

Topic: Solar Energy; Zoning
Resource Type: Planning Documents & Policy Statements
State: New Mexico
Jurisdiction Type: Municipality
Municipality: County of Santa Fe
Year: 2013
Community Type – applicable to: Urban; Suburban; Rural
Title: Santa Fe County- Resolution No. 2013-49
Document Last Updated in Database: June 6, 2018

Abstract

Santa Fe County, New Mexico adopted Resolution No. 2013-49 to support renewable energy projects on County facilities. Although not a comprehensive policy statement, the resolution’s whereas clauses present the County’s detailed rationale for this support. In particular, they acknowledge the County’s “tremendous solar power potential” and contain a comprehensive list of solar power benefits, including economic, environmental, health, and education benefits.

Resource

See separate attached PDF.

SANTA FE COUNTY

RESOLUTION NO. 2013-49

Introduced by Commissioner Daniel Mayfield and Commissioner Robert Anaya

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CLEAN AND RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS TO DEPLOY AND INSTALL ENERGY EFFICIENT AND RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS ON SANTA FE COUNTY OWNED FACILITIES, WHICH WILL RESULT IN DECREASED UTILITY COSTS FOR TAXPAYERS, REDUCE NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS FROM FOSSIL FUEL USE AND CONTRIBUTE TO CLEANER AIR QUALITY AND HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, the Board of Santa Fe County Commissioners (“the Board”) approved and adopted its Resolution No. 2013-7 on January 29, 2013, a resolution that requires that County government “lead by example” and implement sustainable resource management principles and cost-effective waste reduction, recycling and clean energy strategies in County operations;

WHEREAS, the Board adopted the Sustainable Growth Management Plan in 2010, which established, by policy, clean energy directives generally that includes the use of solar renewable energy in new development;

WHEREAS, consistent with these policy directives, Santa Fe County has already constructed various buildings that incorporated energy efficient and renewable energy including United States Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Standards (“LEED”);

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that buildings consume a large proportion of energy used in the United States and that it is in the best public interest and the best interest of Santa Fe County to address the County’s existing facilities to achieve the goal of conserving natural resources as well as to reduce the operational and maintenance costs at each County facility;

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County has the ability to lead by example and make Santa Fe County a clean energy leader by taking further affirmative public policy action on environmental stewardship and climate change and supporting and implementing clean and renewable energy projects to deploy and install energy efficient and renewable energy technology systems on County-owned facilities;

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County holds tremendous solar power potential that could reduce negative local impacts from fossil fuel use, create new jobs, and bring brighter possibilities for health, prosperity and sustainability to county communities;

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WHEREAS, according to rankings developed by the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA), the State of New Mexico is already in its “top ten” list twice: fifth in Installed Solar Electric Watts Per Capita, and tenth in Cumulative Solar Electric Capacity;

WHEREAS, solar power systems mitigate climate disruption and reduce our collective dependence of fossil fuels, which leads to protection of air quality and conservation of water;

WHEREAS, solar energy does not produce any toxic fumes or air pollution, compared to fossil fuels, which release carcinogens, carbon pollution and other harmful air pollutants, that cause diseases such as asthma and cancer;

WHEREAS, as the world’s demand for energy continues to rise, solar power is one of the most abundant resources providing clean, cost effective energy around the world harnessing the power of the sun which is a critical path in global efforts to create a sustainable future and New Mexico and Santa Fe County are ideally suited to take advantage of these benefits;

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes the benefits of solar power, including:

1. **Economic:** Once installed, solar systems provide a low-cost means of receiving high quality electricity that will realize a return on investment for Santa Fe County for excess electric production including receiving Renewable Energy Certificate payments from the utility company. Additionally, since an educational component offered at the Santa Fe Community College prepares local youth for jobs in the field of solar and renewable energy every new project that occurs in Santa Fe County creates jobs for these graduates as they enter the workforce in Santa Fe County. These are opportunities that foster economic vitality, and create ongoing employment opportunities for families;
2. **Environmental Stewardship:** Use of solar electric systems decreases the amount of local air pollution and photovoltaic systems produce electric power with no carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions;
3. **Health:** Air pollution will be reduced compared to fossil fuels, which release greenhouse gases, carcinogens and carbon dioxide and solar cells do not release any pollutants into the air; and
4. **Education:** Because the solar system will be publically visible, Santa Fe County will once again lead by example for our community. Enticing community members to ask questions seek information and engage in discussions about how to transition to a clean and local energy economy. Generating community support for future like-kind projects that will move forward a Community Solar Program in Santa Fe County;

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to continue to “lead by example” and further take action through affirmative, progressive public policy at the local government level to address climate

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disruption, reduce carbon pollution and create jobs in clean energy and energy efficiency for Santa Fe County's families and businesses;

WHEREAS, this resolution will once again "lead by example" in the area of solar power and result in decreased utility costs for taxpayers, reduce negative environmental impacts from fossil fuel use and contribute to cleaner air quality and healthier communities; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to solarize the Tesuque Fire Department as a pilot project along with New Energy Economy, a non-profit corporation who has raised funds to assist with the project, and this pilot project can serve as a model to be pursued for existing County facilities generally, which will meet the energy saving objectives described herein and also employ locally trained installers, grow community capacity and provide valuable opportunities to work with not-for-profit entities. Once solarized, it is expected that the Tesuque Fire Station will definitely decrease its electricity costs resulting in returned utility money savings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SANTA FE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS THAT:

1. A pilot project with New Energy Economy to solarize the Tesuque Fire Department, utilizing District One Capital Funds no greater than twenty-thousand dollars (\$20,000.00) in District One Capital Funds, shall be and hereby is approved.
2. The pilot project will provide a benchmark and a model for Santa Fe County to pursue future additional energy efficiency and renewable energy projects on existing Santa Fe County public buildings.
3. Each County-funded project must consider energy saving features such as solar energy as well as features to conserve water and other natural resources and the County shall ensure that analysis of viable energy development and resource conservation shall be included on all County facilities before the project is approved regardless of whether or not such features are to be implemented on the proposed project.

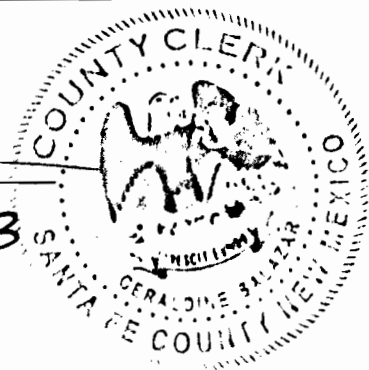
PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 14th day of May, 2013.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANTA FE COUNTY

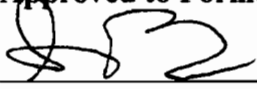
By: Kathy Holan
Kathy Holan, Chair

Attest: Geraldine Salazar
Geraldine Salazar, Santa Fe County Clerk

5/14/13



Approved to Form:



Stephen C. Ross, Santa Fe County Attorney

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COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

BCC RESOLUTIONS
PAGES: 4

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 15TH Day Of May, 2013 at 04:11:51 PM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1705730
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County



Deputy  Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Geraldine Salazar
County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM