



William Brown <swctaos@gmail.com>

Renewable Taos Newsletter - November 2016

1 message

William Brown <swctaos@gmail.com>
To: William Brown <swctaos@gmail.com>

Mon, Nov 28, 2016 at 1:10 PM



Newsletter

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

KIT CARSON ELECTRIC PLANS FOR EXPANDING SOLAR ENERGY

Kit Carson Electric Cooperative, Inc. (KCEC) is promoting solar energy as a substantial part of its energy resource in the next few years. The KCEC Solar Deployment Plan calls for constructing several solar arrays at strategic locations throughout its service area.

The new solar arrays will be similar to the existing Blue Sky Mesa and Amalia 1 facilities, each of which is rated at about 1.5 megawatts (MW) of power. Facilities in the range of 1.0 to 1.5 MW easily integrate into KCEC's electricity distribution grid without technical issues or the need for major system upgrades.

RENEWABLE TAOS NEWSLETTER

Volume 1

Issue 11

November 28, 2016



RENEWABLE TAOS



BLUE SKY MESA 1.5-MW SOLAR TRACKING ARRAY, GRAVEL PIT ROAD, TAOS COUNTY, NM

We are at the cusp of a renewable energy transformation of unprecedented scale for our region. Under KCEC's Solar Plan, we can expect to begin seeing 100% of our summer daytime electricity demands being met by renewable energy within the next few years. This transformation promises to be accompanied by stable and predictable energy prices, and declining electricity rates as more renewable energy facilities come online.

Over the past few years, KCEC has worked with Renewable Taos and others to drive the growth of renewable energy in KCEC's service area. Our strategic partners in this effort include our new wholesale electricity provider, **Guzman Renewable Energy Partners (GREP)**; the **Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI)**; the **New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NMRECA)**; and **local governments throughout the Enchanted Circle** together with many local and regional groups and individuals.

The work by KCEC and its partners also serves as a model for other **Rural Electric Cooperatives (RECs)** throughout our region and the nation. KCEC has long been a regional and national leader in providing renewable energy to its customers.

NEEDS YOU!



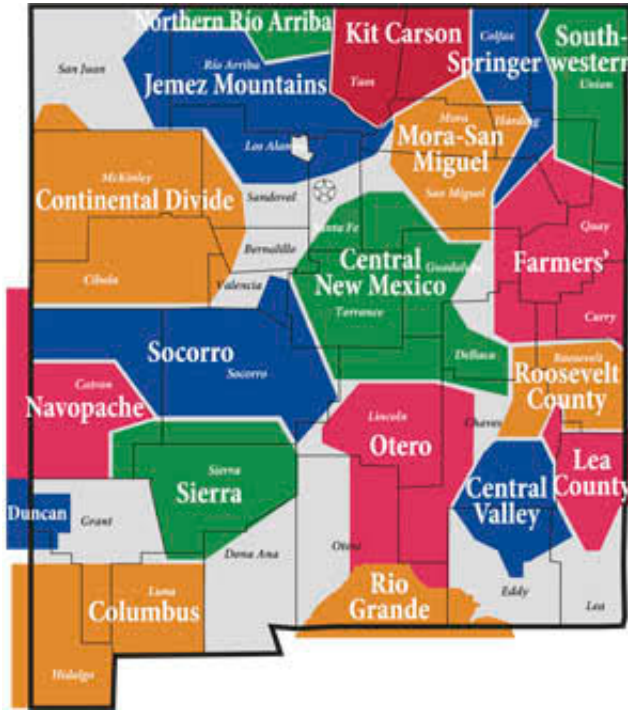
JOIN NOW!



WHAT IS KIT CARSON DOING FOR ITS CUSTOMERS? KCEC TRUSTEE BOB BRESNAHAN BLOGS ABOUT LATEST DEVELOPMENTS.

Read Bob's articles and offer your own comments on KCEC's activities and issues.

LEARN ABOUT ECONOMICAL ENERGY FOR YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS



**RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE (REC)
SERVICE AREAS IN NEW MEXICO**

We are very excited about the potential and promise of KCEC's solar deployment planning. Renewable Taos sees this work as a foundation upon which we can build into the future to provide renewable energy for all our citizens' heating, cooling, and transportation demands.

