



Climate Action Plan Community Conversations Tucumcari, NM 3.06.25

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 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

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

- Participant from Tucumcari, NM works for a local utility company spoke about the generator and substation emissions.
- Participant is a high school science teacher and wants to see an increase in science and a decrease in corruption.
- A participant from the community is here for information and education.
- A participant that is a County Commissioner sees this as an indicator of policy coming down the pipeline. Wants to protect families and farms from policies that strangle our way of life.
- A participant from the Quay County Health Council is concerned about health, livelihood and sustaining families and the impact on small communities.
- One participant from the health council is here because they are interested in mandates coming this way. What happens in the Rio Grande corridor and what applies in Tucumcari are different.
- A participant from Tucumcari, NM is a homeowner and is interested in how the Climate Action Plan will impact property taxes and regulations on things like roofing and renovation.
- Another participant on the Quay County Health Council is interested in the grant for climate health and water and how it will function.
- A participant is a GIS tech for the county and is concerned about how people continue to make a living from the land. Agriculture and tourism are neck and the backbone of the economy. We also
- need to preserve the environment for people who want to be outside.
- Another participant was raised on a dairy farm and pays attention to agriculture and ranching. Concerned about “our survival.” Zero emissions do not make sense. There is lots of money in renewables like for wind turbines, where do they go when they no longer work?
- Another participant is an accountant, they want to dispel strategies that aren’t economical and focus on affordability.
- Another participant is from the media and just listening.
- Another participant is from the health council. Climate is a buzzword but we need clean water, good clean things, and safety.
- A participant is a pastor and wants to stay abreast of information.
- Another participant at the meeting was a rancher.
- A person at the meeting has concerns about big government regulations on small communities. They work in the water industry and the family is in agriculture and sees both sides.
- Another person is against climate control. This person is a small farmer and rancher and sees how emissions limits would take out small farmers, ranchers, and family farms. For example, emissions solutions on farm equipment turn into a solid waste on the roads.

- A participant is from a family that has had a homestead in NM since 1907. They are more concerned about water, drinking water, and wells going bad. They are worried about young people.
- A participant works in the oil field, and is concerned that plans turn into laws. Believes the world spews toxins and humans can't dictate or change the climate.

Transportation

Together participants analyzed and prioritized 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.
 - 5 people identified this as an effective strategy.
 - 3 people saw pros and cons about this strategy.
 - 12 people opposed this strategy.
- Increase safety, availability, and efficiency of public transit.
 - No one supported this strategy.
 - 6 people saw pros and cons about this strategy.
 - 12 people opposed this strategy.
- Make it cheaper and easier to buy and charge electric vehicles.
 - No one supported this strategy.
 - 2 people saw pros and cons about this strategy.
 - 16 people opposed this strategy.
- Make it easier and cheaper for freight, buses, delivery, and ride share vehicles to use cleaner fuels.
 - No one supported this strategy.
 - 5 people saw pros and cons about this strategy.
 - 15 people opposed this strategy.
- Help people repair and replace high polluting cars.
 - No one supported this strategy.
 - 5 people saw pros and cons about this strategy.
 - 15 people opposed this strategy.

Clarifying Questions:

- What do we mean repairing and replacing cars? Example installing catalytic converters.
- Who pays?
 - Government?
 - Community? Like electric company incentives, yes if investor owned but no if user owned.

- Is it regulated or an option?
- Concerned about fuel efficiency because of emissions and impacts on engines.

What's Missing?:

- Natural cycle-climate change.
- Carbon dioxide is cleaned from the environment naturally because plants will use it.
- Analysis of the cost of production of electricity for these different methods.
- Concerned cannot get any more efficient even with low emission technologies.

Priorities:

- None of the strategies were identified as a community priority.

