Central New Mexico
Resilient Futures Initiative

Central New Mexico
Comprehensive Climate Action Plan

Spring 2026

One Climate, Many Voices

Central New Mexico
Resilient Futures Initiative

In This Report

How to Use This Document

This is an interactive PDF. You can read it straight through, but it's designed to help you move quickly between sections and access deeper content as needed.

Key Features

1. Navigation Icons
The Home button returns you to the "***Contents***" page.

Strategic Priority icons link to the opening page of that section. These icons only appear within "*3 | Our Regional Strategy*"

2. Resources for Collective Action
Detailed tables and supporting information have been moved to the appendices. Use the links provided to access them directly.

3. "Did You Know?" Callouts
Draw attention to key insights and may include links to related content.

Note: If you're viewing a printed version or using a limited PDF viewer, interactive elements will appear but may not function.

View our Executive Summary

Planning Area & Authors

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In Partnership with:

2025 Community Task Force

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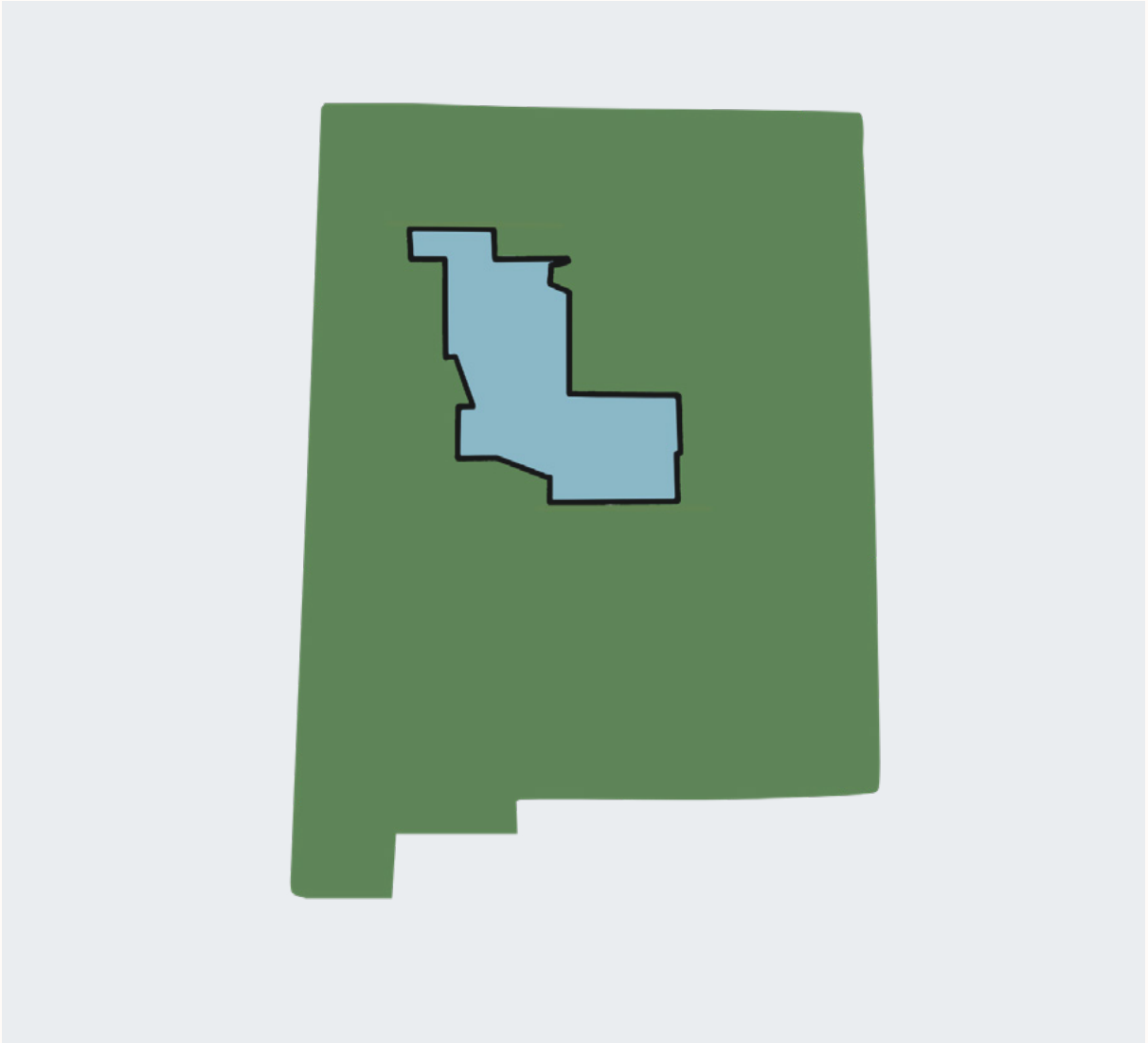


Figure 1. Planning Area, Central New Mexico

Letter from the Community Task Force

In 2025, the City of Albuquerque's Sustainability Office convened us—the Community Task Force—a coalition of local community leaders, community-based organizations, and advocates, to develop the Central New Mexico Comprehensive Climate Action Plan for Albuquerque and the surrounding four-county region: Sandoval, Bernalillo, Valencia, and Torrance. This letter represents our final comments and reflections as a Task Force for the action plan.

This Plan reflects the potential for a more resilient and sustainable future for our region and beyond. We thank the City for working to foster collaboration and dialogue grounded in the lived experiences, wisdom, and concerns of our communities, particularly those already confronting the consequences of a changing climate and socioeconomic inequities. We also acknowledge the need for better planning, participation, and engagement of leadership and communities in Sandoval, Valencia, and Torrance counties, who were underrepresented in both the Task Force and Community Meeting Partners.

We recognize that climate change is a global issue and that **local action—rooted in community leadership, collaboration, knowledge, and cultural respect—drives meaningful and lasting change.** This is why we knew local participation in developing climate action and mitigation plans was essential. This Plan is a glimpse into a shared

vision and the actions needed to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change on our people, our local economy, and our ecosystems in Central New Mexico. While not every proposed solution earned unanimous support, each represents a pathway towards addressing the urgent environmental and social challenges we face together.

Vision and Priorities

The strategies outlined in this Plan are designed to protect fragile ecosystems, strengthen the integrity of local communities, and advance equitable climate solutions centered on the well-being of all residents.

The Plan prioritizes four key objectives:

1. **Reduce Climate Pollution**—through cleaner energy and transportation systems, sustainable water and waste management, and responsible land use.
2. **Center the Needs of Vulnerable Communities**—by recognizing those who have contributed least to the problem, yet bear the heaviest burden of a changing climate.
3. **Foster Economic Transformatio**n—by creating pathways for green innovation, workforce development, sustainable industry, and valuing the incorporation of cultural practices that have enabled life in the southwest for time immemorial.
4. **Inspire Collective Action**—uniting communities, policymakers, industry, and academia under a shared purpose.

We firmly believe that **climate change is not *just* an environmental issue, it is an issue of community health and wellbeing for those who call Central New Mexico home now and in the future**. It affects every aspect of our daily lives: our vitality, economy, culture, and sense of belonging.

For this reason, local governments must continue efforts to intentionally bring businesses, universities, and other institutions together to work alongside our communities in implementing solutions that reflect local realities—ensuring the just use of water, the elimination of harmful industrial pollution, and the creation of sustainable economic models that prioritize people and place over profit.

A Call to Action

This Plan is not a conclusion; it is a beginning—a living framework meant to guide ongoing collaboration, learning, and adaptation.

The community leaders and residents who participated in this process proudly endorse this plan as a collective expression of hope, responsibility, and action. We also recommend establishing a Continuous Improvement Framework to regularly assess progress, share outcomes, and refine strategies based on community feedback and improved scientific insight.

Together, we can build a Central New Mexico that is cleaner, more equitable, and more resilient—for our children and for generations to come.

In solidarity and shared purpose,

Community Leaders and Members of the
Central New Mexico Community Task Force

Contents

1 | How To Use This Plan

This plan is designed to be practical and accessible. Whether you are a community member, policymaker, business leader, or nonprofit partner, the sections below can help you quickly find the information most relevant to you.

1. **How to Use the Plan:** This introduction explains how the plan came to be and how to get the most out of the document.
2. **What's at Stake:** This section provides background on climate pollution and how it is affecting life in Central New Mexico—from water availability and extreme heat to economic stability and public health.
3. **Our Regional Strategy:** This is the core of the plan. It outlines 25 community priorities organized into five strategic areas. Each priority includes estimated emissions impacts along with potential challenges and opportunities for implementation.
4. **What's Next:** This section provides a summary of the plan and it's strengths and opportunities and how the City of Albuquerque Sustainability Office will advance climate action under Mayor Keller's final term.
5. **Resources for Collective Action:** The final section provides data and tools to help turn ideas into action, including:
    - **Climate Pollution in Central New Mexico** – a guide to understanding where emissions come from and how they are measured.
    - **Timeline of Climate Action in Central New Mexico and Beyond** – a look at regional milestones that show how progress builds over time.

Did You Know?

This Plan is part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's **Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) planning program**, a nationwide effort that includes **222 awardees covering approximately 97% of the U.S. population**. In New Mexico, awardees include the State of New Mexico Environment Department, the Pueblo of Santa Ana, the Pueblo of Sandia, the Navajo Nation, the Tribal Consortium of Tesuque, Nambe, Picuris, and San Ildefonso, and the City of Albuquerque.

- **Existing Efforts and Resources** – programs, tools, and opportunities already available to support climate action.
- **Suggested Activities by Stakeholder** – a starting roadmap for individuals, organizations, and local governments interested in contributing to the region's goals.

Together, these sections are meant to inform, inspire, and support action. The path forward will require collaboration across sectors and communities—but the tools to begin are already in our hands.

To learn more about the data behind this plan, view the 2023 Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Inventory, Funding and Finance Overview, Workforce Analysis, and Community Engagement Summary.

> "This roadmap helps us continue to move away from fossil fuel dependence by building the safe, clean, and healthy city our residents deserve"
>
> *- Mayor Tim Keller*

2 | What's at Stake

Climate change can feel distant. But in Central New Mexico, its impacts are already part of daily life. Hotter summers, longer droughts, wildfire smoke, and rising costs are reminders that the climate is changing. Understanding what is at stake helps explain why this plan—and the actions it outlines—matter for the future of our region.

The primary driver of climate change is the use of fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and natural gas. When these fuels power our vehicles, heat our buildings, and generate electricity, they release gases that trap heat in the atmosphere. Many of these activities also produce air pollutants that affect public health.

Scientists often describe the resulting threat as climate risk. Risk increases when hazards become stronger and when people, infrastructure, and ecosystems are exposed to them. Communities with fewer resources to respond or recover often experience the greatest impacts.

In Central New Mexico, climate hazards include rising temperatures, prolonged drought, wildfire risk, and more intense storms. These hazards interact with existing pressures such as water scarcity and growing infrastructure needs. The level of risk we face depends largely on the choices we make today. A low-emissions future slows warming and keeps impacts more manageable. A high-emissions future increases the likelihood and severity of disruptions.

The difference between these futures depends on how quickly communities reduce pollution and strengthen their resilience.

> "From the Rio Grande drying, to growing stands of dead piñon trees, and stinging eyes from wildfire smoke, the impacts of climate change are impossible to ignore. Pollution reduction strengthens our community and environmental resilience in our changing world."
>
> *Cassandra Miller,*
> *University of New Mexico,*
> *Community Task Force Member*

Our Health and Well-Being

Climate impacts affect human health in many ways.

Higher temperatures increase the risk of heat-related illness and death, particularly for older adults, children, outdoor workers, and residents without reliable cooling. Poor air quality—caused by vehicle emissions, wildfire smoke, and dust—can worsen asthma, respiratory disease, and heart conditions. Longer pollen seasons also aggravate allergies and breathing problems.

Climate risks can also increase the cost of living. Extreme heat drives up electricity use and energy bills. Drought can raise food prices and strain water supplies. Storms and wildfires can damage homes and infrastructure, creating financial hardship for families and communities.

These impacts do not fall evenly across the region. Communities identified as disadvantaged through federal screening tools often face higher exposure to pollution and fewer resources to prepare for climate hazards. Reducing pollution and strengthening resilience can improve public health and quality of life, especially in these communities.

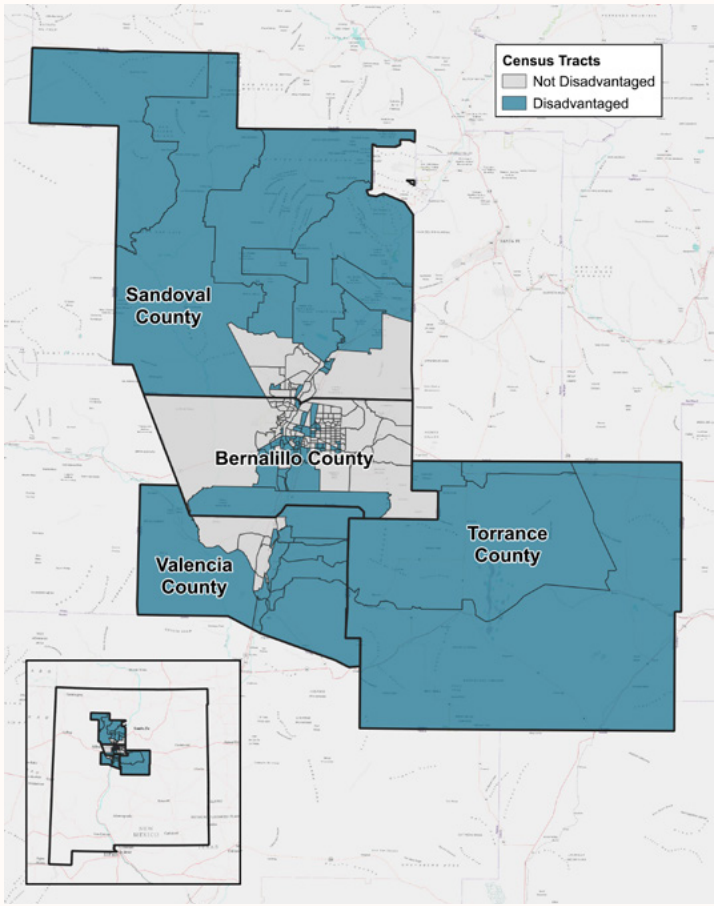


Figure 2. Communities Experiencing Vulnerability in Central New Mexico

Our Economy

Climate change also affects the economic systems that support our region.

Extreme heat, wildfire, and flooding can damage roads, power systems, water infrastructure, and homes. Repairing this damage requires significant investment and can strain local budgets. Insurance costs are rising across the country as climate risks grow.

Key industries in Central New Mexico are also vulnerable. Agriculture faces increasing challenges from aridification, heat stress on crops and livestock, and uncertain water availability. Outdoor workers—from construction crews to farm laborers—face growing health risks as temperatures climb.

Climate impacts ripple through the healthcare system as well. Heat illness, respiratory problems, and other climate-related conditions increase demand for medical services and raise healthcare costs.

Even the outdoor recreation economy depends on healthy forests, reliable snowpack, and stable ecosystems. These resources support tourism, local jobs, and cultural traditions that are central to life in New Mexico.

Photo Credit: MRCOG

Photo Credit: Isabelle Jenniches

Our Environment

The landscapes of Central New Mexico hold deep ecological, cultural, and economic value. Mountain forests, desert grasslands, and the Rio Grande watershed support wildlife, agriculture, recreation, and community identity.

Climate change is already affecting these systems.

Long-term warming and drought contribute to aridification, making the region progressively drier. Forests face higher wildfire risk, and changing conditions can cause plants and animals to shift where they live. Some species may struggle to adapt quickly enough to survive.

Water systems are also under pressure. Reduced snowpack, earlier runoff, and higher evaporation rates affect river flows and reservoir levels. Soil health, pollinator populations, and water quality can also be affected.

Protecting these ecosystems is not only about conservation. It is about sustaining the natural systems that communities depend on every day.

Our Neighbors

Climate change connects communities across the world.

Rising seas, stronger storms, and crop failures are contributing to climate migration, as people move in search of safety and stability. These shifts affect immigration patterns, humanitarian response, and economic systems.

Climate risks also influence national security, global markets, and supply chains. Ocean warming and acidification threaten fisheries and coastal economies. Extreme weather can disrupt transportation and production networks around the world.

In other words, climate change is both a local challenge and a global one. Addressing it requires cooperation at every level—from neighborhood actions to international partnerships.

“As climate change reshapes landscapes, more people are forced to move—not by choice, but by necessity. From coastal loss to drought, climate refugees are finding new beginnings in places like Albuquerque. It's our job to help those on the move and build resilience across all communities.”

- Beatriz Valencia,
Office of Equity and Inclusion

Figure 3. Expected Climate Impacts for Central New Mexico

Climate Impacts	Expected Impact
Temperature	Future temperature projections for the area are expected to increase 2.93 to 2.98% from 2021 to 2050, and 4.82 to 4.89% between 2051 and 2070 (New Mexico Climate Risk Map)
Storm Intensity	Continued increase in rainfall intensity and flash flooding potential. Rainfall intensity has increased 13% since 1970 (NOAA ACIS)
Water Availability	Projections suggest a 25% reduction in river and streamflow by 2050 (Dunbar et al., 2022)
Water Quality	Increased salinity, microbial regrowth, nutrient concentrations, dissolved oxygen, and pathogenic organisms (Dunbar et al., 2022, USDA, 2017)
Fires	Increase in the area burned at high severity by wildfires, exacerbated sedimentation and erosion impacts post-fire (Dunbar et al., 2022)
Ecosystems	Habitat fragmentation, threats to native desert fish from increased temperatures, changing and declining vegetative ground cover, potential intensification of pest threats (Dunbar et al., 2022, USDA, 2017, State Wildlife Action Plan 2016)

3 | Our Regional Strategy

What We Can Do

Central New Mexico has always been shaped by resilience. Communities here have learned to live with limited water, wide landscapes, and changing conditions. That history offers an important lesson: when we work together and build on our strengths, we can adapt and thrive.

The same is true for climate action.

Across the region, people are already leading solutions—**installing clean energy, restoring landscapes, improving transportation options, reducing waste, and building stronger local food systems.** Our cultural traditions of stewardship, cooperation, and care for the land provide a strong foundation for this work.

The path forward builds on three simple ideas. We can reduce pollution, adapt to a changing climate, and work together to strengthen our communities. Each of these actions supports the others. When done well, they protect public health, lower long-term costs, and create new opportunities for economic growth.

> **"Climate change doesn't stop at city limits—it ignores borders, jurisdictions, and politics. Addressing it is everyone's responsibility, but cities with greater resources and influence, like Albuquerque, have a duty to lead boldly and act decisively for our shared future."**
>
> *Ann Simon, Sustainability Officer, City of Albuquerque*

A Bold Vision

The Regional Strategy in this plan reflects a simple challenge: how do we reduce climate pollution while also advancing the priorities that matter most to our communities?

The answer is balance.

The strategies presented here aim to reduce emissions while improving daily life—cleaner air, safer transportation, lower energy costs, healthier ecosystems, and stronger local economies.

