



# Coalition of Sustainable Communities New Mexico



*We envision New Mexico as a leader in climate action and sustainability. Our Coalition will speak in a united voice to ensure resilient, healthy, prosperous communities.*

## A Coalition of Collaboration

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Presentation to Los Alamos County Council

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# Agenda

- Coalition of Sustainable Communities' Vision, Mission and Services
- How the Coalition Works
- Governance Structure and Roles
- Accomplishments and Ongoing Work
- Legislative Priorities
- Community Solar as Case Study
- Working Groups
- Member Accomplishments
- Coalition Priority Policy Setting





# Coalition Vision and Mission

## Inspiration

Sustainable Santa Fe 25-Year Plan: top 10 strategies included development of a structure to align climate action & sustainability interests of local governments across state

## Vision

We envision New Mexico as a leader in ***climate action*** and ***sustainability***. Our Coalition will speak in a ***united voice*** to ensure resilient, equitable, and sustainable communities.

## Mission

We are committed to developing ***common understanding, aligning our interests***, and working together to ***amplify our voices*** in order to create ***resilient, equitable***, and ***sustainable communities*** now and for the future.



# Coalition Services

## Advocacy

- Combines policy interests from member communities into a **cohesive voice advocating for state policy through legislation, regulations and administrative actions.**
- May initiate legislation, and **advocate and/or lobby** for Coalition-backed priorities during legislative sessions. It will also coordinate the development of Resolutions of multiple Members' interests at the local level.

## Collaboration and Networking

- Works with members to identify **areas of sustainability best resolved through coordinated local government action** and leveraging of collective resources.
- Develops opportunities to share best practices.

## Solutions Development

- Convenes **Working Groups** to find solutions to priority challenges.
- The member governments of the Coalition serve as **incubators for policies and practices** that can be tested and disseminated across the state.

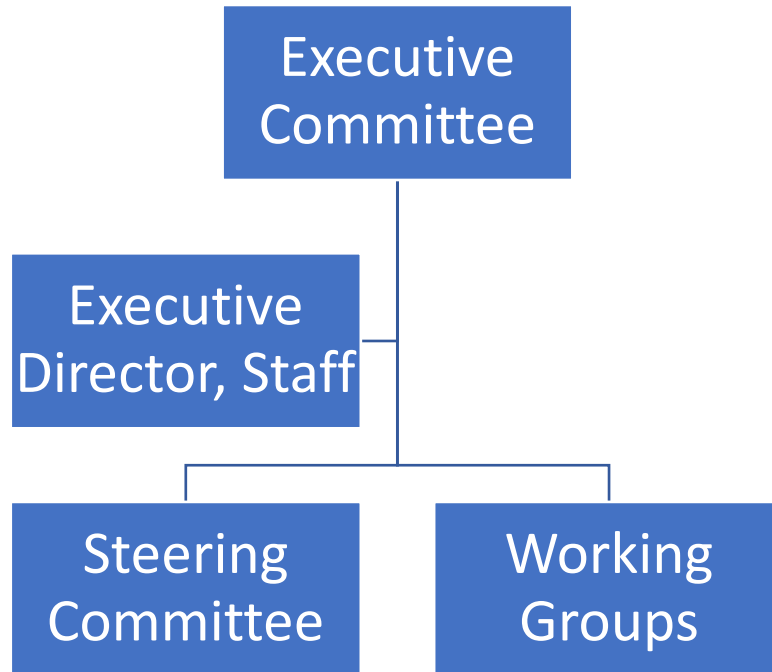


# How the Coalition Works

- **At State Level:** While many organizations work on climate and sustainability, only the Coalition of Sustainable Communities focuses local governments on shared climate-related and sustainability challenges
- **One Voice:** Local governments speaking in a united voice are more effective than single voices. Founding members - Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Las Cruces, Santa Fe County - represent 40% of New Mexicans
- **Cost Effective:** Sharing resources for advocacy and lobbying, developing legislation, researching issues is more cost-effective
- **Collaborative Solutions Development:** Developing a roadmap for local governments in the energy transition can best be done collaboratively
- **Shared Local Plans and Resolutions:** Members can share work and best practices that support the Coalition's policy platform
- **Effective:** The Coalition has developed a reputation for getting things done (ex: Community Solar Act success!!)