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.
 - No one supported this strategy.
 - 7 people saw pros and cons about this strategy.
 - 10 people opposed it.
- Expand electrical grid to support adding cheap and clean renewable power.
 - 2 people supported this strategy.
 - 6 people saw pros and cons about this strategy.
 - 10 people opposed it.
- 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.
 - 1 person supported this strategy.
 - 5 people saw pros and cons of this strategy.
 - 12 people opposed this strategy.
- When the strategy was reframed to “Make it easier and cheaper for homes and businesses to save energy.”
 - 9 people support the strategy with this framing.
 - 5 people see pros and cons.
 - 4 people still opposed this strategy.
- The strategy was also reframed as “Make it easier and cheaper for homes and businesses to save energy and replace gas, propane, or oil or gas powered appliances with electrical appliances.”
 - No one supported this strategy.
 - No one saw pros and cons of this strategy.
 - 19 people opposed this strategy.

- Adopt and enforce the most recent building and energy codes for greater energy and safety.
 - If used for new construction only 1 person supported this strategy.
 - 3 people saw positives and negatives of this strategy.
 - 16 participants opposed this as a viable strategy.
- Make it easier for homes and businesses to get paid for utilizing less energy during peak demand.
 - 4 participants supported this strategy.
 - 8 participants saw positives and negatives of this strategy.
 - 7 participants opposed this strategy.

Clarifying Questions:

- Who is doing these actions?
- What do we mean by cheap and clean?
 - Means cheaper than now and less emissions.
 - Clean=Hydro, geothermal, and electric for example.
- Who benefits from subsidies and who pays?
- Is nuclear energy an option?
- Doesn't industry already incentivize saving energy?

What's Missing?:

- Concerned about becoming all electric because we're more vulnerable. For example-the power company shut off electric during storms and what are people supposed to do?
- Nuclear energy discussion
- Don't like adopting and enforcing more regulations.
- Use of business models to develop infrastructure like hydrogen over wind.
 - Not top down needs to be bottom up from a business view so it is profitable and economical.
- We're understaffed and need workforce development for enforcement around existing codes so that people aren't delayed for long periods of time when they're working on projects.

Priorities:

- None of the strategies were identified as a community priority.

Agriculture, Forest, Wilderness

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

- Implement landscape- scale wildfire reduction and prevention practices in high-risk and high-priority watersheds throughout NM.
 - 6 people supported this strategy.
 - 4 people saw pros and cons.
 - 6 people were opposed to this strategy.

- Incorporate landscape-scale restoration that supports native plant communities, carbon storage, drought prevention, and future climate resilience on natural and working lands.
 - 3 people supported this strategy.
 - 3 people saw pros and cons.
 - 13 people were opposed to 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.
 - No one supported this strategy.
 - 1 person saw pros and cons.
 - 17 people were opposed to this strategy.
- Prioritize land for low carbon uses like parks, recreation, green spaces, conservation, and community gardens, particularly in low-income and disadvantaged communities.
 - The participants asked the question to prioritize over what?
 - No one supported this strategy.
 - 11 saw pros and cons of this strategy.
 - 9 people opposed this strategy.
- Incorporate traditional ecological knowledge and indigenous land management practices in conservation and forestry efforts.
 - 4 people supported this strategy.
 - 8 people saw pros and cons.
 - 8 people were opposed to this strategy.
- Encourage agricultural soil management practices that enhance carbon storage and water retention.
 - No one supported this strategy as framed.
 - 2 people saw pros and cons.
 - 17 people opposed this strategy.
- When the strategy was reframed as “Encourage agricultural soil management practices that enhance water retention.”
 - 15 people supported this strategy, 2 people saw pros and cons.
 - 5 people opposed this strategy.

Clarifying Questions:

- Better define landscape scale.
- State versus Private versus Federal.
- Jurisdiction-clarify resources and funding?
- Who pays? Who does the work?
- What is carbon storage?
- What is traditional ecological knowledge?
- What Indigenous land management practices?

