

**Local and Small Business Engagement Working Group.** Council members are Herrmann, Reagor, Ryti; engaging with the business community, County staff, and other interested parties. We have a report as a separate item on this agenda and look forward to the discussion and path forward with this effort.

**MainStreet Futures.** Council members are Herrmann, Reagor, Ryti. Other attendees include Jacquelyn Connolly, Alison Watkins, Patrick Moore, Jennifer Armstrong, Megan Bucklin, George Marsden, Juan Rael, Janice Krish, Donovan Price, Janet Lovato, Shanna Sasser, Eli Isaacson & Liz Martineau. We did not have meetings in July or August. More information on MainStreet is on their webpage (<https://www.losalamosmainstreet.com/>).

**Energy Communities Alliance (ECA).** Ryti Treasurer, Executive Board, Board. We had the monthly Executive Board meetings in July and August, reviewing and approving invoices and expense reimbursements. The 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park is coming this November. The National Cleanup Workshop in Washington DC (Sep 24-26 2025) has also been approved and registrations are open. Elections for the Executive Board and Officers will happen at the National Cleanup Workshop and the slate of candidates was announced at the August Executive Board meeting. I will run to serve as Treasurer for one more year, and a transition to Councilor Herrmann is planned. The other regular, annual meeting has been the Intergovernmental Meeting, which is organized by the National Association of Governors. This meeting is now planned to happen in November. Main mission for ECA has been to secure funding for environmental cleanup and productive re-use across the DOE complex. ECA was also instrumental in helping to create the Manhattan Project National Historical Park. More recent initiatives for nuclear energy and interim/permanent geological repositories for nuclear waste. To that end ECA develops white papers on relevant topics like “Ensuring Long-Term Success: Recommendations for the Next Administration on the U.S. Department of Energy’s Environmental Management Mission.” More information is available on their webpage (<https://www.energyca.org/>).

**National Association of Counties (NACo).** Ryti is one the Vice Chairs of the Environment, Energy, and Land Use (EELU) Policy Committee. Every Councilor can get an account with NACo and this will be useful for seeing of the reports and information available (<https://www.naco.org/>). I encourage Councilors interested in NACo consider joining one of the policy committees. I listed them on a separate page with some information on how to apply.

**National Association of Counties (NACo) Annual Meeting July 11-15 2025.** I attended this meeting along with Councilor Reagor and Ms Duran. Public lands, public health, juvenile justice reform, using the arts as a tool for economic development and emergency preparedness, artificial intelligence (AI) were all prominent topics at this meeting. I have

shared materials from one of the sessions relevant to the County Health Council. Here are some links with information discussed at the meeting:

Link to meeting agenda <https://www.naco.org/event/2025-naco-annual-conference-exposition>

Information on Federal changes related to the budget bill <https://www.naco.org/news/us-congress-passes-reconciliation-bill-what-it-means-counties>

Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) issued interim rule and memo regarding NEPA <https://www.naco.org/news/ceq-issues-interim-final-rule-implementing-nepa-regulations>

Behavioral health funding opportunities <https://www.naco.org/resources/county-funding-opportunities-support-community-members-experiencing-behavioral-health>

Child care <https://www.naco.org/resource/understanding-state-and-local-role-home-based-child-care>

Opioid solution <https://www.naco.org/resource/opioid-solutions-strategy-briefs>

Youth justice solutions <https://www.naco.org/resource/county-innovation-youth-justice>

Chief of Staff playbook  
<https://www.mcchrystalgroup.com/insights/playbooks/detail/2024/12/16/chief-of-staff-playbook-adapting-to-uncertainty>

Americans for the Arts <https://www.americansforthearts.org/>

Performing arts as readiness partners <https://www.ncaper.org/>  
<https://performingartsreadiness.org/>

Federal update, posted just after the meeting <https://www.naco.org/news/white-house-executive-order-shifts-federal-approach-homelessness-mental-illness-and-public>

Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, they had a presentation on public lands in Bernalillo County and what fraction might be usable for housing <https://www.lincolnst.edu/>

America 250 Semiquincentennial <https://america250.org/>

**Environment, Energy & Land Use (EELU) Policy Steering Committee.** Member since February 2023, Vice Chair of Energy Subcommittee in 2023-2024 and Chair of Energy Subcommittee in 2024-2025, and one of the Vice Chairs of the Committee in 2025-2026. Successful interim policy statement in support of energy communities infrastructure funding, and changes to platform to clarify support for consent-based siting of nuclear waste. Co-sponsor of regulatory reform interim policy statement. EELU has monthly

meetings with a different speaker each month. I attached the final text of the approved policy resolutions to this report. I received a NACo Presidential appointment to the EELU leadership for 2025-2026. Here are some notes from the EELU meeting at the NACo annual meeting presentations:

