

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE – CLIMATE ACTION TASK FORCE MINUTES – 10.20.20

Facilitator: Lilly Irvin-Vitela, New Mexico First

Note Taker: Xavier Vallejo, New Mexico First

Speakers:

- Terra Reed, City of Albuquerque, Planning Department
- Colin Messer, Land of Enchantment, Clean Cities Coalition

Welcome

- **Lilly Irvin-Vitela:** Good morning everyone. To go over the agenda, we will spend some time to check in, we will take time to watch a short video sent to us by Mayor Tim Keller, we will have a couple of guest speakers. Then we will have some time for questions, broader discussions, and public comments. Before the start of the meeting, we received an email from one of the task force members and we would like to take some time to address the points brought up in that email. We want to make sure that our work with the task force is meaningful and effective. As we check in, we ask that you reintroduce yourselves and briefly share the values that you intend to uphold through the task force. Please talk about why that value is important to you and the community you are representing. For those of you who do not know, my name is Lilly Irvin-Vitela and I am the President and Executive Director of New Mexico First.
- **Tony Sparks:** This is my first meeting, due to technological difficulties with email. I work with Albuquerque Public Schools as the Energy Manager and Project Manager for HVHC and Renewables. My greatest hope from the task force is true collaboration to make a bigger difference as a whole.
- **Solana Granados:** I am a student at UNM. I like to do everything with the value of empathy. I look forward to listening to everyone because everyone's input is valid.
- **Kevin Bean:** I am a lifelong environmentalist, and I am involved with the Creation Care Committee at the Catholic Church, St. John 23.
- **Josue De Luna Navarro:** I work for the Center for Civic Policy and I am an Associate Fellow for the Institute for Policy Studies, in their Climate Justice Program. I grew up in the International Zone. As a value I would like to highlight courage. The courage to think outside of business as usual, when talking about the climate crisis.
- **Theresa Cardenas:** I am a Sustainability Practitioner and I have a consulting practice. I represent the Middle Rio Grande Water Advocates and I am the chair of the board. I value water because water is life. I believe that we must have a broad eye, when discussing sustainability. We need to have the courage to ask questions, even if we get answers we may not like.
- **Cassandra Miller:** I am a PhD student at UNM. I study biology and climate change impacts. Specifically, how climate change affects ecosystems and how we can promote resiliency. I live in the Silver Springs neighborhood near UNM. One thing that is important to me is that the science is communicated to the community and that solutions are found through that communication.
- **Alex Montano:** I oversee the engineering and development team at Year Out Energy. I also serve on the Albuquerque Energy Council and I serve as the Private Co-Chair of the New Mexico Energy Service Coalition. I have dedicated my entire professional career towards energy, water, and resource conservation. The cheapest electron is the one you never use, and I think even with renewable energy sources in mind, we need to look at conserving before generating.
- **Marcus Burnett:** I am originally from Washington DC and I live in the North Valley. I am currently the Chief of Command in Control Operations on Kirtland Airforce Base. Climate Change has always been important to me in the search for renewable energies with the military.