To guide this effort, the plan proposes a **regional vision for reaching zero emissions by 2050**. This pathway draws on widely recognized best practices:

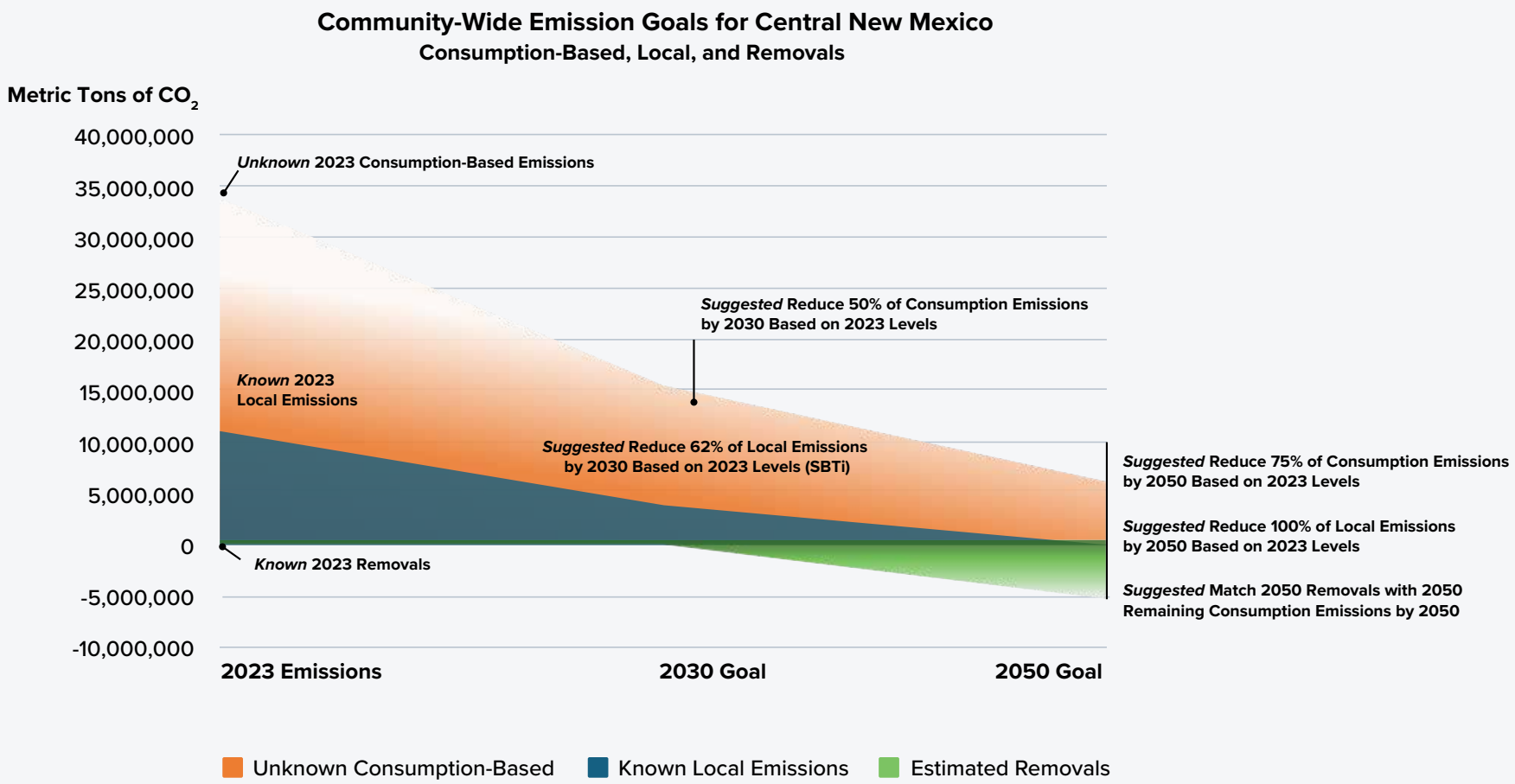
- **Reducing local emissions** in line with the Science Based Targets initiative—cutting emissions **62% by 2030 compared with 2023 levels**.
- **Addressing consumption-based emissions**, following guidance from leading cities around the world by **cutting these emissions roughly in half by 2030 and reducing them 75% by 2050**.
- **Considering carbon removals**, such as verified carbon offsets, beginning around 2030 to address emissions that are difficult to eliminate entirely.

Together, these approaches reflect an ambitious strategy for moving toward a climate-safe future.

"At the urging of the Community Task Force, we looked beyond local emissions to try to capture a more complete picture of the impact of our actions. The goals we ultimately developed are a reflection of this, helping us prioritize progress over perfection"

- Alice Main, City of Albuquerque Sustainability Office

Figure 4. Suggested Regional Goals for Local and Consumption-Based Emissions



Note: Figure 4 showcases the local emissions for the Central New Mexico region starting with actual data from the 2023 Community Scale Greenhouse Gas Inventory and our aspirational reduction path moving to the right, meeting a 62% reduction goal by 2030 and 100% reduction goal by 2050 (in blue). It also showcases the unknown but estimated consumption-based emissions for the Central New Mexico Region in 2023 and our aspirational reduction path to 2050 (in orange), and the compensation required to meet net-zero climate pollution targets by 2050 (in green).

Strategic Agenda

Turning vision into action requires clear priorities.

This plan organizes its strategy around five strategic areas that reflect the major sources of climate pollution and the opportunities for community benefit across Central New Mexico.

Each strategic area includes three parts. First, a **“Why This Strategic Area”** overview explains the sector and highlights opportunities to reduce emissions while improving quality of life. Second, each area presents five Community Priorities, with a full page dedicated to each priority. Finally, the **“Other Challenges and Opportunities”** section identifies additional ways the region can build on progress over time.

Together, these sections outline **25 Community Priorities** that form the backbone of the regional strategy. **Each priority highlights the co-benefits of climate action—such as improved health, economic opportunity, and stronger ecosystems.** Where possible, they also showcase local examples and provide insight into cost effectiveness, expressed as the estimated cost per ton of greenhouse gas emissions reduced.

The result is a strategy designed not only to reduce pollution, but to build a stronger and more resilient Central New Mexico.

Figure 5. Actions by Strategic Area

1. Climate Leadership	
1.1. Increase Climate Education	
1.2. Expand Climate Governance	
1.3. Improve Climate Finance	
1.4. Support the Green Workforce	
1.5. Advance Sustainable Economies	
2. Water & Waste	**3. Buildings & Energy**
2.1. Reduce Water Use	3.1. Advance Energy Efficiency & Electrification
2.2. Reduce Food/Organic Waste	3.2. Develop Distributed Renewables & Microgrids
2.3. Increase Composting & Application	3.3. Promote Sustainable & Natural Buildings
2.4. Reduce Nonfood Waste	3.4. Develop Energy Storage Systems
2.5. Increase Material Reuse & Repurposing	3.5. Develop Transmisison & Distribution Infrastructure
4. Mobility & Transportation	**5. Land Use & Agriculture**
4.1. Expand Public Transit & Ridership	5.1. Expand Urban Tree Coverage
4.2. Increase Active Transportation	5.2. Preserve Natural Lands
4.3. Promote Electric Micromobility	5.3. Reduce Impermeable Surfaces
4.4. Promote Shared Transportation	5.4. Densify communities
4.5. Develop EV Infrastructure & Electrify	5.5. Promote Sustainable Agriculture

Note: Climate Leadership are actions or approaches that support multiple sectors at once—strengthening coordination, equity, governance, workforce, and funding systems so that every part of a climate plan can work more effectively together.

CO-BENEFITS LEGEND

Adaptation

- Heat Stress
- Wildfires
- Extreme Weather
- Floods
- Droughts
- Sea-Level Rise

Human Well-being

- Income & Work
- Food Security
- Water & Sanitation
- Energy Availability
- Health
- Equality

Environment

- Nature Protection
- Animal Well-Being
- Land Resources
- Water Resources
- Water Quality
- Air Quality

How to Use the Priority Areas

Sectors and Icons

Use the **sector icons for each Strategic Priority Area in the right navigation** to link you directly to opening page of that section.

Climate Leadership

Water & Waste

Buildings and Energy

Mobility and Transportation

Land Use and Agriculture

The Home button returns you to the *"Contents"* page.

Co-benefits Icons

Within each **Priority Area, co-benefits icons** show the outcomes supported by each action. When a co-benefit icon appears in full color, that benefit is advanced by the action. When an icon is grayed out, that co-benefit is not addressed.

Full color icon = Co-benefit is met

Grayed out icon = Co-benefit is not met

1.0. Climate Leadership

Actions:

> "One of the most effective things we can do is embed climate considerations into our core processes. Climate resilience should be a lens through which we see the world, not a siloed activity"
>
> *- Amber Weaver, Urban Sustainability Director's Network, Policy Advisor*

Why This Strategic Area?

Climate leadership strategies like education, climate governance, finance, sustainable economic systems, and workforce development are essential foundations for achieving effective, long-lasting climate action across all sectors. While sector-specific initiatives reduce emissions, it is these enabling strategies that ensure climate solutions are well-funded and long-lasting.

These climate leadership strategies attempt to **change how we make decisions and accelerate climate action across** every sector. They look beyond individual policies to reshape systems—how money flows, who holds influence, and what values guide our choices—and call for those with power and influence to be leaders in action.

In Central New Mexico and around the world, these kinds of climate leadership strategies help communities **tap into pathways beyond local emissions**—like using collective purchasing power to support sustainable products, divesting from fossil fuels, or promoting plant-based diets—to ensure we invest in a cleaner, more resilient tomorrow. These strategies can also **identify areas for innovation** where solutions are still emerging, such as cutting the energy demand of data centers, steel, and chip manufacturing, and **addressing challenges** like conflict minerals, air travel, and heavy-duty vehicle electrification.

Ultimately, these strategies aim to **clean our economy** and create a future where climate action is part of every decision. By embedding sustainability into governance, finance, and community values, Central New Mexico can ensure that everyone is empowered to shape a thriving, low-carbon future.

Community Priorities

During the last climate strategy workshop, the Sustainability Office proposed the five supportive strategies to the community. These actions were informed by best practices from experts such as the Urban Sustainability Director's Network, C40 Cities, Project Drawdown, and Rocky Mountain Institute, and built around themes that emerged from Community Task Force discussions, the City's 2021 Climate Action Plan, and experience from Sustainability Office staff and members of the Coalition for Sustainable Communities New Mexico.

The Community Task Force emphasized the importance of engaging youth and frontline communities in climate and workforce initiatives, highlighting opportunities for mentorship, apprenticeships, paid internships, and project-based learning both inside and outside the classroom. Participants strongly supported participatory budgeting, community-led solutions, and Justice 40 approaches to ensure funding and resources reach local communities rather than just idea generation. Collaboration between existing workforce programs, unions, community colleges, and local employers was seen as critical to link training with real job opportunities and living wages. The group also underscored the value of cultural knowledge, honoring Indigenous communities, restorative justice, and equitable outcomes, while stressing the need for continuous evaluation, representation, and accessible education and career pathways for all New Mexicans.

Review the Cross-Cutting Strategies Workshop.

> "When organizational progress meets political action, they create a 'climate ambition loop.' This is the only way to turn bold goals into tangible, systemic shifts, ensuring our actions protect not just the bottom line, but our shared future."
>
> *- Brian Bonanno, Bernalillo County*

1.1. Increase Climate Education

Increasing climate education in Central New Mexico empowers communities to act. Governments can launch public engagement campaigns and weave climate topics into curricula, workshops, and community programs, highlighting practical steps for energy, transportation, and consumption. Organizations can train employees, host events, and share resources that show how choices affect emissions. Residents can attend local programs, join workshops, and share what they learn. With more awareness, Central New Mexico can cut pollution, save money, and build resilient, sustainable communities.

Take Action

Individuals

View Project Drawdown's SHIFT

Government

Become a CSCNM member

Businesses / Major Employers

Read the B Impact Assessment

$/GHG reduction rating (lifetime) ☆☆☆☆☆

Co-benefits

Adaptation

Human Well-being

Environment

1.2. Expand Climate Governance

Expanding climate governance in Central New Mexico means changing how we make decisions. Governments can secure leadership buy-in and embed climate and equity into budgets, performance reviews, investments, and purchasing so every choice helps cut emissions. Organizations can adopt similar policies, set targets, and report on outcomes using better data. Residents can advocate for climate-smart policies and track how their time and money support action. Strong governance keeps climate at the center of decisions and turns plans into sustained progress.

Take Action

Individuals

Contact your elected representatives today

Government

Complete a greenhouse gas inventory

Businesses / Major Employers

Add climate considerations in your governing documents

$/GHG reduction rating (lifetime) ☆☆☆☆☆

Co-benefits

Adaptation

Human Well-being

Environment

1.3. Accelerate Climate Finance

Accelerating climate funding and finance in Central New Mexico turns big goals into real projects. Governments can shift budgets toward high-impact work, create targeted funds, and streamline access to state and federal grants. Organizations can align investments with climate priorities, direct procurement toward low-carbon solutions, and use philanthropy to seed local initiatives. Philanthropies and higher-income residents can back programs that cut emissions, advance equity, and build resilience. When more money flows to top priorities, the region can move faster toward a low-carbon, fair future.

Take Action

Individuals

Switch to a fossil-free bank or credit union

Government

Contact the New Mexico Climate Investment Center

Businesses / Major Employers

Read the Funding and Finance Overview guide

$/GHG reduction rating (lifetime) ☆☆☆☆☆

Co-benefits

Adaptation

Human Well-being

Environment

1.4. Advance Sustainable Economies

Advancing sustainable economies in Central New Mexico means backing businesses that help people and the planet. Governments can offer incentives, simpler permitting, and public recognition for firms that prioritize sustainability, including Certified B Corps, Benefit Corporations, social enterprises, and climate-focused startups. Organizations can invest in local green businesses, research and development, and cleaner operations. Residents can buy from responsible companies and support policies that reward them. By celebrating and funding sustainable business, the region can create jobs and grow a low-emission economy.

Take Action

Individuals

Purchase from local, sustainable businesses

Government

Adopt local and sustainable procurement policy

Businesses / Major Employers

Communicate your climate actions with customers

$/GHG reduction rating (lifetime) ☆☆☆☆☆

Co-benefits

Adaptation

Human Well-being

Environment

1.5. Support the Green Workforce

Supporting the green workforce in Central New Mexico strengthens the economy and keeps the benefits of climate action close to home. Governments can fund training, apprenticeships, and youth internships in weatherization, efficiency, and renewable energy. There is also a chance to retrain oil and gas workers for emerging industries like geothermal so no one is left behind. Organizations can hire locally and partner with schools and training programs. Residents, especially youth and career changers, can pursue certifications and hands-on experience in climate-focused jobs.

For more information on our green workforce, view Central New Mexico Workforce Analysis.

Take Action

Individuals

Check out trainings in the workforce report

Government

Create a green jobs dashboard

Businesses / Major Employers

Prioritize climate training for your staff

$/GHG reduction rating (lifetime) ☆☆☆☆☆

Co-benefits

Adaptation

Human Well-being

Environment

Other Challenges & Opportunities

The climate leadership Strategies area faces several challenges that complicate climate action, including rapid demographic shifts, public apathy, persistent misinformation from predatory industries, and the long-term presence of hard-to-remove emissions sources. Limited air quality regulation, lack of consistent national leadership, and emerging pollutants like PFAS, microplastics, and nanoplastics further exacerbate risks. Despite these obstacles, there are strong opportunities to drive meaningful change. Retirees and other untapped segments of the workforce can contribute to climate initiatives, while building public trust and education can help shift behaviors. Targeting employees and major institutions—schools, workplaces, and faith-based organizations—can amplify culture and system change. Leadership buy-in, zoning reform, consumer protection, and incentives for responsible business practices can align policies with public good. Expanding air quality programs, supporting research and development for low-emissions technologies, and using accredited carbon offsets offer additional pathways to reduce climate impacts while fostering equitable, community-centered solutions.

"We know public schools have a responsibility to teach and lead the efforts of environmental stewardship. Our dedicated team works tirelessly to monitor and manage water, energy, and carbon to be a model of strategy and behavior."

- Tony Sparks, Albuquerque Public Schools, Policy Advisor

2.0. Water and Waste

Actions:

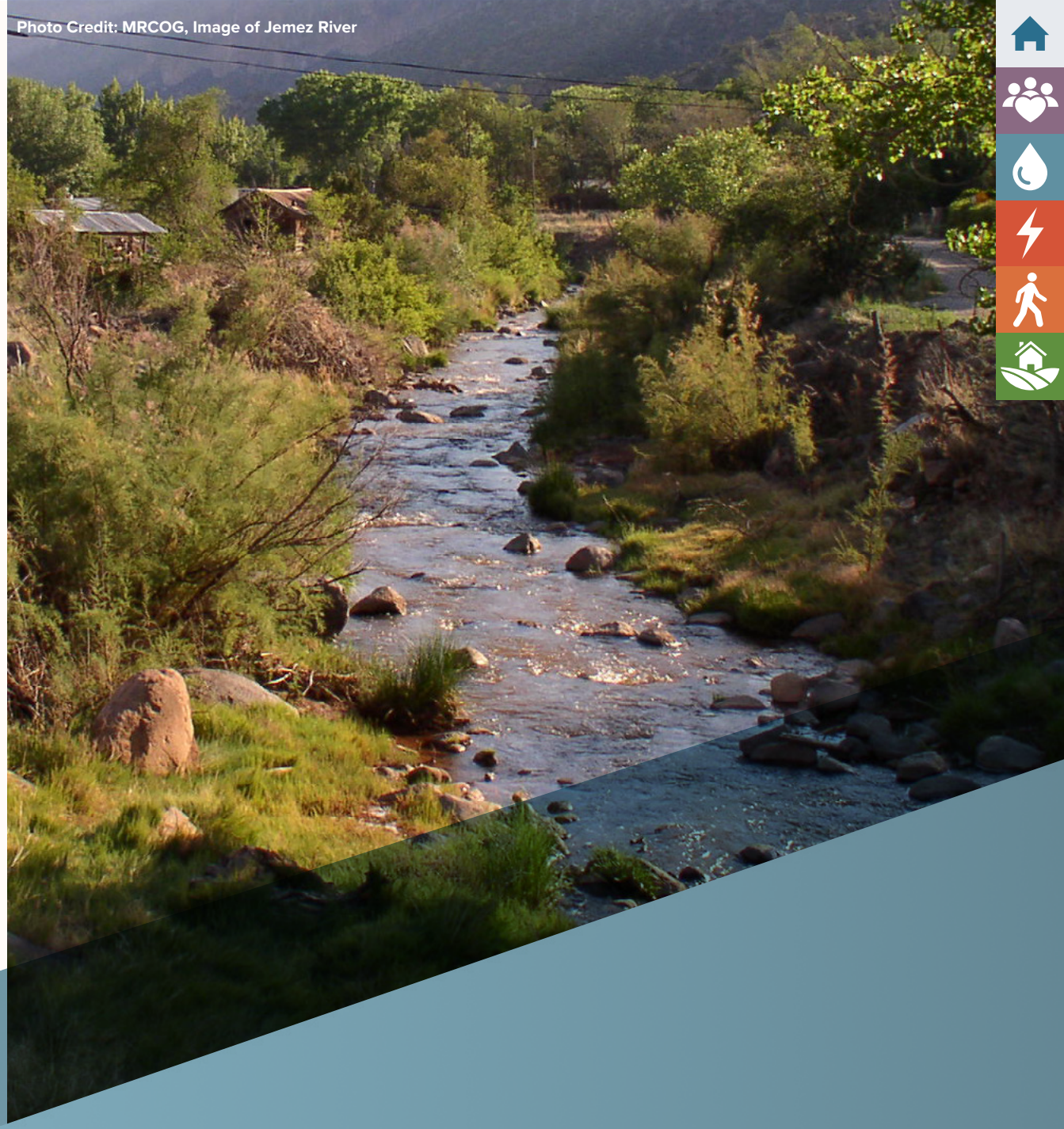


Photo Credit: MRCOG, Image of Jemez River

Did you Know?

2025 was the second time in 40 years that the Rio Grande has gone dry. Because of low snowpack and inability to store extra water in upstream reservoirs due to Rio Grande Compact restrictions, the only water available is what is naturally produced. (MRGCD, July 2025).

Why This Strategic Area?

In Central New Mexico, waste and wastewater make up a small share of local emissions—about **590,047 metric tons of CO_2e**, or just **5% of the region's total**. But **when we look beyond local operations to include consumption-based emissions**—the full lifecycle of the goods and services people use—**this sector becomes a much larger contributor to climate pollution**. Every product we buy, throw away, or flush carries hidden carbon and water costs. Addressing this means rethinking how we consume, reuse, and conserve. In a dry, drought-prone region like Central New Mexico, cutting waste and saving water isn't just good climate policy—it's a matter of long-term community resilience and resource security.

