



Final Notes

Climate Action Plan Community Conversations

Las Vegas, NM, 3.20.2025

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 Phillip King:

- 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

- Participant from Las Vegas, NM, Highlands University Conservation and Sustainability Committee, pollinated a garden last year, solar panels and challenges with PNM, wants to learn especially about climate.
- A participant is a designer interested in social impact, thesis in anthropology Indigenous world views about the environment. Has heat pumps and solar panels in home (town is a Red Line Zone cannot use solar panels because of overcapacity.)
- A participant is a chemist from Sandia National Laboratories, civil and community rights activist, roof top solar is the most efficient (lowest hanging fruit) California has 1.866 million and Las Vegas no grid. Electric vehicles, net zero homes (1st in Santa Fe \$250,000) Affordable housing energy 1 bed \$700, and 2 bed \$1500, hydrogen hub-white hydrogen, education (value and effect of solar panels).
- Another participant from Santa Fe is interested in the natural plants.
- Another participant from Las Vegas, NM wants to learn from the group.
- A participant, a publisher of local news, opportunity renewable (solar and electric), adobe and passive solar- solar array on the roof.
- Another participant works with the NM Economic Development Department (NE) lives in Mora. Adobe-net zero in all homes, negotiate for all adobe homes to be bought and used. Energy concept-green energy, old wood-wood floors, Farmway seeds, regional- natural gas/electric, Tucumcari-maneuver methane, not enough electric charge for vehicles, increase solar.
- The participant is a NM native from Los Alamos and Las Vegas, home was impacted by fire. Learn concrete ideas, rebuild adobe, all electric homes, ski season is getting shorter, climate effects on wildlife and what is growing (environment).
- Another participant is a climate action plan analyst and wants to learn.
- Another participant is a NM climate economist lives in Santa Fe, 6th year in New Mexico and 2nd year in Santa Fe.
- A participant is an analyst with the climate change bureau.
- Another participant is an analyst with the climate change bureau and wants to hear feedback from the community.
- A participant is Bureau Chief in Santa Fe Environmental Department, 15 on team implementing policy.

Transportation

Together participants analyzed and prioritized the following priorities, raised, and answered clarifying questions, and identified missing strategies/tactics related to the transportation.

- Create communities where it is easy and safe to get around without a car.
 - 7 people identified this as an effective strategy.

- No one opposed this strategy.
- 7 suggested promoting outdoor recreation.
- 7 agreed that creation and change of existing communities was better framing than the idea that communities are created.
- Increase safety, availability, and efficiency of public transit.
 - 7 people identified this as an effective strategy. No one opposed this strategy.
- Make it cheaper and easier to buy and charge electric vehicles.
 - 7 people identified this as an effective strategy.
 - No one opposed this strategy.
- Make it easier and cheaper for freight, buses, delivery, and ride share vehicles to use cleaner fuels.
 - 6 people identified this as an effective strategy.
 - 1 person saw positives and negatives of this strategy.
 - No one opposed this strategy.
 - 7 participants agreed that it would be cheaper and easier to operate vehicles that use cleaner fuel.
- Help people repair and replace high polluting cars.
 - 6 people identified this as an effective strategy.
 - 1 person saw positives and negatives of this strategy and expressed concern about lack of sufficient charging stations and the cost of being towed back.
 - No one opposed this strategy.

Clarifying Questions:

- Help people repair and replace high polluting cars- except in Bernalillo County, Where is the state on pushing for more local emissions requirements?

What's Missing?:

- Alternative means of transportation like bicycles.
 - Encourage outdoor recreation.
- Create and change communities where it is easy and safe to get around without a car.
 - Strategy for change in communities for “redevelopment.”
- Make it easier and cheaper for freight, buses, delivery, and ride share vehicles to use cleaner fuels.
 - Lower the cost, simpler models, easier to charge, basic model (easy to operate) affordable, charging stations outside the Rio Grande Corridor, “4 Corners,” more rural infrastructure, make it cheaper and easier in urban and rural areas.
- Less streets and more residential

Priorities:

- Create communities where it is easy and safe to get around without a car.

- Increase safety, availability, and efficiency of public transit.
- Make it cheaper and easier to buy and charge electric vehicles
- Make it easier and cheaper for freight, buses, delivery, and ride share vehicles to use cleaner fuels. Including easier operation.

Energy

Together participants analyzed and prioritized the following priorities, raised, and answered clarifying questions, and identified missing strategies/tactics related to energy.