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- **Amy Carpenter:** I am a retired teacher. My values have to do with access to baseline services for families. Transportation, water, and health are topics that drive me.
- **Sharon Hausam:** I am a Planning Program Manager for the Pueblo of Laguna and an adjunct faculty member in the Community and Regional Planning Department at UNM. The value I want to highlight is feasibility. I am also from the Near North Valley, near the Griegos Acequia.
- **Genesis Arizmendi:** I am a post-doctoral fellow and an adjunct faculty member at UNM. I live in the Nob Hill, but I am originally from the border town, Nogales, AZ. The value I bring with me is the idea that we need to reach out to the communities that are most marginalized. As a Speech and Hearing Pathologist, I have worked with children with disabilities. We need to focus on accessibility, whether it be by race or disability.
- **Molly Blumhoefer:** I am originally from Minneapolis, MN, but I have lived in Albuquerque for 18 years and live in Nob Hill. My background is in water resource and environmental planning. I work for CNM in the Sustainability Department and work as an adjunct professor for Geography and Natural Resources. I think that we need to keep the work focused on people. I think we also need to focus on reality and feasibility. I also think we need to hold each other accountable.
- **Tara Trafton:** I have a graduate degree in sustainable energy systems from two European universities. I am a Project Manager for Year Out Energy and I serve as the Secretary for the New Mexico Association for Energy Engineers. I live in the Duranes neighborhood. The value I appreciate are lifelong learning. I think we need to focus on feasible solutions.
- **Emily Phan:** I am a student at UNM and I live in the Nob Hill. The values most important to me are including everyone and respecting all opinions. I think we need to be realistic, but still do everything we can to make sure that Albuquerque is a great place to live.
- **Daniel Beaman:** I am a special projects coordinator with the Bernalillo County Economic Development Department. I think we need to be cognizant of how we can improve the quality of life for the citizens of Albuquerque.
- **Erica Velarde:** My values are communication, education, and inclusion. I was born and raised in Santa Fe. Even though I got a degree, I did not understand the complexities of the climate issue. I have previously worked for the Environmental Department of NM and facilities management. It is really important to get educational materials to the public.
- **Karen Leming:** I am a native New Mexican. I lived all over the East Coast for several years but moved back. I live in the Parkland Hills Area. I am the Vice President of the New Mexico Autism Society. I also work to support clinical administration at the University of New Mexico. I value making the right choices when it comes to climate change and being resourceful, efficient, and open-minded.
- **Helga Garza:** I am the Executive Director of the Agricultura Cooperative Network. I am from the South Valley. Other titles I hold include Chair for the New Mexico Agricultural and Food Policy Council and President of the Board of South Valley Main Street. The values I hold have to do with identify. For me and my family it is maintaining our ceremonial calendar for agriculture. Another important value of mine is to promote an intergenerational framework. Our ceremonial calendar is seasonal, and I've learned about nurturing ourselves, nurturing our mother earth, and recognizing that responsibility that we hold. Other values include the bottom-up approach and community resilience.
- **Kelsey Rader:** I am the Sustainability Officer with the City of Albuquerque. Thank you for being with us today.
- **Ryan Mast:** I am the Director of the City of Albuquerque's Environmental Health Department. Thank you so much for being here and offering up your skills and expertise to be a part of this group.
- **Erika Robers:** I am a Strategic Civic Engagement and Policy Manager for New Mexico First. Thank you for being here.

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- **Xavier Vallejo:** I am the Administrative Assistant for New Mexico First. It is great to see you all and I am excited to be here.
- **Lilly Irvin-Vitela:** We would also like to acknowledge the interns with the City of Albuquerque, who have been helping with the project, as well. And our two guest speakers, Terra Reed and Colin Messer for being here. Next, we have a video from **Mayor Tim Keller:**

Welcome to our city's Climate Change Task Force. Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our lifetime. It is something that has been building for generations, but it is up to this generation to act and keep Albuquerque healthy and beautiful for years to come. Now, this task force represents a new path for our city and our planning efforts, that are driven by equity and inclusion, and designed to make real change. We are asking our frontline community members to share their experiences, that will help to shape future action. We want to create new connections between government and community, in respect to climate change. We want to make sure that those who are most impacted by climate change are not left behind in anything that we are doing. Over the next few months, we will be working together on this path to develop Albuquerque's Climate Future. The problems that we face are not easy ones, but I'm grateful that all of the you are trying to make a difference on this important issue. Thank you.