Unfortunately, **reducing emissions from the waste and wastewater sector is one of the toughest climate challenges**—because it's not just about managing trash or water, it's about changing how we consume, produce, and buy. Cutting consumption-based emissions means rethinking everything from supply chains and procurement to personal purchasing habits. Globally, organizations like the World Resources Institute and the Scope 3 Peer Group are leading efforts to help cities and companies track data, engage suppliers, and integrate carbon awareness into everyday decisions.

Governments and large organizations have a unique opportunity to lead this change. With massive purchasing power, they can set the tone for markets—adopting low-carbon procurement policies, investing in circular systems, and supporting innovation. Individuals also have power. If you earn more than $75,000 a year, you're in the global top 1% of income earners—which means your consumption patterns matter. Campaigns like **Buy Local and the No Buy Year** show how individual purchasing habits **can drive positive systemic change.**

Did you Know?

Studies suggest that purchased goods and services can account for up to 80% of organizational greenhouse gas emissions and household consumption is estimated to account for nearly 60-80% of global emissions (Dubois, 2019; Bové, 2016).

Community Priorities

The Waste & Water workshop pulled together more than **60 local leaders, experts, and community voices** to identify which actions matter most for this Plan. Panelists spotlighted how water, waste, and soil health are deeply interconnected—emphasizing that managing waste isn't just about bins, it's about systems of consumption and stewardship. For example, composting helps capture methane, build soil, filter water, and strengthen local food systems. Equally, reducing water use helps cut energy, protect aquifers, and ease pressure on wastewater systems. Participants voted after discussion, solidifying their top five priorities.

The **Community Task Force** reviewed each strategy, probing which actions address root causes of environmental justice and where extra support is needed. Many underscored that low-income households face barriers—lack of space, upfront cost, and rental restrictions—all while bearing more climate and pollution burden.

Several themes emerged across the workshop and deliberations: the need for simplified access (for composting, rebates, reuse), policy innovation (extended producer responsibility, reuse economies), and education that connects culture, land, and resource limits (for Indigenous knowledge, desert-adapted systems). The Community Task Force called for an integrated approach that ties water, waste, and materials—shifting from a linear "take-make-dispose" model toward a circular economy rooted in community and ecosystem health. The five final priorities are discussed below.

Learn more: review the Waste and Water Climate Strategy Workshop.

2.1. Reduce Water Use

Reducing water use in Central New Mexico is vital in this arid region. Local governments and utilities can expand rebate programs, invest in smart irrigation and leak detection, and update building codes to support efficient design. Large users like universities, hospitals, and businesses can audit water use, recycle process water, replace turf with native plants, and set public reduction goals. Residents can fix leaks, install efficient fixtures, choose drought-tolerant landscaping, and rethink habits like lawn watering and laundry to protect shared water supplies.

Photo Credit: Albuquerque Water Utility Authority

Take Action

Individuals

Contact your water utility to use their rebates

Government

Incentivize low-water activities through rebates and zoning

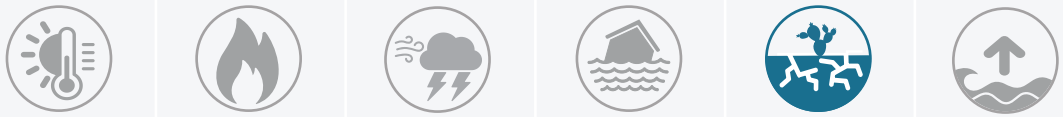
Businesses / Major Employers

Use water rebates to decrease operational water use

$/GHG reduction rating (lifetime) ☆☆☆☆☆

Co-benefits

Adaptation



Human Well-being

Environment

2.2. Reduce Food and Organic Waste

Cutting food and organic waste is one of the easiest ways Central New Mexico can reduce climate pollution from trash. Governments can strengthen food recovery programs, ease permitting for food rescue, clarify compost rules in zoning codes, and adopt policies that help residents and businesses divert material from landfills. Schools, hospitals, restaurants, and grocery stores can track waste, donate surplus food, and partner with recovery services. Residents can plan meals and store food carefully. These actions build a more circular economy and turn waste into community value.

Take Action

Individuals

Learn how to prevent food waste at home

Government

Share food waste prevention tips with residents and restaurants

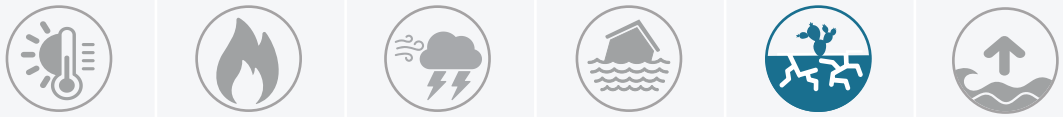
Businesses / Major Employers

Donate unused food to non-profits

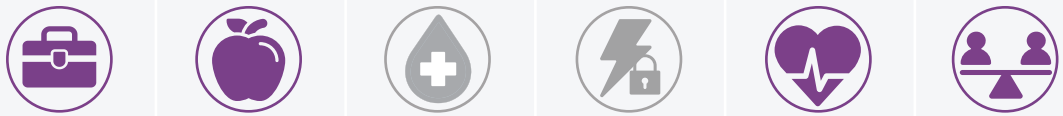
$/GHG reduction rating (lifetime) ★★★★☆

Co-benefits

Adaptation



Human Well-being



Environment

2.3. Increase Composting and Compost Application

Expanding composting in Central New Mexico benefits soil, climate, and communities. Local governments can create compost hubs, support neighborhood sites, and reward compost use in landscaping and agriculture. Schools, farms, and businesses can partner with local vendors to collect scraps and apply finished compost on-site. Residents can join community programs, start backyard bins, or use pickup services. Adding compost to yards, gardens, and parks rebuilds soils, holds water, and stores carbon—all crucial in a dry climate—turning everyday scraps into a resource for the future.

Photo Credit: City of Albuquerque Sustainability Office

Take Action

Individuals

Compost at home or join a community compost site

Government

Develop a residential composting program

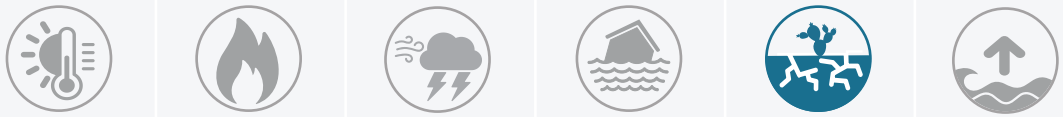
Businesses / Major Employers

Compost on-site or subscribe to a hauling service

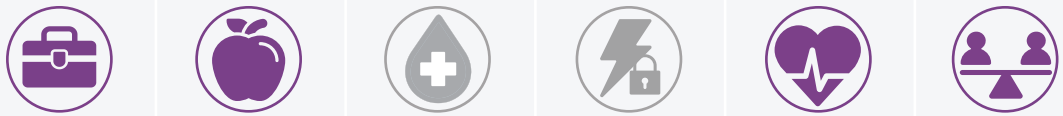
$/GHG reduction rating (lifetime) ★★★★☆

Co-benefits

Adaptation



Human Well-being



Environment

2.4. Reduce Nonfood Waste

Reducing non-food waste in Central New Mexico starts with smarter policy and daily choices. Governments can favor recycled, reusable, durable, and low-carbon materials in purchasing, remove barriers to repair and reuse, support state waste reduction and right-to-repair efforts, and enforce tools like bag bans or bottle deposits. Institutions and businesses can buy, ship, and dispose with durability and repair in mind, favoring sharing over constant replacement. Residents can often do the most by buying less and choosing better, shifting spending to low-emission activities over high-emission goods.

Take Action

Individuals

Conduct a personal purchasing audit

Government

Develop a yard clippings diversion program

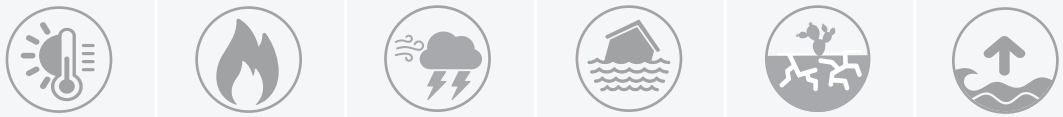
Businesses / Major Employers

Prioritize buying higher-quality, repairable, longer-lasting goods

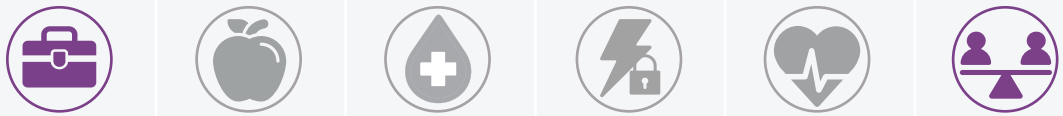
$/GHG reduction rating (lifetime) ★★★★☆

Co-benefits

Adaptation



Human Well-being



Environment

2.5. Increase Material Reuse and Repurposing

Building a culture of reuse in Central New Mexico creates jobs and cuts waste. Governments can support repair cafés, fix-it clinics, libraries of things, material recovery facilities, and rules that make salvaging building materials easier. Organizations can donate surplus goods, partner with thrift and reuse nonprofits, and invest in “urban mining” to recover metals from old electronics and other items. Residents can shop secondhand, repair instead of replacing, and recycle correctly. Each choice to reuse keeps materials in circulation and reduces the need for new extraction and production.

Take Action

Individuals

Buy second hand

Government

Pass a building deconstruction ordinance

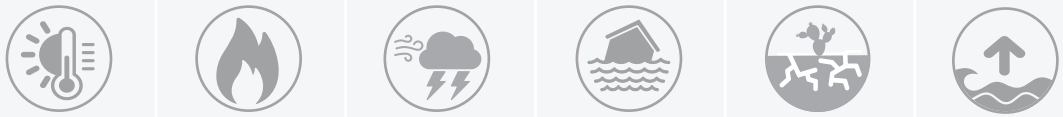
Businesses / Major Employers

Prioritize buying modular products

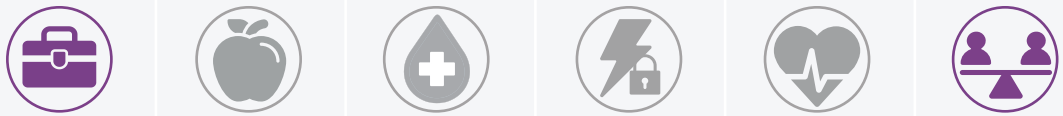
$/GHG reduction rating (lifetime) ★★☆☆☆

Co-benefits

Adaptation



Human Well-being



Environment

Did you Know?

80% of food waste is generated by households, restaurants, and other food service providers (NRDC, EPA).

Modeled Results

The modeled strategies in the Waste and Water sector show how some of the most cost-effective climate solutions come from simple shifts in how we handle everyday materials. These ranged from simple education—like teaching residents about composting or the financial benefits of cutting food waste—to bigger system shifts such as policies and ordinances.

To better understand the opportunities in this sector, community priorities were modeled by grouping similar actions. Priorities 2 and 3—reducing food waste and increasing composting—were combined, as were priorities 4 and 5—reducing non-food waste and boosting material reuse and repurposing. To estimate impacts, the project team drew on national resources: the EPA's *Advancing Sustainable Materials Management: 2018 Fact Sheet* for the share of landfill waste that is food, and the EPA's WARM tool, adjusting emissions factors to reflect landfill-specific conditions. Local waste characterization data was not available, so national estimates provided the basis for the model.

The results highlight the power of targeting methane emissions. The first group—food waste reduction and composting—emerged as the most impactful because methane is such a potent greenhouse gas. This means that strategies that keep food scraps and yard waste out of the dump deliver big wins for communities. The second group—reducing non-food waste and increasing reuse—showed smaller modeled local emissions reductions, since these materials produce less emissions in landfills, but they hold significant potential to reduce consumption-based emissions if scaled effectively.

With a 2026 start and full implementation by 2050, these strategies are projected to cut approximately **152,272 MTCO$_2$e by 2030**, rising to over **4,089,160 MTCO$_2$e by 2050**. While these local reductions are modest compared with larger sectors like buildings or transportation, they represent affordable, high-impact steps that clean up the air, reduce waste costs, and build capacity for consumption-based reductions across Central New Mexico.

Did you Know?

A monthly comprehensive water management tool – paired with a water leak phone-app – allows Albuquerque Public Schools to identify and prioritize problems daily, virtually eliminating sustained water leaks.

Other Challenges & Opportunities

Central New Mexico's water and waste systems face real pressures, but they also hold some of the region's most promising opportunities for climate adaptation.

For water, communities are grappling with overuse, regulatory limits, and climate impacts that show up as hotter temperatures, intense storms, and heightened wildfire risk. These challenges fall unevenly, increasing exposure for frontline communities. Still, there's room for meaningful progress. Equitable conservation—paired with simple reporting tools like hotlines for broken sprinklers—helps reduce waste without placing the burden on those already stretched thin. Investments in green stormwater infrastructure, groundwater recharge, and watershed protection can soften the blow of high rainfall events and drought. And by maintaining existing systems and using methane from wastewater facilities, the region can improve reliability while reducing pollution.

On the waste side, Central New Mexico struggles with limited data, low disposal costs, inconsistent recycling rules, and a culture of fast consumption. These challenges hide the true impacts of what we buy and throw away. Yet the opportunities are equally broad: from waste-characterization studies and shared reporting systems to policies that hold producers accountable. Regional consistency—common bin labels, CHaRM facilities, and clear diversion options—can make recycling easier for everyone. Expanding sharing programs, right-to-repair efforts, local food infrastructure, and compost collection builds a more circular, community-centered system.

> "We've learned that addressing climate pollution requires a whole-systems approach. Circularity—keeping materials in use longer—is a powerful path especially for food systems, as it cuts reliance on costly, fragile supply chains and reinvests in our community."
>
> *Sandra West,*
> *City of Albuquerque*
> *Sustainability Office*

3.0. Buildings and Energy

Actions:

Photo Credit: Bernalillo County

> "In Central New Mexico, the building envelope decides everything downstream — energy use, comfort, durability, and affordability. Designing envelope-first is the most durable climate investment we can make, and it delivers the biggest benefits to the families carrying the highest energy burden."
>
> *- Xavier Obando*
> *Hartman + Majewski Design Group; Policy Advisor*

Why This Strategic Area?

The Buildings and Energy sector plays a huge role in both global and local climate efforts—and in Central New Mexico, it's one of the biggest opportunities for change. In 2023, 4,443,603 $MTCO_2e$ came from the energy we use to power, heat, and cool our buildings—accounting for more than 40% of all local emissions. This does not account for the large consumption-based emissions from concrete and steel used during construction. These emissions affect more than just the atmosphere—they impact health, comfort, and affordability, especially for families facing high energy burdens.

New Mexico is already taking steps forward. The Energy Transition Act, new statewide building codes, and expanded utility and state rebate programs are helping residents and businesses upgrade for efficiency and electrification. The rollout of community solar opens new doors for affordable, renewable power. Small actions—like switching to LEDs or replacing indoor gas appliances—offer fast paybacks and lasting public health benefits.

Cutting back on fossil fuels in our buildings and energy systems does more than shrink our emissions—it makes everyday life better. When homes and workplaces run on clean energy and efficient systems, the air inside and outside gets cleaner, lowering risks of asthma and other health problems. Families can save money on monthly bills with better insulation, heat pumps, and smarter appliances that waste less energy. Neighborhoods become quieter and more comfortable without the rumble and fumes from older heating systems. Cleaner energy also means a more reliable grid, less price volatility, and new local jobs in installation, maintenance, and renewable power. In short, reducing fossil fuel use isn't just about fighting climate change—it's about healthier people, lower costs, and stronger, more resilient communities.

Did you know?

The City of Albuquerque is internationally recognized for the B.R.A.I.N., a real-time, energy efficiency optimization system. Santa Fe County, The City of Las Cruces, and the State of New Mexico are considering installing the same system to save public dollars and meet climate pollution reduction goals.

"Weatherization is far more than an energy efficiency upgrade—it is an investment in dignity, health, and affordability for low-income families. By updating drafty, inefficient houses into safe, comfortable ones, we alleviate the burden of high energy bills, thus freeing up precious resources for families."

- Veronica Blount, City of Albuquerque Sustainability Office

Community Priorities

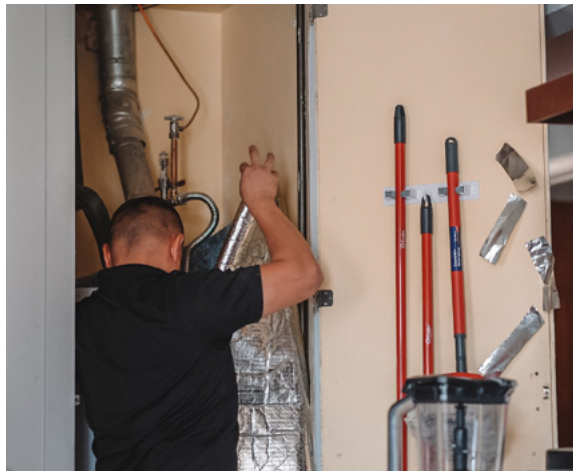
The Buildings and Energy workshop brought together more than 70 participants—including community members, experts, and frontline representatives—to explore how our buildings and energy infrastructure shape climate outcomes. Participants centered on five top strategies: improving energy efficiency, weatherization, and electrification of existing buildings; increasing distributed renewables and microgrids; developing energy storage systems; expanding community solar programs; and upgrading transmission and distribution infrastructure.

Panelists emphasized that in a region with older buildings and high energy burdens, tackling energy use first is critical. Retrofitting existing homes and electrifying buildings were viewed as top-priority actions. Speakers highlighted the need for strong workforce development, incentives for landlords and renters, and building codes supporting high-performance design. Learn more: review the Buildings and Energy Climate Strategy Workshop.

The Community Task Force stressed the importance of including Indigenous and rural communities, ensuring upgrades reach low-income renters, and avoiding solutions that increase displacement or energy burdens to those already underserved. They raised concerns about mining impacts for battery materials, land use for renewables, and the need to pair electrification with affordability, training, and local hiring. In debrief discussions, the Community Task Force broadly supported the addition of including the use of adobe and other sustainable building practices in the community priorities, referencing the importance of preserving cultural knowledge and reducing both local and consumption-based emissions. The amended top five priorities are further summarized on the following pages.

3.1. Improve Weatherization, Energy Efficiency, & Electrify Buildings

Improving weatherization, boosting efficiency, and electrifying buildings in Central New Mexico lowers bills, cuts emissions, and improves comfort. Governments can offer pre-weatherization help, support rebates for heat pumps and efficient electric appliances, spread the word about existing programs, and create policies that protect renters. Organizations can retrofit offices, campuses, and housing to be efficient and fully electric. Residents can use rebates for insulation and efficient equipment, often recouping costs over time while improving indoor air. Addressing split incentives ensures renters also share these benefits.



Take Action

Individuals

Get a free energy check up from your electric utility

Government

Promote and increase rebate funds for residents

Businesses / Major Employers

Check out PNM's Quick Saver Program

$/GHG reduction rating (lifetime) ★★★★★

Co-benefits

Adaptation

Human Well-being

Environment

3.2. Increase Deployment of Distributed Renewables, Microgrids, & Community Solar

Expanding distributed renewables, microgrids, and community solar in Central New Mexico cleans the grid and boosts resilience. Governments can simplify permits, incentivize community solar and geothermal projects, and add microgrids to key facilities to keep power on during outages. Organizations can install solar, batteries, and microgrids on their sites to cut costs and stay operational. Residents can subscribe to community solar, add rooftop panels, and use home batteries. More local renewable energy helps meet demand, protect residents during emergencies, and create a fairer, more reliable system.

Take Action

Individuals

Sign up for community solar

Government

Promote Community Solar with residents

Businesses / Major Employers

Sign up to be an anchor tenant for community solar

$/GHG reduction rating (lifetime) ★★☆☆☆

Co-benefits

Adaptation

Human Well-being

Environment

3.3. Encourage the Use of Sustainable Building Practices

Encouraging sustainable building practices in Central New Mexico cuts emissions, saves energy, and honors local culture. Governments can promote lower-carbon materials like adobe, mass timber, and other natural options that insulate well and reduce the climate impact of construction. Programs such as LEED and Passive House support efficient, healthy, and cost-effective buildings over time. Organizations can adopt these practices in offices, campuses, and housing, while residents and builders explore smaller projects using local materials or certified designs. Together, these choices create a resilient built environment.

