



# City of Santa Fe, New Mexico

## LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

Resolution NO. 2014-\_\_\_\_  
Santa Fe Solar

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**SPONSOR(S):** Calvert, Wurzburger, Bushee, Ives and Dominguez

**SUMMARY:** This resolution calls on the State of New Mexico and the Public Regulation Commission to follow Santa Fe's lead in making New Mexico the Nation's solar power leader and set the goal of generating ten percent of the State's energy from solar by 2020.

**PREPARED BY:** Rebecca Seligman, Legislative Liaison Assistant

**FISCAL IMPACT:** No

**DATE:** January 13, 2014

**ATTACHMENTS:** Bill  
FIR

1 CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

2 RESOLUTION NO. 2014-\_\_

3 INTRODUCED BY:

4  
5 Councilor Chris Calvert Councilor Rebecca Wurzburger  
6 Councilor Patti Bushee Councilor Peter Ives  
7 Councilor Carmichael Dominguez  
8

9  
10 A RESOLUTION

11 CALLING ON THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO AND THE PUBLIC REGULATION  
12 COMMISSION TO FOLLOW SANTA FE'S LEAD IN MAKING NEW MEXICO THE  
13 NATION'S SOLAR POWER LEADER AND SET THE GOAL OF GENERATING TEN  
14 PERCENT OF THE STATE'S ENERGY FROM SOLAR BY 2020.

15  
16 WHEREAS, as of 2010 the State of New Mexico emits nearly 55 million metric tons of  
17 carbon pollution a year from fossil fuel combustion;<sup>i</sup> and

18 WHEREAS, solar power is one of the cleanest sources of energy with which New Mexico  
19 can power its homes, businesses and cars to achieve better air quality and reduce carbon pollution;  
20 and

21 WHEREAS, the State of New Mexico receives more than 300 days of sunshine per year,  
22 thereby granting it the second greatest solar potential of the fifty states in the country;<sup>ii</sup> and

23 WHEREAS, if the whole State of New Mexico were to generate ten percent of its energy  
24 from solar roofs, it would equate to roughly 100,000 solar roofs; and

25 WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported this year with

1 95 percent certainty that anthropogenic carbon pollution is causing global temperatures to rise,  
2 exacerbating extreme weather events such as droughts, floods, and wildfires;<sup>iii</sup> and

3 **WHEREAS**, burning fossil fuels releases carbon, while solar energy production does not;<sup>iv</sup>  
4 and

5 **WHEREAS**, 2013 was New Mexico's third consecutive year of drought,<sup>v</sup> and as of  
6 December 2013, over 75 percent of the state remains in moderate to extreme drought;<sup>vi</sup> and

7 **WHEREAS**, producing one kilowatt-hour of energy via solar photovoltaic (PV) systems  
8 requires approximately one-ninth as much water as producing one kilowatt-hour from a combined  
9 cycle fossil gas plant, and one seventeenth as much as from a coal-fired plant;<sup>vii</sup> and

10 **WHEREAS**, the solar industry currently provides 1,100 jobs to New Mexicans, and that  
11 from 2010 to 2011, jobs in the solar sector grew ten times faster than the rest of the economy<sup>viii</sup>; and

12 **WHEREAS**, despite anemic conditions throughout the economy, the solar industry has  
13 grown steadily over the last year, with solar installations growing 27 percent from 2012 to 2013<sup>ix</sup>; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the market price of fossil fuels does not factor in the external environmental  
15 and health costs caused by burning fossil fuels; and

16 **WHEREAS**, solar is a cost-competitive energy source, as indicated by Public Service  
17 Company of New Mexico's (PNM) stated position that solar is a cost-efficient component of their  
18 integrated resource plan,<sup>x</sup> and Lux Research's study predicting that solar will become cost-  
19 competitive with natural gas by 2025<sup>xi</sup>; and

20 **WHEREAS**, climate change, exacerbated by fossil fuels, is predicted by the Environmental  
21 Protection Agency (EPA) to have serious negative public health effects, resulting from heat waves,  
22 extreme weather, and reduced air quality;<sup>xii</sup> and

23 **WHEREAS**, fossil fuel-burning power plants frequently release toxic pollutants, including  
24 mercury, acid gases, and particulate matter, that directly damage nearby residents' health;<sup>xiii</sup> and

25 **WHEREAS**, by decreasing dependence on fossil fuels, the growth of solar power helps

1 improve public health; and

2       **WHEREAS**, the City of Santa Fe is the fourth largest City in the State of New Mexico<sup>xiv</sup>; and

3       **WHEREAS**, the City of Santa Fe has a distinguished history of leading the State in solar  
4 energy, including but not limited to the fact that City buildings and services derive 14 percent of their  
5 electricity from solar, and that quantity is predicted to increase to 24.9 percent by the end of 2014;  
6 and

7       **WHEREAS**, the City of Santa Fe recognizes the above assets of solar power and desires to  
8 renew its commitment to this important clean energy solution.

