



Winter Report

A plan to tap our solar potential

New Mexico can be a clean energy leader

New Mexico has some of the best solar potential in the nation, with more than 310 days of sunshine annually. We should be a national leader in the growing solar industry, yet we're not even in the top 20. We have a plan to change that.

Through our "Go Solar New Mexico" campaign, we'll tap into widespread public support for solar energy to influence New Mexico's opinion leaders and decision-makers to take advantage of this clean, abundant, environmentally- and business-friendly resource.

Less air pollution—and more jobs

By getting a greater percentage of our electricity from clean sources like the sun, we'll reduce our dependence on fossil fuels that emit greenhouse gases, smog, soot and more. As a result, our air will be cleaner, public health will improve, and we'll make important progress toward solving the greatest threat to our environment: climate change.

While New Mexico is a leading producer of natural gas and crude oil, many New Mexicans realize that the cost of our reliance on fossil fuels is spiraling out of control—not just in terms of the money we pay at the pump or on our utility bills, but in terms of the damage to our environment caused by drilling for and burning fossil fuels.

Expanding the solar industry will both protect our environment and help rebuild New Mexico's economy. According to



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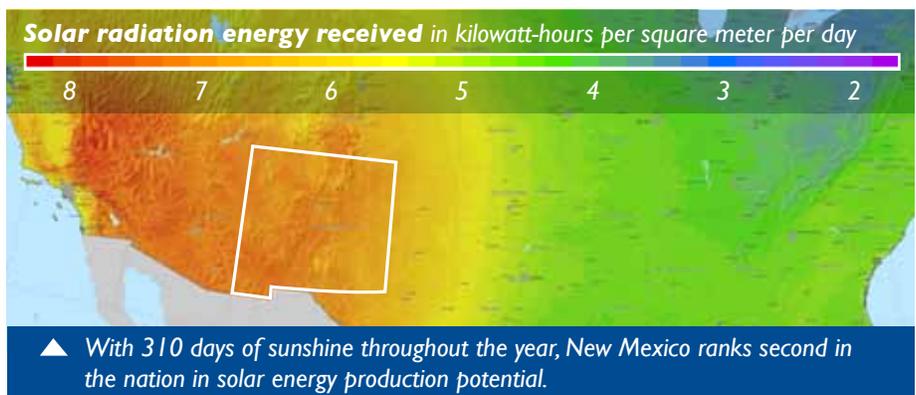
▲ *Employment in the solar industry is growing 10 times faster than in other sectors of the economy, according to the National Solar Jobs Census 2011.*

the National Solar Jobs Census 2011, produced by the not-for-profit Solar Foundation, the solar industry is adding jobs 10 times faster than other sectors.

New Mexico already ranks second in the country for solar jobs per capita, so taking full advantage of our solar poten-

tial would pay huge dividends for our economy as well.

By working with citizens to help make their voices heard, we'll ensure that New Mexico reaches its solar potential—cutting global warming emissions, improving air quality, and adding jobs in the process.



NREL



To our members

As we start a new year, we have some important victories upon which to build: convincing President Obama to adopt strong fuel efficiency standards that will improve our air quality; encouraging the Environmental Protection Agency to close loopholes in the Clean Water Act; and contributing to new plans for conservation in New Mexico and around the country.

We have an exciting year ahead as well, as we launch our campaign to bring more solar development to New Mexico and continue to work on protecting our special places, like Otero Mesa, from threats such as drilling and mining.

Of course, none of this would be possible without you by our side. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Sanders Moore
Advocate

Recent action

A strong new voice for Otero Mesa

Maxine Paul joined Environment New Mexico's staff this past summer as the Preservation Associate. She is focusing on our campaign to protect Otero Mesa from drilling and mining, and has been hard at work building support from small businesses across the state, writing fact sheets about the environmental impacts of mining, and working with the Bureau of Land Management to monitor the latest information and developments at Otero Mesa.

Prior to joining the team at Environment New Mexico, Ms. Paul worked for the Geological Society of America, Archbold Biological Station and completed her undergraduate thesis through research conducted at the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge in Socorro County. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Science from Columbia University.

54.5-mpg standard nears finish line

In November, the Obama administration officially proposed new clean car standards that represent the biggest step the United States has ever taken to get off oil and tackle global warming.

The standards would require cars and light trucks in model years 2017-2025 to meet fleet-wide average fuel efficiency and global warming pollution standards equivalent to 54.5 miles per gallon by 2025.

The environmental benefits of such a standard are enormous. By 2030, we could save more oil than we imported from Saudi Arabia last year, and slash global warming pollution by an amount equivalent to shutting down 70 coal-fired power plants.

Environment New Mexico joined our national federation in supporting the standard, which is based on similar standards adopted in New Mexico and 13 other states.