Take Action

Individuals

Advocate for better codes and traditional building practices

Government

Pass strong building codes and incentivize passive and adobe designs

Businesses / Major Employers

Incorporate passive design into capital improvements

$/GHG reduction rating (lifetime) ☆☆☆☆☆

Co-benefits

Adaptation

Human Well-being

Environment

3.4. Expand Energy Storage Systems and Demand-Response

Expanding energy storage and demand-response in Central New Mexico makes the grid more flexible, reliable, and prepared for extreme weather. Governments can invest in batteries paired with microgrids to create local resilience hubs. Virtual power plants can link many small storage systems to balance supply and demand across the region. Time-of-day rates encourage residents and businesses to shift energy use to hours with more renewable power, cutting costs for everyone. Organizations can adopt on-site storage and demand-response; residents can use smart appliances and home batteries.

Photo Credit: Albuquerque Public Schools

Take Action

Individuals

Advocate for a resilience hub in your neighborhood

Government

Develop resilience hubs for residents and critical facilities

Businesses / Major Employers

Install battery storage to decrease energy costs

$/GHG reduction rating (lifetime) ☆☆☆☆☆

Co-benefits

Adaptation

Human Well-being

Environment

3.5. Develop Transmission and Distribution Infrastructure

Upgrading transmission and distribution infrastructure in Central New Mexico is essential for meeting rising energy needs and supporting cleaner power. Governments can invest in higher-capacity lines in dense areas and extend reliable service to rural and tribal communities so more people can access clean energy. Better infrastructure also reduces line losses, saving money and energy. Organizations can partner on microgrids, storage, and smart-grid projects. Residents benefit from more reliable electricity, easier access to renewables, and a grid ready for electrification of homes and vehicles.

Take Action

Individuals

Contact your utility showing your support for upgrades

Government

Identify opportunities to partner with utilities for upgrades

Businesses / Major Employers

Advocate for upgrades for your facilities

$/GHG reduction rating (lifetime) ★★★☆☆

Co-benefits

Adaptation

Human Well-being

Environment

Did you know?

"The Tesla Megapack battery system at Atrisco Heritage High School—paired with 850 kW of solar—stands as the largest non-utility battery in New Mexico and the only one of its kind at a public school in the U.S."

Modeled Results

Modeling of the community's top priorities in the Buildings and Energy sector shows that one strategy stands far above the rest in its ability to cut greenhouse gas emissions: improving weatherization, boosting energy efficiency, and electrifying buildings. Because this is a broad goal, the project team broke it into two parts to capture the real-world differences between them—strengthening energy codes for new construction, and accelerating electrification, weatherization, and energy-efficiency upgrades for existing homes and buildings. The assumptions behind this first strategy are grounded in well-established research and real data: U.S. Department of Energy studies on savings from each energy-code cycle, performance and cost information from PNM's energy-efficiency programs, and technology replacement rates and energy-use patterns from the Energy Information Administration and NREL's ComStock and ResStock datasets.

The second most powerful strategy is expanding and modernizing transmission and distribution infrastructure. Modeled using the Rocky Mountain Institute's Energy Policy Simulator, this action reduces energy lost through the grid while also making it easier for households to tap into clean electricity and local solar resources. When these community-driven priorities start in 2026 and steadily scale through 2050, the results are substantial: an estimated 1,224,247 $MTCO_2e$ reduced by 2030 and more than 25 million $MTCO_2e$ by 2050. These aren't just technical accomplishments—cleaner air means fewer asthma attacks, fewer emergency room visits, and over $807 million in avoided health costs over time. And the earlier these strategies are adopted, the bigger the impact by 2050, because meaningful change takes time to build.

Did you know?

In Albuquerque's dry climate, a Passive House–level building envelope—continuous insulation, tight air sealing, minimal thermal bridges, and heat recovery ventilation—**can cut heating energy by 60–80% and cooling by 30–50%** versus standard 2021 code buildings, without adding new equipment.

Other Challenges & Opportunities

The building and energy sector faces some tough, people-centered challenges: rising corporate ownership of homes, weak renter protections, aging mobile homes, and construction shortcuts that leave residents with long-term costs. Many households also lack the power—literally—to shift to cleaner energy because of limited grid capacity, the high price of geothermal systems, and utility agreements that lock rural co-ops into fossil fuels. Add in the rapid growth of data centers and skepticism toward nuclear power, and it's easy to see why progress can feel slow. But communities have real opportunities to turn things around. Stronger local and state laws can keep homes in the hands of families, not investors. Simple upgrades—like better windows and induction stoves—can improve renters' comfort without raising rents. Urban areas can rethink space through vacancy taxes, shared workspaces, and work-from-home options that cut energy use. Emerging tools like district-scale geothermal and demand response programs can help manage the grid more efficiently. And with smarter regulation, utilities and data centers can actually help fund community energy improvements. Paired with resilience hubs and tribal-led systems that can move quickly, these solutions show that cleaner, cheaper, and fairer energy is within reach.

4.0. Mobility and Transportation

Actions:

Photo Credit: Bernalillo County

Did you know?

The average American spends **$2,449 on gas** every year for their vehicle (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2024).

Why This Strategic Area?

Transportation shapes how we move through our lives, influencing access to jobs, education, goods, services, and social connections. Globally, the sector produces 14% of greenhouse gas emissions, and in Central New Mexico, it is **responsible for 4,659,838 MTCO$_2$e, or 44% of local emissions**. Our region's car-dependent landscape is **the result of decades of investment in infrastructure for gas-powered, single-passenger vehicles**, creating high emissions and hidden public costs for taxpayers. Central New Mexico also produces **significant emissions from other transportation sources**—like construction and agricultural equipment and flights—which tend to be more difficult to reduce.

Reducing these emissions starts with **cutting the number of miles people travel in vehicles**, especially when traveling alone. Expanding active transportation options like walking and biking, improving public transit, and supporting ride/car sharing and micro-mobility **expand our mobility options** and reduce reliance on cars. For remaining trips, electrifying vehicles further decreases climate pollution and saves money. Transportation is closely linked to housing and land use: living farther from jobs or services increases travel costs and emissions, highlighting the importance of denser, connected, mixed-use communities.

Central New Mexico already has strong foundations to build on. Initiatives like the Rail Runner, free public transit in Albuquerque, Complete Streets, Vision Zero, PNM's e-bike rebate program, and the Affordable Mobility Platform EV carshare program provide alternatives to driving and car ownership. Local governments and major institutions can amplify these efforts by electrifying fleets, promoting sustainable

Photo Credit: UNM

commuting, and encouraging employees to shift behaviors. By combining behavioral change, policy, and technology, the region can create a more equitable, low-carbon transportation system that improves mobility, reduces costs, and lowers emissions.

Improving our mobility options is also critical for community well-being. For low-income communities, seniors, and people with disabilities, access to safe, affordable, and reliable transportation is a gateway to opportunity—connecting them to jobs, education, healthcare, and social services. Shifting from gasoline to electric vehicles can significantly reduce household transportation costs and improve air quality in low-income neighborhoods near major transportation corridors—helping combat public health issues like asthma and cancer.

Did you know?

In a typical community, up to **40% of travelers cannot, should not, or prefer not to drive for a significant portion of trips**, and would use alternative travel modes if they are convenient, safe, comfortable, and affordable. This includes seniors, youth, people with disabilities, low-income individuals, people who do not own a personal vehicle, and those that prefer non-automobile travel for health and personal enjoyment. (Victoria Transport Policy Institute)

Community Priorities

On May 7, 2025, more than **110 regional transportation leaders, community advocates, and technical experts** met to focus on how mobility choices shape our climate future. Panelists underscored that transportation isn't just about roads — it determines how people get to jobs, school, services, and each other. They cautioned our region's heavy reliance on single-occupancy, gas-powered vehicles and discussed strategies to cut vehicle miles traveled (by expanding walking, biking, scooting, transit, and shared rides) and shift remaining travel to electric vehicles and low-emission fleets. Participants voted after the discussion, solidifying their top five priorities: **Expand public transit, increase active transportation, build dense communities, develop EV infrastructure, and promote micromobility**. Learn more: review the Mobility and Transportation Climate Strategy Workshop.

In Community Task Force discussions, members emphasized that transportation solutions must be **equitable, safe, and cost-effective**. Members highlighted concerns about the safety of walking, biking, and other active transportation modes, the high cost of vehicle ownership, and the limited availability of used electric vehicles. They stressed that public transit is often the main option for frontline communities, so prioritizing safe, accessible public transit options are critical. They also agreed that climate strategies should avoid placing financial burdens on low-income families and that **local governments should lead the way with fleet electrification and subsidizing electric vehicle infrastructure**. Task Force members also raised awareness about conflict minerals in batteries and that lifecycle emissions of cars remain a major climate challenge.

> "Transportation is not just about cars or the roads they rely on; it is about more than buses or bike lanes. It is about how we experience our communities and what we value, and the County is committed to ensuring that our communities are clean, safe, and accessible for all of our diverse user groups."
>
> *- Richard Meadows, Bernalillo County,*

To best reflect the nuance of the Community Task Force discussions, the project team amended the top priorities. This included moving building dense communities over to the Land Use and Agriculture strategic area, adding promotion of shared transportation (Community Task Force championed), and uplifting all actions that reduce vehicle miles traveled before electric vehicle use and infrastructure. The final top five strategies are further described on the following pages.

Did You Know?

You could save up to $17,000 in four years if you completely switch from using a gas-powered car to an e-bike for your commuting (Rad Power Bikes).

4.1. Expand Public Transit & Ridership

Expanding public transit and growing ridership in Central New Mexico means making transit safe, convenient, and welcoming. Governments can invest in well-lit stops, reliable and frequent service, and free or discounted passes for residents and employees. Organizations can offer commuter benefits, support transit passes, and partner with events to ease congestion and parking pressure. For many people, the key step is simply trying the bus or Rail Runner for a trip to work or Santa Fe. Each ride builds comfort and helps make transit a normal, trusted way to get around.

Take Action

Individuals

Take the bus or Rail Runner

Government

Increase ridership through
free fairs, adversing, and safety

Businesses / Major Employers

Locate offices near
public transit hubs

$/GHG reduction rating (lifetime) ★★★☆☆

Co-benefits

Adaptation

Human Well-being

Environment

4.2. Increase Active Transportation

Central New Mexico's sunny weather makes walking, biking, and rolling a natural fit. To make these options real choices, governments can build protected bike lanes, safe sidewalks, multi-use paths, and bike boulevards that connect neighborhoods, schools, and jobs. Employers can add secure bike parking, showers, and incentives for people who bike or walk. Residents can start small with a short errand or a walk with friends. Investing in active transportation creates safer streets, healthier communities, stronger local business districts, and regional trails that attract visitors.

Take Action

Individuals

Double up! Exercise and get where you need to go

Government

Increase bike and pedestrian safety

Businesses / Major Employers

Incentivize employees to walk or bike to work

$/GHG reduction rating (lifetime) ★★☆☆☆

Co-benefits

Adaptation

Human Well-being

Environment

4.3. Promote Electric Micromobility

Micromobility options—like e-bikes, scooters, and other small electric rides—can make getting around Central New Mexico easier and cheaper. They help solve the "last-mile" gap between bus or rail stops and home, work, or school. Governments can build safe, connected routes and explore rebates to make e-bikes and e-scooters more affordable. Organizations can add charging, offer staff incentives, and support shared micromobility hubs linked to transit and key destinations. For residents, these rides bring freedom, flexibility, and lower costs, while reducing traffic and emissions from short trips.

Take Action

Individuals

Try out an e-scooter or e-bike

Government

Develop an e-bike/e-scooter rebate program

Businesses / Major Employers

Include e-bikes as part of your fleet

$/GHG reduction rating (lifetime) ★★☆☆☆

Co-benefits

Adaptation

Human Well-being

Environment

4.4. Promote Shared Transportation

Shared transportation—car sharing, ride sharing, and vanpools—can make travel in Central New Mexico more affordable and sustainable. Governments can grow programs like Albuquerque's Affordable Mobility Platform and explore a region-wide car share network and mobility hubs that connect more communities to public transit and micromobility. Employers can offer shared fleet vehicles or ride-matching programs to support carpools and vanpools. For residents, shared options mean fewer cars to own and maintain, lower gas and insurance costs, less traffic, and reduced climate pollution from personal travel.

Take Action

Individuals

Join a car pool or try the Affordable Mobility Platform

Government

Develop or promote car share/van pool programs

Businesses / Major Employers

Incentivize customers and employees to car pool

$/GHG reduction rating (lifetime) ☆☆☆☆☆

Co-benefits

Adaptation

Human Well-being

Environment

4.5. Develop EV Charging Infrastructure and Electrify Vehicles

Electric vehicles are often cheaper to own and operate, helping Central New Mexico cut emissions and save drivers money on fuel and maintenance. Governments can lead by educating residents about EV benefits, switching public fleets to electric, and expanding chargers along major corridors and in underserved communities. They can also require EV-ready wiring in new multifamily homes. Organizations can install chargers for staff and customers. Residents can tap state tax credits and utility rebates to install home chargers and make the switch to electric vehicles.

Take Action

Individuals

Buy a used EV for your next car

Government

Develop EV charging infrastructure

Businesses / Major Employers

Right-size and electrify your fleet

$/GHG reduction rating (lifetime) ★★★★★

Co-benefits

Adaptation

Human Well-being

Environment

Did You Know?

The City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County are using funds from the Automated Speed Enforcement Program to fund Vision Zero public safety infrastructure projects for pedestrians and cyclists (AES FAQ).

Modeled Results

In the transportation sector, the most impactful strategy modeled is **expanding EV infrastructure**, largely because single-passenger internal combustion vehicles account for most of the region's transportation emissions, making the shift to EVs vital. To estimate EV infrastructure capacity needed for full electrification, the model worked backward from a 100% electric vehicle future by 2050 and calculated that Central New Mexico would need roughly **77,900 public and commercial EV charging ports**. This was based on national datasets and tools filtered to the planning area—EVWatts and Atlas Policy's EValuate tool—though it did **not** include a geospatial analysis, meaning there's still work ahead to determine the best places to put chargers so people can reliably use them.

The second most effective strategy for reducing greenhouse gases is **expanding public transit**. Mode-shift assumptions came from the 2022 National Household Transportation Survey, with additional insights from Transitions 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, updates from NM Rail Runner Express, and guidance from the CAPCOA GHG reduction handbook. Together, these strategies help move trips away from fossil-fuel vehicles and toward electric mobility or shared transportation—both of which are especially powerful in New Mexico, where electricity is getting cleaner every year.

With implementation starting in 2026 and full adoption by 2050, the modeled transportation strategies could cut **1,004,110 $MTCO_2e$ by 2030** and more than **13,500,000 $MTCO_2e$ by 2050**, resulting in over $3,500,000 in avoided health costs over time. These reductions don't just shrink the region's carbon footprint—they lay the groundwork for cleaner air, safer streets, more convenient travel options, and a transportation system that works better for everyone.

Did you know?

Between the years 2018 and 2022, New Mexico annually spent approximately **$523 million for road infrastructure (73%), $176 million for public transit (25%), and $14 million for walking and biking infrastructure (2%)** (Transportation for America).

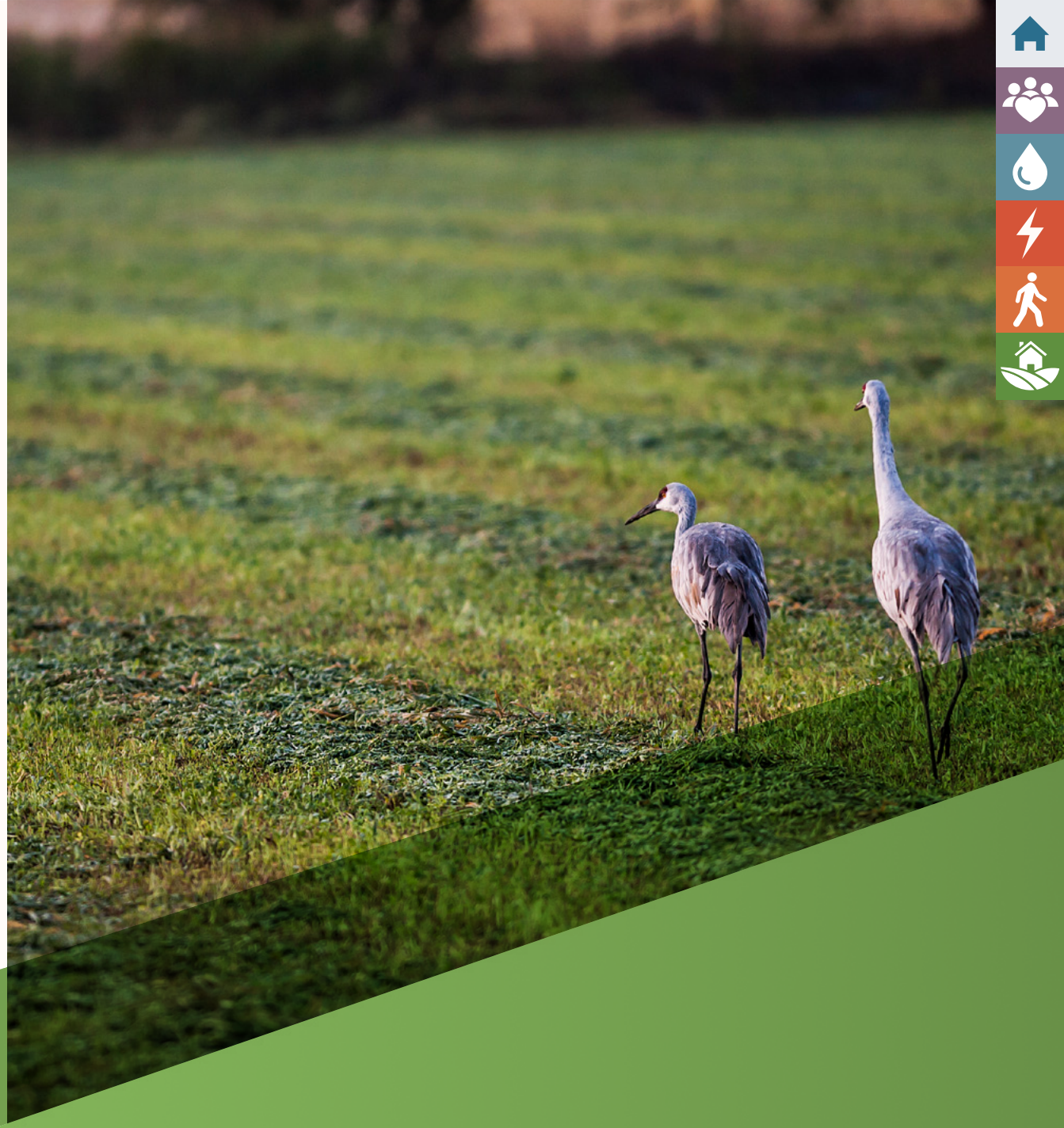
Other Challenges & Opportunities

While these community priorities offer effective solutions for reducing climate pollution, additional efforts will be needed to combat the decades of car-focused investments that make it hard for people to choose cleaner, safer options. Many residents don't feel comfortable walking, biking, or taking transit, and misinformation about new technologies—along with cultural norms—slows change. Bus systems face workforce shortages, vehicles are getting bigger, and emerging issues like battery disposal, off-road equipment emissions, and carbon-intensive air travel add even more complexity.

