



William Brown <swctaos@gmail.com>

Renewable Taos Newsletter - September 2016

1 message

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

Wed, Sep 28, 2016 at 1:43 PM



Newsletter

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

**ELECTRIFY EVERYTHING
WITH RENEWABLES TO
TACKLE CLIMATE
CHANGE**

Reducing emissions from fossil fuels means replacing energy from coal, natural gas, and petroleum products with much cleaner energy.



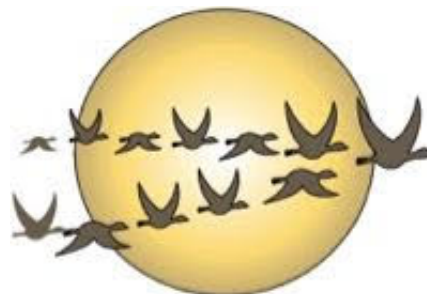
"Tackling climate change is a complicated undertaking, to say the least. But here's a good

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**BE A RENEWABLE
TAOS MEMBER**

rule of thumb for how to get started:

Electrify everything.

Replace technologies that still run on combustion, like gasoline vehicles and natural gas heating and cooling, with alternatives that run on electricity, like electric vehicles and heat pumps. Get as much of our energy consumption as possible hooked up to the power grid."

Cleaning up our existing electricity sector is not enough. Energy efficiency is not enough. As [a recent article in Vox explains](#), "What we want is ***emissions efficiency.***"

To get there, we need to provide for most or all our energy demands — lighting, heating, cooling, cooking, transportation — with cleaner energies.

We can do this now. Today's clean energy technology and economics easily support a rapid move away from burning more fossil fuels. Solar and wind energy costs are at all time lows. Renewables today are cheaper than all other forms of energy.



The David Roberts article in Vox offers a clear explanation of the importance of renewable electricity in combatting climate change.

Renewable Taos advocates [a phased approach to replacing fossil fuel energy with renewables](#) for the Kit Carson Electric Cooperative, Inc. (KCEC) Service Area and northern New Mexico. Our mission of having 100% renewable energy for our region covers all energy consumption.

The first phase is to generate or purchase renewable energy for all electricity services currently provided by KCEC.

The second phase is to replace replace natural gas and propane heating with solar thermal and/or solar-electric and/or wind/electric heating.



JOIN NOW!



GRASP ELECTRICITY AND OTHER ISSUES BY READING BOB BRESNAHAN'S BLOG ON KIT CARSON ELECTRIC CO-OP

See Bob's perspectives and offer your own comments on KCEC and our regional transition to a clean energy economy.



THE U.S. GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH PROGRAM PROVIDES ABUNDANT INFORMATION ON OUR CLIMATE CRISIS

The third phase is to replace transportation fuels (gasoline and diesel) by increasing the use of electric vehicles charged with renewable energy.

These phases will overlap depending upon the pace of renewable energy adoption and availability of electric and hybrid gasoline-electric vehicles.

Electrifying all our energy demands with renewables also benefits KCEC's financial bottom line as electricity demand increases.

[Please join Renewable Taos to help realize our goals, and contact us at any time with your questions.](#)

RENEWABLE TAOS POSITION ON A REGIONAL MARKET FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY

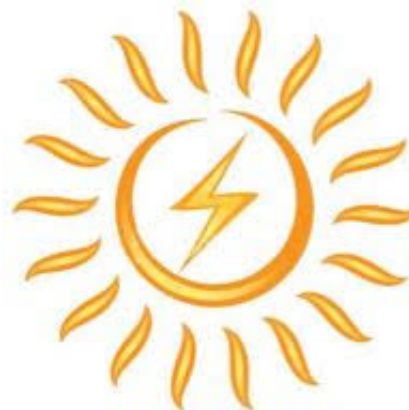
Renewable Taos, Inc. is sending a letter statewide urging support for a regional market for renewable energy.

Our letter asks for:

New Mexico's participation in a regional market for energy services for the Western Interconnection electric power grid.

Renewable energy infrastructure and upgrades with an emphasis on utility-scale renewable energy generation and transmission throughout New Mexico.

Substantial investment of **State Investment Council (SIC)** and other New Mexico funds in renewable energies – notably wind and solar power – that are now in strong demand throughout our region.



**SUPPORT OUR LOCAL
SOLAR SYSTEMS
INSTALLERS!**

2 CANADIAN
PROVINCES

14 WESTERN
US STATES

NORTHERN
BAJA
MEXICO



**THE WESTERN INTERCONNECTION
OR "WESTERN GRID" SPANS 14 USA
STATES AND PARTS OF MEXICO
AND CANADA.**

**NEW MEXICO IS CONNECTED TO
THIS GRID VIA NORTHERN NM
TRANSMISSION TO FOUR CORNERS
NEAR FARMINGTON, NM AND
SOUTHERN NM TRANSMISSION TO
THE PHOENIX AREA, AZ.**



The Renewable Taos Regional Market Letter is being sent statewide in New Mexico.

