



Climate Action Plan Community Conversations Gallup, NM 2.20.25

Welcome

Clarify objectives, group agreements, Lilly Irvin-Vitela and Melissa Ontiveros:

- Listen to understand
- Be respectful of common ground and differences
- Share the space
- Remember your voice matters.

Provide context and expectations, NMED and EMNRD by Amy Rosebrough:

- The aim of the NM Climate Action Plan is
 - [1] To reduce climate pollution by 45% by 2030 (compared to 2005).
 - [2] To lead New Mexico to net zero climate pollution by 2050.

- The planning process includes exploration across NM of New Mexicans personal values, local priorities, and state priorities to inform the approaches that are adopted in the New Mexico plan.
- Some of the parameters that will guide the selection of approaches include: feasibility of implementation, cost and the availability of funding, the impact of the strategy or tactic on pollution reductions, the transformative impact, and community values.

Community Values

Strengthen understanding about and among the people in the meeting, community members.

- Participant from Grants, NM is a wildlife biologist and works to address climate change. The values he prioritizes include altruism as well as addressing the existence of food deserts.
- Participant who was raised in NM is an educator and believes in the importance of education as a value.
- A participant from Red Spring is a wildlife technician and believes that education and prioritizing the future is important. They emphasized the importance of people growing their own food and addressing food deserts.
- A participant from Two Rivers expressed concern about the climate changes bombarding us and the need to understand systems and how to respond for our children and future. Focusing on education for our children is very important.
- A participant from Zuni with over 30 years in field has seen climate change firsthand. Water levels have dropped. It's become hotter. The river is dry. There's lost snowpack and we're in scary times. He believes that if our ancestors saw these changes, they may have moved on to places with more water.
- One participant who is in healthcare and more recent to the area cares about climate change as a health issue and really believes each person matters.

One participant who grew up in the area emphasized the importance of the word

environment. Is attending because she believes answers from leaders are superficial. For example, leaders blame animals but do not look at what we have given away like water. In addition, our lands are used and waste is left and not removed on our lands. Most of us do not see Mother Earth and Father Sky as relatives anymore. There's a need for traditional ways of caring for animals. If we don't keep that sacred, we have problems.

- A participant from Jal, NM who was born and raised in Farmington and then raised their own family in Gallup sees connections across the state of an oil and gas history. They're currently reading a book called "The House of Rain" which explores the history of Chaco and civilizations that have died and dispersed. This participant was interested in learning and understanding the impacts of oil and gas that have had benefits and challenges. They wonder what the options are of using alternative fuels for big trucks, freight, etc.
- Another participant who was born and raised in Gallup wonders if there are things they've taken for granted such as turning on a faucet when that isn't an option for others in the area. They stressed the importance of thinking of impacts collectively.
- One participant focused on a commitment to environmental justice and prepare for our future generations.

- Another participant also focused on environmental justice and understanding our connection to land/place as a piece of our hearts and of bodies.
- Another participant focused on the need to fight for what is right. It's not right to take and not give or leave some for others. Having studied the possibility of life off of earth, is committed to life on birth and the beauty of what is here.
- Another participant in the meeting who is in the health field, remembers as a child growing up. Every morning, they turned on the faucet and didn't know my home was the only one in her village on the Navajo Nation that could turn on a faucet. Their parents made their home self-sustaining. Her values around self-sustaining are deep. – Those old wells and reusing water has been affected because of environmental damage to community from uranium. There are so many homes and places that still need to test. We need approaches that promote healthy families and the health of everybody.
- One participant who has lived in NM since 1990, came to NM because they love the sun. They earned a degree in Community and Regional Planning from UNM. They worked in Taos and then Laguna Pueblo and currently work on economic development in Gallup. Values a balance of good jobs, industries, and community. Came to see who is at the table and wanted to see who is not at the table.
- One comment emphasized, we need to think about the future generation.
- A participant advised, look at all aspects of all living/ non-living systematic ally and emphasized holistic thinking.
- Another person at the meeting noted, I love home and feel connected and strengthened by healthy spaces, places, and people.
- A person at the meeting explained, my mom taught me to fight for what I think is right, and to preserve for future generations.
- I want to contribute to the plan on preserving Earth. Working with Lilly on NMED allows me that opportunity.
- One participant believes that serious issues require participation, showing up, and lending a hand.
- One young participant from the Navajo Nation explained that climate change is an interesting topic. Is concerned about everyone who has ruined things for her generation to address.
- One person came because of an invitation and word of mouth and their own care for Mother Earth.
- One person who was born and raised in Gallup, NM and is from Zuni attended even though they believe their political views may be different from many others inn the room. But they chose to come and hear from others and educate self and not just become angry about differences. Also, this community's approach to recycling is not good and they want to see that change.

