

The C-PACE Ordinance could assist with the following Climate Action Plan recommendations:



BE 1.3: Encourage energy efficiency and electrification retrofits

Develop a community-wide energy efficiency and electrification outreach and educational campaign. The campaign should: promote existing incentives and funding sources, especially for low-income households; focus on cost savings and public health benefits for residents, business, and landlords; and provide information about specific retrofits (e.g., weatherization, energy efficient appliances, LED lighting, electric hot water heaters, space heaters, stoves, laundry dryers). As part of the campaign:

- Market DPU's "Induction Cooktop Loaner Program."
- Develop and provide free home energy audits.
- Teach residents how to engage in decision-making regarding the ownership, generation, storage, distribution of, and transition to renewable energy.
- Provide information on available funding for all residents and share what incentives are available to relieve the financial burden for low-income residents. Notify the community when new funding opportunities become available through resources such as the County website, utility bill inserts, and pamphlets and brochures distributed at County events.
- Stay up to date on future clean energy financing options for low-and-moderate income households, such as through the New Mexico Climate Investment Center.

Buildings in Los Alamos County are generally older, which can be less energy efficient than newer buildings. This action would reduce GHG emissions and improve energy efficiency in those older buildings. In addition, New Mexico has one of the highest poverty rates in the country, and low-income households often struggle to pay for utilities and fuels used to power their homes and vehicles; this action—and plan in general—was developed with equity as a top priority. Making energy efficient improvements may reduce energy and cost burdens for residents and businesses.

What We Heard:

The community has many residential and commercial buildings that are energy inefficient. There are opportunities to both educate and incentivize building owners to make buildings more efficient.



BE 1.4: Adopt green building standards

Promote fossil fuel infrastructure reduction in new residential, commercial, and municipal construction by adopting a green building performance standard (examples include the Santa Fe County HERS Rating and Seattle Building Energy Performance Standard). Educate the community on the cost and public health benefits this will provide for new buildings such as lower utility bills and improved indoor air quality. Plan to provide technical assistance, educational resources, and outreach during this transition, especially for commercial users of natural gas appliances such as restaurants and community centers.



BE 1.7: Encourage electric equipment replacement at burnout for community

Encourage replacement of natural gas appliances with electric before or as they approach the end of their useful life. Educate community members on how to prepare for replacement (e.g., through audits and appliance replacement plans). Educational programs should focus on major natural gas uses in buildings, including space/water heating, clothes drying, and cooking. As part of this work, the County will identify obstacles that could impede progress on electrification, such as needed infrastructure upgrades, and identify opportunities to address these barriers.



T1.3: Promote EV readiness

Incentivize and educate about EV readiness for new and redeveloped single family homes. Encourage a certain number of EV chargers in multi-family housing, commercial developments, and community gathering spaces, including increased access for affordable housing units. This action builds on the County's existing incentives to reduce required parking spaces if a contractor includes EV charging infrastructure.



NS2.3: Encourage sustainable landscaping and water conservation

Reduce water consumption from landscaping by planting native and climate appropriate plants. Work with landscape companies and homeowners to educate drip irrigation and low pesticide management techniques. Support the Water and Energy Conservation Program and Water Rule W-8 to reduce potable water use and encourage management of reclaimed water.



NS2.4: Provide greywater reuse education

Promote greywater systems for residents, including providing free rain barrels to homeowners to capture and reuse rainwater. Develop new educational programs for the community on the environmental and financial benefits of reusing rainwater and greywater. Continue and investigate expansion of greywater programs and uses, building on the County's current programs.

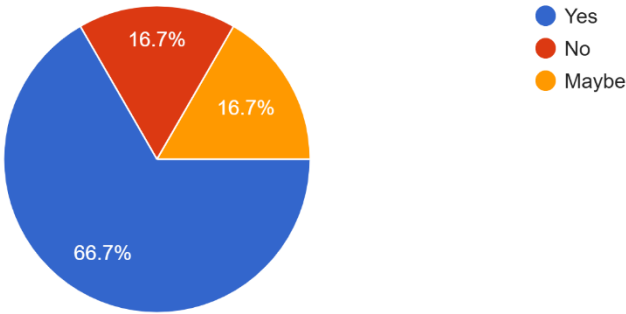
Los Alamos Commerce and Development Corporation (LACDC) informally polled local commercial property owners about the proposed C-PACE Ordinance and received the following responses. LACDC heard from local business owners also interested in initiatives like this, who currently lease their spaces.