- Where are the carbon markets?
- “Low Carbon?”
- Does low carbon mean ATVs?
- How does low carbon apply to rural or is this just for urban and suburban communities?

What’s Missing?:

- Natural resources do not provide carbon storage.
- More carbon dioxide is better for the environment from an agricultural point of view because plants need carbon dioxide.
- Thinking about natural wildfires and making differentials.
- Agriculture is an important part of conservation (managing and preserving) and impacts of environment.
- Conserve water is important.
- Carbon markets are a nonstarter unless the government enforces.
- Monetizing natural resources?
- Emphasis on local land use knowledge and practices
- Conserve water and soil
 - Strike carbon storage
- Enhance- look at healthy soil

Priorities:

- Encourage agricultural soil management practices.

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.
 - None of the participants supported this strategy.
 - 2 saw pros and cons.
 - 18 participants did not support this strategy.
- Support wastewater treatment plants in creating compost from treated waste.
 - 12 of the participants supported this strategy.
 - 2 people saw pros and cons.
 - 12 participants opposed this strategy.
- Make it easier to compost at home and places where food is served.
 - 5 people supported this strategy.
 - 7 people saw pros and cons.

- 4 people opposed this strategy.
- Reduce the amount of construction and demolition waste.
 - 1 of the participants supported this strategy.
 - 10 people saw pros and cons for this strategy.
 - 2 participants opposed this strategy.
- Make it easier and cheaper to use low carbon concrete and other materials.
 - 1 participant fully supported this strategy.
 - 3 participants saw pros and cons about this strategy.
 - 14 participants opposed this strategy.

Clarifying Questions:

- What do we do with methane?
 - Reuse as energy if the government subsidizes.
- What is low carbon concrete?
 - It is nano concrete.
 - Think about the use of fossil fuels in production.
 - It takes a lot of fossil fuels to make concrete powder.
- Who pays to support composting from waste water?
- What can be done to make it easier to compost?
- Reduce demolition waste? Don't we already do this?
 - A-Reclaim more reusable materials.

What's Missing?:

- Capturing methane gas- if the government does not pour a lot of money, it's not going to happen.
 - Dairies use federal money to make this work.
 - It's not cost effective. Who pays?
- Need practical, feasible and affordable solutions around methane.

Priorities:

- None of the strategies were identified as a community priority.

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.
 - No one supported this strategy.
 - 3 people saw pros and cons of this strategy.
 - 17 people opposed this strategy.
- Continue to plug or remediate abandoned wells and oil and gas infrastructure throughout NM.
 - 3 people supported this strategy.

- 10 people saw pros and cons of this strategy.
- 5 people were opposed.
- Continue to reduce carbon dioxide in the atmosphere through carbon capture efforts.
 - There was no support for this strategy.
 - 2 people saw pros and cons of this strategy.
 - 19 people were opposed to this strategy.
- Increase monitoring and enforcement capacity for state emissions regulations.
 - None of the participants supported this strategy.
 - None of the participants were ambivalent about this strategy, and 18 participants were opposed to the strategy.
- Create a clean hydrogen hub in NM.
 - 2 participants supported this strategy.
 - 11 people saw pros and cons of this strategy.
 - 4 people opposed this strategy.
- Explore opportunities for carbon markets in NM.
 - 1 participant was supportive of this strategy.
 - No one was ambivalent about this strategy. 17 participants opposed it.

Clarifying Questions:

- What is a clean hydrogen hub?
 - A way to produce energy.
 - Creation of hydrogen
 - Adding fuel cells
 - It did not pass, and funding stopped.
- Interested in fuel alternatives.
- Not there yet for need for hydrogen hub in the U.S.
- Participant heard that Toyota is creating hydrogen cars in Arizona.
- Tucumcari is a good place if and when there is a hub.

What's Missing?:

- Creating hydrogen takes water.
 - Not sure this makes sense in an arid environment.

Priorities:

- No priorities were identified.

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.