- Another person works in health and believes health encompasses the environment.
- One participant stopped recycling when Republicans won and feels hopeless about the environment. Has grandchildren (nieces and nephews) but chose not to have biological children because the world is overpopulated when they were younger. At one point they had hope that the world would be better but has not seen it. Everyone has gone hog wild. There are giant servers in the salt flats.
- One person who is a teacher and gardener believes in the importance of nature. “We come from and are nature.” Not having recycling that is working is unacceptable.
- One participant from the Navajo Nation was born and raised in Denver, served in the Marine Corp, and is now a teacher of Solar Design at Diné College and at 6 Directions. They have seen changes since the 1990s and came home to make a difference because of their belief in nature, the Earth, and our children.
- One participant who is from Zuni Pueblo, believes in seeing how we are all connected to the land and take care of the land and keep Mother Earth safe.
- A participant who is Diné from Crownpoint looks at how to further teach and leave a legacy for selves and children to examine our carbon footprint. We can learn from the past and make individual and collective choices to be relational stewards to the land. As a child they remember playing in the uranium potholes and now there is polluted air and water and substandard food.
- A Navy veteran who was born and raised in Silver City talked about the importance of energy to our economy. They said, “It’s simple. We live on this planet and do not have anywhere else to live.”
- A participant who is a public health professional and works on community development is part of the American Public Health Association and focuses on environmental health. They believe in preserving New Mexico for generations to come.

Transportation

Together participants analyzed the following priorities, raised and answered clarifying questions, and identified missing strategies/tactics related to the climate action issue areas.

- Create communities where it is easy and safe to get around without a car.
 - There weren’t any clarifying questions about this strategy.
 - 10 people identified this as an effective strategy.
 - 7 people weren’t sure if this was workable.
 - 1 person expressed concern about the reliability of getting around without a car in this region and didn’t see this an option that had any guarantees against getting stranded.

- Increase safety, availability and efficiency of public transit.
 - There weren't any clarifying questions but there was discussion about safety and access to public transportation.
 - 18 people supported this strategy.
 - 2 people were ambivalent about this strategy.
 - No one opposed this strategy.
- Make it cheaper and easier to buy and charge electric vehicles.
 - This topic raised many questions about how electric vehicles perform in 4ft of snow, with power outages, changes in electricity rates, the availability and usability of charging stations, and the capacity to handle difficult terrains.
 - 10 people supported this strategy.
 - 7 people saw positive and negatives of this strategy.
 - Two people opposed this as a viable strategy.
- Make it easier and cheaper for freight, buses, delivery, and ride share vehicles to use cleaner fuels.
 - The discussion about claiming that hydrogen is a cleaner fuel or nuclear energy is a cleaner fuel is concerning.
 - 13 people supported this strategy.
 - 5 people were open to this strategy but believe more information needs to be available to define cleaner fuels in ways that account for safety and long term impacts.
 - 4 people opposed this strategy.
- Help people repair and replace high polluting cars.
 - Participants talked about the need for incentives that are significant and the importance of having a plan for what to do with vehicles that are replaced.
 - How do vehicle based strategies that require building a 4-lane highway reconcile with climate action goals?
 - 5 people supported this strategy.
 - 10 people were open to it with more clarification around incentives and a strategy to handle old vehicles in ways that aren't causing more damage.
 - Two people opposed this strategy.