Renewable Taos and KCEC will provide more details on the KCEC Solar Deployment Plan as they become available. Please feel free to ask your questions about next steps.

info@RenewableTaos.org

Please urge our politicians, businesses, NGOs and others to support KCEC in making the changeover to renewable energy for all our energy demands. This effort will ensure both a sound economic future and our contribution to environmental care through developing clean energy — New Mexico's most valuable and abundant resource.

**ENERGY RESOURCE
CENTER IN SAN LUIS
VALLEY, COLORADO**

The Energy Resource Center San Luis Valley Office (ERC) provides free weatherization services for low income households. The ERC is an outgrowth of the national weatherization assistance program started by USA President Jimmy Carter 40 years ago.



**VISIT OUR TAOS AREA
SOLAR SYSTEMS
EXPERTS**

**OUR CLIMATE CRISIS IS
WORSENING YEAR BY YEAR**



**LEARN ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING
TO OUR PLANET AT THE U.S.
GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH
PROGRAM**

**GUZMAN RENEWABLE
ENERGY PARTNERS
SUPPLIES KIT CARSON
ELECTRIC WITH WHOLESALE**



THE ERC IN ALAMOSA, CO SERVES LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS THROUGHOUT THE SAN LUIS VALLEY'S SIX COUNTIES

The ERC has operated in the San Luis Valley for about 15 years. During the past year, ERC serviced more than 100 homes. ERC staff fully assess homes to determine the most effective energy-saving improvements. Typically, these include insulation, a new furnace or hot water heater, and replacing windows.

Charlie Sanchez, ERC Program Director for the San Luis Valley, says "...for too many Valley families, utility costs are 40 percent of their income. This program has a big impact on that, trying to bring those utility bills down."

ERC partners with [San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative](#), [Xcel Energy](#), and others. The nonprofit organization receives U.S. Department of Energy grants through the Colorado Energy Office.



ERC employs 14 people, receives 30 to 40 applications per week, and currently has a waiting list of about 300 people with a wait time projected at 18 to 24 months.

NEW MEXICO WIND PROVIDES POWER TO THE WESTERN USA GRID

New Mexico's vast wind power resources, mostly in the eastern half of our state, are being tapped to provide power for the [Western USA electricity grid](#).

ELECTRICITY.



GUZMAN IS SEEKING TO PURCHASE RENEWABLE ENERGY FROM THE REGIONAL GRID TO SUPPLY TAOS AND VICINITY WITH MORE CLEAN ENERGY.

THE NEW MEXICO SOLAR ENERGY ASSOCIATION NMSEA



LEARN ABOUT AND SUPPORT NMSEA - ONE OF THE FIRST SOLAR AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ORGANIZATIONS IN THE USA

USA AND TAOS AREA HOUSEHOLD ELECTRICITY USE

The El Cabo Wind Farm, located about 60 miles southeast of Albuquerque near Estancia, NM, is expected to go online by the end of 2017.

The El Cabo facility will consist of about 149 wind turbines with a nameplate output of 298 megawatts (MW). The facility is being built on private and NM State Trust Lands in Torrance County near Estancia.

Power from the El Cabo facility will be sold to **Southern California Edison Company (SCE) under a 20-year Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)**. NM already has about one dozen wind farms that supply power to customers in West Texas, New Mexico and Arizona.

New Mexico has the potential to produce far more electricity from wind that its entire population could demand. This places New Mexico in a favorable position for exporting wind power and offsetting the fossil-fuel generated power it currently exports.

Avangrid Renewables is building the project, together with other wind power facilities in California, Colorado, Vermont and North Carolina. Avangrid Renewables is part of Iberdrola Renewables, S.A., a global energy giant with the largest renewable energy asset base of any company in the world.



Avangrid Renewables, LLC is headquartered in Portland, Oregon, and has more than \$10 billion of operating assets totaling more than 6,000 MW of owned and controlled wind and solar generation in 19 U.S. states.

