TO NEW SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC ARRAYS TO BE BUILT DURING



High-voltage electrical transmission lines owned by Tri-State carry coal-fired electricity into and through Taos County from distant power plants. This view looks southwesterly from West Rim Road. Renewable Taos, Kit Carson & Guzman Energy are looking into ways to have these lines carry more and more renewable energy.

Renewable Taos is researching options for renewable energy transmission and infrastructure upgrades for our clean energy future. We meet with a wide variety of stakeholders — political representatives, government agencies, business leaders, NGOs, utility regulators, utility principals, citizens and others — to discuss these upgrades.

Please contact us if you need information on our regional transmission and local distribution systems. We will appreciate your input on how our modern energy infrastructure should look.

info@RenewableTaos.org

2017-2022.

LET'S MAKE NEW MEXICO A MUCH BIGGER PART OF RENEWABLE AMERICA



KEEP TELLING OUR POLITICAL AND BUSINESS LEADERS STATEWIDE TO MAKE OUR STATE A MAJOR SOURCE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY, AND GROW OUR ECONOMY BY DOING THAT.



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.

#####

Edited by: William M. Brown, March 2017

This message was sent to Renewable Taos Members by swctaos@gmail.com

Renewable Taos, Inc.
502 Piñon Court
Taos, NM 87571
<http://www.renewabletaos.org>

Copyright Renewable Taos, Inc. 2017