Clarifying Questions:

- How does a 4-lane freeway that is currently being built reconcile with climate action goals?
 - Engage in transportation planning that aligns with climate action goals and addresses needs in rural and urban areas.
 - 14 people supported this strategy.
- What are the environmental trade-offs or electric, hybrid, and other types of engines?
 - Several meeting participants want the plan to provide public education about the trade-offs of gas vehicles, hybrid vehicles, and electric vehicles not just on the consumer end but also considering the financial and climate costs of manufacturing and disposal of vehicles.
 - Consider what the requirements are for different options on energy and water.

- Will the plan consider that there are still regions (like around Gallup) that rely on hitchhiking as a form of transportation?

What's Missing?:

- With all strategies, research and explain the anticipated trade-offs on the front end.
- Consider how to make safer pedestrian, cycling, and public transportation options.
- Also consider how train and air transportation fit into the transportation needs.
 - For example, air transportation plays a role in access to healthcare in this region.
- Consider the costs of maintaining roads and bridges.
- Policies and plans must consider some of the jurisdictional issues that impact how roads, bridges, transportation ways are managed and maintained.
- Think about the transportation impacts in and around Gallup of various industries/corporations.

Priorities:

- Increase safety, availability, and efficiency of public transit.
- Make it easier and cheaper for freight, buses, delivery, and rideshare vehicles to use cleaner fuels.
- Create communities where it is easy and safe to get around without a car.
- Make it easier and cheaper to buy and charge electric vehicles.

Energy

Together a smaller group of participants analyzed and prioritized the following priorities, raised and answered clarifying questions, and identified missing strategies/tactics related to the climate action issue areas.

- Make it easier and cheaper to install solar panels and batteries for homes.
 - 3/3 participants supported this strategy.
 - No one raised objections.
- Expand electrical grid to support adding cheap and clean renewable power.
 - 3/3 participants supported this strategy.
 - No one raised objections.
- Make it easier and cheaper for homes and businesses to save energy.
 - Including upgrading appliances and HVAC systems and replacing gas, propane, or oil powered appliances with electric appliances
 - 3/3 participants supported this strategy.
 - No one raised objections.
- Adopt and enforce the most recent building and energy codes for greater energy and safety
 - 3/3 participants supported this strategy.
 - No one raised objections.
- Make it easier for homes and businesses to get paid for utilizing less energy during peak demand
 - 2/3 participants supported this strategy.

- One person expressed some hesitation.

Clarifying Questions:

- How does NM state government interface with tribal lands/government?
- Is energy infrastructure reliable and well maintained in rural areas in NM?
 - Maintenance of rural community.
- Is there any plan to utilize solar or wind energy to access water for rural areas in NM (specifically reservations)?
- How can energy building codes support the urgent need for more affordable housing?
- Rural development for utilities.

What's Missing?:

- Skilled labor (i.e. contractors) for installing solar panels, batteries, appliances
- Addressing energy poverty (i.e. homes without electricity on Navajo Nation)
- Leverage municipal level wind/solar for faster transportation
- How to tie employment opportunities into training pathways for just transition
- Accessibility of solar energy and installation in rural communities in NM?

Priorities:

- Make it easier and cheaper to install solar panels and batteries for homes.
- Expand the electrical grid to support adding cheap and clean renewable power.

Agriculture, Forest, Wilderness

Together a smaller group of participants analyzed and prioritized the following priorities, raised and answered clarifying questions, and identified missing strategies/tactics related to the climate action issue areas.

- Implement landscape- scale wildfire reduction and prevention practices in high-risk and high-priority watersheds throughout NM.
 - 5 out of 7 people supported this strategy.
 - Two people were open to the strategy but expressed some hesitation.
- Incorporate landscape-scale restoration that supports native plant communities, carbon storage, drought prevention, and future climate resilience on natural and working lands.
 - 5 out of 6 people supported this strategy.
 - One person was open to the strategy but expressed some hesitation.
- Identify and implement strategies for collection and use of carbon data to evaluate climate efforts, carbon sequestration opportunities, and participation in carbon markets
 - 5 out of 6 people supported this strategy.
 - One person was open to the strategy but expressed some hesitation.