Terra Reed Presentation

- **Terra Reed:** I am a planner with the planner with the City of Albuquerque's Planning Department. I am also in transition to be the Vision Zero Coordinator for the city. I am going to be talking about what Vision Zero is and about traffic safety. My passion and value is trying to get people where they need to go safely and provide them with options.
- Vision Zero is an international effort dedicated to improving traffic safety. It started in Sweden in the 1990s. The goal of the initiative is to ensure the safety and efficiency of all forms of transportation: including walking, biking, driving, etc. The zero in Vision Zero refers to zero deaths and injuries related to traffic.
- In Albuquerque, 76 people were killed on our streets. More than half of those people were killed walking. Albuquerque was identified as a focus city by the Department of Transportation and that acknowledges that we have some of the highest fatality rates in the country. This is something that is important for us to work together as a community.
- In the Climate Action Survey, a lot of questions asked how to make the community more resilient. Looking at the responses, a lot of people were interested in being able to walk or bike safely. We have a survey out as well, focused on traffic safety. We found that 2/3 of people choose not to walk or bike for recreation because of concerns regarding traffic safety. Traffic safety is going to be a big piece of the climate action work.
- One of the things I wanted to share was a list of departments that may be doing similar work that can be built upon. We need to figure out how to engage community to best utilize strengths and address any needs for resources.
- I am also in the process for developing Vision Zero. We're currently in the process of gathering data and working with a task force to develop a plan. We want to think about ways to not only redesign our streets, but better engage community in the process.
- The themes emerging from our action plan include Engineering & Roadway Design; Safe Speeds; Policy, Regulation, & Practice; Data & Transparency; Education & Encouragement; and Walking & Rolling. These specify how we get people out of their cars and onto other forms of transportation safely. Those recommendations are coming from the task force and the public.

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- Equity is a huge focus. Thinking about how we make alternative forms of transportation accessible to all people, regardless of how they need to get around. In partnership with the Office of Equity and Inclusion, we have been working to identify areas of social vulnerability in terms of traffic. The social vulnerability index was developed by the CDC and uses 15 metrics to determine those vulnerabilities. 8 of the 15 metrics recommended by the CDC were selected to be used to analyze Albuquerque populations. We are also looking at crash data to be able to understand the intersections and roadways that are the most dangerous. We are looking specifically at pedestrian and bicycle crashes.
- You can take the Vision Zero Survey at www.cabq.gov/visionzero. If you have any questions, you can contact me at treed@cabq.gov.

Colin Messer Presentation

- **Colin Messer:** I am the Director and Coordinator for the Land of Enchantment Clean Cities Coalition. The coalition was established in 1994. We understand that transportation is one of the most difficult issues related to green-house emissions to address and our focus is on establishing and supporting energy efficient transit. I believe that carbon emission can be significantly reduced by implementing transportation alternatives.
- Our focus is advance the nation’s economic, environmental, and energy security by supporting local actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, cut petroleum use, and improve efficiency in transportation.
- We also offer a huge amount of resources connect closely with the national laboratories. We look at the data produced by the labs. We have supported projects with the Cities of Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Socorro, Deming, Moriarty and Estancia. We have also worked with alternative-fuel vendors and dealerships, and the Departments of Energy and Transportation, related funding opportunity announcements (FOA).
- Alternative fuels used in many of the technologies we work with include propane, compressed natural gas, hydrogen, and ethanol. Both propane and natural gas produce less emissions than electricity. Hydrogen is an interesting fuel, but is highly dependent on water and we do not have a lot of water in New Mexico.
- In Albuquerque, we get a lot of interstate travel between the interstate highways. We usually keep an eye on nox and keep track of the emissions used by different vehicle types. Battery Electric and Hybrid Electric Vehicles have been developing, but not many models are available, and they tend to be expensive. Smaller commutes are ideal for electric vehicles, as they do not have much range.
- In California, trucks have been developed to be hybrid electric, battery electric, and fuel cell electric – which is very promising. Power electric trains have also proven to be very effective.
- The challenges related to electric vehicles include the expense of materials, the range of battery life, and utility demands.
- If you would like more information, you can visit www.afdc.energy.gov/. If you have any questions, you can contact me at loecleancities@newmexico.com.

Guest Speaker Q&A

- Regarding environmental racism, my community has such a large issue with street racing and noise. This is something that have to be addressed in terms of speed management.
 - **Terra Reed:** Looking at survey responses, it is an issue that regularly comes up. It has gotten worse since the start of the pandemic because it is a COVID-19-safe activity. Our streets are

