



## Next steps for New Mexico to go solar by 2020

### Moving forward toward reaching 10 percent goal

As a next step in our campaign to get 10 percent of our energy from the sun by 2020, Environment New Mexico has been communicating the benefits of solar to more businesses, citizens and allies across the state.

So far, in the past four months, we've been able to talk to thousands of New Mexicans about the environmental, health and economic impacts of repowering New Mexico with solar power.

"We've been able to share with many New Mexicans our research on what getting our power from the sun could do for our state and its citizens," said Environment New Mexico Director Sanders Moore. "We've received an incredible outpouring of support and so many people have jumped on the solar bandwagon."

#### 310 days of sun every year

With more than 310 days of sunshine annually, New Mexico has the second greatest solar potential in the United States. Despite this massive potential, states like New Jersey are ahead of us in terms of solar production.

Instead, New Mexico is still far too dependent on dirty energy sources that pollute our air, water and open spaces and cause serious health problems.

But the detrimental impacts of being tied to dangerous and dirty energies of the past could be remedied by reaching our goal



Photo: Jean Browman, Creative Commons

▲ *New Mexicans installing solar at their home.*

of getting 10 percent of New Mexico's energy from the sun by 2020.

#### 19,000 jobs by 2016

Not only is solar energy a no-brainer for our health and environment, it's also a boost for our economy. The solar industry in New Mexico is projected to create 19,000 jobs by 2016. These local jobs can't be outsourced, and they're expected

to pay, on average, \$3 more per hour than many other jobs.

"While we certainly have a long way to go, it's good to know that we have a lot of people behind us to make this goal happen," said Moore. "Who knows, maybe we'll even bypass our 10 percent goal completely!"



Photo: Sharon Sperry Bloom, Flickr

### more online



For more information on our efforts to get 10 percent of our energy from the sun by 2020 visit: [www.EnvironmentNewMexico.org](http://www.EnvironmentNewMexico.org) or find us on facebook at [facebook.com/EnvironmentNM](https://www.facebook.com/EnvironmentNM).

◀ [Organ Mountains](#)



Photo: Staff

## To our members

In these first months of 2013, I've had the chance to reflect on last year's victories and set up for another year of success.

I'll have to admit that at this time last year, I was quite nervous of all we had to go up against: namely the polluters and their many friends in Congress chomping at the bit to block any effort we tried to put forth. But I was quickly empowered after seeing that you and the thousands of other members were eager to push past these polluters.

This winter, the same dirty polluters were at it again. But even in just the first three months of the year, we've already seen some huge momentum for re-powering our state with solar and wind and preserving the places we love. The work we've done in the first months of this year shows that it's going to be a powerful spring, summer and fall to come.

Thanks for your support,

Sanders Moore  
Director

## Recent action

### Applause for life-saving soot standards

On Dec. 14, we applauded the Obama administration for strengthening air quality standards for particulate matter or "soot" pollution by approximately 20 percent.

Soot pollution is the deadliest of all common air pollutants, causing thousands of premature deaths every year across the country through a variety of cardiovascular and respiratory illnesses. It also contributes to haze that hangs over many of New Mexico's cities, towns and parks. Sources of soot pollution include power plants and diesel trucks and buses.

The strengthened standards, which were supported by Environment New Mexico, better reflect the latest scientific research. The new standard will outline how much soot pollution can be in the air and still be safe to breathe.

### For the Gila and the Pecos, the time is now

Over the past decade, polluter-friendly Supreme Court decisions have left more than half of our streams and wetlands open to unlimited dumping and development. Then, in 2011, at the urging of Environment New Mexico and our allies across the country, the Environmental Protection Agency proposed guidelines to fix these loopholes in the Clean Water Act.

It's been almost two years. So we began asking: why hasn't President Obama finalized these crucial guidelines?

The main culprits are big polluters and their anti-environment allies in Congress. They've been doing everything in their power to block the president from restoring these vital protections for our rivers, like the Gila and the Pecos. When it comes to protecting our waters, there should be no hesitation. It is too important to risk. That's why we're making an all-out push this winter to show the president the support he needs to finalize these commonsense guidelines and protect all our waterways for good.

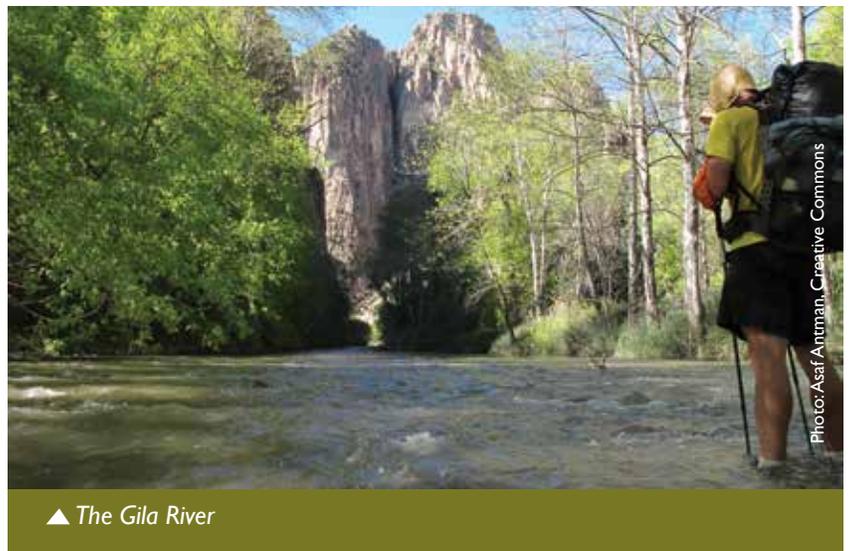


Photo: Asaf Antman, Creative Commons

▲ The Gila River

# Wind power for a cleaner, greener New Mexico

Photo: J. N. Stuart, Creative Commons

After this past summer's extreme drought and then a fall and winter featuring extreme weather across the country, Environment New Mexico Research and Policy Center was prompted to release a report documenting the environmental and public health benefits of repowering New Mexico with cleaner energy.

