City of Santa Fe, New Mexico

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

Resolution No. 2015-___

Community Solar

SPONSOR(S): Councilors Bushee and Ives

SUMMARY: The proposed resolution directs the Public Utilities staff to identify how the City of Santa Fe may develop, implement, own, and operate a community solar program for the benefit of the citizens of Santa Fe.

PREPARED BY: Rebecca Seligman, Legislative Liaison Assistant

FISCAL IMPACT: Yes

DATE: May 20, 2015

ATTACHMENTS: Resolution
FIR

CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-_____

INTRODUCED BY:

Councilor Patti Bushee

Councilor Peter N. Ives

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES STAFF TO IDENTIFY HOW THE CITY OF SANTA FE MAY DEVELOP, IMPLEMENT, OWN, AND OPERATE A COMMUNITY SOLAR PROGRAM FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CITIZENS OF SANTA FE.

WHEREAS, Community Solar, also known as Community Shared Solar, is defined as a solar-electric system that provides power and/or financial benefit to community members, administered through a program that provides for either the ownership or lease of a portion of the solar panels that comprise the solar-electric system; and

WHEREAS, Community Solar programs are voluntary, opt-in membership programs that provide members with the benefits associated with solar power; and

WHEREAS, Community Solar programs expand access to solar power for renters, those with shaded roofs, and those who choose not to install a residential system on their home for financial or other reasons; and

WHEREAS, as a group, ratepayers and tax payers fund solar incentive programs, and, as a matter of equity, solar energy programs should be designed in a manner that allows all contributors to

access the benefits of solar power; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2014 *Affordable Housing in Santa Fe* report, 4 out of 10 Santa Fe residents rent their homes; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body, through the adoption of Resolution 2013-14, the Governing Body directed staff to work with the Public Service Company of New Mexico and the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission to implement a Community Solar program for Santa Fe; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body, through the adoption of Resolution 2013-19, declared its support of state Senate Bill 394 that amended a section of New Mexico's Public Utility Act to provide for Community Solar facilities to qualify as distributed generation facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body, through the adoption of Resolution 2015-12, the Governing Body declared its support of state House Bill 111 providing for shared renewable energy facilities to qualify as distributed generation facilities and requiring investor-owned utilities to allow construction, connection and operation of renewable energy facilities within their operating territories; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body, through the adoption of Resolution 2014-85, the Governing Body declared its intention of having 50 percent of its energy come from renewable sources by 2025 and becoming carbon neutral by the year 2040; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body desires to provide equal access to renewable energy technologies to all members of the community, regardless of income.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF SANTA FE that the Public Utilities staff is directed to research and identify how the City of Santa Fe may develop, implement, own and operate a Community Solar program for the benefit of the citizens of Santa Fe.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this _____.

JAVIER M. GONZALES, MAYOR

ATTEST:

YOLANDA Y. VIGIL, CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

KELLEY BRENNAN, CITY ATTORNEY

Legislation/Resolutions 2015/Community Solar

FIR No. 2665

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 DIRECTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES STAFF TO IDENTIFY HOW THE CITY OF SANTA FE MAY DEVELOP, IMPLEMENT, OWN, AND OPERATE A COMMUNITY SOLAR PROGRAM FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CITIZENS OF SANTA FE.**

Sponsor(s): Councilor Patti Bushee

Reviewing Department(s): Public Utilities

Persons Completing FIR: John Alejandro Date: 5/12/15 Phone: 955-6236

Reviewed by City Attorney: Kelley A. Brennan (Signature) Date: 5/20/15

Reviewed by Finance Director: (Signature) Date: 5-20-2015

Section B. **Summary**
Briefly explain the purpose and major provisions of the bill/resolution:
The resolution is designed to identify a model by which the City of Santa Fe may develop, own and operate a Community Solar program that residents of the city can participate in, so that they may enjoy the environmental and financial benefits of solar power regardless of their income or the type of housing they live in.

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

Finance Director: _____

e. Costs may be netted or shown as an offset if some cost savings are projected (explain in Section 3 Narrative)

_____ Check here if no fiscal impact

Column #: 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Expenditure Classification	FY 15-16	"A" Costs Absorbed or "N" New Budget Required	"R" Costs Recurring or "NR" Non-recurring	FY _____	"A" Costs Absorbed or "N" New Budget Required	"R" Costs – Recurring or "NR" Non-recurring	Fund Affected
Personnel*	$1,000	A	NR	$			
Fringe**	$			$			
Capital Outlay	$			$			
Land/ Building	$			$			
Professional Services	$			$			
All Other Operating Costs	$			$			
Total:	$1,000			$			

* 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 _____	"R" Costs Recurring or "NR" Non-recurring	FY _____	"R" Costs – Recurring or "NR" Non-recurring	Fund Affected
	$		$		
	$		$		
	$		$		
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.)

Staff time would be used to comply with the resolution, but would be absorbed into current expenditures.

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 identified.

2. Consequences of Not Enacting This Bill/Resolution:

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

Status quo will continue.

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 identified.

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 ability to provide equal access to renewable energy technologies, specifically that of solar energy, to the citizens of Santa Fe, regardless of income level and the type of housing they reside in, is very important. Solar energy provides a host of environmental and financial benefits that everyone in the community should be able to access and enjoy should they choose to.

Form adopted: 01/12/05; revised 8/24/05; revised 4/17/08