- Make it easier and cheaper to install solar panels and batteries for homes.
 - 7 participants supported this strategy.
 - No one opposed this strategy.
- Expand and make electrical grid more efficient to support adding cheap and clean renewable power.
 - 5 participants supported this strategy.
 - 2 participants saw positives and negatives of this strategy.
 - No one opposed this strategy.
 - As an alternative framing, 7 people supported state of the art transmission to grid.
- 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.
 - 5 participants supported this strategy.
 - 2 participants saw positives and negatives of this strategy.
 - No one opposed this strategy.
 - Of the participants that saw the positives and negatives of this strategy they cited the huge costs to homeowners/businesses to get rid of or upgrade (should have incentives) and do not have to give up natural gas, also concerns on how trustworthy systems are in underserved communities.
- Adopt and enforce the most recent building and energy codes for greater energy and safety.
 - 2 participants supported this strategy.
 - 4 participants saw positives and negatives of this strategy.
 - 1 participant somewhat opposed this strategy stating that financial implications on built property, “gentrification” that new energy code brings.
 - Increases property values and affordability for entry.
- Make it easier for homes and businesses to get paid for utilizing less energy during peak demand.
 - 6 participants supported this strategy.
 - 1 participant saw positives and negatives of this strategy.
 - No one opposed this strategy.

Clarifying Questions:

- What about alternative energies?
- What about wind, solar, and geothermal?
- Make it easier for homes and businesses to get paid for utilizing less energy during peak demand.
 - Yes for businesses, for homes some providers yes but not universal.
- What is missing?
- Know more about the “How” all energy strategies can be more specific about how.
- More exploration, stay up to date with advances in technology and redo grid.
- Redirect, dedicate credits to public agencies and institutions, example: hospitals.
- Not reusing energy from grid.
 - Where does the energy go?
 - Transparency is needed so it's not just producing energy to be sold out of state to profit energy companies.
- Building codes- recognize cost and barriers, enforcement on building codes.
- Take house completely off grid not partial per PNM.
- Los Lunas thermopower plant could have built to create multiple data industries “Facebook not efficient.”

Priorities:

- Make it easier and cheaper to install solar panels and batteries for homes.
- Make it easier and cheaper for homes and businesses to save energy.
- Make it easier for homes and businesses to get paid for utilizing less energy during peak demand.
- Updating and redoing grid.

Agriculture, Forest, Wilderness

Together participants analyzed and prioritized the following priorities, raised, and answered clarifying questions, and identified missing strategies/tactics related to agriculture, forest, and wilderness.

- Implement landscape- scale wildfire reduction and prevention practices in high-risk and high-priority watersheds throughout NM.
 - 7 people supported this strategy.
 - No one opposed this strategy.
- Incorporate landscape-scale restoration that supports native plant communities, carbon storage, drought prevention, and future climate resilience on natural and working lands.
 - 7 people supported this strategy.
 - No one opposed this strategy.
- Identify and implement strategies for collection and use of carbon data to evaluate climate efforts, carbon sequestration opportunities, and participation in carbon markets.
 - 3 people supported this strategy.

- 4 participants were open to the strategy but expressed some hesitation.
- No one opposed this strategy.
- Prioritize land for low carbon uses like parks, recreation, green spaces, conservation, and community gardens, particularly in low-income and disadvantaged communities.
 - 7 people supported this strategy.
 - No one opposed this strategy.
- Incorporate traditional ecological knowledge and indigenous land management practices in conservation and forestry efforts.
 - 7 people supported this strategy.
 - No one opposed this strategy.
- Encourage agricultural soil management practices that enhance carbon storage and water retention.
 - 6 people supported this strategy.
 - One participant expressed hesitation.
 - No one opposed this strategy.

Clarifying Questions:

- Carbon data-(like to know more)
 - Light reflective values from arial view-over time- sequester carbon stock in state quantify change over time (species growth over time. What is growing in space?)
- Land use- is that the prevue of the agencies
- Water- volunteer fire fighters, emergency responders “workforce”
- Emissions 2021-2025
 - Carbon data
 - Greenhouse gas data on website
- Suspicious on carbon markets
- Form committees to look at carbon markets, green washing, “facilitate” not do
- Water conservation cannot get data to correlate what is working and what is not working
- Behavioral level-think now to present meaningful data for water, soil, etc.

What’s Missing?:

- Climate friendly crops-environmentally better ie. Hemp
- Where is wildlife in the strategies?
- Will NMERD and NMED collaborate with other departments and agencies in NM, for example transportation and workforce solutions?
- Climate friendly crops- promote crops that are beneficial to environment and water

Priorities:

- Improvement landscape-scale wildlife reduction and prevention practices in high-risk and high priority watersheds throughout New Mexico.
- Incorporate landscape-scale restoration that supports native plant communities, carbon storage, drought prevention, and future climate resilience on natural and working lands.
- Prioritize land for low carbon uses like parks, recreation, green spaces, conservation, and community gardens, particularly in low-income and disadvantaged communities.
- Incorporate traditional ecological knowledge and indigenous land management practices in conservation and forestry efforts.
- Incorporate traditional ecological knowledge and indigenous land management practices in conservation and forestry efforts.
- Encourage agricultural soil management practices that enhance carbon storage and water retention.

