



# Climate Action Plan Implementation Period Community Engagement Meeting

## Fall 2022 Meeting Minutes

Topic: Energy Efficiency

Date: Wednesday, September 28, 5:00pm MT

Platform: Zoom

Recording: <https://youtu.be/-yZa09xyVgw>

### Attendees (28 total)

#### Facilitator

Sandra West from the City's Sustainability Office

#### Notetaker

Denise Gonzalez, the City's Sustainability Specialist

#### Speakers

- Kelsey Rader, the City's Sustainability Officer
- Saif Ismail, the City's Energy and Sustainability Division Manager
- Ona Porter with Prosperity Works
- Alaric Babej with PNM, and
- Jacquelyn Salcido, program consultant for NM Gas Company

#### Other Attendees

Twenty-one other people attended the Zoom meeting.

### Agenda

- Opening and introduction
  - Sandra introduced presenters and provided a brief topic overview.
  - Kelsey provided an overview of City and Sustainability Office initiatives.
- Topic-related presentations
  - Saif described the City's Balanced Resource Acquisition and Information Network (BRAIN).
  - Ona shared updates on community energy efficiency work.
  - Alaric presented PNM's energy efficiency programs.
  - Jacquelyn presented NM Gas Company's energy efficiency programs.
- Feedback and Q&A
  - Sandra shared the survey link, including a brief overview of the timeline, what the data will be used for, and why it is important to fill out the form. Then she opened the floor to questions.
- Closing
  - Sandra wrapped up the meeting, resent the survey link, thanked presenters, and closed the meeting.



## Questions

### Questions Answered During the Meeting

Note: please review the recording for answers to these questions.

- Have PNM & NM Gas considered showing customer consumption compared to neighborhood average on customer bills?
- For Ona Porter: Will your expanded program be limited to the International District, or other areas as well?
  - [Additional information provided post-meeting by Ona Porter] We will be looking beyond the district to provide energy efficiency retrofits in low income homes.
- For PNM: are rebates available only in CABQ or to any PNM customer?
- Will there be a link to the feedback form on the sustainability page?
- Will CABQ, PNM, or NMGAS provide anything articulating the new credits and incentives (and how to qualify and apply for them) passed recently at the federal level?
- Does PNM keep data on the number of homes with rooftop solar?
  - Same question in regards to commercial businesses.
- Any plans on revising the restrictions related to residential battery storage solutions?
- How does the CABQ efficiency program relate to transportation? For instance, encouraging more bikes / e-bikes via infrastructure improvements.
- Water consumption requires a substantial amount of energy as well for purification and transport. Will there be a session to discuss water conservation efforts?
- When will there be an update to the GHG emissions inventory?
- Does the CABQ's BRAIN project integrate directly to PNM, possibly to support Smart Grid efforts?
- Does the water authority have a CAP?
- Has/Will CABQ send out short press releases that identify the dashboard or identify information so that folks in Albuquerque know what is going on?
- [To Alaric] Request to post email in the chat. In reference to the 27k rooftop solar system is this for Albuquerque or total service area? (this was the total for service area)
- [To CABQ and NM Gas] Regarding incorporating hydrogen into natural gas supply, e.g., “brown hydrogen” and how it is generated. What is the city’s position on using hydrogen? brown vs green, vs blue?

### Remaining Questions and Responses

**Q1:** For Commercial Buildings in general and the PNM Peak Saver program,

1. Could average-sized buildings in ABQ choose how much they can shed under peak demand?
2. Is there a commitment or contract minimum?
3. Is PNM a qualified Demand Response (DR) provider? I’m sure yes, but wanted to ask.

**A1:**

1. Depends on what the customer refers to as “average-sized”; in order for C&I customers to participate, they must subscribe to the 3B, 4B, 5B, 15B, 17B or 30B rates and have an annual peak demand greater than 50kW. Aside from these requirements, the customer is free to nominate their capacity reduction based on their needs and abilities.



2. (see responses below)
  - a. There is no commitment or minimum; some participants select a nomination of 0 MW in certain months where their operational needs outweigh program benefits. That being said, the reward for a monthly nomination of 0 MW is \$0.
  - b. The contractual program capacity cap is set at 25 MW so effectively, no single customer would be allowed to nominate more than 25 MW. The program employs a diverse portfolio methodology by which we limit individual site nominations to approximately 10 MW. Individual site limits are based on internal considerations as well as collaborative discussions with the customer.
3. The PNM Peak and Power Saver programs are both subject to NERC standards MOD-032-2 and MOD-032-3 – Demand and Energy Data and comply with PNM reporting standards.

**Q2:** What are the IQ [income qualified] guidelines?

**A2:** To qualify, a residential customer will need to contact the New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority (MFA), since the MFA runs the NM Gas Company low-income program and is the entity responsible for qualifying customers. It is best for residential customers to contact the MFA directly to see if they qualify for the income qualified program.

## Comments

### Verbal Comments

- None provided.

### Comments Placed in the Chat

- Negawatt -- the watt not consumed or required. A cost-effective approach, before employing renewables or a new furnace or AC equipment is by installing energy conservation measures such as higher R-value insulation (ceiling and maybe walls, higher R-value windows and doors and then size your higher efficiency heat pump. Then with more energy efficient lighting, energy efficient appliances, etc. when you size the PV system, it doesn't have to be as large and hence saves on first costs. That's the approach I used at my house. My nickel's worth.
- Negawatts also result from conservation. And of course, the most renewable energy is human energy a/k/a manual energy a/k/a muscles.
- [Comment directed to PNM] Currently if you add a single powerwall, for example, with 1 solar panel you no longer qualify for net metering, due to system size. Even though the storage systems are inert to the grid.  
With the concern related to rolling brown outs during peak usage it seems counterintuitive to make restrictions on residential storage systems. The process is also very cumbersome. Been trying to get a battery storage system installed for ~ 6months waiting on paperwork approval from PNM.
- Thanks very much for this community engagement meeting.
- <https://www.rewiringamerica.org/app/ira-calculator>



## Written Comments Submitted Before or After the Meeting

### Prior to the Meeting

**Provided 9/20/2022:** According to the description of the meeting, there will be presentations followed by opportunities for public comments.

The public comments are asked to address these topics:

- (1) initiative impacts
- (2) constructive input for project implementers
- (3) continuous alignment with community priorities.

I would like to comment that these topics are not self explanatory and need additional explanation and clarification.

**Provided 9/28/2022:** Expanding Public Engagement - public awareness spots on TV such as the ones on PBS Newshour about working for the City.

Indicators:

Move beyond the Dashboard to provide progress indicators. For example:

Recycling - amount of stuff actually recycled

Bus ridership - Now that the worst of the pandemic is past, are folks riding the buses?

Renewable energy - For the City facilities and also for the whole city.

Rooftop solar - perhaps number of roofs and amount of energy generated

GHG Emissions Inventory:

The last one was 2019, it's time for another one!

### After the Meeting

**Provided 10/3/2022:** These are my additional comments after the Public Engagement meeting. Just so you know, I have read the additional information and watched the video. I have completed the survey, too. I also visited the Energy and Sustainability Management web page.

I must admit that I still don't understand what the BRAIN is very precisely. The schematic diagram has many acronyms that need to be clarified. Is there another source of more descriptive information? Also, is there a connection between the Energy and Sustainability Management web page and the Sustainability web page? Is Saif Ismail part of the Sustainability Team?

About the survey, I am puzzled by the emphasis on alignment with the "goal of protecting Albuquerque's natural environment." The city's goals were not discussed during the presentation. The obvious goal of the projects presented was energy efficiency.

In my view, the goals should align more directly with the Sustainability programs! I hope that one of your team members will participate.



## Survey Results

Four responses were collected using the English form (zero responses using the Spanish form) while the survey was open (September 28 through October 31, 2022). In this section, you will find a summary of the outreach, survey results by program, demographics, and survey feedback on the engagement program.

### Outreach Overview

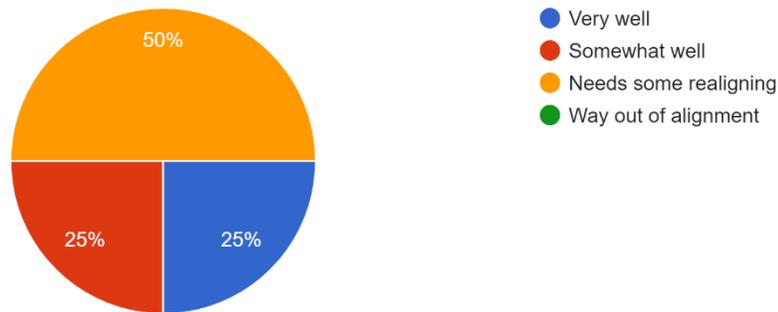
The survey was shared with community engagement meeting attendees, linked to the Climate Action Plan webpage, and advertised three separate times on social media. The Sustainability Office is exploring additional outreach methods and pathways to increase the reach and responses for future events and surveys.

### Survey Results by Program

#### Balanced Resource Acquisition and Information Network (BRAIN) Program

How well do you think the Balanced Resource Acquisition and Information Network (BRAIN) project currently aligns with the community goal of protecting Albuquerque’s natural environment?

4 responses



Please name ONE way the City could improve the **BRAIN project** to better protect Albuquerque’s natural environment.

3 responses

It wasn't clear to me what the BRAIN data was exactly and how it would inform decisions on policy or budget actions.

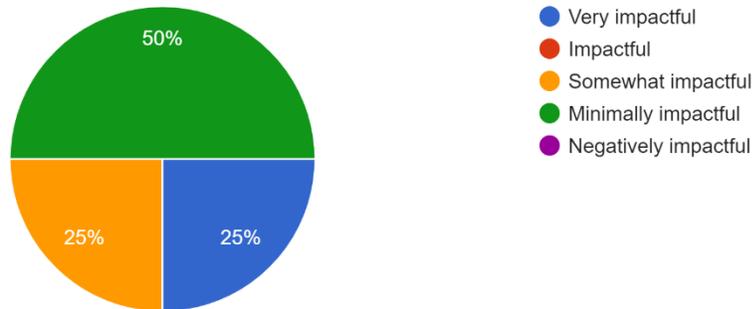
It is not clear what the BRAIN project will achieve goals from the explanation

Coordinate data



How impactful do you think the Balanced Resource Acquisition and Information Network (BRAIN) project will be for improving equitable sustainability in Albuquerque?

4 responses



Why?

4 responses

It seemed to me the focus was on city facilities, not individuals?

It is unclear what the intended impact of BRAIN is.

Never heard of it

Representation

Do you have ideas for increasing the positive impact of the **BRAIN project** for frontline communities? If so, please provide them in the box below.

2 responses

Perhaps this is part of the program, but ensuring there are resilience centers for the community that remain powered during emergencies

No.

Do you have any concerns (e.g., unintended consequences) directly related to the **BRAIN project** that you would like to share? If so, please provide them in the box below.

1 response

I've found from other building data efficiency programs that human behavior often is not taken into account. For instance, taking away autonomy on cooling/heating leads people to bring in personal space heaters or other remedies that render the net benefit worse than before.



Other comments in regards to the **BRAIN** project?

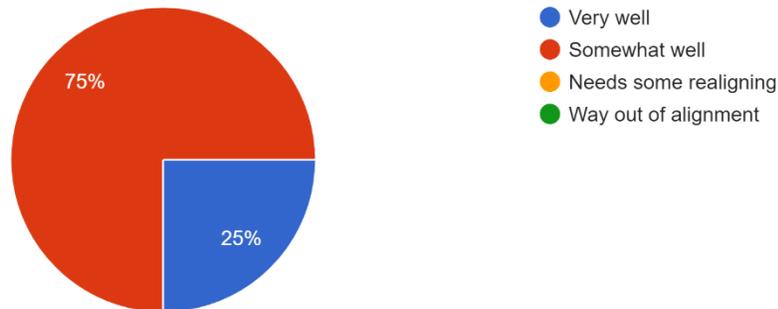
2 responses

- none
- The explanation was not clear.

### Community Energy Efficiency (CEE) Program

How well do you think the Community Energy Efficiency (CEE) program currently aligns with the community goal of protecting Albuquerque’s natural environment?

4 responses



Please name **ONE** way the City could improve the **CEE program** to better protect Albuquerque’s natural environment.

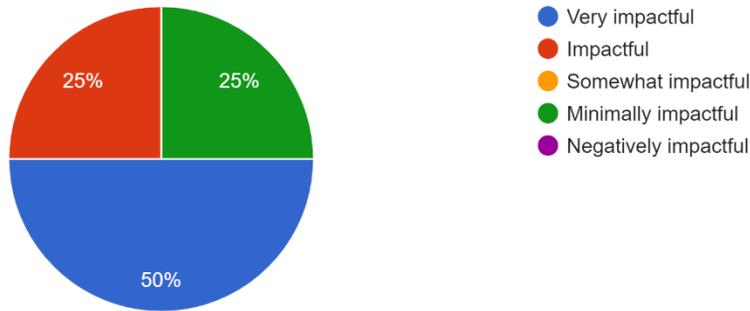
3 responses

- I'd focus 100% of the program on electrification / elimination of natural gas use as that has the largest impact on the natural environment as the electrical grid shifts towards more renewable.
- If the program goals include reduction of GHG reduction, make this clearer.
- N/a



How impactful do you think the Community Energy Efficiency (CEE) projects will be for improving equitable sustainability in Albuquerque?

4 responses



Why?

4 responses

sounds like a good program, might need to scale by leveraging other programs especially federal funding and very proactive community engagement.

The program is focused on Income Qualified families.

Never heard of it

Response from all communities

Do you have ideas for increasing the positive impact of the **CEE projects** for frontline communities? If so, please provide them in the box below.

1 response

Perhaps setting up programs with landlords to incentivize efficiency improvements in multi-family housing. They could advertise that their units have lower utility bills for instance to attract renters.

Do you have any concerns (e.g., unintended consequences) directly related to the **CEE projects** that you would like to share? If so, please provide them in the box below.

1 response

none



Other comments in regards to the CEE projects?

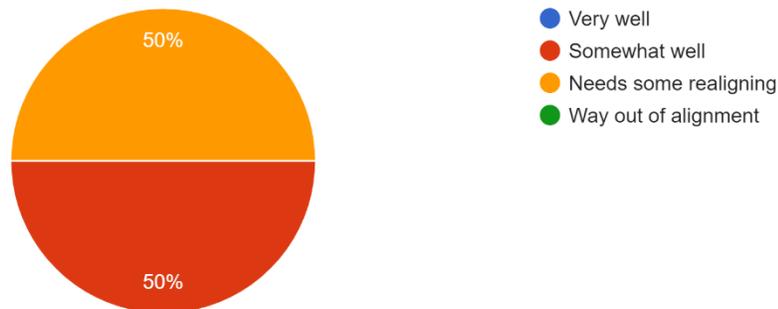
1 response

none

### Utility Programs

How well do you think the Utility programs currently aligns with the community goal of protecting Albuquerque’s natural environment?

4 responses



Please name ONE way PNM/NM Gas could improve their program(s) to better align with the community goal of protecting Albuquerque’s natural environment.

2 responses

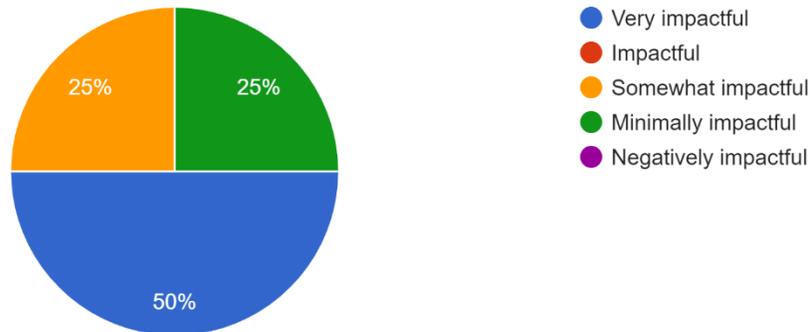
On bill financing of efficiency improvements

There are so many programs that it’s difficult to say.



How impactful do you think the utility energy efficiency programs will be for improving equitable sustainability in Albuquerque?

4 responses



Why?

4 responses

I imagine most people don't have the time or awareness to look into those programs and it's not clear how renters benefit

These programs are open to all.

Awareness

These groups need to be represented

Do you have ideas for increasing the positive impact of the **utility energy efficiency programs** for frontline communities? If so, please provide them in the box below.

1 response

More community outreach.

Do you have any concerns (e.g., unintended consequences) directly related to the **utility energy efficiency programs** that you would like to share? If so, please provide them in the box below.

1 response

I always find the rebates to the wholesalers opaque. How do I know they are passing on those savings?

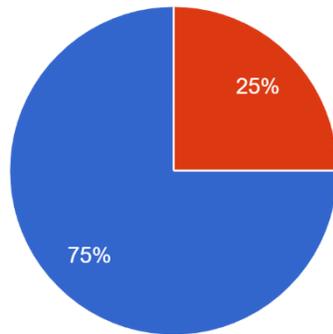


Other comments in regards to the **utility energy efficiency programs?**

0 responses

What next steps will you take to save your electrical energy use in your home or business?

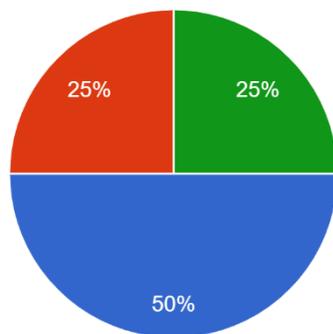
4 responses



- Take personal steps such as turning off lights and setting my thermostat higher.
- Visit [www.CheckWithPNM.com](http://www.CheckWithPNM.com) to see how PNM can provide rebates or programs to help me save energy and money.
- I do not plan to act to reduce my electrical energy use.

What next steps will you take to reduce natural gas use in your home or business?

4 responses



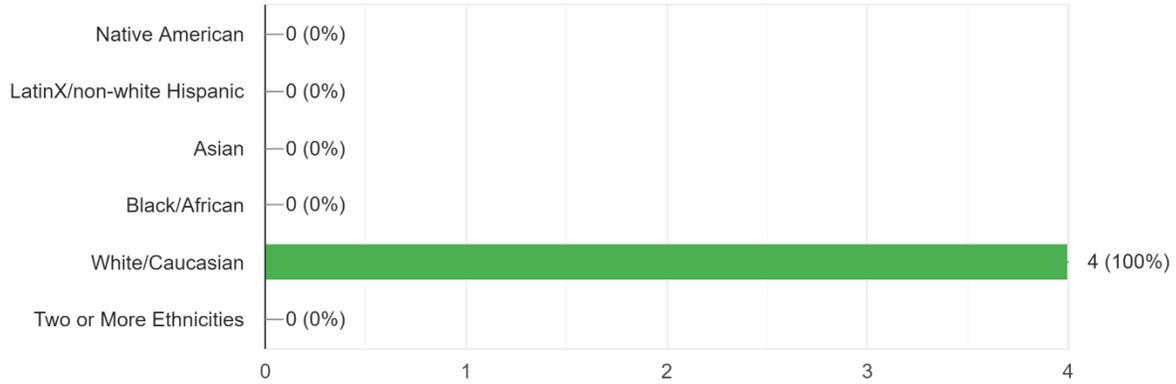
- Take personal steps such as hanging my clothes to dry and setting my thermostat lower in the winter.
- Visit [https://nmgco.com/en/residential\\_rebate\\_programs](https://nmgco.com/en/residential_rebate_programs) to explore NM Gas Company's residential rebate programs.
- I do not plan to act to reduce my natural gas energy use.
- I do not have natural gas at my home.



### Survey Respondent Demographics

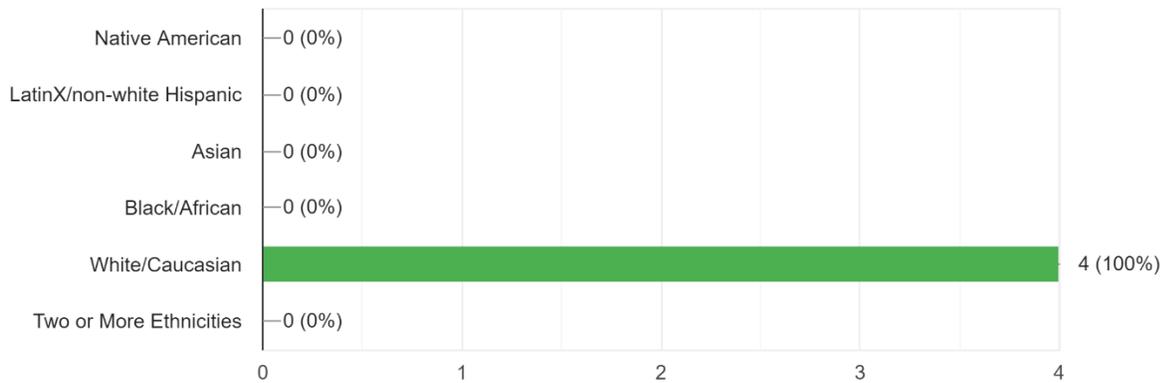
Please select all that apply to you:

4 responses



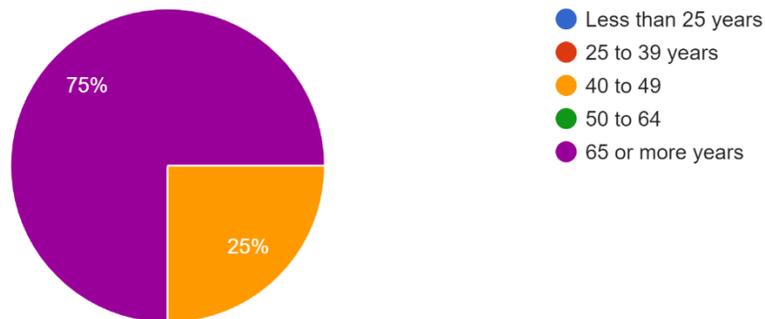
Please select all that apply to you:

4 responses



Age

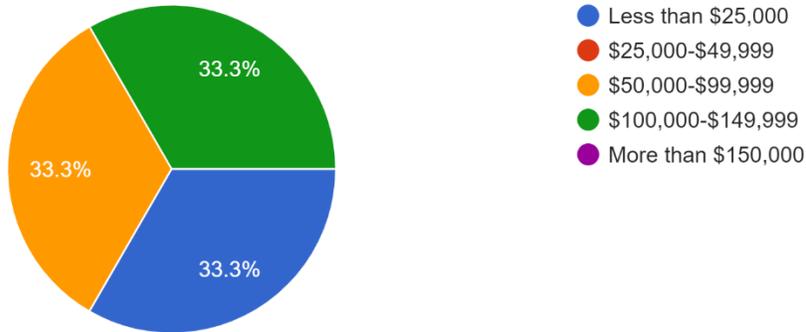
4 responses





### Household Income

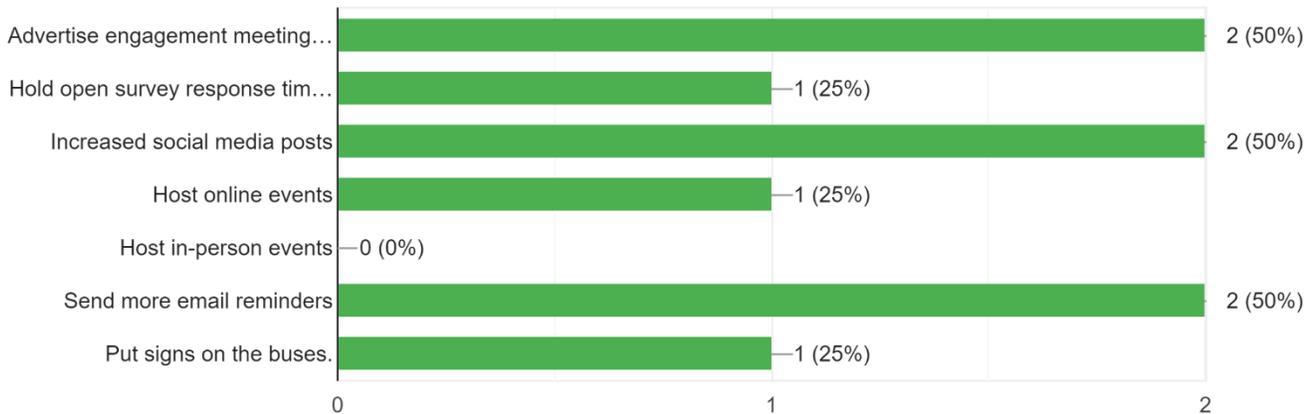
3 responses



### Survey Feedback on the Engagement Process

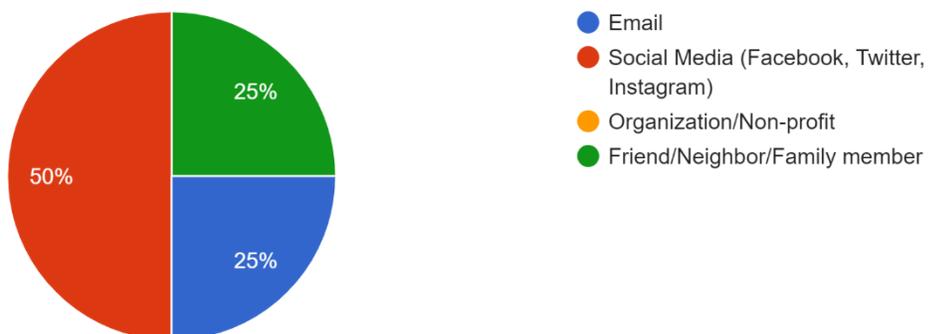
What would make it easier for you and others in Albuquerque to participate in the Climate Action Plan Implementation Period community engagement process?

4 responses



### How did you hear about this meeting?

4 responses





Who else should be invited to future meetings? Please let us know in the comment box below or by emailing us at [sustainability@cabq.gov](mailto:sustainability@cabq.gov).

1 response

more community organizations

We would like to hear from as many community members as possible. Please share this survey and the resource page with others. Please copy this URL to share the survey and/or sign up for future Sustainability updates (including information about future community engagement meetings): <https://www.cabq.gov/sustainability/climate-action-plan#CAP-community-engagement>.

Note: This form is open through the end of October.

Other suggestions/feedback

1 response

Coordinate with the IPC, participate in the Goals Forum.

## Next Meeting

Date: TBD, mid-December

Topic: Transportation (including Vision Zero)

Details: Coming soon!