We are sending this letter to a substantial list of federal, state and local political representatives plus federal and state agencies, businesses, NGOs and other selected parties. The letter will be part of an invitation package for a renewable energy planning meeting to be hosted by Taos County within the next 3-4 months.

Please feel free to comment on the contents of our letter, or ask your questions about next steps.

info@RenewableTaos.org

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.

NM SENATOR MARTIN HEINRICH HOSTS ENERGY SUMMIT IN ALBUQUERQUE

U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich, a member of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources hosted the [2016 Energy Summit: Energy Storage Strategies for Industry & National Security](#) on August 23 in Albuquerque, NM.

According to a [Press Release](#), "The event brought together more than 200 industry leaders, scientists, grid and national security experts, and featured presentations and panel discussions with representatives from the U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Department of Defense, Sandia



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.

—CAISO, 2016

National Laboratories, Tesla, SolarCity, AES Energy Storage, the California Independent System Operator, Global Energy Storage Alliance, Energy Storage Association, and the San Francisco Department of the Environment."

Renewable Taos members attended this meeting and were able to speak with renewable energy and energy storage industry leaders. This was our first face-to-face contact with a representative of the [California Independent System Operator \(CAISO\)](#) that is working towards a regional renewable energy market for the [Western Grid](#).

Kit Carson Electric Cooperative (KCEC) is seeking to develop renewable energy storage demonstration projects in our service area. The U.S. Department of Energy and others are providing grants for the KCEC energy storage demonstrations. We will update our members about progress on these projects as new information becomes available.

"Storage allows energy users to time-shift power from intermittent renewable sources from peak producing hours -- noontime solar and nighttime wind -- to the hours of peak demand, allows utilities to move energy around to where it's most needed and lower costs by reducing the need to build new power plants and transmission lines, and provides backup power in case of emergencies, like hurricanes, earthquakes, and cyberattacks."

— [Senator Martin Heinrich Press Release, August 23, 2016](#)

The costs of battery energy storage are dropping rapidly, and battery energy storage projects are now being built in California and [elsewhere in the USA Southwest](#).

Renewable Taos is actively pursuing pathways to the electricity grid of the future, including integrating energy storage into the grid.

As discussed at the [Energy Summit](#), the modern grid will allow businesses and households to store clean power. Utilities like [Guzman Renewable Energy Partners](#) and KCEC will provide an array of energy services in addition to bulk power. The grid will be more decentralized, and our power supply will become cleaner, more efficient and more reliable.

"We all know that reducing energy consumption and modernizing our nation's electric grid isn't just about creating thousands of new jobs, or harnessing our clean energy potential in America."



GUZMAN RENEWABLE ENERGY PARTNERS IS THE WHOLESALE ELECTRICITY PROVIDER FOR KIT CARSON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

"It is also about meeting our moral imperative to cut carbon pollution and mitigate the devastating and costly consequences of climate change, from longer droughts, larger forest fires, and increased floods."

— Senator Martin Heinrich, August 23, 2016

SHARP ELECTRONICS INSTALLS FIRST SOLAR PLUS STORAGE SYSTEM FOR ALBUQUERQUE, NM CHARITY

Sharp Electronics Corporation (Sharp) partnered with Affordable Solar Installation, Inc (ASI) to create New Mexico's first commercial solar plus storage installation on September 6, 2016.



The project features two Sharp 30-kilowatt (kW) SmartStorage systems to back up Roadrunner Food Bank's existing 366-kW solar array.

"Currently, the [Roadrunner] food bank pays on average \$180,000 a year in utility bills, with an estimated 30 percent going toward demand charges. The solar plus storage system is expected to save the food bank approximately \$30,000/year in utility charges. The annual savings equates to approximately 150,000 meals in food distributed every year."

— Market Wired, September 6, 2016

Sharp claims that the Roadrunner Food Bank solar array is one of the largest rooftop solar installations in New Mexico.



**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE OBAMA
ADMINISTRATION'S CLEAN ENERGY
FOR ALL AMERICANS INITIATIVE**

"More than 120 housing authorities, rural electric co-ops, power companies, and organizations in more than 36 states across the country are committing to investing \$287 million and putting in place more than 280 megawatts (MW) of solar energy projects, including projects to help low- and moderate-income communities save on their energy bills and further the deployment of community solar."



**Learn more about electricity
"demand charges" here.**

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, September 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>

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