- Prioritize land for low carbon uses like parks, recreation, green spaces, conservation, and community gardens, particularly in low-income and disadvantaged communities.
 - 5 out of 6 people supported this strategy.
 - One person was open to the strategy but expressed some hesitation.
- Incorporate traditional ecological knowledge and indigenous land management practices in conservation and forestry efforts.
 - All of the participants in this group supported this strategy.
- Encourage agricultural soil management practices that enhance carbon storage and water retention.
 - All of the participants in this group supported this strategy.

Clarifying Questions:

- “Incorporate” doesn't sound right- use “include” or “engage”

What's Missing?:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| • Include food systems, food security, and food policy in this plan directly | • Landfills |
| • Food for wildlife | • Education including city landscapes |
| • Water usage | • Open dialogues |
| • Clean air | • Tribal consultation |
| | • Sharing data to include tribes |

Priorities:

- Think about natural cycles
- Incentives for growing food, regulating wildlife, land management
- Further connection between departments
- Trash removal, pollution prevention, and education

Waste and Materials

Together a smaller group of participants analyzed and prioritized the following priorities, raised and answered clarifying questions, and identified missing strategies/tactics related to the climate action issue areas.

- Capture waste gas (methane) from sites like landfills and dairies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or make electricity and cleaner fuel.
 - 1 person supported this strategy and 1 person was ambivalent.
- Support wastewater treatment plants in creating compost from treated waste.
 - 1 person was ambivalent about this strategy.
- Make it easier to compost at home and places where food is served.
 - 4 people supported this strategy.

- Reduce the amount of construction and demolition waste.
 - 2 people supported this strategy.
- Make it easier and cheaper to use low carbon concrete and other materials.
 - 1 person was ambivalent about this strategy.

Clarifying Questions:

- What do you do in small communities to promote compost?
- Prioritize composting with support by the government.
- How do you incentivize construction monopolies to do the right thing with solid waste?
- How do you hold families accountable for dumping waste?
- How do you model composting and recycling?
- How do we promote reusable bags at the store?
- How do you identify waste i.e. plastic, glass?

What's Missing?:

- Construction contracts should include clean up and disposal of materials.
- Participants liked the addition of this strategy.

Priorities:

- Make it easier to compost at home and places where food is served.
- Increase incentives for reducing waste from construction.

Industry

Together a smaller group of participants analyzed and prioritized the following priorities, raised and answered clarifying questions, and identified missing strategies/tactics related to the climate action issue areas.

- Continue to invest in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from oil and gas activities, for example by identifying and fixing leaking infrastructure or electrifying equipment.
 - 4/4 people supported by this group of this strategy.
- Continue to plug or remediate abandoned wells and oil and gas infrastructure throughout NM.
 - 3/5 people supported this strategy but 2/5 people who identified the need for more information.
- Continue to reduce carbon dioxide in the atmosphere through carbon capture efforts.
 - 6/6 people support from this group of this strategy.
- Increase monitoring and enforcement capacity for state emissions regulations.
 - 5/5 people supported this strategy.

- Create clean hydrogen hub in NM.
 - 5/5 people were ambivalent about this strategy.
- Explore opportunities for carbon markets in NM.
 - 6/6 people were ambivalent about this strategy.

Clarifying Questions:

- What does “clean” mean? Is it really clean?
- Better uses for money for projects that might have more immediate impact (Hydrogen).
- Question about safety of hydrogen for environment and people.
- Who is benefiting?
 - 2 green
- Cutting back on energy use, shifting the amount of energy we use.

What’s Missing?:

- Reductions in fuels and energy
- Incentivize going electric

Priorities:

- Continue to invest in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from oil and gas activities.
- Continue to reduce carbon dioxide in the atmosphere through carbon capture efforts.
- Increase monitoring and enforcement capacity for state emissions regulations.

Next Steps and Opportunities to Participate

- Notes will be sent early next week for review by everyone who signed-in and shared their e-mail. Participants will be given an opportunity to review and send feedback.
- The values and priorities will help shape the next round of community meetings and ultimately, the drafting of New Mexico’s statewide Climate Action Plan.
- Participants who have not completed the Climate Action Plan survey are invited to share their voice in that way too.
- The planning team will invite everyone who registered or attended this meeting to future planning meetings and continue widening the public outreach efforts.
- Participants are also encouraged to invite others.