9       **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE**  
10 **CITY OF SANTA FE** that the City of Santa Fe calls on the State of New Mexico and the Public  
11 Regulation Commission to follow Santa Fe's lead in making New Mexico the nation's solar power  
12 leader and to set the goal of generating ten percent of the state's energy from solar by 2020.

13       **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this  
14 resolution to the City's New Mexico State Legislative Delegation and to the State of New Mexico  
15 Public Regulation Commission.

16       PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2014.

17  
18 \_\_\_\_\_  
19 DAVID COSS, MAYOR

20 ATTEST:

21  
22 \_\_\_\_\_  
23 YOLANDA Y. VIGIL, CITY CLERK  
24  
25

1 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

2 

3  
4 KELLEY A. BRENNAN, INTERIM CITY ATTORNEY

5 *M/Melissa/2014 Resolutions/Santa Fe Solar*

<sup>i</sup> [http://www.eia.gov/environment/emissions/state/state\\_emissions.cfm](http://www.eia.gov/environment/emissions/state/state_emissions.cfm)

<sup>ii</sup> <http://www.cleanenergyauthority.com/solar-energy-resources/top-ten-solar-states><http://innonthealameda.com/santa-fe/santa-fe-weather/>

<sup>iii</sup> [http://www.climatechange2013.org/images/uploads/WGI\\_AR5\\_SPM\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.climatechange2013.org/images/uploads/WGI_AR5_SPM_brochure.pdf)

<sup>iv</sup> <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/legosti/old/3772.pdf>

<sup>v</sup> <http://www.abqjournal.com/drought-in-new-mexico>

<sup>vi</sup> <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/abq/?n=drought>

<sup>vii</sup> <http://cleantecnica.com/2010/10/15/water-energy-facts-blog-action-day-water/>

<sup>viii</sup> <http://www.seia.org/state-solar-policy/new-mexico>

<sup>ix</sup> <http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2013/12/10/3042001/us-solar-record-installation/>

<sup>x</sup> <http://www.abqjournal.com/268871/biz/pnm-modeling-shows-solar-power-is-a-good-economic-choice.html>

<sup>xi</sup> <http://www.forbes.com/sites/williampentland/2013/12/03/utility-scale-solar-power-to-be-cost-competitive-with-natural-gas-by-2025/>

<sup>xii</sup> <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/impacts-adaptation/health.html>

<sup>xiii</sup> <http://www.epa.gov/airquality/powerplants/>

<sup>xiv</sup> <http://www.citypopulation.de/USA-NewMexico.html>

### City of Santa Fe Fiscal Impact Report (FIR)

This Fiscal Impact Report (FIR) shall be completed for each proposed bill or resolution as to its direct impact upon the City's operating budget and is intended for use by any of the standing committees of and the Governing Body of the City of Santa Fe. Bills or resolutions with no fiscal impact still require a completed FIR. Bills or resolutions with a fiscal impact must be reviewed by the Finance Committee. Bills or resolutions without a fiscal impact generally do not require review by the Finance Committee unless the subject of the bill or resolution is financial in nature.

**Section A. General Information**

(Check) Bill: \_\_\_\_\_ Resolution:   X    
(A single FIR may be used for related bills and/or resolutions)

Short Title(s): **A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO AND THE PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION TO FOLLOW SANTA FE'S LEAD IN MAKING NEW MEXICO THE NATION'S SOLAR POWER LEADER AND SET THE GOAL OF GENERATING TEN PERCENT OF THE STATE'S ENERGY FROM SOLAR BY 2020.**

Sponsor(s): Councilors Calvert, Wurzburger, Bushee, Ives and Dominguez

Reviewing Department(s): City Attorney's Office

Persons Completing FIR: Rebecca Seligman Date: 1/13/14 Phone: 955-6501

Reviewed by City Attorney: *Vally A. Brennan* Date: 1/14/14  
(Signature)

Reviewed by Finance Director: *[Signature]* Date: 1/15/14  
(Signature)

**Section B. Summary**

Briefly explain the purpose and major provisions of the bill/resolution:  
The purpose of the resolution is to call on the State of New Mexico and the State Public Regulation Commission to follow Santa Fe's lead in making New Mexico the Nations' solar power leader and to set a goal to generate 10% of the State's energy from solar power by 2020.

