

2007 New Mexico Legislature Clean Energy Bills

The 2007 New Mexico State Legislature passed a number of new clean energy policies supporting Governor Richardson's commitment to make New Mexico "the" Clean Energy State. Together, these policies encourage accelerated growth in both distributed and large-scale solar, wind power, efficient buildings and the use of biodiesel fuels.

Ben Luce, formerly Vice President of the New Mexico Solar Energy Association (NMSEA) and Director of the Coalition for Clean Affordable Energy in New Mexico (CCAEE), summarized some of these policies:

- a stronger Renewable Energy Standard
- the potential for stronger efficiency programs by utilities
- a solar-ready roofs bill to create solar-friendly building codes
- a stronger Solar Rights Act, making it clear that solar cannot be prohibited outside historic districts
- a sales tax exemption for solar equipment and installations
- tax credits for builders or new owners of energy efficiency buildings
- a stronger efficiency bond program for schools and state agencies
- a new "production" tax incentive for solar, wind, and biomass installations one megawatt in size and up
- a sales and compensating tax incentive for large solar thermal-electric generation
- a 5% minimum biodiesel standard for diesel fuels, tax credits for biodiesel stations and producers
- a "Renewable Energy Transmission Authority" that can build lines for new wind and solar projects
- tax credits for makers of clean energy equipment
- a stronger mercury emissions limit for new power plants, and a prohibition against incentives for coal plants which don't sequester their carbon.

See a complete list of bills passed during the 2007 Legislation on the Coalition for Clean Affordable Energy's website, www.nmccae.org.