Avangrid/Iberdrola facilities in our region include a 30-megawatt (MW) solar tracking array near Mosca, CO, about 105 miles north of Taos, NM.

Gamesa of Madrid, Spain will supply the wind turbines for the El Cabo facility. Gamesa will provide 142 turbines, each having a nameplate output of 2.1 megawatts (MW).



IN 2015, THE AVERAGE AMERICAN RESIDENTIAL UTILITY CUSTOMER USED 10,812 KILOWATT-HOURS (KWH) OF ELECTRICITY. THIS IS AN AVERAGE OF 901 KWH PER MONTH.



(IMAGE BY NMSEA)

HOUSEHOLDS IN THE KIT CARSON ELECTRIC CO-OP SERVICE AREA USED ABOUT 479 KWH PER MONTH DURING 2015.



GAMESA OF MADRID SPAIN IS A GLOBAL TECHNOLOGICAL LEADER IN THE WIND INDUSTRY. GAMESA OPERATES IN 55 COUNTRIES, AND HAS INSTALLED MORE THAN 35,800 MEGAWATTS (MW) OF WIND POWER DURING THE PAST 22 YEARS.



"The El Cabo wind complex will be capable of meeting the energy needs of over 200,000 households, while preventing the emission of around 447,000 tonnes of CO₂ (equivalent to the greenhouse gas emissions of some 149,000 cars in one year)."

Renewable Taos, Inc. continues to advocate for New Mexico to upgrade our renewable energy infrastructure. We want our state to emphasize utility-scale renewable energy generation and transmission for both **New Mexico and Western Grid customers.**

Please read our [Regional Market Letter](#) being sent to renewable energy stakeholders statewide.

Please join us by urging politicians, businesses, NGOs and others to make the changeover to a sound economic future by developing clean energy — New Mexico's most valuable and abundant resource.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS FOR TAOS

Renewable Taos is tracking the new era of electric vehicle (EV) travel in our region. This era is well underway in our region, but we want to see it realized in and around Taos, NM.

A regional map of EV charging stations in northern New Mexico and southern Colorado shows a big gap near Taos and the Enchanted Circle. EV drivers use the map to plan trips, and our businesses and governments should be welcoming these visitors by providing public charging stations.

Some other cities in our region that now provide public charging include Los Alamos, Santa Fe, Las Vegas, and Farmington, NM and Pagosa Springs, Durango, Cortez, Telluride, Ouray, and Trinidad, CO.

Taos Ski Valley is also in the process of including EV charging stations as a part of its new construction.



BENEFITS OF A REGIONAL ENERGY MARKET

A regional energy market would better use resources, especially renewables, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and costs.

Enabling the ISO's sophisticated market and grid optimization systems to pick the lowest cost energy to serve demand and give preference to renewable resources across a wide geographic region also means grid planners can build a cleaner, more resilient energy generation and delivery network that will create tangible economic benefits.

— CALIFORNIA INDEPENDENT SYSTEM OPERATOR (CAISO), 2016

ELECTRIFY ALL OUR ENERGY DEMANDS WITH RENEWABLES!



Electrify everything.



Combining electric vehicle (EV) charging stations with solar photovoltaic (PV) systems helps lower both electric and petroleum bills while supporting zero-emission vehicles and energy systems. – USEPA

Renewable Taos especially wants to see passenger cars and other EVs charged with renewable energy.

Our members are approaching the Town of Taos and other governments and businesses around the Enchanted Circle with technical and cost information on installing EV charging stations.

Please join us in asking our political representatives and business leaders to look into EV charging stations for Taos and vicinity.

Let's get Taos and the Enchanted Circle on the electric vehicle charging map without delay!

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.

#####

Replace fuel combustion technologies like gasoline vehicles and natural gas heating and cooling with alternatives that run on renewable electricity. Get as much of our energy consumption as possible hooked up to the renewables power grid.

VOX

SEPTEMBER 19, 2016



Renewable Taos continues sending its Regional Market Letter statewide in New Mexico.



Edited by: William M. Brown, November 2016

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. 2016