The good news is that communities have a long list of solutions ready to go. Proven tools—like a Vehicle Miles Traveled tax, congestion pricing, or using revenue from speed cameras—can help fund better sidewalks, crossings, and bike networks. Cities can make clean choices more convenient by reforming parking rules, investing in rail and bus service, creating zero-emission freight or delivery zones, improving protected bike lanes, and making transit stops safer and better lit. Employers can offer remote-work options to reduce overall travel and support airlines that are investing in sustainable aviation fuel and other clean technologies. There are also opportunities to scale clean technologies equitably. Even aviation and batteries—two hard-to-fix sectors—have openings for progress through fuel innovation and reuse.

5.0. Land Use and Agriculture

Actions:



Did You Know?

In Albuquerque alone, **98% of all food consumed** comes from out of state.

"Every time we sit down to eat, we are making a choice about the future of our planet. By choosing sustainable, locally sourced, and plant-forward foods, we turn the simple act of dining into a powerful climate action that restores the land and fuels a healthier world."

- Tammy Fiebelkorn, City Councilor

Why This Strategic Area?

The way we use land and practice agriculture is at the heart of intertwined climate, nature, and biodiversity loss—but too often, we've treated each separately. Internationally and here in Central New Mexico, more groups are shifting to holistic approaches that protect what we value—farmland, wildlife, outdoor recreation—and strengthen the bond between urban and rural communities. Today, land use and agriculture in the region produce 348,803 metric tons of CO_2e, while healthy soils, forests, and open spaces act as a major climate asset, absorbing 482,096 metric tons of CO_2e—a reminder that protecting natural systems isn't just good for ecosystems, it's a climate strategy.

In urban zones, there's expanding support for urban food systems, farmers' markets, and local agriculture that bring fresh produce closer to city residents. Meanwhile, rural agricultural communities have the chance to rise by feeding nearby cities, supporting local jobs, and connecting to nearby markets by embracing regenerative practices and regional food distribution. But these opportunities don't stand alone. Land use decisions—how we zone for housing, how we build transportation networks—shape how agriculture and urban living link together. Building dense, walkable neighborhoods near transit cuts long-haul commuting, lowers transportation emissions, and improves housing affordability.

In Central New Mexico, this means supporting local farms, protecting agricultural lands and open spaces, planting trees, encouraging permaculture, increasing acreages of productive crops, encouraging plant-based foods, and building partnerships that bridge city and countryside. It means cities investing in local food hubs, rural areas

Photo Credit: Isabelle Jenniches

> "Healthy soil helps to both mitigate and adapt to climate change: healthy soil sequesters atmospheric carbon while building resilience against weather extremes, improving water infiltration and reducing evaporation."
>
> *- Isabelle Jenniches, NM Healthy Soil Working Group, Policy Advisor*

adopting soil-health practices, and regional planning that seats housing, transport, and farming at the same table. By doing so, we protect nature, feed communities, and build resilient systems that serve people and the planet together.

Community Priorities

The Land Use & Agriculture workshop pulled together more than 50 local leaders, technical staff, and community members to identify which actions matter most for Central New Mexico's climate action planning. Panelists spotlighted how we need to plan for future tree canopy maintenance, develop strategies to protect soils and utilize plant material to do so, that we must protect easements and protect farmland and natural habitats, provide the policy and regulation to protect certain types of land from future development, and diversify away from simply trying to sequester carbon but focus on effort on preservation and restoration. Participants voted after discussion, solidifying their top five priorities.

During the Land Use & Agriculture workshop and following discussions, the Community Task Force emphasized that expanding urban tree coverage and green spaces could improve quality of life by mitigating heat, enhancing biodiversity, revitalizing parks, and even providing community food, while noting water use as a key constraint. Preserving existing grasslands, forests, and wetlands was seen as more realistic than expansion, with protection benefiting both the environment and Native communities. Reducing impermeable surfaces was highlighted for cooling urban areas, improving stormwater management, and supporting watershed health, though considerations around ADA accessibility, replacement emissions, and resource use are important. For decreasing single-use zoning and densifying communities,

Photo Credit: Isabelle Jenniches

Did You Know?

Globally, soils (the PEDOSPHERE) can store about **2,300 billion tons of carbon, compared with about 550 billion tons stored in trees and other plants** (the BIOSPHERE) – roughly four times as much.

participants noted benefits like increased walkability, reduced car use, centralized services, and opportunities for home-based businesses, while emphasizing the need for thoughtful, context-specific approaches, particularly differentiating urban versus rural areas.

Additional Community Task Force feedback was provided, highlighting the importance of promoting multigenerational, co-housing, and shared housing projects. They noted that such approaches could reduce energy use while also addressing economic and social challenges, like the high cost of childcare and social isolation among older adults. Members also highlighted the need to preserve cultural heritage sites, such as petroglyphs, and protect remaining farmlands along the Rio Grande, ensuring that agricultural lands continue to support local food systems and community resilience.

The five final community priorities are further described on the following pages.

Learn more: review the Land Use and Agriculture Climate Strategy Workshop.

5.1. Expand Urban Tree Cover and/or Green Spaces

Expanding urban tree cover and green spaces in Central New Mexico cools neighborhoods, improves air quality, and supports people and wildlife. Governments can plant climate-adapted trees, grow urban food forests, and design parks that soak up and manage water during storms and droughts. Organizations can add native landscaping, shade trees, and pollinator gardens to campuses and properties. Residents can plant and care for trees, tend community gardens, and join greening projects. More canopy and green space reduce heat, provide shade, and build climate resilience.

Take Action

Individuals

Volunteer to help plant trees in your community

Government

Fund urban tree planting to cool sidewalks and buildings

Businesses / Major Employers

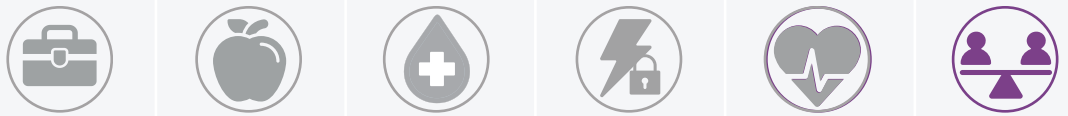
Plant trees on the south/west side of your buildings

$/GHG reduction rating (lifetime) ★★★☆☆

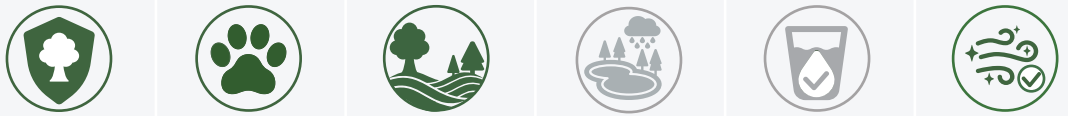
Co-benefits

Adaptation

Human Well-being



Environment



5.2. Preserve or Expand Grasslands, Forests, and Wetlands

Preserving and expanding grasslands, forests, and wetlands in Central New Mexico protects communities and wildlife while fighting climate change. Governments can protect existing natural lands, limit development in fire-prone areas, and manage landscapes to reduce wildfire risk and pollution. Organizations can support conservation easements, fund habitat restoration, and steward lands to maintain ecosystem services. Residents can join tree planting, native habitat projects, and local conservation efforts. Keeping these places intact helps filter water, store carbon, shelter wildlife, and buffer communities from extreme weather.

Take Action

Individuals

Tell your representatives to protect public lands

Government

Protect natural lands in and around your jurisdiction

Businesses / Major Employers

Advocate for open space preservation

$/GHG reduction rating (lifetime) ★★★★☆

Co-benefits

Adaptation

Human Well-being

Environment

5.3. Reduce Impermeable Surfaces

Reducing impermeable surfaces in Central New Mexico helps capture rain, cool cities, support agriculture, and reduce flooding. Governments can change zoning and building codes to encourage permeable pavement, green streets, and rain gardens in new projects and retrofits. Organizations can replace large paved areas with permeable materials and bioswales. Residents can install rain gardens and permeable driveways at home. These practices let water soak into the ground, replenish aquifers, support plants, and reduce runoff that overwhelms drains, creating cooler, greener, and more resilient neighborhoods.

Take Action

Individuals

Advocate for green stormwater infrastructure

Government

Adopt codes to allow permeable pavements and GSI

Businesses / Major Employers

Install permeable pavements in your next parking lot

$/GHG reduction rating (lifetime) ☆☆☆☆☆

Co-benefits

Adaptation

Human Well-being

Environment

5.4. Build Dense Communities and Decrease Single-Use Zoning

Building denser communities in Central New Mexico improves access, lowers emissions, and makes neighborhoods more vibrant. Governments can reduce single-use zoning and support mixed-use developments that combine homes, jobs, and services, helping address urgent housing needs. Organizations can invest in transit-oriented development near major transportation and employment centers. Residents and community groups can push for walkable neighborhoods with nearby shops, schools, and services. Dense, connected places reduce car dependence, improve access to essentials, and support safer, more active streets and local economies.

Take Action

Individuals

Consider living closer to where you work or go to school

Government

Adopt mixed-use zoning and prioritize density near transit

Businesses / Major Employers

Locate offices (where possible) in high-density areas

$/GHG reduction rating (lifetime) ★★☆☆☆

Co-benefits

Adaptation

Human Well-being

Environment

5.5. Support Sustainable Agricultural Practices

Supporting sustainable agriculture in Central New Mexico protects farmland, saves water, and strengthens local food systems. Governments can reward efficient irrigation, soil health practices, farmland protection, and plant-based food production, while updating policies to keep land in productive use. Organizations can buy from local farmers and ranchers. Residents can shop at farmers' markets, join community-supported agriculture programs, and prioritize seasonal, plant-based, local foods. These steps cut emissions from transport and packaging, keep money local, and support healthy, resilient diets and communities.

Photo Credit Isabelle Jenniches

Take Action

Individuals

Get a Community Supported Agriculture farm share

Government

Protect remaining farm lands

Businesses / Major Employers

Source food from local, sustainable farms where possible

$/GHG reduction rating (lifetime) ☆☆☆☆☆

Co-benefits

Adaptation

Human Well-being

Environment

> "Effective climate action doesn't start with a plan—it starts with the realities on the ground. If we want to repair what's been damaged, we must shift from extraction to stewardship and take seriously the people and communities who have long managed this land."
>
> *-Brandi Ahmie, City of Albuquerque Office of Equity and Inclusion*

Modeled Results

In the Land Use and Agriculture sector, the community's nature-based priorities rise to the top. The model shows that the most impactful strategy is **preserving or expanding grasslands, forests, and wetlands, with expanding urban tree cover and green space** coming in a close second. Both strategies were modeled using the ICLEI LEARN tool, and the team incorporated insights from Project Drawdown to better understand how much carbon healthy grasslands can store. It's important to flag one limitation: the model assumes no land-use change over time. That means it doesn't capture the difference between protecting existing natural lands—which prevents major emissions—and restoring lands after they've been lost or degraded, which typically sequesters less carbon.

Even with this conservative approach, the outcomes are meaningful. Starting in 2026 and scaling up through 2050, these strategies reduce an estimated **35,251 MTCO$_2$e by 2030** and more than **750,000 MTCO$_2$e by 2050**. Across all modeled priorities, one theme is clear: **soil health is the foundation**. Whether in forests, wetlands, grasslands, or neighborhood green spaces, healthier soils capture more carbon and make the land more resilient—reminding us that climate solutions often start from the ground up.

Photo Credit: Isabelle Jenniches

Other Challenges & Opportunities

In Central New Mexico, the Land Use and Agriculture sector faces a range of interconnected climate challenges. Carbon-intensive food supply chains and heavy, aging farm equipment drive high greenhouse gas emissions, while an aging workforce and pressures from urban development threaten the continuity of local food production. Additional challenges include loss of tree canopy, urban sprawl, housing shortages, limited access to affordable local food, and reliance on distant processing and supply chains.

Yet, these challenges are paired with actionable opportunities. Shifting diet choices and raising awareness about the resource intensity of food production can reduce emissions, while equipment libraries and repair programs can extend the life of farm machinery. Supporting new farmers through community agricultural spaces, protecting and incentivizing urban trees, and implementing zoning reforms—including growth boundaries, mixed-use districts, reducing parking mandates, and allowing “missing-middle” housing—can balance development with environmental protection. Expanding farm-to-school programs, improving market access with cold storage and shared kitchens, and promoting urban food forests and aquaponics can strengthen local food systems. These strategies not only reduce emissions but also enhance food security, preserve open space, and maintain a resilient, locally rooted agricultural economy.

4 | What's Next

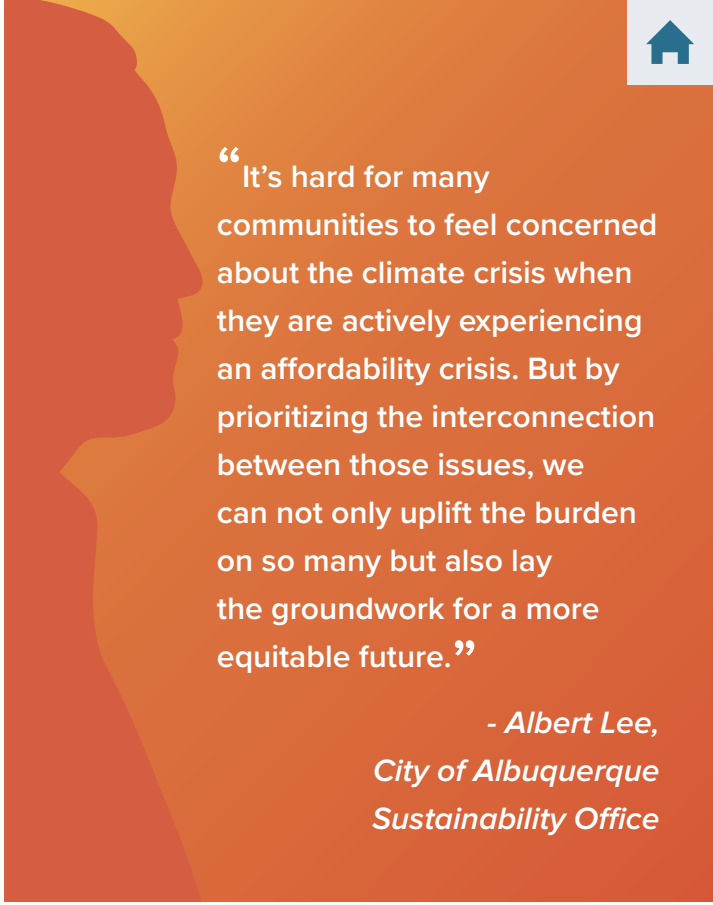
This plan is not the end of the conversation. It is the beginning.

The **Central New Mexico Comprehensive Climate Action Plan** reflects the voices, ideas, and experience of many people across our region. Community members, policy advisors, local governments, businesses, and nonprofit leaders all helped shape the strategies outlined here. But like any good plan, it will get stronger as more people engage with it.

One of the most important next steps is **continuing to listen**. We will keep gathering input from residents, organizations, and partners across Central New Mexico. Your insights can help refine our regional strategy and highlight opportunities we may have missed. Just as important, we want to build out the Existing Efforts and Resources section of this plan so it becomes a practical local guide—one that helps people find programs, tools, and partnerships that make climate action easier in everyday life.

As this work evolves, we also have opportunities to **strengthen the plan itself**. For example, future updates may identify additional actions that help the region move toward **science-based emissions targets by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2050**. We also want to explore better ways to understand, track, and reduce **consumption-based emissions**—the pollution tied to the goods and services we use—while national methods for measuring these impacts continue to improve.

There are also areas where we want deeper collaboration and expertise. Community partners can help us develop stronger strategies for climate adaptation, including preparing for heat, drought, and extreme weather. Others may bring new ideas about



> "It's hard for many communities to feel concerned about the climate crisis when they are actively experiencing an affordability crisis. But by prioritizing the interconnection between those issues, we can not only uplift the burden on so many but also lay the groundwork for a more equitable future."
>
> *- Albert Lee, City of Albuquerque Sustainability Office*

sustainable building materials, grid infrastructure, or local economic opportunities connected to the clean energy transition. And as we move forward, we are committed to expanding **engagement with rural and tribal communities**, ensuring their perspectives and priorities are reflected in future updates.

Everyone in Central New Mexico has a role to play in what comes next.

Community members can help by **sharing feedback**. Tell us what you are already doing to reduce pollution or build resilience. Tell us what barriers you face. And tell us what you would like to see from local governments and community partners in the years ahead.

Organizations with significant influence—such as local governments, utilities, universities, major employers, and community institutions—can take an even bigger step. You can adopt this plan, align your own strategies with its priorities, and share the work you are already doing. Many organizations are also beginning to set their own science-based or consumption-based emissions reduction goals, and accelerating those commitments will help move the entire region forward.

Within Albuquerque city government, **Mayor Tim Keller and the City of Albuquerque Sustainability Office** will continue building on this foundation. In the coming year, the City will complete a **2025 community-scale greenhouse gas inventory** for the region to better understand where emissions are changing and where new opportunities exist. The City will also use this plan to inform a **detailed implementation roadmap for municipal operations**, ensuring that local government leads by example.

At the same time, the Sustainability Office will continue managing updates to this plan as new public feedback comes in. We will also work with regional partners—including

Did You Know?

Our models show that even with these bold strategies, we still have a local emissions gap. Closing it will take focused work on tough sources like aviation, heavy-duty vehicles, and cement production.

Photo Credit: Isabelle Jenniches

counties, utilities, and community organizations—to encourage shared climate leadership and coordinated planning across Central New Mexico.

Ultimately, the success of this plan will depend on two things: **strong leadership and strong community support.**

Leadership means institutions stepping forward—setting ambitious goals, investing in solutions, and making climate action part of everyday decision-making. Community support means people across the region seeing themselves in this work and helping shape the path ahead.

Central New Mexico has always been a place defined by resilience, creativity, and collaboration. If we carry those values forward, this plan can become more than a document. It can become a shared commitment to protect the places we love, strengthen our communities, and build a healthier future for the generations who will call this region home.

Connect with your elected officials today!

5 | Resources for Collective Action:

A: Climate Pollution Overview

When we talk about mitigating **climate pollution**, we mean reducing greenhouse gases (GHGs), such as carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), nitrous oxide (N_2O), and some fluorinated gases. These climate pollutants act like a blanket around the Earth. They trap heat, drive climate change, and make extreme weather—like heat waves, wildfires, floods, and droughts—more frequent and severe.

As we continue to release climate pollution, we directly impact people's health and well-being. Hotter days mean more heat stress, worsening air quality, increasing energy use, and higher utility bills. Longer wildfire seasons bring smoky skies that hurt our lungs. Shifting rain and snow patterns put more pressure on our water, food, and energy systems. Extreme weather fueled by climate change puts strain on power grids, roads, and stormwater systems, often overwhelming them when communities need them most.

Here is the good news: cutting climate pollution has immediate co-benefits. Many strategies that lower climate pollution—like using cleaner energy, electrifying vehicles, or improving building efficiency—also slash other air pollutants like ozone, fine particles, mercury, and benzene. That means fewer asthma attacks, fewer heart problems, and lower cancer risks.

Communities most burdened by dirty air—often low-income neighborhoods near highways or industrial sites—stand to benefit the most.

Did you know?

Methane is the emergency brake for global warming. **It is 25-100x more potent than CO_2 and responsible for more than 45% of global emissions.** It comes from the agricultural sector (40%), fossil fuels (35%), and organic waste (20%) (CCAC 2021).

Reducing climate pollution also builds healthier communities in other ways. It creates cleaner and safer jobs, lowers household energy bills, strengthens local food and water security, and reduces dependence on fossil fuels that drive both pollution and price spikes. At its core, reducing pollution is not just about protecting the planet—it is about making life better, healthier, and more secure for everyone.

