

Charter for the 2021 Los Alamos Resiliency, Energy and Sustainability (RES) Task Force

I. Purpose

The Los Alamos Resiliency, Energy and Sustainability Task Force (“Task Force”) was initiated through an action of the County Council on December 15, 2020, when the Council formally accepted the Citizen Petition requesting action. The Task Force will serve as an advisory body to the County Council for the purpose of recommending ways for the County as a whole, including government, businesses, and residents, to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions and advance other sustainable practices in the face of climate change. This will be a working committee; members will be responsible for collaborating with each other and Los Alamos County stakeholders.

II. Scope of Work

The Task Force will build a comprehensive resiliency, energy, and sustainability “white paper” or strategic plan. This plan will present specific, measurable, achievable, and timely recommendations for how Los Alamos can achieve or exceed the goals set forward by our governor in the New Mexico Climate Change Executive Order 2019 which complies with the 2015 Paris Agreement. We expect this comprehensive plan to include Los Alamos community recommendations while incorporating the goals and work that is being undertaken in other cities in New Mexico that are seriously tackling these issues. The subjects addressed by the report will include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Consolidate current global, federal, state, and local greenhouse gas (GHG) goals, mandates, and recommendations.
 - Review, validate, and expand as necessary existing data and analyses of GHG emissions associated with primary fuels (coal, natural gas, and petroleum).
 - Study and recommend County government policy and other steps to phase out use of natural gas consistent with Department of Public Utilities conservation goals.
 - Study and recommend practices to reduce energy use.
 - Study and recommend practices for other sectors (e.g., building design and planning) as time permits and information is available
 - Study and quantify economic impacts of the adoption of recommended practices and policies in terms of initial investment and costs over time.
- Make recommendations to apply all of the above to the County as a whole.

The Task Force will present an interim report of their findings and recommendations by August 1, 2021, with final recommendations, including public commentary and input, by February 1, 2022.

III. Task Force Representation

The Task Force will be composed of volunteers and is open to all County residents and County staff who are interested in producing a comprehensive “white paper” for the County. The ideal representation will include at-large community members and current or former representatives or liaisons from the following boards: Environmental Sustainability Board, the Board of Public Utilities, the Planning and Zoning Commission, and the Transportation Board. One member of the County Council and the Los Alamos County Manager or designee will serve as liaisons to the Task Force. The total number of members shall not exceed nine (9) persons. Task Force members will be individually appointed by the County Council after having submitted letters of interest.

IV. Charter and Member Term

The term of this Charter shall be for shall be for THREE HUNDRED AND NINETY (390) days from the date this Charter is adopted, and the term of each member shall run until the term of the Charter expires. If during the term of the Charter a member resigns or is otherwise unable to serve, Council shall appoint a new member to fill that members remaining term.

V. Quorum

A quorum of the Task Force is defined as a simple majority of the appointed Task Force members. Task Force actions can be taken and considered valid only if a quorum has been established at the meeting. Information can be shared during a meeting even if a quorum is not established.

VI. Resources

The County will provide a staff project manager responsible for coordinating the Task Force in its exploration and development of implementation actions including meeting logistics and other needs. Other County staff will be available based upon identified needs or specific topics of discussion but all staff members will be non-voting members of the Task Force.

VII. Meetings

Meeting dates and frequency will be established by the Task Force and County staff . A Chair and Vice Chair shall also be appointed at the first meeting. Action minutes shall be made and kept for each meeting of the Task Force. The public shall be given notice of any meeting of the Task Force at least 72 hours in advance of any meeting through coordination with the County’s Public Information Officer. All meetings may be attended by the public, who will be permitted and encouraged to comment.

VIII. Subcommittees

The Task Force may form subcommittees as needed. These may include content experts and interested parties. Subcommittee reports will be available to the public and presented to the full Task Force. All recommendations to the County Council should be that of the full Task Force, as indicated by a majority vote of Task Force members. The subcommittees may include persons not otherwise identified as a member of the Task Force. However, subcommittee membership does not convey an ability to vote on any recommendations. Subcommittee formation may be for the purpose of research, education, and outreach.