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- designed to be easy for street racing, and we are currently working with APD to address the issue and hope to be able to redesign streets.
- Under challenges related to the electric vehicle transition, did the coalition work with Electricity America? Have you approached them? They said they would invest \$2 Billion over the next two years.
 - **Colin Messer:** The coalition does work with Electrify America. There are some stations around the state. The organization has been very responsive. They mostly do their own thing and we work parallel to them.
 - Who has the responsibility for maintenance and improvements for sidewalks?
 - **Terra Reed:** Sidewalk maintenance falls under the responsibility of homeowners. The city recognizes the importance of sidewalks and will sometimes invest in the reconstruction of sidewalks. There is currently a push to replace curb cuts to be ADA accessible and compliant.
 - Is there a map for all of the charging stations for electric vehicles? I have not seen one.
 - **Colin Messer:** www.afdc.gov is the most up-to-date resource for alternative fuel users to find resources and alternative fuel stations. Our coalition is creating a map with all of the usable and proposed stations. I think that the city should create their own.
 - **Terra Reed:** My other job is planning and zoning related and we just updated our zoning codes and put incentives in to put up electric charging stations. We do have records of them as they are built on private properties.
 - **Kelsey Rader:** There is an app out there called Plug Share that is very useful. The city is working to build infrastructure to support electric vehicles. We also recently received a grant to create 22 new charging stations.
 - Is the City of Albuquerque working on an initiative or policy to make electric vehicles affordable for low income communities?
 - **Kelsey Rader:** Unfortunately, that isn't something that the city has been able to do, in terms of absorbing those costs. The city also has not implemented rebate and tax credit programs, because it is constitutionally limited by the anti-donation clause. We found that California has invested in programs like ride-shares to better accommodate low income communities. In California there is a resource to transport low income families to doctors appointments, grocery store visits, etc, using electric vehicles.

Discussions

- **Lilly Irvin-Vitela:** What did you hear about transportation and mobility that seemed like a good approach for your neighborhood?
 - On behalf of Albuquerque Public Schools (APS), bus transportation is quickly changing. APS is having to absorb all the transportation costs and is now managing 450
 - Technological advancements in transportation are exciting but may not be the most relevant for all communities. Many people rely on public transportation in the South Valley and there is not even a bus service available on Sundays. There are a lot of gaps in public transportation and those inequities need to be address when looking into alternative forms of transportation. This is the reality of so many.
 - In most cities public transportation is seen as a social service. I appreciate what Vision Zero is doing and making the connections that need to be made to promote safe cycling and safe walking.
 - In the South Valley in the morning, all the people in the community need to leave the community because there are not as many opportunities within that area. It does not make sense to talk about safe paths for biking and walking when most of those people cannot rely on

those forms of transportation because they have to travel across the city for work. When talking about traffic safety, we are missing the economic development piece, to allow communities to find opportunity within their communities. Things like electric cars will only benefit high socioeconomic populations. We need to think about equity.

- When you think about economic development as a core concept behind transportation development, are there solutions that come to mind?
 - I think we need to think about how to promote economic development. We need to invest in communities and train community members, so they can create their own community centers. The other thing about traffic safety is the underdevelopment of infrastructure. We do not have sidewalks in the South Valley. Our communities are also targeted by police. We need to address roots of systemic racism, rather than increase police patrolling. An alternative option would be to create a racetrack for street racers to use.
 - There is a conversation that needs to be had with communities in a non-punitive way to talk about how actions like street racing affect the community. This is a conversation we want to keep having to try to create solutions to each of these problems. We are trying to identify solutions to address these issues without increasing law enforcement.
 - I have two suggestions for the Vision Zero Toolbox. The first is that the action plan include the deaths and injuries related to emission pollution. We need to talk to people about the health affects that these pollutants may cause. We also need to consider which populations are most affected by these emissions. The second idea is that there should be warning labels on cars and car commercials, like cigarettes. People do not know how dangerous they are, and we need to change that narrative.
 - Our city must have an equitable investment policy in place to improve safety. At one point, will this group have an opportunity to talk about this? How is the city transparent when it comes to investment?
 - That is a great question and point about transparency. Right now a lot of the data about investment, particularly in infrastructure, is not as well organized as we would like to really be able to understand how equitably those investments are being made, but that is something we are working for related to Vision Zero, and I hope that more push from other groups like this will hopefully help us get a deeper understanding.
 - How many of the street deaths were related to street racing in Albuquerque? What other solutions are people thinking about?
 - At least once a month, a fatal crash is related to street racing, especially among motorcycle drivers. I do not know what the solutions are aside from law enforcement. There is some increased investment in speed bumps in residential areas, but main roads present other difficulties, pertaining to traffic congestion.
 - Maybe the city could invest in a racetrack, to allow people to race safely and responsibly.
 - A racetrack is a great idea but may not get all street racers to practice safely and responsibly. It is an option to look into.
 - I hope that through this task force, we can form coalitions to continue to work with each other long term. In terms of the policing issue, the police helicopters are a huge issue for not only over policing, but also for large amounts of emissions. Investments in APS could also be beneficial to teach students about the importance of green technologies and alternate fuels.
 - It can be hard to have conversations on electric vehicles and technologies, but we need to talk about these things at a deeper level. I was born of parents with a high school education. Growing up on welfare and on food stamps, you are not concerned about charging stations and electric vehicles.