Monitoring Climate Pollution in Central New Mexico

Monitoring climate pollution is one of the most essential tools in a local government's resilience and public health toolbox. Tracking emissions matters for three key reasons:

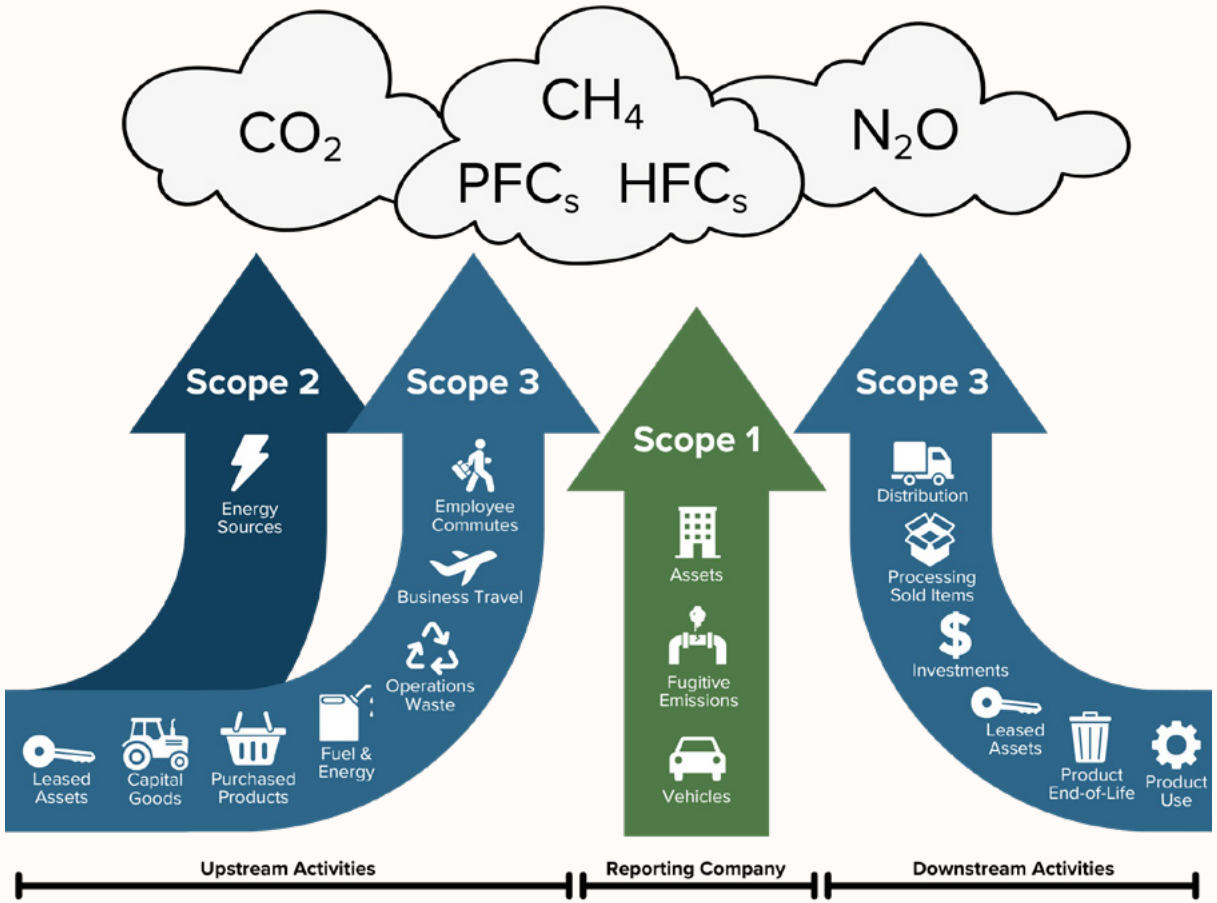
5. **Accountability & transparency:** You cannot manage what you do not measure. A solid inventory helps leaders know where to act, track progress, and communicate results.
6. **Targeting high-impact interventions:** With good data, you can spot sectors where emissions are highest (e.g., transport, buildings, or waste) and tailor solutions to reduce the most emissions.
7. **Credibility & learning:** Accurate monitoring builds trust with communities, funders, and regulators—and lets you course-correct along the way.

Did you know?

PNM is on track to meet the goals outlined in the State of New Mexico's Energy Transition Act. This means that energy supplied to PNM customers will be carbon-free by 2040 (Jusinski, 2019).

The most common way to monitor climate pollution is by conducting inventories. Local greenhouse gas emission sources include vehicle tailpipes, heating and cooling buildings with fossil fuels, waste decomposition, industrial processes, and leaks (scope 1) and from the energy used to create our electricity (scope 2). But greenhouse gas emissions also come from upstream and downstream places—manufacturing goods, shipping, and disposal—which complicates how we count (scope 3). See Figure 6 for more information.

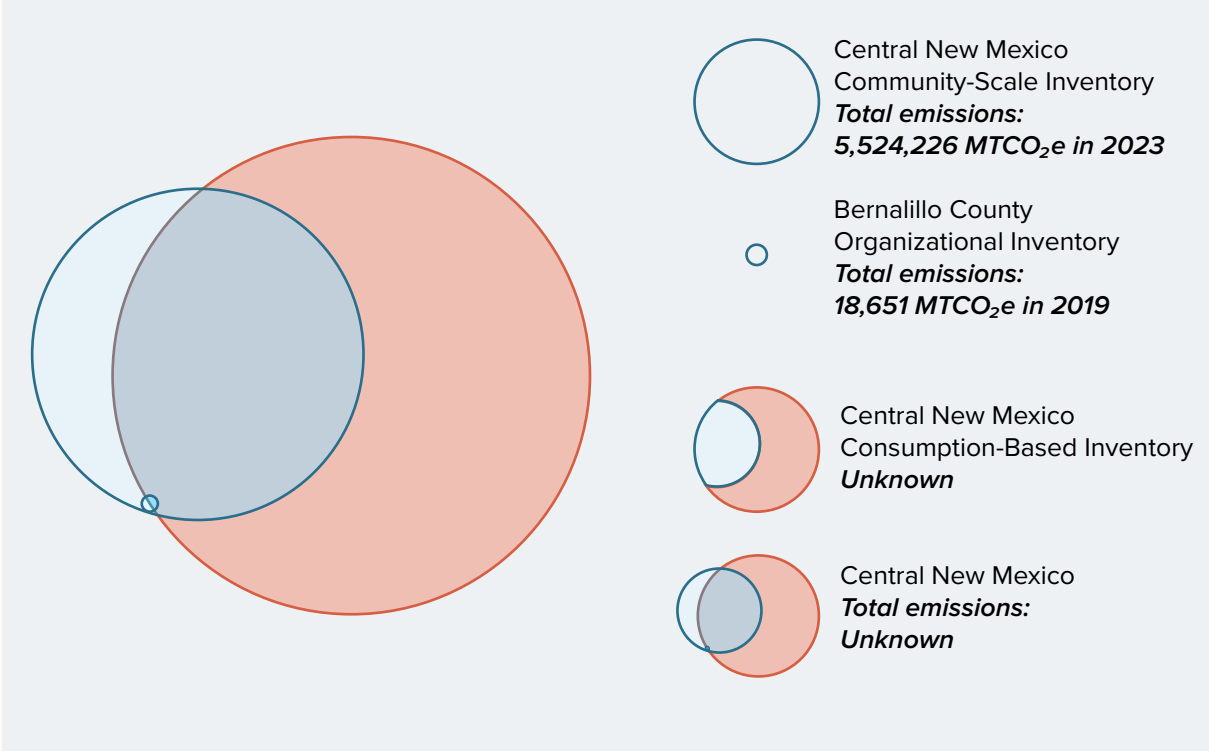
Figure 6. Scope 1, 2, and 3 Emissions for Organizational Inventories



Note. The figure is adapted from What Are Scope 1, 2, 3 Emissions? https://www.anthesisgroup.com/solutions/net-zero-decarbonisation/scope123/. Copyright 2025 by Anthesis Group.

To ensure people can take effective action to reduce climate pollution, experts have developed several ways to measure and track greenhouse gas emissions—each at different scales (Figure 7) with their unique pros and cons (Figure 8). The scales of these inventories can overlap; for example, a private sector organization's inventory has emissions that will be included in a community-wide inventory (like building energy and waste emissions).

Figure 7. Greenhouse Gas Inventory Tool by Relative Size and Relationship



Note. The figure uses available local data from the Central New Mexico 2023 Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Inventory (Appendix D), Bernalillo County's Organizational inventory (available by request), and relative ratios from the future of urban consumption in a 1.5°C world (C40 Knowledge Hub) to showcase the general scale of different inventory types.

Figure 8. Differences in Greenhouse Gas Inventories and Tools

Individual Carbon Footprint Calculator

What it Measures

Emissions from a single individual, typically based on national data, income, travel mode, and diet.

✓ Pros

Helps individuals see where they can cut emissions and save money; raises awareness, especially in developed nations.

✗ Cons

Does not solve systemic issues; underemphasizes the role of institutions and civic engagement in developed democratic countries.

Best Use

Building individual climate literacy; empowering individuals who earn the top 10% of global income; encouraging consumption shifts.

Organizational Inventory

What it Measures

Emissions from a single organization (city government, business, school), usually split into scope 1, 2, and 3.

✓ Pros

Clear control and accountability; actionable for internal operations; strong baseline for sustainability targets; standard methodology.

✗ Cons

Narrower focus; doesn't capture community-wide effects; scope 3 can be very hard to track.

Best Use

Tracking local government's own footprint, guiding institutional sustainability, and leading by example.

Community-Scale Inventory

What it Measures

Emissions from activities happening within local boundaries (e.g., communitywide fuel use, buildings, waste, transport); usually split into scope 1 and 2, with some scope 3 to avoid double counting in other jurisdictions.

✓ Pros

Easier to measure with local data; aligns with local government's powers and regulations; clear accountability; standard methodology.

✗ Cons

Misses impacts from imported goods/services; can understate a community's full footprint. Can over-inflate the impact of infrastructure in a community's boundary (ex: landfills, airports).

Best Use

Setting local policy, tracking progress on local government's goals, and aligning with standards like the GPC Protocol.

Consumption-Based Inventory

What it Measures

Emissions tied to goods and services used locally, no matter where they are produced. Includes full lifecycle impacts (i.e., production, shipping, disposal).

✓ Pros

Full picture of community or organization responsibility; highlights global supply chain impacts; includes "outsourced" or "hidden" emissions.

✗ Cons

Data-intensive, complex, less precise; risk of double-counting; harder to tie to local policy levers; no standardized methodology.

Best Use

Raising awareness of lifestyle impacts, shaping demand-side policies, and promoting the circular economy.

Individual Carbon Footprint Calculators

Individual carbon footprint calculators can be powerful tools for awareness, helping people understand how daily choices—like diet, travel, and home energy use—affect the planet. However, their history is complicated. The fossil fuel industry popularized the idea of "personal carbon footprints" in the early 2000s to shift blame from corporate and systemic pollution to individuals. While most people have limited influence on global emissions, **the wealthiest 10% of people contribute about half of all climate pollution, and the top 1% contribute far more**—mainly through high-consumption lifestyles and frequent air travel.

Still, individual actions do matter, especially when they inspire collective pressure for policy change. Shifting diets toward plant-based foods and reducing air travel can significantly cut emissions, but the biggest impact comes from civic engagement—voting, organizing, and advocating for systemic solutions. These approaches connect personal choices to community and policy-level change, reminding us that personal action and collective power must go hand in hand.

Did You Know?

If you earn US $75,000 in a year, you are in the top 10% of income earners globally, meaning you have an outsized opportunity to take action on climate.

Learn More

Visit SHIFT by Project Drawdown to find meaningful, high-impact actions for individuals while keeping systemic change in focus.

Organizational Inventory

A commonly used greenhouse gas inventory is the organizational inventory. The methodology is standardized, and the information it produces gives organizations specific levers for climate action. Within Central New Mexico, several influential organizations have completed organizational inventories. These include Bernalillo County, the University of New Mexico, and Central New Mexico Community College. Some businesses also report their organizational inventories in financial disclosures, such as shareholder reports, or voluntarily through third-party reporting platforms like the Carbon Disclosure Project. Large industrial polluters are now required to report their organizational emissions to the US EPA. Other entities have opted to utilize real-time energy monitoring software to improve energy and greenhouse gas data tracking and management, like the City of Albuquerque and Albuquerque Public Schools. See Table 4 for more information.

Did You Know?

Studies suggest that purchased goods and services can account for up to **80% of organizational greenhouse gas emissions** and household consumption is estimated to account for nearly **60-80% of global emissions** (Dubois, 2019; Bové, 2016).

Figure 9. Total Community-Wide Emissions by Jurisdiction

Boundary	Total emissions (metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent)	Removals (metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent)	Net emissions (metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent)
City of Albuquerque	5,530,317	-7,091	5,523,226
Bernalilo County	7,401,735	-55,112	7,346,623
Sandoval County	1,586,227	-111,269	1,474,958
Torrance County	777,674	-297,204	480,470
Valencia County	719,528	-18,511	701,017
Total MSA	**10,485,164**	**-482,096**	**10,003,068**

Community-Scale Inventory

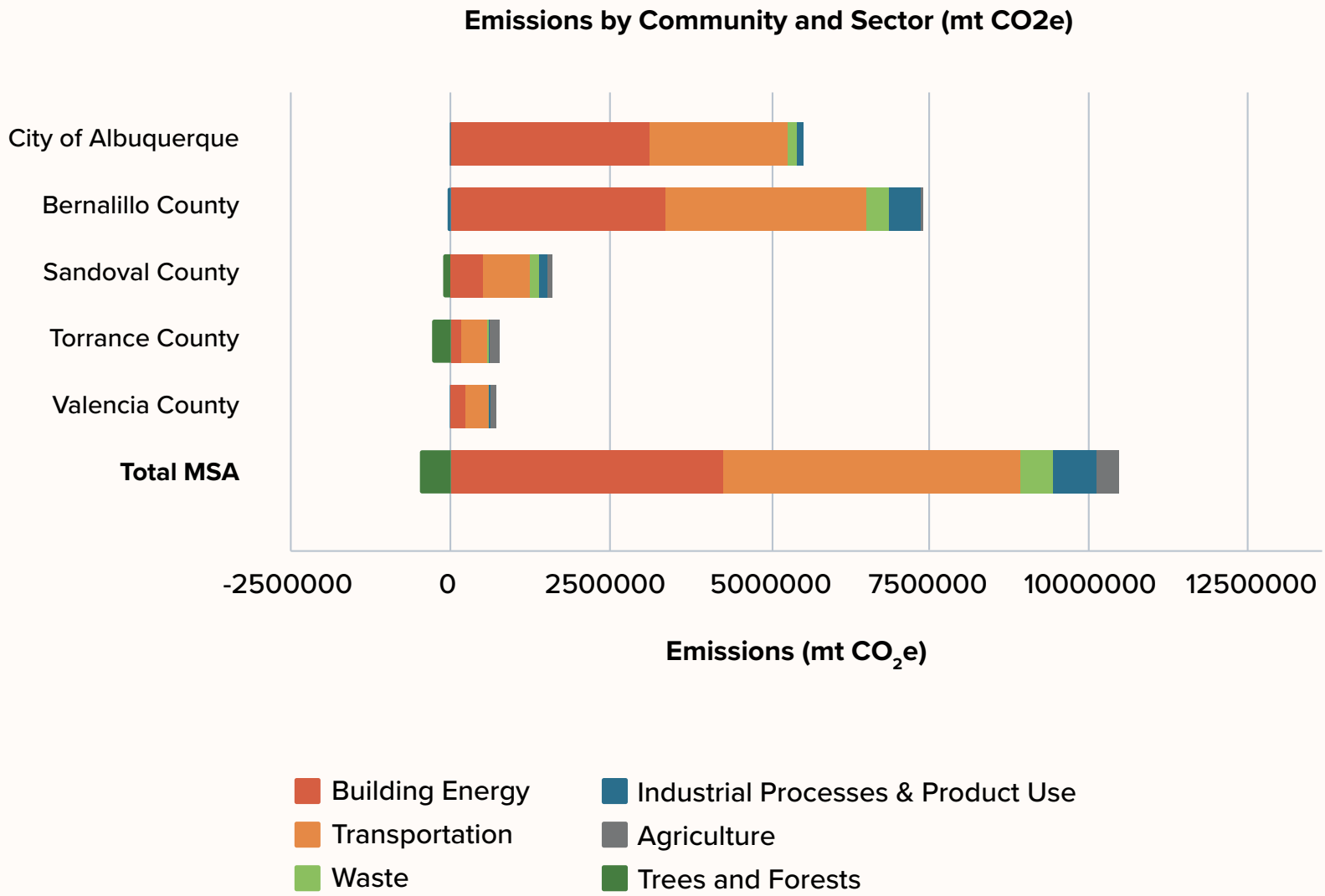
The **community-scale inventory** iscommonly completed by local governments. These inventories are one of the most cost-effective tools to inform local regulation of emissions, especially for scope 1 and 2 emissions. They are based on emissions happening within local boundaries (e.g., fuel use, buildings, waste, transport) and are informed by high-quality local data.

As part of the planning process, the City of Albuquerque commissioned a series of community-scale greenhouse gas inventories for Central New Mexico (Figure 9) . This includes an inventory for the entire Central New Mexico region, one for each of the four county regions, and one for the Albuquerque region. All inventories use data from calendar year 2023 and follow the Global Protocol for Community-scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories.

Learn More

Community-Wide Climate Pollution Inventory

Figure 10. Total Community-Wide Emissions by Jurisdiction and Sector



Note: The Total Metro Statistical Area (MSA) bar, sums all community-wide emissions from Valencia, Torrance, Sandoval, and Bernalillo Counties. The City of Albuquerque community-wide emissions are pulled from Bernalillo County to help these five local governments develop locally relevant policies and track progress over time.

Consumption-Based Inventory

Consumption-Based inventories (CBIs) are an emerging tool to understand the full picture of climate emissions and opportunities for local governments, businesses, and households. CBIs allocate emissions not by where they are produced but by where goods and services are consumed. In practice, this means capturing the carbon footprint of everything a community buys—food, electronics, textiles, vehicles, construction materials—no matter where they were made. While more research needs to be done in this space, early estimates suggest that for many cities, anywhere from 30% to 85% of the carbon tied to their consumption comes from outside their borders through global supply chains. This means that a consumption-based inventory may be up to two times larger than that of a community-based inventory (C40 Cities, 2019). Key consumption categories for CBIs include: food; buildings and infrastructure; clothing and textiles; electronics and appliances; private transport and aviation.

To date, no communities in New Mexico have made a CBI. Four main reasons for this include:

- **Data & technical complexity:** CBIs depend on detailed supply-chain, economic, and life-cycle data, which can be costly and technically intensive to collect and model.
- **Institutional capacity:** Local governments may lack staff, budget, or analytical resources to commission such studies.
- **Priority on regulatory levers:** Local governments use organizational or community-scale inventories since they align more directly with local policies and regulations.
- **Limited precedent or examples in the region:** Without regional or peer examples, it is harder to justify the effort and investment.

While many barriers exist for completing CBIs, there are many actions organizations and local governments can take to reduce emissions that traditional inventories miss. The Community Task Force encourages us all to focus on actions that reduce consumption-based emissions. This shift matters. Entities that only count emissions within their boundary can understate their global climate responsibility. Consumption inventories push governments and major institutions to ask: how much of our carbon footprint is hidden in products and services? They also expose inequities—since wealthier households tend to have bigger consumption footprints—helping governments design fairer climate policies.

Did You Know?

Some international experts argue that consumption-based emissions must fall rapidly (50% by 2030 relative to peak) if we are to meet global climate goals (C40 Cities).

Local governments, institutions, and households can still reduce consumption-based emissions through local procurement, circular systems, food strategy, materials policy, and upstream partnerships:

- **Sustainable procurement:** Prioritize low-carbon, durable, repairable goods.
- **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policies:** Shift waste costs back to manufacturers to incentivize low-carbon and circular design.
- **Circular economy & reuse systems:** Make it easier for residents to repair, reuse, and recycle goods locally, reducing demand for new products.
- **Food system transformation:** Promote plant-based diets, support local food production, reduce food waste, and increase composting.
- **Building material standards:** Encourage or mandate low-embodied-carbon materials in construction and retrofit projects.
- **Behavioral & demand programs:** Incentivize lower footprint lifestyles (e.g., reducing overconsumption, choosing sustainable goods).
- **Partnerships with regional and supply-chain actors:** Work with manufacturers, distributors, and State agencies to decarbonize goods upstream and support local production.