The Chamber of Commerce, part of LACDC, is also taking a closer look at how it can support and encourage local businesses to be more environmentally friendly, which can ultimately also result in cost savings. The Chamber is working closely with County staff, notably Abbey Hayward, Angelica Gurule and Ellyn Felton.

LACDC believes it is beneficial to continue to look into more tools and financing opportunities to make available to small businesses (and in this case, it would be property owners) to improve some of the older buildings in the community.

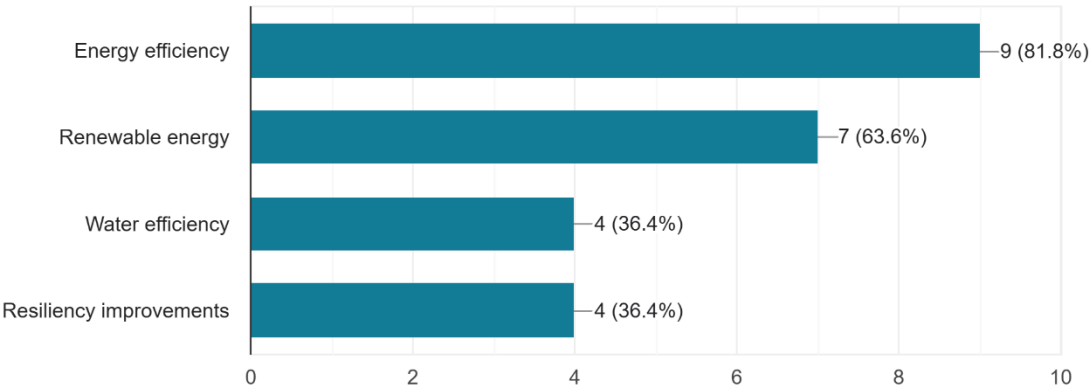
If the County adopts the C-PACE ordinance, I would be interested in applying.

12 responses



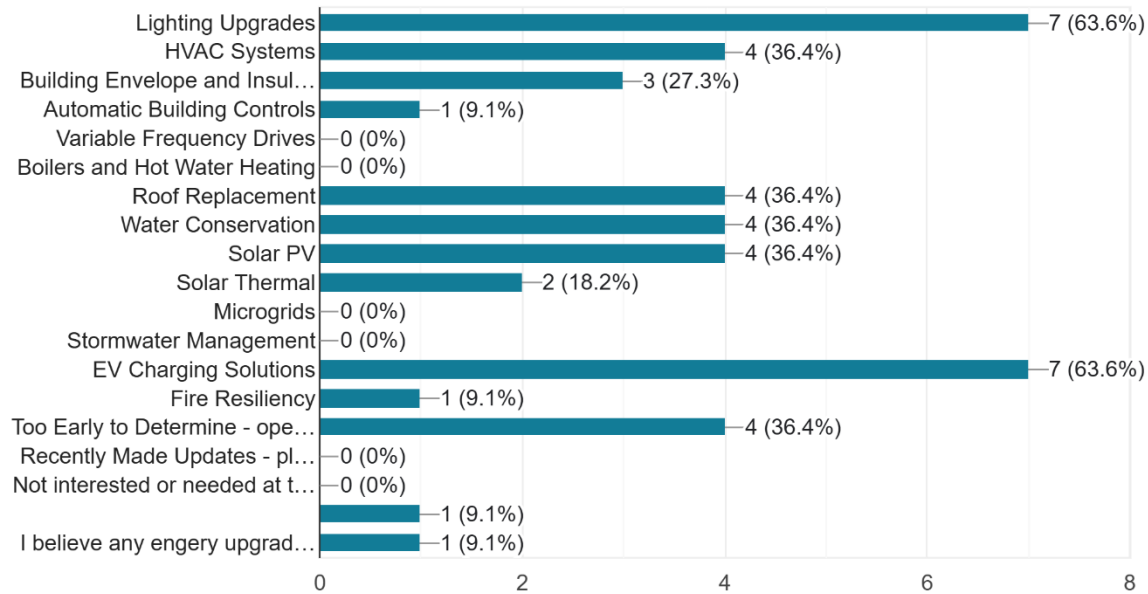
I am interested in the following improvements to my building, if the right financing is in place.