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▲ New Mexico's pioneering clean car standards, which we helped win, paved the way for the Obama administration's plan to double fuel efficiency standards nationwide to 54.5 mpg by 2025.

Defending our air, water, and special places

The air we breathe, the water we drink and our special places, like Otero Mesa, have come under unprecedented assault in the last year, both here at home and in Washington, D.C. With strong support from members, and joined by our sister organizations and allies, we're fending off some of the worst attacks.

Hundreds defend efficiency measures

Under a renewable energy standard we helped win, New Mexico will get 20 percent of its energy from clean and renewable sources by 2020—but not if the fossil fuel companies and their allies in the state Legislature have anything to say about it. While some lawmakers are pushing to undo our progress by reverting to a lower clean energy standard, we're demonstrating strong public support to keep us on a path toward energy sources that don't pollute and never run out.

Meanwhile, the Martinez administration wants to replace our strong, state-specific energy efficiency standards with a generic building code that would result in more pollutants in our air and higher utility bills. We mobilized hundreds of New Mexicans to speak out in favor of strong energy efficiency measures.

In Washington, D.C., an assault on our environment

Over the past year, with the public's attention focused on the economy, anti-environmental extremists in Congress have quietly launched an all-out attack on the laws that protect the Gila, the Pecos and all of our rivers—as well as the air we breathe, our drinking water supply and the places we love.

The House Interior Appropriations bill contained 39 separate environmental attacks, and nearly a dozen that would harm our waters—by doing things like blocking the EPA from restoring the Clean Water Act and allowing toxic pesticides to be dumped directly into our water.

Fortunately, many New Mexicans are

willing to stand up to these attacks, making their voices heard above the din of corporate lobbyists and sending a clear message to our leaders that we want to see our environment protected. We're pleased to report that Sens. Tom Udall and Jeff Bingaman have defended the environment on each crucial vote.

So far, we've blocked the attacks

Environment New Mexico's research, advocacy and grassroots action have helped to hold the line against these attacks on our environment.

In 2011, we personally made our case to members of our congressional delegation and their aides. Hundreds of our members have also called, emailed or petitioned their lawmakers to reject any bills that threaten our state's rivers or the quality of our air and protection of our landscape.

With the Senate rejecting four of the worst proposals this fall, the tide might be starting to turn. We'll keep you informed, so you can let your lawmakers know where you stand.

To sign up for alerts, visit our new website at www.EnvironmentNewMexico.org.



How are they voting?

Sens. Tom Udall and Jeff Bingaman (l-r) voted to support the environment at each crucial juncture.

To see how your representative voted, visit www.EnvironmentAmerica.org/scorecard and select New Mexico.



Interview

EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson

The EPA has recently worked on several clean air standards including the Mercury and Air Toxics Standard and the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule. Can you explain what these standards mean for the average American family?

These new Clean Air Act standards mean cleaner, healthier air for American families.

The Mercury and Air Toxics Standards and the Cross State Air Pollution Rule are part of a series of commonsense steps under the Clean Air Act to reduce emissions of mercury, acid gas, particulate matter, arsenic and other harmful chemicals from some of the biggest polluters in the nation.

These reasonable steps will provide dramatic protections to our children and loved ones—they will save tens of thousands of lives and prevent hundreds of thousands of asthma and heart attacks.

What's the best way for our members and supporters to express their opinions on these issues?

Unfortunately, we are at a point where we have to remind some leaders in Washington to put the health of their constituents above the wish lists of special interests. Speaking directly to those who want to undermine commonsense environmental protections is one of the best ways to stand up for your right to clean air and clean water.

For the full interview with Lisa Jackson, visit www.EnvironmentNewMexico.org/page/nme/newsletters.

Environment New Mexico
PO Box 40173
Albuquerque, NM 87196

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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.

Federal report could help Otero Mesa

Our work continues to protect Otero Mesa, New Mexico's unique Chihuahuan grasslands, from hardrock mining and drilling. In October, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar released a report, "America's Great Outdoors," that paves the way for various national monuments to be designated in the United States, including New Mexico. This will have a great impact on conservation efforts across the state, and we're working to make sure that it means extra protection for Otero Mesa as well.

The president has the authority under the Antiquities Act to designate ecologically sensitive but threatened lands as national monuments. Home to 1,000 native wildlife species and sitting atop New Mexico's last untapped freshwater source, Otero Mesa certainly fits that description. Secretary Salazar's report will help as we continue to make a strong case for protection to the president.

take action online

Otero Mesa is home to 1,000 native species, including New Mexico's only pure herd of pronghorn antelope. To urge President Obama to protect Otero Mesa from mining and drilling, visit EnvironmentNewMexico.org.



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