- The Philadelphia water and power department highlighting the system and the high electric burden for some customers, energy efficiency efforts with the Philadelphia streetlight improvement project as one success story, increasing electric demand due to data centers and AI,
- Federal update with good news that Muni bonds are still tax exempt, changes to SNAP are delayed for 1 year to FY27, 10 year moratorium on regulating AI at state or local levels was removed, “The Big Shift” and squeeze are coming and big changes to Medicaid financing
- Gateway for Accelerated Innovation in Nuclear (GAIN), new nuclear - less than 100mw generally, inherent safety, triso fuel, nuclear has high capacity factor, small land footprint
- Michael Butler Consumer Energy Alliance, Pipeline cancellations have cost USA millions of gallons of oil

**Resilient Counties Initiative.** Member in 2024-2025 and 2025-2026. Attending meetings to hear lessons learned on natural disasters and mitigation planning best practices from around the country. I applied for NACo Presidential appointment to this initiative for 2025-2026. Resilient Counties had a breakfast meeting to introduce the Rural Energy Initiative. There was a session at the NACo annual conference “Restoring the Grid: How to Plan for a Rapid Recovery When Disaster Strikes,” I was in the wildfire scenario breakout session. Some of the ideas discussed were double redundancy for internet, mobile generators available, autonomous drones pre-positioned, weather band radios given to residents, and making the ham radio operators known to the community.

**New Mexico Counties (NMC) Board of Directors.** Elected to represent Los Alamos County in 2025 and that term will expire at the end of 2026. Entire board meets roughly quarterly. We vote to support or oppose legislation prior to and during the State Legislature sessions. Other meetings presentations on topics of interest to NMC and approve recommendations on changes to NM State Law. There are also affiliate groups for County elected officials (Commissioners, Clerks, Assessors, Sheriffs, Treasurers) and some non-elected (e.g., Managers, Attorneys). I attended the annual NMC meeting in Curry County June 16-19. The Commissioner affiliate had presentations on the Mexican gray wolf, social media, open meetings act, the proposed electric line corridor in eastern NM, and data on violent crime. The NMC Board meeting included a discussion about immigration enforcement, including

cooperating agencies and the ICE administrative detainees. There was also a Board meeting in San Juan County August 7 and 8 with introductory information/training for Board members and a vote on the top three State legislative priorities for the upcoming 30-day session. Legislative priorities are advanced through the affiliates, executive committee, and then the full Board in August each year. For 2026, the priorities are County initiatives funded through House Bill 2 (courthouses, public safety, RISE), changes to Inspection of Public Records Act (IPRA), and changes to the Veterans exemption processing. We also ratified Damian Lara, Bernalillo County Assessor, to serve as Treasurer.

**New Mexico Counties Insurance Authority (NMCIA).** Appointed to represent Los Alamos County in 2023. One annual meeting for the full board annually. Los Alamos County gets its worker's compensation insurance through NMCIA. The NMCIA votes for members to the Executive Board at the annual meeting. The annual meeting approves the financial statements and gets a summary of relevant legislation. See the webpage for more information (<https://nmcountyinsuranceauthority.org/>).

**New Mexico Municipal League Self-Insurers Fund Board of Trustees (NMML SIF BOT).** Elected to Board in 2019. This Board meets roughly quarterly and reviews/adopts updates to policy, receives information on the SIF initiatives, approves financials and rate schedules. We get most of our insurance through the SIF. Los Alamos County was one of the founding members of the SIF. More information is available on their webpage (<https://nmml.org/161/Insurance>); meetings of the Trustees are public, and information packages can be found on the calendar.

**Coalition of Sustainable Communities New Mexico (CSCNM) Executive Board.** The Executive Board has been meeting annually and the CSCNM is in progress of re-structuring as an independent 501c3. It has been a project under the Santa Fe Community Foundation. CSCNM has workshops for members and reviews legislation that are relevant to sustainability initiatives in the state. I attended the all-day annual meeting/retreat on July 31, we had discussion of the main accomplishments of the CSCNM (community solar and Climate Investment Center) and discussed two focus area (transportation and energy efficiency) in breakout groups. For Los Alamos County, the on-bill financing of efficiency upgrades might be a good option to pursue. There will be follow up virtual meetings on these areas. See the webpage for more information (<https://www.coalitionscnm.org/>).