Did You Know?

That suburbs alone account for 50% of the total U.S. household carbon footprint? Differences in the size, composition, and location of household carbon footprints suggest tailored greenhouse gas mitigation efforts may be required (UC Berkley).

What this Means for Regional Climate Planning

To enable wide-spread climate pollution reduction, communities often rely on climate action plans. They typically start with a clear picture of where their climate pollution comes from and where they're headed without additional action. That begins with a baseline community-wide greenhouse gas inventory and a consumption-based inventory if possible. This shows how much climate pollution the community currently produces across major sectors like transportation, buildings, waste, and industry. From there, planners develop a business-as-usual emissions projection—essentially a forecast of what emissions will look like if nothing new is done. This helps leaders and residents see the gap between where the community is going and where it needs to be.

Next, communities set climate goals that align with international best practices, such as those recommended by the Science Based Target Initiative. These science-informed targets ensure local action adds up to meaningful global progress. They also act as mile markers; if emissions aren't falling fast enough, communities can recognize they're drifting off track and adjust plans or investments.

With a clear target in place, communities identify high-impact actions to cut emissions, following the greenhouse gas mitigation hierarchy (Figure 11)—reducing energy demand first, then switching to clean energy, and finally addressing remaining emissions. These actions can range from baseline research and pilot projects, to

Did You Know?

The Central New Mexico's Science Based Target is calculated to be **62% emissions reductions by 2030 based on 2023 data.** This means that as a region, we need to reduce our use of fossil fuels substantially in the next five years to meet this mid-term target. Figure 4 for a visual representation of this target.

"lead by example" programs within local government, to enabling policies that make it easier for residents and businesses to act, all the way up to structural, regionwide changes (Figure 12).

Finally, the most impactful plans center people, especially those facing the greatest climate and economic burdens. Communities prioritize solutions that reduce pollution, strengthen health and safety, create local jobs, save money, and reflect community values. This approach ensures that climate action isn't just about hitting a number—it's about improving everyday life while building a future where everyone can thrive.

Figure 11. Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Hierarchy

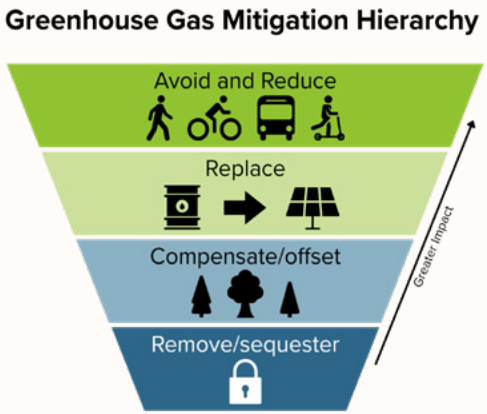


Figure 12. Types of Strategies

Type of Strategies	Size of Immediate Impact	Examples
Baseline Research	Very Small	Right-sizing study, vulnerability assessment, policy analysis.
Lead by Example	Small	City building retrofits, fleet electrification, urban forestry.
Enabling Mechanisms	Medium	Plant-based diets, electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure, benchmarking, transparency.
Structural Regionwide Change	Large	Net zero building codes, organic waste diversion, public transit, sustainable procurement.

Note. Figure 11 is adapted from https://rmi.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/the-Carbon-Free-City-Handbook-1.0.pdf ©September 2017 by Rocky Mountain Institute.

B: Timeline of Climate Action in Central New Mexico and Beyond

Long before modern cities, Pueblo, Diné, and other Indigenous communities in Central New Mexico practiced careful water stewardship, crop rotation, forest thinning, and living in harmony with the land. Later, Spanish settlers introduced acequia systems—community-managed irrigation—as well as land grants and agricultural commons which still shape local action to this day. Over the past century, these roots have grown into organized climate efforts. These range from robust civic coalitions and renewable energy advocacy to local government climate planning and regional partnerships. What follows is a recent timeline of this evolving journey.

Did You Know?

Indigenous peoples have spent around 25,000 years living in, exploring and engaging with the landscape in the United States and Canada. European settlers have spent about 400 years, or about 1.6% as much time, familiarising themselves with the same land.

See something that is missing? Fill out the form to contribute to our regional timeline!

Year	Timeline Event
1986	▸ UNM installs its first cogeneration unit.
1987	▸ World Commission on Environment and Development releases Brundtland Report.
1992	▸ United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (informally known as the Earth Summit) held.
1994	▸ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, an international environmental treaty, begins its annual meeting Conference Of the Parties (COP) to assess international progress on climate change.
2000	▸ City of Albuquerque begins methane capture and flaring at closed Cerro Colorado Landfill.
2002	▸ New Mexico Public Regulation Commission implements a Renewable Portfolio Standard requiring utilities to procure a minimum percentage of electricity from renewable sources.
2006	▸ State of New Mexico Executive Order 2006-001 signed, dictating that all new state buildings and remodels over 15,000 square feet must be designed and constructed to meet or exceed the LEED Silver certification or higher. ▸ New Mexico Rail Runner is inaugurated.
2007	▸ US Supreme Court authorizes EPA to regulate greenhouse gas emissions under the Clean Air Act. ▸ New Mexico Public Regulation Commission increases the Renewable Portfolio Standards to 20% by 2020 for investor-owned utilities. ▸ UNM completes first greenhouse gas inventory. ▸ UNM implements smart metering in utility systems. ▸ UNM Sustainability Studies Program begins. ▸ UNM Signs American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment.
2008	▸ City of Albuquerque publishes its first climate action plan, outlining actions to reduce pollution from municipal operations. ▸ UNM adopts sustainability as a core organizational value.

Year	Timeline Event
2009	▸ EPA Releases endangerment finding for GHG, stating that atmospheric concentrations of six key greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxides, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride) endanger the public health and welfare. ▸ UNM releases its first Climate Action Plan. ▸ UNM completes second greenhouse gas inventory.
2010	▸ State of New Mexico starts the Double Up Food Bucks program. ▸ UNM's Lobo Gardens established.
2014	▸ President of the United States announced the United States' commitment to reduce greenhouse gases, on an economy-wide basis, by 26%-28% from 2005 levels by the year 2025.
2015	▸ Paris Agreement adopted, a binding international treaty that seeks to limit global climate change, at Paris COP. ▸ EPA issued Carbon Pollution Standards for new, modified, and reconstructed power plants and the Clean Power Plan for existing power plants. ▸ Pope Francis releases Laudato si', emphasizing that the ecological crises are moral issues.
2017	▸ PNM announces plans to exit coal.
2018	▸ Bernalillo County completes and adopts the 2019 International District Urban Agriculture Plan, outlining needs and identifying 9 priority project sites.

Year	Timeline Event
2019	▸ State of New Mexico Executive Order 2019-003 signed, implemented a goal to reduce economy-wide GHG emissions to 45% below 2005 levels by 2030; created the Climate Change Task Force responsible for creating regulatory strategies to successfully achieve this goal. ▸ State of New Mexico Senate Bill 48, the Energy Transition Act, passed. Set the state goals of 50% renewable energy by 2030, 80% by 2040, and 100% carbon-free by investor-owned utilities by 2045. ▸ State of New Mexico Executive Order 2019-003 signed, directing the State's Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department to develop a regulatory framework to reduce oil and gas sector methane emissions and prevent waste. ▸ City of Albuquerque establishes the Sustainability Office. ▸ Bernalillo County adopts A.R.2019.91, establishing Sustainability and reduction of carbon emissions as a Bernalillo County priority and acknowledging a climate emergency. ▸ Grow New Mexico releases the 2019 Albuquerque Food and Agriculture Action Plan for the City of Albuquerque. ▸ Albuquerque Rapid Transit begins service. ▸ Navajo Nation starts Light Up Navajo project—bringing electricity to homes that never had power.
2020	▸ State of New Mexico House Bill 93, Efficient Use of Energy Act, passed. ▸ State of New Mexico House Bill 233, Energy Grid Modernization Roadmap Act, passed. ▸ State of New Mexico, House Bill 118, allowing benefit corporations was passed. ▸ The City of Albuquerque publishes 2020 Greenhouse Gas Inventory, its first community-wide inventory using 2017 data.

Year	Timeline Event
2021	▸ State of New Mexico House Bill 15, Sustainable Building Tax Credit, passed. ▸ State of New Mexico Senate Bill 84, Community Solar Act, passed. ▸ City of Albuquerque releases the 2021 Albuquerque Climate Action Plan, its second plan, outlining actions for municipal and community action. ▸ State of New Mexico enacts comprehensive oil & gas emissions rules that limit venting, flaring, and require better leak detection - setting the stage for large reductions in methane and other pollutants. ▸ Bernalillo County Commission approved agenda item directive to “undertake the development of a Sustainability and Climate Action Plan” ▸ United States rejoins Paris Climate Agreement. ▸ United States Executive Order 14008 directs federal agencies to submit plans to show how each agency will adapt to the impacts of climate pollution. ▸ America Is All In — a nationwide coalition of cities, states, businesses and institutions committed to climate action — formally launches; state and local actors in Central New Mexico become eligible to join this broader climate-action movement.

Year	Timeline Event
2022	▸ Western Spirit, the largest Wind Farm at the time, comes online in Torrance County. ▸ State of New Mexico Community Energy Efficiency Development Block Grant, passed. ▸ Los Alamos County publishes first Climate Action Plan. ▸ San Juan Coal Plant Generating Station closed. ▸ State of New Mexico adopts the Clean Car Rule (advance Clean Cars I) via the Environmental Improvement Board and Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Air Quality Board, requiring automakers to sell increasing numbers of clean vehicles starting with model year 2026. ▸ State of New Mexico awards $600,000 to the City of Albuquerque for the Balanced Resource Acquisition and Information Network (BRAIN). ▸ Local governments in Bernalillo County adopt a Hazard Mitigation Plan that addresses resiliency in the face of climate change impacts such as drought, extreme heat, wildfires, flooding, etc. ▸ US Inflation Reduction Act passes, becoming the most significant climate legislation in US history, providing nearly $370 billion in climate action funds.

Year	Timeline Event
2023	▸ City of Albuquerque adopts Zero Fares program. ▸ Bernalillo County completes organizational greenhouse gas inventory. ▸ Bernalillo County hires Sustainability Coordinator. ▸ Bernalillo County Commission approves Investment Grade Audit at 11 County facilities. ▸ State of New Mexico House Bill 95, Renewable Energy Office in State Land Office, passed. ▸ New Mexico adopts Advanced Clean Cars II & Advanced Clean Trucks Standards, increasing zero-emission vehicle requirements (light, medium, heavy duty) for new vehicle deliveries to the state. ▸ Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund is created by the State of New Mexico, establishing a long-term, dedicated revenue stream for conservation, restoration, and natural resource protection statewide. ▸ **City of Albuquerque, State of New Mexico, Santa Ana, Sandia, Navajo Nation, and Pueblo Consortia of Tesuque, Nambe, and Picuris receive Climate Pollution Reduction Grant for climate planning.** ▸ Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District awarded $759,000 in federal grant funds for food waste reduction projects. ▸ The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change releases the AR6 Synthesis Report, which integrates findings from three international working groups. ▸ Central New Mexico Community College launches clean energy apprenticeships. ▸ Pope Francis releases Laudate Deum, calling for global action on climate. ▸ US publishes Fifth National Climate Assessment Report.

Year	Timeline Event
2024	▸ City of Albuquerque passes F/S R-24-34, updating the City's Sustainability Resolution. ▸ Bernalillo County awarded a $417,000 Diesel Emissions Reduction Grant dedicated to the purchase of the County's first all-electric fire truck. ▸ Bernalillo County establishes a special account where energy efficiency rebate and tax credit money can be directed for future use on sustainability-related projects. ▸ State of New Mexico's 50-Year Water Action Plan is released. ▸ Gov. Lujan Grisham signs Clean Transportation Fuel Standards (HB 41), making New Mexico the fourth state with such standards to reduce emissions intensity of transportation fuels and invest credit revenue into low-income/underserved communities. ▸ New Mexico Match Fund is enacted via House Bill 177 — a new state matching-grant fund designed to help local governments, tribal entities, and public agencies access federal infrastructure and funding by covering required local matching costs. ▸ **State of New Mexico and City of Albuquerque complete community-based greenhouse gas inventories, helping improve local emissions tracking, under funding from the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program.** ▸ **City of Albuquerque Office of Sustainability launches the Central New Mexico Resilient Futures Initiative under funding from the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program, signaling the start of a coordinated regional climate planning effort.** ▸ New Mexico is recognized as a leader in clean energy job growth in E2 Report. ▸ Sandia Pueblo receives a $1.9M CPRG Implementation Grant to install solar panels and electric vehicle chargers at the Sandia Resort and Casino.

Year	Timeline Event
2025	▸ State of New Mexico Senate Bill 83 signed, established the Innovation in State Government Fund that provides critical funding to state agencies to assist in: (1) achieving net-zero emissions; (2) implementing sustainable economic policies; (3) providing technical support to entities applying for grants and other funding that seek to address climate change; and/or (4) implementing, enabling or reducing the barriers to implementing climate change policy. ▸ City of Albuquerque earns a Silver-Level Bicycle Friendly Community Award (Bicycle Friendly America 2025) ▸ Bernalillo County awarded a Municipal Investment Grant for $250,000 to support resilience planning for facilities and operations. ▸ Bernalillo County awarded a $500,000 DC Fast Charger Grant from NM Department of Transportation to install a Level III EV charging station in downtown Albuquerque. ▸ State of New Mexico's Senate Bill 48 signed; established the Community Benefits Fund to fund projects that decrease state greenhouse gas emissions, including updating public buildings, reducing leaks and releases attributable to the extractive industries, assisting decreasing use of internal combustion engines and assisting public entities with funding vehicles and infrastructure, increasing grid capacity and use of renewables, and establish or expand economic development needed to address the economic implications of climate change. ▸ State of New Mexico launches the state's Comprehensive Energy Transition Strategy. ▸ University of New Mexico publishes its first Sustainability Plan. ▸ First Community Solar project comes online in Belen. ▸ State of New Mexico methane rules (for oil & gas facilities) shown by satellite data to have reduced methane intensity significantly in the Permian Basin, yielding both environmental and economic benefits. ▸ PNM Launches Power Pros - a high school workforce training program preparing kids for a career in the energy industry. ▸ Interfaith Power and Light launches Project Houses of Worship to help all congregations reduce energy use and adopt renewable energy systems. ▸ World Resources Institute publishes State of Climate Action 2025 ahead of COP 30. ▸ C40 Cities publishes C40 in 20, a summary of climate action success from large cities across the globe. ▸ US Climate Alliance publishes annual report ahead of COP 30. ▸ New Mexico Governor attends COP 30 in Brazil. ▸ **State of New Mexico and City of Albuquerque submit Comprehensive Climate Action Plans to the EPA.**

Year	Timeline Event
2026	▸ Bernalillo County passes The Data Center Project Guardrails resolution. The resolution holds AI data centers accountable for their own electricity and water usage and requires investment in the community by way of workforce development, paying living wages, and requiring a minimum tax due to the county, also known as Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT). ▸ Bernalillo County begins work on a Climate Resilience Hub action plan for its community centers. ▸ Bernalillo County signs on as a Community Solar Anchor Tenant, offsetting nearly 7 MW of County electricity usage. ▸ State of New Mexico passes House Bill 111, Water Law Violation Maximum Penalty, successfully increasing penalties for water use violations for the first time since 1907. ▸ State of New Mexico passes Senate Bill 193, the Acequia and Ditch Infrastructure Fund Transfer, which doubles the Acequia and Community Ditch Infrastructure Fund (ACDIF) allocation from $2.5 million to $5 million, providing essential funding for acequia community infrastructure projects. ▸ State of New Mexico's House Bill 2, the Budget Bill, includes $13 million for the Strategic Water Reserve Fund, $2.5 million to implement the Water Security Planning Act, $20 million for uranium mining reclamation, $5 million for remediation of neglected contaminated sites, $10 million for the River Stewardship Program, $1.5 million for theState Surface Water Permitting Program, $25 million for industrial decarbonization initiatives, $130,000 to study pollution reduction and cost-savings opportunities through a state composting program, $22 million for the characterization of groundwater and aquifer mapping and monitoring, and $9 million for bosque management projects in the Middle Rio Grande Valley. ▸ State of New Mexico Environment Department approves a fee increase for air permits for the first time since 2009. ▸ State of New Mexico Environment Department launches the Clean Transportation Fuel Program to reduce climate pollution from transportation fuels used in New Mexico. The program establishes a statewide carbon intensity standard for transportation fuel that decreases annually, and creates a market mechanism where organizations must acquire or can generate credits for transportation fuels, relative to the carbon intensity standard. ▸ APS puts in service 26 electric school buses, along with EV charging infrastructure, at two APS school bus depots.
2027	▸ **State of New Mexico and City of Albuquerque submit a status report to the EPA.** ▸ **Santa Ana, Sandia, Navajo Nation, and Pueblo Consortia of Tesuque, Nambe, and Picuris submit their Comprehensive Climate Action Plans to the EPA.** ▸ APS will add dedicated charging infrastructure for additional school buses as well as light-duty fleet vehicles.

Year	Timeline Event
2030	▸ Central New Mexico's mid-term goal to meet the Science-Based Target initiative.
2035	▸ PNM's commitment to reduce freshwater use by 80% from 2005 levels.
2040	▸ PNM set to achieve carbon-free electricity and meet an 80% renewable portfolio standard. ▸ PNM's commitment to reduce freshwater use by 90% from 2005 levels.
2050	▸ Central New Mexico's long-term goal to reach net-zero emissions.

C: Existing Efforts and Resources

1.0 Existing Efforts and Resources in Climate Leadership

1.1 Expand Climate Education

- The City of Albuquerque Office of Sustainability's Suggested Activity Matrix helps major institutions choose high-impact climate actions for organizational climate action plans.
- The New Mexico Public Education Department promotes sustainability curriculum through the Environmental Literacy Plan and the Outdoor Learning Initiative.
- The UNM Sustainability Studies Program trains future climate leaders through interdisciplinary coursework and community projects.
- Project ECHO at UNM Health Sciences Center offers a Climate Change and Human Health ECHO program that trains health professionals on climate science, health impacts, and risk communication.
- The Climate Hope Curriculum from 350.org provides student-focused climate education resources, promoted locally by Albuquerque Public Schools.
- The Sierra Club Rio Grande Chapter convenes partners for Earth Day and other events and mobilizes residents for local climate action.
- The Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority reaches over 20,000 students each year with water and sustainability education.
- Explora Science Center offers climate-related exhibits and hands-on programs that build environmental literacy.
- ABQ BioPark education programs connect visitors to conservation, biodiversity, and climate change.
- The Healthy Climate New Mexico brings educators, advocates, and agencies together to expand climate literacy during their Extreme Heat Summit every spring.
- NM Climate Masters, run by the Santa Fe Watershed Association, provides 30+ hours of New Mexico-focused climate curriculum and action planning.
- Events such as the Earth Day New Mexico Festival and the UNM Sustainability Expo showcase local climate solutions and help residents learn how to get involved.
- Residents can explore the largest greenhouse gas emitters using EPA's FLIGHT tool and track global emissions through ClimateTRACE.

1.0 Existing Efforts and Resources in Climate Leadership

- The New Mexico Climate Hub (USDA) provides climate adaptation tools, factsheets, and workshops for land managers and producers in Central New Mexico.
- The New Mexico PBS "Our Land" series offers accessible media on climate, water, and conservation that can be used in classrooms and community meetings.
- Los Alamos County conducted its first greenhouse gas inventory and adopted its first Climate Action Plan in November 2024.
- Bernalillo County provides public education and outreach on natural resource conservation through Natural Resource Services and Open Space programs.
- The Migration Data Portal's Environmental Migration page, helps tell the story of climate refugees across the world through data.