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- I work two jobs and am a full-time student. I would love to be able to afford an electric vehicle but paying bills and making my assignment deadlines are my priority.
- For the Solutions Toolbox, improved public transportation is a must. In addition to improve the adoption of public transportation, the last mile should be looked at with possible bike and ride sharing programs.
- **Lilly Irvin-Vitela:** The Transportation conversation will continue next week. We can support you to develop workgroups within the task force and we can create a sign up, so which know which of you want to be connected to which conversations. Any recommendations developed in side conversations will be brought back to the entire group to ensure that all of you as task force members are able to contribute.

Homework Survey

- **Erika Robers:** Thank you everybody who completed the homework survey. These surveys will serve to give us extra input going forward and ensure you all are getting what you need.
- **Homework Survey Results:**
 - People were really excited about community involvement: specifically, community recycling and composting at a neighborhood level. We got a lot of good responses about promotoras.
 - Another big themes that emerged was the idea of partnering with local businesses, specifically related to agriculture. People seemed to be interested in created more of a circular economy.
 - Recommendations included the prioritization of frontline communities and making sure that the benefits of any initiatives were felt and observed by the poorest communities in Albuquerque.
 - People want us to shift away from market-based solutions and move towards community-based solutions. People also wanted to see more of a focus on producer responsibility and incorporating polluter pays legislation.
 - There were some recommendations on banning plastics and other harmful products.
 - Issues people wanted to bring up included green waste, educational programs, debunking myths, and holding government and organizations accountable.

Next Steps

- Please complete the task force homework survey. Use the survey to reflect and expand upon any of the things we talked about during the meeting. Please complete the survey by 12:00 PM on Monday, November 2, 2020.
- Please complete the stipend questionnaire – even if you have already sent in a response. The questionnaire will ask you about whether you would like to receive a stipend for being part of the task force. If we don't hear back from you by Friday, November 6, we will assume you are forgoing your payment to be used towards other members stipend.
- Please write a small biography of yourself to be posted on the website, for the public to get a better send of who each of you are. We ask that your biography be no longer than 3 sentences. We ask that you send these biographies to cabqclimatecomments@nmfirst.org no later than Friday, November 6. If you do not submit a biography by the deadline, it will not be included on the website.
- Some smaller workgroups will be developed, and a sign-up sheet will be distributed to you as task force members, once the logistics have been confirmed. These will allow us to explore your topics of interest more in depth to make this work more meaningful and relevant.

Public Comment

- **Kevin Bean:** I believe a special meeting needs to be held to address and discuss climate mobilization.
- **Blair Brown:** We are very interested in what is going on and enjoy attending.
- **Norton Kalishman:** I appreciated all the work that is going on and hearing everybody's comments.
- **Ona Porter:** Based on some of the questions around transportation, I want people to pay attention to the PRC and the PNM plans that are moving forward. In the PNM plan, we are pushing hard for PNM to invest in electric buses to serve the communities in the South Valley. For those that are interested contact me, at info@prosperityworks.net.
- **Sherrick Roanhorse:** You are all doing a great job.
- **Cassandra Miller:** I am weary of electric vehicles because they are expensive and there are better uses of the resources involved. A car share program could be a more useful way to make things more affordable for people.
- **Additional comments can be sent to:** cabqclimatecomments@nmfirst.org