**Technical Work Group (TWG).** Monthly presentations and discussion on technical aspects of the environmental cleanup in Los Alamos. Hosted by N3B and EM-LA. I missed the last meeting on July 9, which was on the RDX groundwater plume.

# NACo EELU Steering Committee Resolutions July 2025

## Environment, Energy and Land Use Steering Committee

### POLICY RESOLUTIONS

- Proposed Resolution for Groundwater Resource Assessment
- Proposed Resolution for Increased Water Access for Fire Infrastructure in Rural and Frontier Communities
- Proposed Resolution for U.S. Treasury Department Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement Rulemaking for Deepwater Horizon RESTORE Act Direct Component Implementation
- Proposed Resolution in Opposition of Material Preference Legislation
- Proposed Resolution in Support of EPA Ozone Reclassification
- Proposed Resolution in Support of PFAS Liability Protections for Passive Receivers
- Proposed Resolution in Support of Promoting Nuclear Energy Innovation
- Proposed Resolution in Support of the Completion of a New Five-Year Plan and Enhancing Federal Offshore Leasing
- Proposed Resolution on Amending U.S. Code Title 16, CONSERVATION Chapter 12, FEDERAL REGULATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF POWER, Subchapter I, REGULATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF WATERPOWER AND RESOURCES Section 803, Conditions of license generally
- Proposed Resolution on Comprehensive Permitting Reform
- Proposed Resolution on Federal Government Related Water Control Infrastructure Drawdowns Before Flooding Events
- Proposed Resolution on Mining and Production of Rare Earth Minerals, Critical Minerals and Coal
- Proposed Resolution on Protecting Local Authority Over Data Centers and Cryptocurrency Mining Facilities
- Proposed Resolution on Safeguarding Water Quality and Improving Contamination Management
- Proposed Resolution Opposing the Department of Energy National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors (NIETC)
- Proposed Resolution Requesting the Department of Energy (DOE) to Develop an Infrastructure Program for Host and Neighboring Communities
- Proposed Resolution Supporting the Expedited Release of Guidance and Funding for Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies Projects
- Proposed Resolution Supporting the Reauthorization of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) Program
- Proposed Resolution Urging Congress to Refrain from Preempting Counties Ability to Recover Damages from Costly and Destructive Weather Events

### PLATFORM CHANGES

- Proposed Platform Change to Support Investment in Climate Resilient Infrastructure

## Proposed Resolution Requesting the Department of Energy (DOE) to Develop an Infrastructure Program for Host and Neighboring Communities

### ISSUE

The operation of Department of Energy (DOE) facilities creates housing, transportation and related infrastructure and workforce stressors on counties throughout the country which affect the ability of the DOE to meet its mission and which have no existing funding resources.

### PROPOSED POLICY

The National Association of Counties (NACo) requests the Department of Energy (DOE) to develop an infrastructure investment program. The investments would be made through a grant program or direct funding from the DOE that would provide funding to alleviate the stressors affecting counties and other local government infrastructure that surround DOE operated or funded facilities, projects or programs. Eligible activities under the program would include transportation, housing, education, emergency response, water, telecommunication and utility projects that benefit the operations and workforce of the DOE facility and the surrounding local government.

### STATUS

Approved | Unanimous | July 11, 2025

## Proposed Resolution on Comprehensive Permitting Reform

### ISSUE

Due to the duplicative and burdensome federal permitting process, counties regularly encounter issues in securing permits for infrastructure and fuel management projects, resulting in delays and escalating costs. The current permitting process often excludes meaningful local engagement until late in the development phase, undermining the role of counties in shaping infrastructure and fuel management projects that meet community needs.

As Congress considers permitting reform in the 119th Congress, counties must be treated as active partners in the development and implementation of critical infrastructure and fuel management projects.

### PROPOSED POLICY

The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to pass comprehensive legislation to reform the federal permitting process that limits federal preemption of local authority and requires meaningful consultation and updates with local governments from the inception of critical infrastructure and fuel management projects—such as transportation, energy, broadband deployment, air quality, fuel breaks, forest thinning and use of prescribed fire—that require a federal permit. Reforms should also expand categorical exclusions for maintenance, safety improvements and projects within existing rights-of-way.

Counties call on Congress to eliminate duplicative reviews and develop efficient and consistent permitting processes across agencies and allow flexibility needed to respond to urgent infrastructure needs such as addressing natural disasters and post fire restoration projects. Permitting reform legislation should strongly consider the practical impacts of federal permitting processes on local governments and communities.

