

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF SANTA FE COUNTY  
RESOLUTION NO. 2018 - \_\_\_\_\_**

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**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF STATE OF  
NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE INITIATIVES AND  
ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS THAT REDUCE  
GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS THROUGH ENERGY  
EFFICIENCY, RENEWABLE ENERGY PRODUCTION,  
WATER CONSERVATION  
AND WATERSHED MANAGEMENT**

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**WHEREAS**, consensus exists among the world's leading climate scientists that climate change caused by emissions of greenhouse gases from human activities is among the most significant problems threatening ecological stability and human well-being today; and

**WHEREAS**, documented impacts of climate change include, but are not limited to, increased occurrences of extreme weather events (e.g. droughts, floods, fires, hurricanes) adversely impacting ecosystems, demographic patterns, human health, wildlife, and economic value chains; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2015 *Santa Fe Basin Study-Adaptations to Projected Changes in Water Supply and Demand* concluded that, as a result of greenhouse gas emissions, the native Rio Grande and Santa Fe River water supplies relied upon by the County's water utility are projected to be reduced by approximately 33% by the 2050s, and that a significant reduction in snowpack will occur; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County (Board) has expressed its intent to support greenhouse gas emission reduction within the County and the community in numerous resolutions including most recently Resolution No. 2017-68 in which the County agrees to reduce greenhouse gas emissions per the targets set in the Paris Agreement in order to limit global mean temperature increase to less than 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, with an expectation that this goal should be reduced to 1.5 degrees in the future; and

**WHEREAS**, in Resolution No. 2017-24, the Board supported Senate Bill 360 requiring the competitive resource procurement for electric utilities in the State of New Mexico; and

**WHEREAS**, many state and local governments in New Mexico, including Santa Fe County, have already begun reducing their greenhouse gas emissions through implementing energy efficiency, waste reduction, recycling, water conservation, fleet efficiency, and renewable energy production in County facilities and operations; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC) has opened a docket, NMPRC No. 17-00211-UT, to consider a rule that would have electric utilities in New Mexico reduce their carbon footprint by 4 percent per year from 2012 levels, with an 80% reduction required by 2040; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board wishes to encourage and work with the State of New Mexico, other counties in New Mexico, and local governments to continue to prioritize the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Mexico State Legislature, New Mexican counties, and other local governments in New Mexico have significant opportunities to provide incentives and resources to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

**WHEREAS**, policies that will increase reliance on renewable energy resources that New Mexico is well qualified to provide have and will continue to create economic opportunities for the citizens and businesses of New Mexico;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board as follows:

1. Santa Fe County supports legislation that raises the renewable energy portfolio standards to 50% renewables by 2030 and for 80% by 2040 for all New Mexican electric utilities.
2. Santa Fe County supports a NMPRC rule that establishes a State clean energy standard to reduce the State's electric utilities' carbon footprint by 80% by 2040 below 2012 levels.
3. Santa Fe County supports legislation to provide a state tax credit for residential and business property owners who install renewable energy production systems and/or battery storage systems.
4. Santa Fe County supports pricing greenhouse gas emissions, whether via a carbon fee-and-dividend system, carbon tax, clean energy standard, or other mechanism, at a level designed to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius in accordance with the Paris Agreement.
5. Santa Fe County supports legislation to enable community solar electric projects in New Mexico.
6. Santa Fe County supports legislation requiring electric utilities to use competitive and transparent resource procurement practices.

7. Santa Fe County supports legislation to reduce waste and increase recycling.
8. Santa Fe County supports extended producer responsibility legislation.
9. Santa Fe County supports legislation and administrative actions that requires the capture of natural gas that might otherwise be vented and flared.
10. Santa Fe County supports legislation and agency actions that protect open space and wildlife and the ecosystem benefits they provide.
11. The Board directs staff to work with New Mexico Association of Counties, the City of Santa Fe, and other local governmental entities to build support for legislative and administrative priorities promoting the matters identified herein.
12. The Board directs staff to participate with partners in tracking and supporting State laws consistent with this Resolution as they are heard, implemented, and enforced by the Public Regulation Commission (PRC).

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 11<sup>th</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER, 2018.**

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANTA FE COUNTY**

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Anna Hansen, Chair

ATTESTATION:

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Geraldine Salazar, County Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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Bruce Fredrickson, County Attorney