



William Brown <swctaos@gmail.com>

Renewable Taos Newsletter - May 2017

1 message

William Brown <swctaos@gmail.com>
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.

UNM-TAOS STUDENTS GET A GRAND TOUR OF TAOS AREA RENEWABLE ENERGY

Renewable Taos, PPC Solar and Kit Carson Electric Co-op (KCEC) recently hosted a full-day field trip for UNM-Taos students enrolled in the Northern New Mexico Climate Change Corps (The CCC). The CCC is part of a Global Change and Climate Program funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Dr. Brooke A. Zanetell directs the program at UNM-Taos.

**RENEWABLE
TAOS
NEWSLETTER
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**IT'S OFTEN AN UPHILL
BATTLE...**



**...BUT WE KEEP GETTING
BIGGER, STRONGER AND
FASTER.**



Brooke Zanetell, Ph.D.

Program Director, The CCC, UNM-Taos

After serving as a Science Advisor at the US Department of State in Washington, DC, Brooke Zanetell moved to Taos, NM, to be back in the mountains. Dr. Zanetell graduated Summa Cum Laude in Biology from the University of Colorado in Boulder. She holds an M.S. and Ph.D. in Natural Resources from Cornell University and has published numerous articles on community-based natural resource management.

On May 18th, the students attended talks by Dan Weinman, CEO of PPC Solar and Luis A. Reyes, CEO of Kit Carson Electric to learn solar basics and elements of the new **Kit Carson Solar Plan**.

Participants visited the company-owned solar canopy at Kit Carson Electric, and the **Community Solar array at Taos Charter School**. In between, guides showed the students the electrical transmission and distribution lines necessary for connecting customers with renewable energy.

The tour included a visit to the large electrical substations near the south end of Blueberry Hill Road. There, electricity from the Four Corners area enters the KCEC distribution grid. Today most of that power comes from the coal-fired San Juan Generating Station.

However, students learned that the large transmission lines coming in from the west soon will be carrying more and more renewable energy, mainly from wind farms connected to the regional grid. Further, these lines offer the future opportunity for our local area to sell excess solar power generated here to customers elsewhere.

**JOIN RENEWABLE TAOS
AND GROW WITH US!**

**KIT CARSON & GUZMAN
RENEWABLE ENERGY
PARTNERS HAVE STARTED
BUILDING TWO NEW SOLAR
ARRAYS**



**SEE MAPS AND
DESCRIPTIONS OF THE
TRES PIEDRAS AND PICURIS
PUEBLO 1-MEGAWATT (MW)
SOLAR ARRAYS IN THE
KCEC SOLAR PLAN**

SHARE YOUR BRIGHT IDEAS



**READ AND COMMENT ON
BOB BRESNAHAN'S
WEBLOG**

USE AMAZON FOR SHOPPING?

**USE AMAZON SMILE TO MAKE
A DONATION TO RENEWABLE
TAOS**

Enroute to the final stop at UNM-Taos, participants stopped above the Taos Water Treatment Plant to view an area where a new 1-megawatt solar array will be built as part of the KCEC Solar Plan.

The trip concluded at the **UNM-Taos 500-kilowatt solar tracking array** that has been supplying the UNM-Taos Klauer Campus with abundant electricity since it went online in 2009. Dan Weinman explained how PPC Solar built the array in cooperation with Kit Carson Electric, and how the array operates.



Dan Weinman, CEO of PPC Solar in Taos explains operations of the 500-kilowatt (kW) solar tracking array that powers the UNM-Taos Klauer Campus.

Renewable Taos, Kit Carson Electric, PPC Solar and other local entities have participated in the UNM-Taos NNM CCC Program for the past three years.

We are proud of our continuing educational efforts. We are pleased that UNM-Taos seeks our expertise for field trips, presentations, and other ways to help students learn about how to participate in our growing clean energy economy.

TRILLIONS OF SOLAR POWER DOLLARS AT STAKE, BUT NEW MEXICO REMAINS ON THE SIDELINES

New projections show potential economic growth for solar energy of **\$2.8 trillion by 2035**. Sadly, New Mexico, with one of the top solar resources in the nation, has been slow to step away from planning for the continued use of obsolescent fossil fuels.



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THIS SUMMER**



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SOLAR INSTALLER TODAY
FOR INFORMATION AND
COST ESTIMATES**



Utilities with >500 megawatts (MW) of solar in their most recent Integrated Resource Plans (IRPs), but PNM is conspicuously absent.

You can click on the map for a better view of details, but there is no mistaking the empty space surrounded by Texas, Arizona, Utah and Colorado. Despite its vast solar resources, New Mexico continues to miss out on the huge economic development potential of solar energy.

The map shows only the solar energy component of IRPs, but all utilities shown in the West — **PacifiCorp, Xcel Energy, Tucson Electric Power** and **Austin Energy** — include huge amounts of wind power in their plans. Note that California, Washington and Oregon rely heavily on hydropower. California also buys electricity from 13 other western states — including New Mexico — and Alberta and British Columbia, Canada.

California has placed western states on notice that it is canceling its coal contracts with other states in favor of renewables. This begs the question of where New Mexico thinks it will sell coal and natural-gas fired energy in the very near future.

Renewable Taos continues to circulate its **initiative for New Mexico** to step up its commitment to a renewable energy economy. We are engaging legislators statewide to support a new energy plan for New Mexico that focuses on our vast solar and wind resources.

We are also discussing what kind of legislation to introduce in the 2019 NM Legislative Session to push New Mexico into participating in a modern, renewable America.

Please join us in these important efforts.

LAS CRUCES, NM NOW GETS ABOUT 20 PERCENT OF ITS ENERGY FROM SOLAR

Las Cruces, NM is putting its abundant solar resources to good use. Eight city facilities are now powered by solar arrays, including the new facility

NEW MEXICO CAN AND SHOULD PLAY A HUGE ROLE IN A CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY FOR AMERICA



TELL OUR POLITICAL, BUSINESS AND NGO LEADERS STATEWIDE TO MODERNIZE OUR ENERGY SYSTEMS, MAKE OUR STATE A MAJOR SOURCE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY, AND GROW OUR ECONOMY BY DOING THESE THINGS

COMING SOON — A CHEVROLET THAT RUNS ON THE WIND (AND SUN)



THE LOS ANGELES TIMES CALLS THE 2017 CHEVY BOLT "...AN ALL-ELECTRIC ALL-STAR — STURDY, SWIFT AND SILENT."

that went online at the Water Reclamation Plant in April.



East Mesa Water Reclamation Plant employees and Las Cruces' new solar photovoltaic power system. Photo by Josh Bachman, Las Cruces Sun-News, April 21, 2017.

The electricity bill for the city government was running about \$5 million each year. With the eight solar systems now operating — plus energy efficiency upgrades — the city's bill is expected to drop below \$4 million per year.

Taos is taking a similar direction with a new 1-megawatt solar array planned for powering the city's water treatment plant.

As new solar facilities come online in our local area, and Guzman Renewable Energy Partners buys more renewables from the regional grid, we will track our progress. Renewable Taos will report from time to time on the percentage of renewables we are getting to supply our electricity demands.

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.

RENEWABLE TAOS WANTS TO CREATE A BUYERS CLUB SO WE ALL CAN GET DISCOUNTS ON ELECTRIC VEHICLES (EVs) LIKE THE CHEVY BOLT



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Edited by: William M. Brown, May 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>

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