Waste and Materials

Together participants analyzed and prioritized the following priorities, raised, and answered clarifying questions, and identified missing strategies/tactics related to waste and materials.

- Capture waste gas (methane) from sites like landfills and dairies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or make electricity and cleaner fuel.
 - 7 participants supported this strategy.
 - No one was opposed to this strategy.
- Support wastewater treatment plants in creating compost from treated waste.
 - 7 participants supported this strategy.
 - No one was opposed to this strategy.
 - 6/7 show support of wastewater treatment plants creating treated water to be used in different ways.
- Make it easier to compost at home and places where food is served.
 - 7 participants supported this strategy.
 - No one was opposed to this strategy.
 - 4/7 support requiring or mandating food vendors to take responsibility to compost/get rid of waste, 2 participants see positives and negatives of the strategy and 1 participant was opposed to requiring or mandating food vendors to take responsibility to compost/get rid of waste.
 - Also look at the economic factors to store waste.
- Reduce the amount of construction and demolition waste.
 - 6 participants supported this strategy.
 - 1 participant was open to the strategy but expressed some hesitation citing the need for encouraging adaptive use as the #1 way to reduce consumption waste.
 - No one opposed this strategy.

- Make it easier and cheaper to use low carbon concrete and other materials.
 - 7 participants supported this strategy.
 - No one was opposed to this strategy.

Clarifying Questions:

- Composting and cleaning water
- Put in appropriate areas
- Reuse of treated water
- Use of low carbon in concrete? (6/7 ways to make concrete)
- Who is going to capture waste gas?
 - Clean fuel valued by market
- Increase curbside residential recycling (incentives) 7/7 participants agree.

What's Missing?:

- Do not have waste management in Mora and Las Vegas- goes to Wagon Mound
- Strategies on recycling residential and other recycling
- Compost-whole food has no meaningful way of composting
- Make 2 strategies- separate home and food industry compost
- More specific strategies to compost at home
- Construction and demolition adaptive reuse live work ordinance
- Food industry-cooperate in serving schools and institutions, multiprong approach, vender interests

Priorities:

- Capture waste gas (methane) from sites like landfills and dairies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or make electricity and cleaner fuel.
- Support wastewater treatment plants in creating compost from treated waste. 6/7 show support of wastewater treatment plants creating treated water to be used in different ways.
- Make it easier to compost at home and places where food is served.
- Reduce the amount of construction and demolition waste.
- Make it easier and cheaper to use low carbon concrete and other materials.

Industry

Together participants analyzed and prioritized the following priorities, raised, and answered clarifying questions, and identified missing strategies/tactics related to industry.

- 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.
 - There were 6 who supported this strategy.
 - 1 was opposed to this strategy mentioning (red flag-heard in the Round House).
- Continue to plug or remediate abandoned wells and oil and gas infrastructure throughout NM.
 - There were 6 who supported this strategy.
 - 1 that was neither for nor against this strategy but asked who pays.
 - No one opposed this strategy.
- Continue to reduce carbon dioxide in the atmosphere through carbon capture efforts.
 - There were 5 who supported this strategy.
 - 2 participants were neither for nor against this strategy.
 - No one opposed this strategy.
- Increase monitoring and enforcement capacity for state emissions regulations. (Including data sharing.)
 - There were 7 who supported this strategy.
 - No one was opposed to the strategy.
- Create a clean hydrogen hub in NM.
 - 3 participants supported this strategy but there were 3 people who identified the need for more information.
 - 1 opposed this strategy stating it depends on where it comes from.
- Explore opportunities for carbon markets in NM.
 - 3 participants were supportive of this strategy, 3 participants were unsure of supporting or opposing this strategy and 1 participant opposed it asking for more detail on the who, what, etc.?
 - And questions, what does this entail?

Clarifying Questions:

- What are the state emissions regulations? Cannot regulate due to capacity constraints.
 - 2 state regulations
 - Methane waste rule
 - Amed volatile rule- gases linked with climate change
- What is a hydrogen hub?
 - Versatile sources (make/use), economic hub built around hydrogen, decarbonize, electricity storing
- Hydrogen energy- how much energy does hydrogen make?
 - Carbon sequestration
 - Water renewable energy
- Is the state leaning towards a certain hydrogen?
 - Clean (low producing)

- How much water is used to produce hydrogen?
 - Small fraction (less than a power plant)
- Who pays to plug or remediate abandoned wells and oil and gas infrastructure throughout New Mexico?

What's Missing?:

- Las Vegas- B. Public prefabricated housing
- Replace adobe homes with manufactured homes decreases property value but we have local solutions possible with B Public.
- Data sharing
- Specify for sale in both carbon markets
- No mention of mining and carbon implications- is there a state response?

Priorities:

- 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.
- Continue to plug or remediate abandoned wells and oil and gas infrastructure throughout NM.
- Increase monitoring and enforcement capacity for state emissions regulations including data sharing.

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.