

Henry P. Roybal
Commissioner, District 1

Anna Hansen
Commissioner, District 2

Rudy N. Garcia
Commissioner, District 3



Anna T. Hamilton
Commissioner, District 4

Ed Moreno
Commissioner, District 5

Katherine Miller
County Manager

MEMORANDUM

DATE: *March 12, 2019*

TO: *Board of County Commissioners*

FROM: *Anna T. Hamilton, Santa Fe County Commissioner, District 4*

VIA: *Katherine Miller, County Manager*

RE: **A Resolution Supporting the County's Transition to Clean, Renewable Electricity By Participating In the Public Service Company of New Mexico Solar Direct Program (Commissioner Hamilton and Public Works Department/ Claudia Borchert)**

SUMMARY

This resolution expresses Santa Fe County's interest in supporting a 50% subscription to a Public Service Company of New Mexico Solar Direct program, directing the County Manager to monitor the program development with the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission, and negotiate a subscription in PNM Solar Direct for the Board of Santa Fe County commissioners' consideration. The resolution also allows the County Manager to assess other renewable energy opportunities.

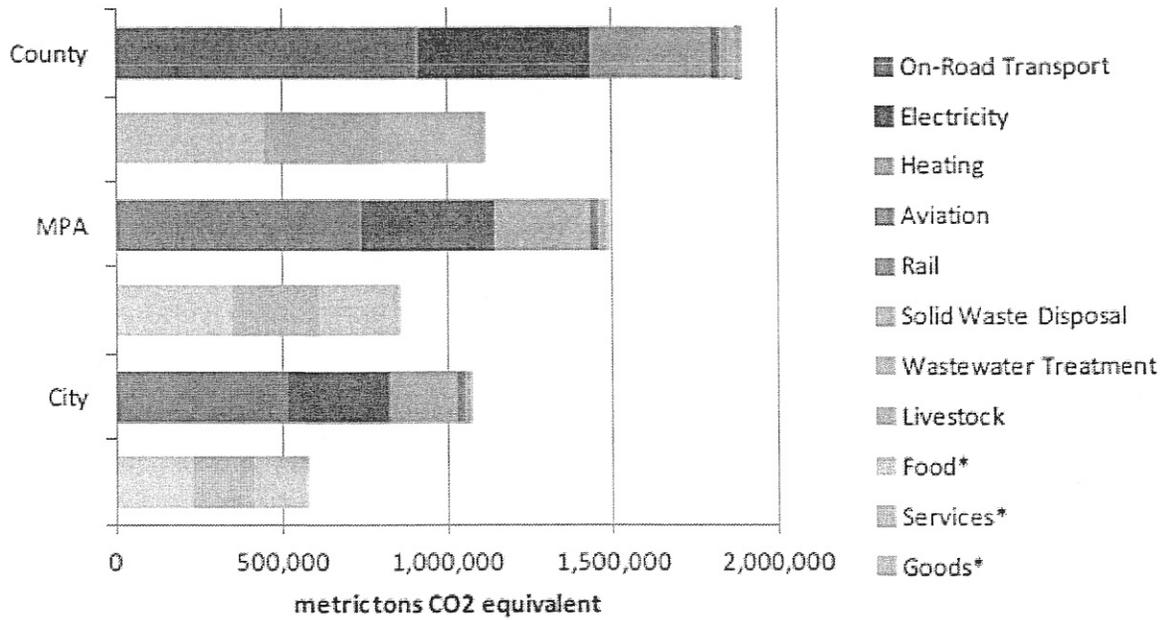
BACKGROUND

Since passing Resolution No. 2013-7, the Board has been leading-by-example in installing renewable energy systems in Santa Fe County facilities. To date, the County has installed 13 photovoltaic (PV) systems with a production capability of over 1.4 megawatt. Furthermore, the County has identified five additional locations for behind-the-meter installations, for an additional 200 kilowatt capacity, should the requested \$500,000 become available from the 2019 New Mexico Legislature. In Resolution No. 2017-68, the Board supports the goals of the Paris Agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHGe) in Santa Fe County (County).

DISCUSSION

A 50% subscription to PNM Solar Direct, at a premium bill cost of approximately \$30,000/year, would bring the County's electricity use to over 80% renewable meeting **both** the 2025 and 2040

targets. Then, the County's efforts can focus on the reducing the electricity GHGe in the private sector and GHGe from on-road transport and heating (see figure below illustrating the source of GHGe from the *Santa Fe 2015 GHG Emissions Inventory*).



ACTION REQUESTED

Commissioner Hamilton respectfully requests the Board of County Commissioners support and approve this item.

Attachment: **Resolution No. 2019-___, A Resolution Supporting the County's Transition to Clean, Renewable Electricity By Participating In the Public Service Company of New Mexico Solar Direct Program.**

SANTA FE COUNTY RESOLUTION

NO. 2019 – _____

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE COUNTY'S TRANSITION TO CLEAN,
RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY BY PARTICIPATING IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE
COMPANY OF NEW MEXICO SOLAR DIRECT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, in Resolution No. 2017-68, the Board of Santa Fe County Commissioners adopted and supports the goals of the Paris Agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Santa Fe County (County); and

WHEREAS, the County is reducing greenhouse gas emissions through implementing waste reduction, recycling, water conservation, energy efficiency, renewable energy systems, and fleet management in County facilities and operations as directed by lead-by-example Resolutions Nos. 2013-7 and 2013-41; and

WHEREAS, the County is producing renewable energy at thirteen photovoltaic (PV) facilities with a capacity of over 1.4 megawatts of direct current; and

WHEREAS, for some of the County's facilities, the installation of behind-the-meter PV systems is not feasible or has a low return-on-investment; and

WHEREAS, the County purchased approximately five million kilowatt hours of electricity from the Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM) in 2018, of which approximately 17% is produced by renewable energy; and

WHEREAS, PNM is offering local governments, institutions and businesses an opportunity to subscribe to the PNM Solar Direct program to meet renewable energy production goals by purchasing solar power at a premium billing rate; and

WHEREAS, the County's 50% participation in PNM Solar Direct program will increase the County's portfolio of renewable energy to over 80% upon completion of PNM's solar generation facility;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County, hereby:

1. Has interest in subscribing fifty percent of the County's electrical use from PNM via PNM Solar Direct;
2. Directs the County Manager to monitor and, if necessary, intervene and comment on the PNM Solar Direct approval process with the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission;

3. Directs the County Manager to negotiate a subscription to PNM Solar Direct and bring the proposed agreement to the Board for consideration; and
4. Directs the County Manager to initiate discussions with other off-site renewable energy providers to increase opportunities for Santa Fe County to transition to renewable power.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED ON THIS 12th DAY OF MARCH, 2019

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANTA FE COUNTY

Anna Hamilton, Chair

ATTESTATION:

Geraldine Salazar, County Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Bruce Fredrick, County Attorney

XXX, Finance Director

