

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SANTA FE COUNTY

RESOLUTION NO. 2022 - 088

Introduced by: Commissioner Anna Hansen

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING STATE LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH INDUSTRY-
WIDE REDUCTIONS ON THE EMISSIONS OF GREENHOUSE GASES**

WHEREAS, the United States is facing a climate crisis as greenhouse gas emissions continue to increase; and

WHEREAS, due to climate change-induced drought and heat cycles, among other factors, New Mexico communities have experienced the most severe wildfire season in New Mexico history with over 899,000 acres burned to date; and

WHEREAS, the drought that has gripped New Mexico and the Southwest over the past 22 years is the driest “megadrought” – a drought lasting two decades or longer – since at least the year 800, according to a study in the journal *Nature Climate Change*.

WHEREAS, the integrity of New Mexico’s water supplies is threatened by the megadrought, imperiling both our communities’ drinking water supplies and our agricultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, drought, wildfire, storms, flooding and unseasonal freezes all pose risks to agriculture and will contribute to lower crop yields in the country’s farming regions, including New Mexico’s \$3 billion agriculture industry; and

WHEREAS, the Biden administration and U.S. Congress passed the Inflation Reduction Act, which will direct unprecedented resources towards fighting climate change nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the new federal law makes \$369 billion available for tax credits, programs and incentives that could result in cutting greenhouse gas emissions to roughly 40% below 2005 levels by 2030; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico Legislature passed two nation-leading climate legislative acts in the form of the Energy Transition Act of 2019 and the Community Solar Act of 2021; and

WHEREAS, Governor Lujan Grisham’s Executive Order 2019-003 established an interagency Climate Change Task Force and sent a clear directive to New Mexico’s state agencies to evaluate the impacts of climate change on their programs and operations and integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation practices into their programs and operations; and

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WHEREAS, the administrative actions taken by the Lujan Grisham administration pursuant to Executive Order 2019-003, including methane waste rules, the ozone precursor rules, and the advanced clean cars rule, have put New Mexico on a strong trajectory for limiting greenhouse gas emissions before 2030; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico Legislature passed Senate Bill 112 in 2021 to create the Sustainable Economy Taskforce to develop a strategic plan to transition our state's economy away from the oil and gas industry, and implement the recommendations yielded in the New Mexico Clean Energy Workforce Development Study; and

WHEREAS, the Board passed Resolution 2017-68, which adopted and supported the goals set in the Paris Agreement and expressed the Board's intention to support greenhouse gas emissions reduction within the County and the community; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Fe County (County) Board of County Commissioners (Board) adopted Resolution No. 2018-124 in support of the State of New Mexico's legislature initiatives and administrative actions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency, renewable energy production, water conservation and watershed management; and

WHEREAS, the Board adopted Resolution No. 2019-111, endorsing the declaration of a climate emergency, joining the global climate strike, and requesting regional collaboration on an immediate just transition and emergency mobilization effort to restore a safe climate; and

WHEREAS, the Board adopted Ordinance No. 2021-02, an Ordinance amending the Sustainable Land Development Code (SLDC), Ordinance No. 2016-9, amending and restating Section 7.14 concerning energy efficiency to, among other things, require new structures to comply with specified pathways in the 2018 New Mexico Residential Energy Conservation Code and 2018 New Mexico Commercial Energy Conservation Code, and removing the whole-house mechanical ventilation requirement for residential structures; and

WHEREAS, the Board passed Resolution No. 2022-004 in January, 2022, adopting the County Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Plan for Government Operations, which documents emissions from residential, commercial, and industry energy use; transportation fuel use; solid waste management; water and wastewater management; fugitive emissions from natural gas distribution; and agricultural and forest disturbances; and

WHEREAS, the Board requested a countywide Greenhouse Gas inventory to utilize as a baseline to allow County to forecast business-as-usual emissions, create informed reduction targets, model emission reduction scenarios, monitor emission reduction progress, create a holistic climate action plan, demonstrate accountability and leadership, and motivate community action; and

WHEREAS, the Board adopted Ordinance No. 2022-05, an Ordinance amending the Sustainable Land Development Code (SLDC), Ordinance No. 2016-9, to add a definition of community solar, to add a new Section 10.25 to Address Standards for Community Solar

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Facilities and to Add a New Clause to Section 8.11.3.5.2 to prohibit a community overlay district from restricting the location and procedures for installing community solar activities; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico is predominantly a rural state where rural residents have a lower income rate than their urban counterparts and often work in occupations that are dependent on the unpredictable oil and gas industry; and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County's underserved and minority populations (Indigenous communities, low-income individuals, and people with disabilities), are disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change and will continue to bear this burden as temperatures continue to increase and climate disasters worsen; and

WHEREAS, underserved New Mexicans residing in these oil dependent counties are exposed to higher levels of pollutants that adversely affect their health and welfare and experience extreme weather conditions, such as high heat and drought; and

WHEREAS, confronting the climate crisis in rural New Mexico by transitioning towards a renewable energy future has the potential to address the factors that these communities face in terms of economic vulnerability, ecological welfare of the land, and physical health of residents.

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

1. Supports legislation at the New Mexico State Legislature to reduce statewide emissions by 45% by 2030 and 100% (net zero) by 2050, compared to 2005 emissions.
2. Supports legislation that grants authority to New Mexico state agencies to regulate all sources of greenhouse gas emissions within their jurisdictions.
3. Supports legislation that develops equitable pathways into the emerging renewable energy and environmental restoration sectors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County calls on the U.S. Government, Congress, and state and local leaders to:

1. Lead by example on a path to zero-emissions, renewable energy future, and share our plans and progress within our community, our constituents, and other local government leaders.
2. Continue to build awareness and support climate solutions by empowering our frontline communities with deep engagement, actionable plans for climate change mitigation, and equitable workforce development.
3. Commit to protecting water resources, transitioning away from the use of fossil fuels, and protecting our most underserved communities from the harshest impacts of climate change.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County requests that the County Manager forward this Resolution to County's Federal Delegation, U.S. Senators Martin Heinrich and Ben Ray Lujan and Congressional Representative

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Teresa Ledger Fernandez, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, the leadership of the New Mexico Senate and House, Senators and Representatives in the New Mexico Legislature representing Santa Fe County, and New Mexico Counties' Board of Directors and Executive Director.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED ON THIS 15th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2022.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SANTA FE COUNTY**

By: *Anna T. Hamilton*
Anna T. Hamilton, Chair

ATTESTATION:
Katherine E. Clark
Katherine E. Clark
Santa Fe County Clerk

Date: 11/16/22



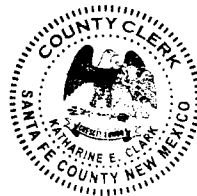
APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Jeff Young
Jeff Young
Santa Fe County Attorney

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COUNTY OF SANTA FE) BCC RESOLUTIONS
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss PAGES: 4

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 18TH Day Of November, 2022 at 09:36:20 AM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 2001650
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County



Deputy *Destiny Romero* Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Katharine E. Clark
County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM