



2019 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

NEW ENERGY ECONOMY

Our mission is to build a renewable energy future for our health and the environment.

Founded in 2004, New Energy Economy employs a two pronged strategy to address our climate challenge with bold solutions:

1) We defend our communities against corporate-led fossil fuel and nuclear extraction and exploitation through targeted legal interventions, public policy advocacy, and community organizing 2) We create models of the alternatives - clean energy projects that promote community-based solutions, cultivate authentic advocacy from diverse stakeholders, increase solar energy equity, and demonstrate the tangible cost-saving, environmental, and health benefits of renewables.

Our role in the just energy transition is that of interpreter, capacity-builder, and advocate.

We provide technical and legal information that communities across New Mexico need to protect themselves from the social, economic, health, and environmental costs of extractive energy and to realize their visions for a sustainable energy future.

We educate, organize, and build the capacity of community leaders in order to cultivate energy democracy and provide opportunities for communities to raise their voices for clean, affordable energy alternatives.

We hold utility companies accountable under the law and push for public policy to open the pathway for a clean energy future. We work with communities to fight corporate greed and exploitation and expose the vision of what is possible.

OUR PLEDGE:

To build a fossil-fuel and nuclear-free economy that stewards both the health of our environment and our communities. A Just Transition to renewable energy means rectifying social inequity, invigorating our democracy, and fostering economic and environmental justice.



new energy economy

Addressing the Climate Challenge
With Bold Solutions

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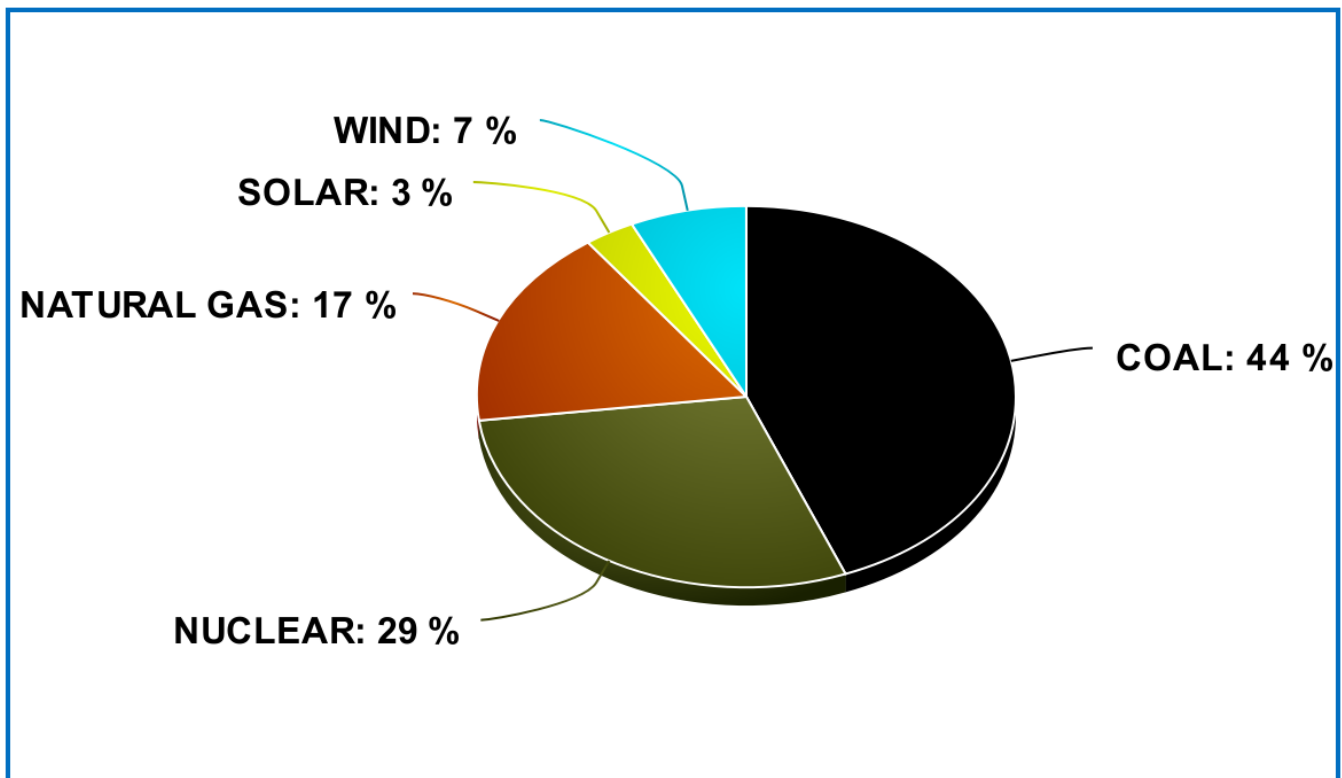
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NM'S ENERGY LANDSCAPE

THE OPPORTUNITY

2019 promises to be a pivotal moment in the struggle to boldly address climate change. Together, we will undertake some of the largest regulatory and legislative campaigns in our State's history that will expose the potential for 100% renewable energy.