## Like taking 232,000 cars off the road

Our report, "Wind Power for a Cleaner America," shows that New Mexico's current power generation from wind energy displaces as much global warming pollution as taking 232,000 cars off the road per year and that wind power saves enough water to meet the needs of 11,600 New Mexicans.

Nationally, wind energy currently saves more than enough water nationwide to meet the needs of a city the size of Boston, and there is still plenty of room for growth.

"As our state is still healing from severe drought, we must invest wisely in a future with cleaner air, fewer extreme weather events, and smart use of our water resources," said Rikki Seguin, field associate with Environment New Mexico. "Time is running out."

## Doubled wind power since 2008

America has more than doubled its use of wind power since the beginning of 2008. National wind energy now displaces about 68 million metric tons of global warming pollution each year—as much as is produced by 13 million cars.

In January, President Obama signed into law a bill that extends key tax credits for wind power and averts the 'fiscal cliff.' The main federal incentives for wind power—the renewable energy Production Tax Credit (PTC) and the offshore wind Investment Tax Credit (ITC)—had expired on Dec. 31, 2012, but the new law will now be available for wind power projects that start construction over the next year, allowing for continued growth of New Mexico and American wind power.

If construction of new wind energy projects continues from 2013 to 2016 at a pace comparable to that of recent years, the United States could reduce global warming pollution by an additional 56 million metric tons in 2016.

## 340 less tons of soot pollution

Our report also outlined that today's wind energy in New Mexico is benefiting the health of all New Mexicans by avoiding 1,830 tons of smog-causing pollution and 340 tons of soot pollution.

"We need to increase the environmental and health benefits of wind energy by increasing wind power in our state," said pulmonologist Dr. Dona Upson. "With so many New Mexicans suffering from respiratory diseases, such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and because of the disproportionate impact of air pollution on children's lungs, the clean air benefits of wind power can help improve and save lives."



Photo: Staff

## more online



▲ *Environment New Mexico Staff, alongside PRC Commissioner Jason Marks, releasing the report "Wind Power for a Cleaner America"*

Read more online at:  
[www.EnvironmentNewMexicoCenter.org](http://www.EnvironmentNewMexicoCenter.org)



Photo: Staff

## Environment New Mexico welcomes Rikki Seguin

Rikki Seguin joined Environment New Mexico's staff as a field associate in August. Prior to joining our staff, Rikki organized students and citizens to take on some of the most pressing environmental issues in the country, including protecting the Pacific Ocean by banning plastic grocery bags on the west coast. Rikki received her B.A. in Physics and B.S. in Astronomy from the University of Florida.

*What motivates you to protect New Mexico's environment?*

During college, I had the opportunity to study elk populations in the Jemez Mountains. Through this, I saw the real impacts of human behavior on our environment, which ignited my desire to work to lessen these impacts. I'm incredibly excited to be back in New Mexico, fighting to protect the places that I fell in love with years ago.

*What is your favorite part of your job?*

Working with members to take action on the issues they are most passionate about. In the coming months, I am looking forward to lobbying alongside of members in Santa Fe, as well as working with them to submit opinion pieces to local news outlets.

*What environmental issue are you most passionate about?*

As an avid hiker, land and forest preservation has always been one of my top issues. Especially in a place like New Mexico, we should keep our special places open for generations to come.

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## Winter Report

VOLUME 7 | NO. 3 | 2013

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## Environment New Mexico

### Our mission

We all want clean air, clean water and open spaces. But it takes independent research and tough-minded advocacy to win concrete results for our environment, especially when powerful interests stand in the way of environmental progress.

That's the idea behind Environment New Mexico. We focus exclusively on protecting New Mexico's air, water and open spaces. We speak out and take action at the local, state and national levels to improve the quality of our environment and our lives.

## Permanent protection for our best places

This winter, we've been working on protecting three special places in New Mexico that truly give our state the nickname "Land of Enchantment."

For the past several months, we've been bringing people together to urge President Obama to designate Otero Mesa, Rio Grande del Norte and the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks as national monuments. Right now, these treasured lands are vulnerable to destructive development, such as drilling and mining, and we've sent message after message to the president that these lands are absolutely no such place for these threats.

For instance, Otero Mesa boasts the largest and wildest grassland left on public lands in America and a herd of pronghorn antelope, prairie dogs, mule deer and more than 345 of the world's 1,500 cacti species. It also sits above the state's largest untapped groundwater source.

In the coming months, we plan on ramping up our campaign to get these places the official protection they deserve.



Photo: Dustin Spengler

### more inside

*Sandy gives a wake-up call on global warming; Wind power for a cleaner New Mexico; Momentum builds to get 10 percent solar by 2020, and more.*

◀ [Rio Grande Gorge](#)