# Governance Structure





# Roles

- Guided by **Executive Committee**, Steering Committee, Working Groups, and **Executive Director** and other **Coalition staff**
- **Steering Committee** comprised of all Coalition Members, each with **one vote**, and recommends priorities, activities, and policies to the Executive Committee in **quarterly meetings**.
- **Executive Committee** comprised of Chair, Vice Chair, up to five additional members and the Executive Director; **finalizes policy platform and Coalition's annual work plan**. Meets **once/year** at Annual Meeting.
- **Executive Director and Staff** carry out day-to-day activities and policy work established by the Executive Committee. Executive Director oversees membership expansion, convenes and leads Steering Committee meetings and Executive Committee meetings in the absence of the Chair, Vice Chair, or their designees.
- **Working Groups formed by the Executive Committee and led by Coalition Staff** to further develop policies, strategies, white papers relevant to Coalition's policy platform and other strategic areas of focus.





# Accomplishments and Ongoing Work

- Added to Founding Members two **Ex officio members**: Deputy Secretary of the **State Land Office** and Climate Coordinator of **NM Environment Department**
- Led broad array of stakeholders to develop, refine, and advance the **Community Solar Act**. Consensus bill **passed the Legislature and signed into law by the Governor**
- Assisted with Member Resolutions regarding **Legislative Priorities**; Supported key energy legislation that passed in the 2020 session: **Energy Grid Modernization** and **Solar Tax Credit**. Slide 9 covers 2021 wins.
- Established **Working Groups**:
  - **Transportation** to share best practices on emissions reductions and electric vehicle adoption and infrastructure
  - **Solar and EE Working Group** to expand accessibility to solar PV and EE
  - Possible upcoming: **Water Working Group, Carbon Storage**





# Accomplishments and Ongoing Work

- Developed and recommended **Legislative Priorities** for Members.
- Developed a **Legislative Tracking Spreadsheet** to update Members daily, and assisted Members in developing legislative resolutions
- Created a **Public Regulation Commission Tracking Tool**
- **Testified** in support of a stronger revised building energy code both at state level and in Santa Fe County
- Convened **Roundtables** around critical challenges and potential solutions:
  - Building Codes
  - Clean Energy
  - Green Financing
  - Electric Utility Decoupling
- Developing **Santa Fe Solarize Campaign Pilot** and **Green Bank**.



# Legislative Priorities - Passed

**SB84, Community Solar Act.** Consensus bill providing for solar energy projects for community, low income, pueblo, & tribal subscribers. Economic development component

**SB112, Sustainable Economy Task Force.** Recommend plans to diversity economy beyond oil & gas reliance, advance a clean energy economy, plan a just transition

**HB15, Sustainable Building Tax Credit.** Tax credits for new/existing energy efficient buildings

**SB8, Local Government Air Quality Regulations.** Removes “no more stringent language.” Authorizes local authorities to regulate air/hazardous waste at levels safer than federal levels.

**HB51, Environmental Database.** Searchable database merging info from 7 agencies. Public access offering efficiency and transparency. UNM to host

**HB89, Healthy Soil Tax Rebate.** Allows rebate supporting Healthy Soil Program



# Community Solar Act

- Coalition leaders worked with an array of stakeholders to develop, refine, and advance the **Community Solar Act** during the 2019 and 2020 legislative sessions. Developed a consensus bill with utilities' concurrence. **Passed the Legislature and signed into law by the Governor.**
- In advance of the 2021 legislative session, **Coalition leaders co-chaired the Community Solar Working Group established by SM63** that led to updated legislation, Senate Bill 84
- **Key Points:**
  - Authorizes development of ***Community Solar Facilities*** by cities, counties, pueblos, tribes, utilities, nonprofits supporting low-income housing, neighborhoods, and solar developers
  - Subscriptions should ***reduce electric bills***, especially for ***low-income citizens***
  - Expands ***solar access*** to renters, not just individual property owners
  - Provides ***community choice for renewable energy*** for those who cannot access rooftop solar
  - Significantly stimulates New Mexico's ***economy*** with new high-wage jobs



# Transportation Working Group

- **Purpose:** Coalition members seek to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase transportation efficiency and equity by adopting zero/low emission vehicles, multi-modal transit options, planning and management strategies.
- **Membership:** All Coalition members and outside experts
- **Focus:** Electric vehicle infrastructure planning, vehicle fleet procurement practices, “green fleet” management, and exploring consumer group purchasing of EVs



# Solar and EE Working Group

**Purpose:** Coalition members seek to maximize opportunities to increase use of solar and efficient equipment for their buildings and operations by adopting best practices, as well as help citizens and businesses go solar.