**Section C. Fiscal Impact**

**Note:** Financial information on this FIR does not directly translate into a City of Santa Fe budget increase. For a budget increase, the following are required:

- a. The item must be on the agenda at the Finance Committee and City Council as a "Request for Approval of a City of Santa Fe Budget Increase" with a definitive funding source (could be same item and same time as bill/resolution)
- b. Detailed budget information must be attached as to fund, business units, and line item, amounts, and explanations (similar to annual requests for budget)
- c. Detailed personnel forms must be attached as to range, salary, and benefit allocation and signed by Human Resource Department for each new position(s) requested (prorated for period to be employed by fiscal year)\*

**1. Projected Expenditures:**

- a. Indicate Fiscal Year(s) affected – usually current fiscal year and following fiscal year (i.e., FY 03/04 and FY 04/05)
- b. Indicate: "A" if current budget and level of staffing will absorb the costs  
"N" if new, additional, or increased budget or staffing will be required
- c. Indicate: "R" – if recurring annual costs  
"NR" if one-time, non-recurring costs, such as start-up, contract or equipment costs
- d. Attach additional projection schedules if two years does not adequately project revenue and cost patterns
- e. Costs may be netted or shown as an offset if some cost savings are projected (explain in Section 3 Narrative)

Finance Director: \_\_\_\_\_

X   Check here if no fiscal impact

Column #:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Expenditure Classification	FY			FY			Fund Affected

Personnel*	\$ _____	_____	_____	\$ _____	_____	_____	_____
Fringe**	\$ _____	_____	_____	\$ _____	_____	_____	_____
Capital Outlay	\$ _____	_____	_____	\$ _____	_____	_____	_____
Land/ Building	\$ _____	_____	_____	\$ _____	_____	_____	_____
Professional Services	\$ _____	_____	_____	\$ _____	_____	_____	_____
All Other Operating Costs	\$ _____	_____	_____	\$ _____	_____	_____	_____
Total:	\$ _____			\$ _____			

\* Any indication that additional staffing would be required must be reviewed and approved in advance by the City Manager by attached memo before release of FIR to committees. \*\*For fringe benefits contact the Finance Dept.

**2. Revenue Sources:**

- a. To indicate new revenues and/or
- b. Required for costs for which new expenditure budget is proposed above in item 1.

Column #:	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Type of Revenue	FY		FY		

_____	\$ _____	_____	\$ _____	_____	_____
_____	\$ _____	_____	\$ _____	_____	_____
_____	\$ _____	_____	\$ _____	_____	_____
Total:	\$ _____		\$ _____		

**3. Expenditure/Revenue Narrative:**

Explain revenue source(s). Include revenue calculations, grant(s) available, anticipated date of receipt of revenues/grants, etc. Explain expenditures, grant match(s), justify personnel increase(s), detail capital and operating uses, etc. (Attach supplemental page, if necessary.)

Not applicable.

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**Section D.      General Narrative**

**1. Conflicts:** Does this proposed bill/resolution duplicate/conflict with/companion to/relate to any City code, approved ordinance or resolution, other adopted policies or proposed legislation? Include details of city adopted laws/ordinance/resolutions and dates. Summarize the relationships, conflicts or overlaps.

None that staff is aware of.

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**2. Consequences of Not Enacting This Bill/Resolution:**

Are there consequences of not enacting this bill/resolution? If so, describe.

If the resolution is not enacted, the City of Santa Fe would not renew its commitment to the important clean energy solution.

**3. Technical Issues:**

Are there incorrect citations of law, drafting errors or other problems? Are there any amendments that should be considered? Are there any other alternatives which should be considered? If so, describe.

None that staff is aware of

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**4. Community Impact:**

Briefly describe the major positive or negative effects the Bill/Resolution might have on the community including, but not limited to, businesses, neighborhoods, families, children and youth, social service providers and other institutions such as schools, churches, etc.

The City of Santa Fe has a history of leading the State in solar energy, including the fact that City of Santa Fe buildings and services currently derive 14% of their electricity from solar. To continue this trend would have a positive effect on the community.