WHERE WE ARE TODAY



WHERE WE NEED TO BE

We need a path to reach 100% renewable energy. The latest United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report calls on all of humanity to seize this 11th hour opportunity and turn to renewable energy with vigor in order to cut the risks of extreme heat, drought, floods and poverty. New Mexico is 2nd in the country for solar potential and 7th for wind – we can and MUST start leading the transition to a renewable energy economy. Our communities stand to benefit enormously as we find ways to redirect the 100s of millions of electricity dollars that are currently siphoned from our communities to Wall Street BACK into our own communities.

The solutions are affordable and feasible. Politics is our greatest obstacle.

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OUR TOP-TIER BILLS

LOCAL CHOICE ELECTRICITY

Local Choice Electricity (LCE) allows local governments, and sovereign Native American tribes to pool their electricity-buying-power and decide how their electricity is produced – whether through independent producers, existing utilities, or owning and producing it themselves. Then, the community choice electricity is sold to community residents and businesses. Established by law in 7 states thus far, LCE is an energy supply model that works in partnership with the state's existing utility companies which continue to deliver power, maintain the grid, provide consolidated billing and other customer services. LCE fully opens the market to competition.

This legislation only requires the PRC to develop LCE-enabling rules and a timetable for implementation. LCE enables municipalities, and sovereign Native American tribes to create local wealth by producing and selling clean energy and using profits to support other community needs. The money will stay local instead of leaving the state to the benefit of Wall Street shareholders. **Sponsor: Senator Jeff Steinborn**

COMMUNITY SOLAR

Local community solar allows multiple participants to share the cost-saving benefits of a single solar installation. It is a simple tool that provides everyone the opportunity to choose local, reliable, and cost-effective clean energy. 19 states have already passed laws enabling community solar programs.

Sovereign Native American tribes, municipalities, and businesses can build the solar facilities, and the utility companies will transmit it on the grid. Residents and businesses can subscribe, or purchase shares in the solar facility, and the value of electricity generated from those shares is credited to their electricity bill. Community solar opens up the market to competition by energy suppliers, including municipal governments, sovereign Native American tribes, and third-parties to own solar arrays, produce electricity, and make them available to customers. **Sponsor: Senator Liz Stefanics**

COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENT (RFP&INDEPENDENT EVALUATOR)

Requiring a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) bidding process for any new energy resource acquisitions by investor-owned-electric-utilities, with oversight by an independent evaluator. This will ensure that the utilities' procurement process is truly competitive, transparent to regulators and the public, unbiased, free of conflicts of interest, and bring New Mexico into line with practice of many states. The law will protect public interest by ensuring compliance with legal requirements for utilities to select the most cost-effective electricity. Because renewables are the most cost-effective option, renewables win!

Sponsor: Senator Joseph Cervantes

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BILLS WE SUPPORT

INFRASTRUCTURE AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS - SOLARIZING OUR COMMUNITY BUILDINGS

By infusing capital outlay dollars into state, county, municipal, and sovereign Native American tribes's solar projects and into the local renewable energy markets, New Mexico legislators will create dignified family-supporting jobs, bolster long-term health for city and county budgets, and take tangible action to address climate change. By solarizing recreation centers, community / senior centers, transportation facilities, libraries, fire stations, and more, we are investing in the long term fiscal health of operating budgets. Solar projects are unique capital investments that pay us back by generating substantial savings that may be redirected toward programs serving the public good.

SOLAR TAX CREDIT

There is a federal tax credit that allows individuals and businesses to deduct 30% of the cost of installing a solar energy system from their respective federal taxes. There used to be a 10% NM tax credit, but it expired. Programs such as New Mexico's residential tax credits have helped solar energy grow in NM. Between 2009 and 2014, 27.4 megawatts (MW) of solar energy were reinstalled by the residential sector in NM.

RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD

Continuation and expansion of the Renewable Portfolio Standard to mandate that all utilities are 50 percent renewable by 2030 and 80 percent renewable by 2040. PNM and El Paso Electric generate 1 and 2% solar respectively of their total electricity sales. New Mexico has world-class potential to generate wind and solar electricity. An ambitious RPS will require all New Mexico utilities to invest in renewables and abandon expensive and climate harming plans that double-down on fossil fuel and nuclear energy generation.

BILLS TO ASSESS

REFORM PRC ELECTION/APPOINTMENT PROCESS

Bills are likely to be introduced during the 2019 session to change selection of PRC Commissioners. We support having some PRC Commissioners elected and some appointed through a bipartisan qualification/selection process.

"PNM'S ENERGY TRANSITION ACT"

Unless the following are included we will fight to defeat this bill: the bill must allow for competition for replacement power after the coal-fired San Juan Generation Station closes in 2022, ensure PRC maintains authority over cost-recovery and replacement power; include San Juan siting mandate; allow for wind resources; protect against overbuilding of power generation; NOT set a precedent for future bailouts; the transition fund must be responsibly managed and allocated; PNM must pay a fair share for economic recovery.