**Membership:** All Coalition members

**Focus:**

- Created White Paper of solar options that
  - Sets ambitious goals for solar energy adoption
  - Eliminates red tape in the solar installation process
  - Encourages solar projects throughout the community
- Assist Santa Fe with its Solarize campaign



# Solar and EE Working Group

## Green Bank

- To reduce the energy burden of low-income households, developing a "Green Bank" feasibility study, expanding Solarize campaign and for application to the Santa Fe region, with future expansion statewide.





# Member Accomplishments

- **Las Cruces**

- Contracted with the Coalition to produce a guide to implementing a new building energy code
- Applied new State Land Office 40-year lease to site new city wells
- Achieved, along with Santa Fe City and County, Sol Smart designation

- **Albuquerque**

- Developing an updated Climate Action Plan through a Climate Task Force with preferred members self-identified as “black, indigenous, and/or person of color”
- No. 3 of America’s cities with most solar installed per capita.





# Member Accomplishments

- **City of Santa Fe**

- Advancing Solarize Santa Fe pilot project to help those with low FICO scores become eligible to go solar, starting with teachers
- Installing solar on 14 city buildings and LEDS in all street lights
- Working with Coalition on creating a green bank/fund

- **Santa Fe County**

- Approved new building energy code more stringent than the new state code
- Working with the Coalition on creating a green bank/fund



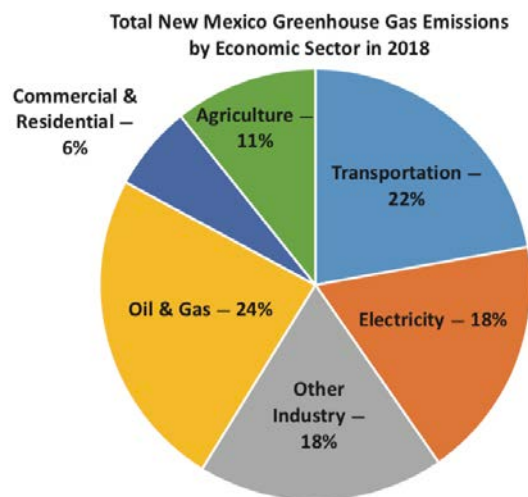
# Coalition Members On The Web

- City of Albuquerque's [Climate Action Plan](#) and [information about sustainability](#)
- City of Santa Fe's [Sustainable Santa Fe 25-Year Plan](#) and [information about sustainability](#)
- City of Las Cruces' [Sustainability Office](#)
- Santa Fe County's [Office of Sustainability](#)
- State Land Office (ex officio) [Office of Renewable Energy](#)

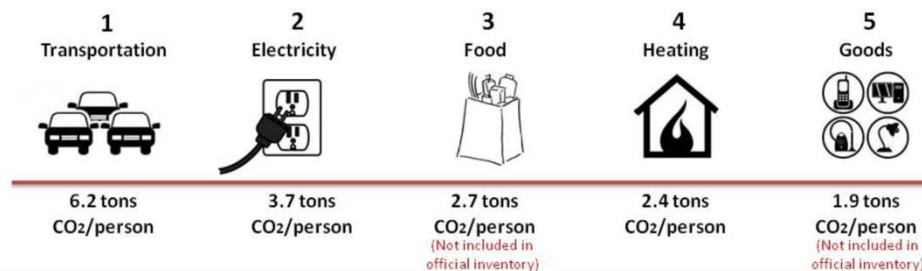


# Developing Coalition Priorities

- Coalition staff and steering committee members evaluate what policies reduce emissions in key sectors, while providing co-benefits to a triple bottom line of environmental, economic, and social considerations.



## 2015 GHG Emissions for Santa Fe City & County



Source: 2015 GHG Emissions Inventory: The City of Santa Fe and Santa Fe County

Sources: NM Climate Strategy 2019, NM Interagency Climate Task Force & 2015 GHG Emissions Inventory Santa Fe:  
[https://www.sustainablesantafe2040.com/uploads/9/8/6/5/98656914/santa\\_fe\\_2015\\_ghg\\_emissions\\_inventory\\_mar.9.17.pdf](https://www.sustainablesantafe2040.com/uploads/9/8/6/5/98656914/santa_fe_2015_ghg_emissions_inventory_mar.9.17.pdf)

*Questions?*

*Thank you!*