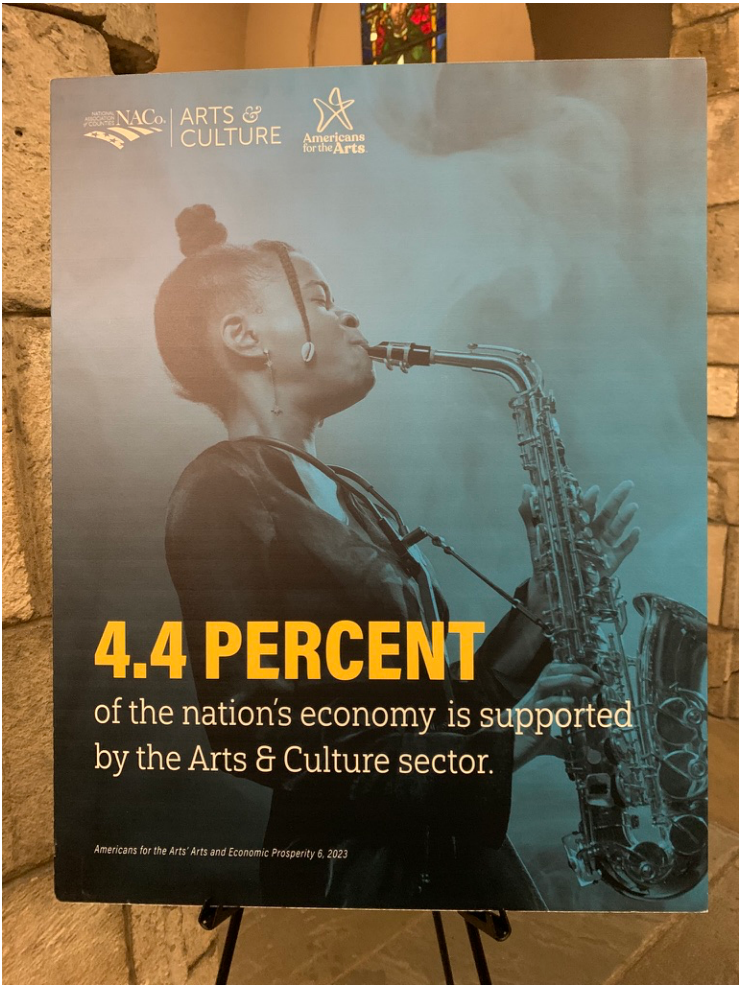
### STATUS

Approved | Unanimous | July 11, 2025



**Proposed Resolution in Support of Promoting Nuclear Energy Innovation**

ISSUE	Nuclear energy plays an essential role in securing our country's clean energy future, because the generation of electricity from nuclear plants emits no carbon dioxide or air pollution and is the country's largest source of clean energy yet is being underutilized.
PROPOSED POLICY	The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges federal government agencies to promote nuclear energy innovation for existing and new nuclear deployment, including the development of nuclear microgrids, research on fusion technology and research on adopting reprocessing methods throughout the U.S. nuclear industry.
STATUS	Approved   Unanimous   July 11, 2025



Poster at the Arts and Innovation Council reception

Hello Board Members,

I would like to share information on getting involved with NACo! Please feel free to share this information with your county members as well.

NACo has ten Steering Committees, four caucuses and regional groups, and five standing committees. I have attached the brochure with all information on committees and groups, and more information can be found on the NACO website [here](#). Steering committee membership is limited to eight members from each state, and two members from a single county, and must be approved by the executive director. Standing committees and caucuses are not limited per state, and membership is approved by NACo staff. Below are the number of New Mexicans on each Steering Committee.

- Agriculture and Rural Affairs Steering Committee: 6 members, **2 vacancies**
- Community, Economic and Workforce Development Steering Committee: 5 members, **3 vacancies**
- Environment, Energy and Land Use Steering Committee: 6 members, **2 vacancies**
- Finance, Pensions and Intergovernmental Affairs Steering Committee: 6 members, **2 vacancies**
- Health Steering Committee: 3 members, **5 vacancies**
- Human Services and Education Steering Committee: 0 members, **8 vacancies**
- Justice and Public Safety Steering Committee: 8 members, **0 vacancies**
- Public Lands Steering Committee: 8 members, **0 vacancies**
- Telecommunications and Technology Steering Committee: 5 members, **3 vacancies**
- Transportation Steering Committee: 2 members, **6 vacancies**

If you would like to apply for a committee position or caucus position you can apply on the NACO website [here](#). If you would like to join a Steering Committee, you may also send me an email, and we will review your request. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Best,

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