11 responses



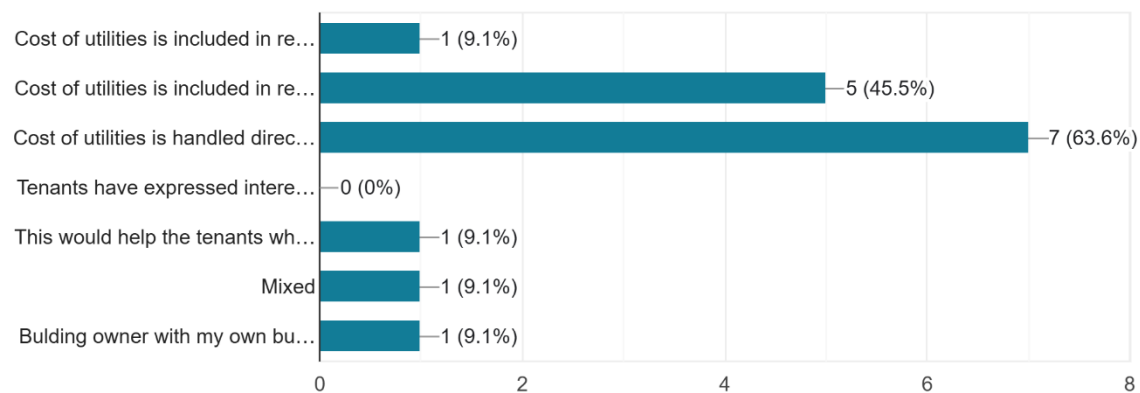
More specifically, I am interested in making the following improvements within the next several years (check all that apply, from the list of typical measures funded by C-PACE).

11 responses



What is your relationship with current tenants and utilities? Please select all that apply.

11 responses

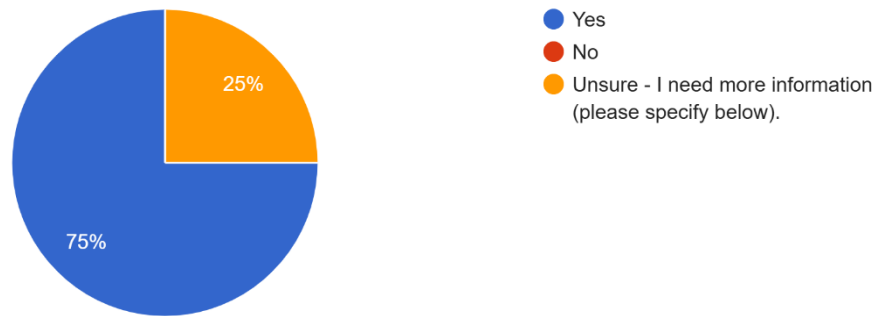


Since the questions are cut off, the questions in order are:

- Cost of utilities is included in rent and would remain fixed.
- Cost of utilities is included in rent and cost savings would be passed on to tenants.
- Cost of utilities is handled directly by tenants.
- Tenants have expressed interest in energy efficiency/improvements.
- This would help the tenants who pay part utilities and are fixed.
- Building owner with my own business operating out of it.

I support Los Alamos County's Adoption of the C-PACE Ordinance.

12 responses



Additional comments or questions

We have already made all of these improvements.

Want to replace single pane windows with energy efficient windows

I would encourage Los Alamos county to help commercial owners. Not all of us have that kind of capital to upgrade and unfortunately would have to pass the cost on to our tenants.

I'm currently focused on surviving as the neighborhood goes through expansive reconstruction directly in front of the store. Our business tends to do its very best not to go into any form of debt, which would be a natural part of us making C-PACE related improvements.