1.2 Expand Climate Governance

- The IPCC Sixth Assessment Report summarizes the latest global science on climate risks, adaptation, and mitigation.
- The New Mexico Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory shows which sectors produce the most emissions statewide.
- The Central New Mexico 2023 Community-wide Greenhouse Gas Inventory details emissions by sector for the metro region.
- The New Mexico Climate Risk Map visualizes climate hazards (heat, flooding, wildfire, air quality) and community vulnerability to support data-informed decisions.
- The Coalition of Sustainable Communities New Mexico supports local governments with policy advocacy, peer learning, and implementation support.
- The New Mexico Climate Change Task Force coordinates state agencies to implement the Energy Transition Act and advance climate equity.
- Sustainability staff at the City of Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, UNM Sustainability, and CNM Sustainability integrate climate goals into operations and report progress.
- National and international networks such as ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, the Urban Sustainability Directors Network, Project Drawdown, C40 Knowledge Hub, and RMI provide technical support and best practices to local and tribal governments.

1.0 Existing Efforts and Resources in Climate Leadership

- The Conservation Voters New Mexico Legislative Scorecard tracks how state legislators vote on climate and conservation issues and helps voters make informed choices.
- Businesses and cities can disclose their climate risks and actions through CDP.
- The New Mexico Climate Action Plan and Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan outline statewide strategies for emissions reduction and resilience.
- The Middle Region Council of Governments supports regional climate-aligned planning through its Metropolitan Transportation Program.
- Several Pueblos and Tribal Nations (e.g., Pueblo of Isleta, Santa Ana, Sandia, and Navajo Nation) are advancing their own climate and resilience planning, using federal grants and technical partners.
- The State of New Mexico's Executive Order 2019-003 directs state agencies to tackle climate change and energy waste.
- Bernalillo County Commission adopted Administrative Resolution 2019-91, establishing sustainability and reduction of emissions as a County priority and declaring a climate emergency.
- Bernalillo County Commission adopted Administrative Resolution 2023-18 to reaffirm the previous AR and direct County staff to complete a climate action and sustainability plan for County operations.

1.3 Accelerate Climate Finance

- The City of Albuquerque published a Funding and Financing Overview report, showcasing various options to pay for climate actions outlined in this plan.
- The State of New Mexico provides grants, tax credits, and rebates that support climate and clean energy projects. Opportunities for individuals can be found on their clean energy website.
- The City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County are using funds from the Automated Speed Enforcement Program to fund Vision Zero public safety infrastructure projects for pedestrians and cyclists (AES FAQ).
- The Las Cruces plastic bag fee helps fund sustainability staffing and programs while reducing waste.
- The New Mexico Climate Investment Center offers loans and financing tools for energy efficiency, clean energy, and resilience projects with a focus on low-income and tribal communities.

- PNM rebates and financing support residential and commercial energy efficiency upgrades.
- New Mexico Community Capital provides capital and training for sustainable and minority-owned businesses.
- The New Mexico Finance Authority and its Water Trust Board finance water, energy, and conservation projects.
- The Albuquerque Community Foundation offers grants for environmental and historic preservation.
- The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and Inflation Reduction Act mark the world's largest investment in climate action, and provided major federal funding for local clean energy, resilience, and transportation projects that Central New Mexico communities are currently implementing.

1.4 Advance Sustainable Economies

- Certified B Corporations in New Mexico (e.g., Meow Wolf, Little Toad Creek Brewery) demonstrate environmentally and socially responsible business models.
- New Mexico Benefit Corporation law (HB118) enables companies to embed public benefit and environmental goals into their corporate structure.
- The New Mexico EDD Sustainable Economy Task Force plans for a just transition away from fossil fuels.
- New Mexico for Good and the UNM Anderson Center for Responsible Business help entrepreneurs build climate-aligned, community-focused businesses.
- The CNM Ethics in Business Awards recognize organizations advancing ethical and sustainable practices.
- The Los Alamos and Sandia National Laboratories tech transfer programs support clean-tech and climate-related innovation and startups.
- The Albuquerque Regional Economic Alliance recruits and expands green businesses using tools such as Industrial Revenue Bonds, the Job Training Incentive Program, and the Local Economic Development Act.
- The Four Corners Carbon Coalition funds regional carbon removal and reuse pilot projects.
- The New Mexico Outdoor Recreation Division supports climate-sensitive outdoor businesses and trail projects that diversify rural and tribal economies.

1.0 Existing Efforts and Resources in Climate Leadership

1.5 Support the Green Workforce

- The City of Albuquerque published a Workforce Analysis, showcasing strengths and opportunities for advancing actions outlined in this plan.
- CNM's clean energy and trades programs prepare students for solar, HVAC, building electrification, and EV maintenance careers.
- New Mexico Workforce Connection supports workers pursuing green jobs and training opportunities.
- Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps, New Mexico Youth Conservation Corps, and AmeriCorps offer paid conservation and restoration positions for youth and young adults.
- Workforce Connection of Central New Mexico connects residents, especially young people and career-changers, to training and employers in climate-related fields.
- Santa Fe Community College's EnergySmart Academy and green building programs train workers for energy efficiency, solar, and sustainable building jobs.
- Goodwill Industries of New Mexico provides workforce training and placement that can connect participants to trades and sustainability-related careers.
- The New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions Green Jobs portal highlights high-growth energy and infrastructure careers supported by state and federal investments.

See something that is missing? Fill out the form to contribute to our regional resources!

2. Existing Efforts and Resources in Water and Waste

2.1 Reduce Water Use

- The Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority offers water-saving rebates and extensive education programs.
- The New Mexico Backyard Refuge Program (Friends of Valle de Oro NWR and Ciudad SWCD) promotes wildlife-friendly and water-wise landscaping.
- Large institutions such as the City of Albuquerque and Albuquerque Public Schools have installed smart metering and conservation measures that save significant water each year.
- The State's network of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and agricultural water-saving grants help producers conserve water.
- The City of Albuquerque's curb cut and green stormwater infrastructure permits allow residents and businesses to capture stormwater and reduce irrigation demand.
- The City of Rio Rancho uses treated wastewater for irrigation and aquifer recharge.
- The Water 2120 plan guides long-term sustainable water supply for the Albuquerque metro area.
- Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District Watershed Program and EPA Urban Waters Federal Partnership invests in the health of the Middle Rio Grande Watershed and engages in education and outreach.
- The Bernalillo County Water Conservation Program provides public education on water conservation and financial assistance with water conservation retrofits for homes and businesses.

2.2 Reduce Food and Organic Waste

- The City of Albuquerque Office of Sustainability is partnering with Little Green Bucket, Three Sisters Kitchen, and Bernalillo County Extension Master Composters to pilot food waste diversion models.
- The Upper Gila Watershed Alliance's New Earth Project diverts school food waste into compost.
- Food is Free Albuquerque rescues excess fruit and produce from yards and gardens to feed people.
- Roadrunner Food Bank redirects edible surplus food to communities and sends spoiled food to local farms like Polk's Folly.

- An International District Growers' Market in Albuquerque's District 6 is being supported through participatory budgeting and local partners such as UNM.
- A mayoral local food system executive order directs City departments to expand affordable, equitable, and safe local food access.
- Los Alamos County residents divert ~15% of their waste stream through curbside yard trimming collection program.
- The UNM Food Recovery Network Chapter has a program to collect leftover food at retail operations on campus and bring it to the Lobo Food Pantry, and the app Lobo Eats alerts students, staff, and faculty about food leftover at events, addressing food waste and food insecurity.

2.3 Increase Composting and Compost Application

- The Community Composting Co-op (New Mexico Compost Coalition) supports neighborhood-scale organics diversion and compost use.
- The Water Authority's "Compost del Rio Grande" program composts biosolids into soil amendment.
- Soilutions offers commercial composting and landfill diversion for large food waste generators.
- Little Green Bucket provides residential compost pickup in the Albuquerque area.
- The City's Office of Sustainability maintains an online community composting map.
- The State's New Mexico Compost Study identifies gaps and opportunities to expand composting statewide.
- The Recycling and Illegal Dumping (RAID) Grant under the New Mexico Environment Department supports projects across New Mexico that improve recycling infrastructure and expand waste diversion –including composting.
- The Healthy Soil Program under the NM Department of Agriculture provides grants to improve soil health, including for composting projects.
- Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District implements the Educating the Next Generation: Place-Based Food Waste Reduction and Compost Recycling Initiative project.
- Mittuci's Restaurant composts food waste with Soilutions, reducing operational emissions and boosting New Mexico soils.
- UNM composts an average of 117 tons of food waste per year from back-of-house catering and dining hall operations.

2. Existing Efforts and Resources in Water and Waste

2.4 Reduce Non-food Waste

- The City of Albuquerque, UNM, FUSE Makerspace, and partners host Fix-It Clinics to help residents repair items instead of discarding them.
- The Recycling and Illegal Dumping (RAID) Grant under the New Mexico Environment Department supports projects across New Mexico that improve recycling infrastructure, expand waste diversion, and address illegal dumping.

2.5 Increase Material Reuse and Repurposing

- PNM's refrigerator recycling program safely recovers old fridges and freezers and removes harmful refrigerants.
- Companies like Fairphone and Purism offer long-lasting smartphones that use modular components, making it easier to repair, maintain, and recycle.
- Many local governments offer recycling services directly to their residents and commercial customers, often including free hazardous waste drop-offs.
- New Mexico Recycling Coalition provides statewide training, technical assistance, and directories.
- Second-hand stores, estate sales, and yard sales throughout Central New Mexico keep materials in use and reduce demand for new goods.
- Clothing drives organized by governments, schools, and nonprofits extend the life of textiles.
- The City of Albuquerque and Renuity Resources host Recyclothes textile recycling and additional Fix-It Clinics.
- The City and Bernalillo County capture methane from the Cerro Colorado landfill and pipe it to the Metropolitan Detention Center for use in water heating.
- The Water Authority's cogeneration plant uses digester gas to supply up to 70% of the wastewater plant's electricity needs.
- Bernalillo County's IHaveTrash.com connects residents to recycling and reuse options; local businesses such as We Grow Eco and Broken Arrow Glass recycle textiles and glass.
- UNM Residential Life & Student Housing collects commonly needed dorm items and clothing at move-out and offers them to incoming students during move-in.

3. Existing Efforts and Resources in Buildings and Energy

3.1 Advance Energy Efficiency and Electrification

- New Mexico has adopted the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) to improve state-wide building efficiencies. Amendments to the code (2021 New Mexico Commercial Energy Conservation Code, 14.7.9 NMAC; and 2021 New Mexico Residential Energy Conservation Code, 14.7.6 NMAC) came into effect on 1/30/2024 and are mandatory for permits issued after 7/30/2024.
- The New Mexico Building Decarbonization Roadmap recommends policies and programs to cut building emissions.
- State of New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department's Energy Conservation and Management Division centralizes energy-related rebates, grants, and technical assistance. Check out their rebate website here!
- PNM energy efficiency programs offer rebates for efficient appliances, smart thermostats, and weatherization.
- Interfaith Power and Light's Project HOW connects New Mexico faith communities with expert guidance and technical resources to turn congregations into community resilience hubs.
- The New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority Home Weatherization and Rehabilitation Program provides free weatherization to income-qualified households.
- The NMSU Business Energy Efficiency Program helps businesses plan and implement energy-saving upgrades.
- Project H.E.A.T.S. ON (City of Albuquerque and UA Local 412) provides free furnace service and basic efficiency improvements for seniors.
- Local window companies such as Glass-Rite, Don's Windows & Doors, and Affordable Glass & Mirror supply high-efficiency products and support local jobs.
- Green Analytics Energy Burden Data helps identify communities that pay disproportionately more for their energy than others.
- The UNM Sustainability Strategic Plan states that all new buildings will be all-electric, and the two newest buildings under construction are the first all-electric buildings on campus, with another two all-electric buildings in the design phase.

3. Existing Efforts and Resources in Buildings and Energy

- Bernalillo County completed its first multi-Site energy efficiency project, investing more than $18 million dollars into LED lighting, electrical infrastructure updates, water conservation measures, HVAC updates, and solar installations at 12 critical County facilities.

3.2 Develop Distributed Renewables and Microgrids

- The New Mexico Community Solar Program expands access to shared solar, with a significant portion reserved for low-income subscribers. The Coalition of Sustainable Communities New Mexico provides program education and outreach to encourage low-income participation.
- The Mesa del Sol microgrid combines solar and battery storage for resilience.
- Kirtland Air Force Base is piloting microgrid and resilience projects to ensure mission-critical energy reliability.
- The Meta (Facebook) Los Lunas Data Center is powered by utility-scale solar projects in New Mexico.
- Sandia National Laboratory's Microgrid Research advances community-scale microgrid and storage technologies.
- PNM Solar Direct delivers solar power to large customers, including local governments and schools and Sky Blue provides renewable energy to any customer.
- The Simms Building in Albuquerque and the Lightning Dock Geothermal Plan demonstrate geothermal heating and power.
- Additional geothermal development, including projects serving the Meta data center and tribal and rural communities, is emerging with federal and state support.
- The State of New Mexico is ranked 6th in the nation for geothermal potential. (New Mexico Tech University On Geothermal Potential).
- Tools like the DOE microgrid database and resources help communities explore microgrid options.
- Los Alamos County Department Public Utilities is building Foxtail Flats a 170MW Solar Array with ~80MW of battery storage that will provide 50% clean renewable energy to Los Alamos County, Los Alamos National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratory.

3.3 Promote Sustainable and Natural Buildings

- Sustainability and architecture programs at UNM and CNM integrate green design, passive strategies, and materials science.

3. Existing Efforts and Resources in Buildings and Energy

- Local firms such as Hartman + Majewski Design Group promote high-performance building envelopes, passive design using Passive House principles, and geothermal systems in the region.
- The State of New Mexico and Los Alamos National Laboratory require many large projects to meet at least LEED Silver standards.
- The U.S. Green Building Council New Mexico community connects practitioners and recognizes high-performance buildings through LEED and related programs.
- UNM's campus has 29 LEED-certified buildings, 17 of which are at the Gold or Platinum level.

3.4 Develop Energy Storage Systems and Demand Response

- Albuquerque Public Schools has piloted battery storage and a time-of-day cost structure to reduce demand charges and provide backup power for schools, saving over $370,000 in one year.
- PNM's Peak Saver and EV time-of-day rates encourage customers to shift electricity use away from peak hours.
- Emerging battery and thermal storage projects at facilities such as the Sunport, universities, and hospitals are being pursued using state and federal funding to improve resilience.

3.5 Develop Transmission and Distribution Infrastructure

- The New Mexico Renewable Energy Transmission Authority supports high-voltage lines that move wind and solar from rural areas to population centers.
- PNM's Grid Modernization Plan upgrades substations, lines, and smart technologies to integrate more distributed renewables.
- The Light Up Navajo initiative connects Navajo Nation homes to electricity through volunteer public power utilities and partners.

4. Existing Efforts and Resources in Mobility and Transportation

4.1 Expand Public Transit and Ridership

- ABQ RIDE Zero Fares provides free bus and paratransit service on all City routes, removing cost barriers.
- The New Mexico Rail Runner Express connects Belen, Albuquerque, and Santa Fe by regional rail.
- Rio Metro buses and Dial-a-Ride provide regional weekday bus service linking communities and the Rail Runner.
- The ABQ RIDE Forward Network Redesign is updating routes to improve frequency, equity, and access.
- The ABQ RIDE Public Safety Plan uses dedicated staff, better lighting, smart shelters, and technology to improve safety on the system.
- The Transitions 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MRCOG) sets long-range multimodal transportation and investment priorities for the region.

4.2 Increase Active Transportation

- NMDOT's Target Zero and Safe System Approach aim to eliminate roadway deaths through safer design, behavior, vehicles, and emergency response.
- The City of Albuquerque Vision Zero and Complete Streets Ordinance commits to safer streets for all users and requires streets to serve people walking, biking, using transit, and driving.
- The City of Albuquerque Bike Map highlights about 190 miles of paved multi-use trails and 230 miles of on-street bike lanes for cyclists around the city.
- The Bikeway and Trail Facilities Plan guides investments in bike lanes and paved multi-use trails.
- The Bernalillo County Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety Action Plan improves walking and biking in unincorporated areas.
- The Regional Transportation Safety Action Plan (MRCOG) outlines strategies and tools to improve roadway safety.
- The APS Vision Zero for Youth Initiative focuses on safer routes for students.
- The UNM Bike & Scooter Valet encourages campus micro-mobility with monitored parking.
- The Albuquerque Rail Trail will connect Downtown and nearby neighborhoods via a multi-use path.

4. Existing Efforts and Resources in Mobility and Transportation

- The Esperanza Bicycle Safety Education Center provides safety classes, repair clinics, and free bikes to income-qualified residents.
- The Rio Grande Trail is planned as a statewide greenway along the Rio Grande, including through Central New Mexico.

4.3 Promote Electric Micromobility

- The PNM E-Bike Rebate Program provides incentives toward e-bike purchases.
- The Shared Active Transportation Program regulates e-scooter and e-bike vendors such as Lime and Beam in Albuquerque.

4.4 Promote Shared Transportation

- The Affordable Mobility Platform (AMP) is piloting shared EV carshare at affordable housing sites in Albuquerque, Las Cruces, and other cities, expanding access to clean transportation for low-income residents.
- ABQ RIDE Connect offers free, on-demand microtransit using electric vans in underserved areas, connecting riders to transit, jobs, and services.
- The Taos Ski Valley employee shuttle provides free shuttles for staff, reducing single-occupancy vehicle trips.
- MRCOG's Rio Metro car/vanpools support shared commuting between communities and major job centers using services like Carpool World, Lyft, NMGo! New Mexico Vanpool
- Uber, and UNM Shuttle Services

4.5 Develop EV Infrastructure & Electrify

- The City of Albuquerque Public Charging Expansion is adding dozens of new public EV charging ports.
- The City of Albuquerque's Green Sticker Program offers up to two hours of free metered parking for qualifying EVs and plug-in hybrids in city limits.
- PNM's Transportation Electrification Program provides EV charger rebates, special EV rates, and incentives for EV and e-bike purchases.
- Magpie Motors and online used-EV platforms expand affordable EV options in Central New Mexico.
- Tools like PlugShare, the NMDOT EV Dashboard, and the DOE Alternative Fueling Station Locator help drivers find charging stations.

4. Existing Efforts and Resources in Mobility and Transportation

- The Albuquerque International Sunport EV Plan guides electrification of airport vehicles, buses, and ground support equipment.
- Sierra Peaks has piloted locally manufactured EV chargers, building regional technical capacity.
- NMDOT is deploying National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) fast-charging corridors along major highways that connect Central New Mexico.
- Los Alamos County developed a Fleet Conversion Plan and Community-Wide EV Charging Plan that provides a 25-year roadmap to strategically build out EV chargers.

See something that is missing? Fill out the form to contribute to our regional resources!

5. Existing Efforts and Resources in Land Use and Agriculture

5.1 Expand Urban Tree Coverage

- Lists of climate-adapted trees are provided by the State of New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department, Tree New Mexico, and the Nature Conservancy.
- Mayor Keller's 100,000 Tree Initiative encourages citywide planting through 2030.
- City of Albuquerque Parks and Recreation receives $5 million USDA Urban and Community Forestry grant to expand urban tree canopy.
- Tree New Mexico plants and stewards trees across the metro with volunteers and neighborhood groups.
- The Albuquerque Community Food Forest at Alvarado Park demonstrates food-producing urban forestry.
- The Rio Grande Nature Center State Park offers education and habitat restoration projects in the bosque.
- Use Park Serve Mapping Tool to find out how close your residents live to parks.
- UNM is the only nationally accredited arboretum in New Mexico and also has the Tree Campus Higher Education designation from the Arbor Day Foundation. These designations come with Campus Tree Care Plans and annual planting goals.

5.2 Preserve Natural Lands

- The Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program engages students and volunteers in long-term monitoring of the Middle Rio Grande bosque.
- Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge restores habitat on a former farm and offers extensive environmental education.
- The Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District manages irrigation canals, drains, and riparian lands that support habitat and agriculture.
- The State Forestry Collaborative Forest Restoration Program funds wildfire-risk reduction and forest health projects.
- The Nature Conservancy's Rio Grande Water Fund is a large partnership that restores forests and reduces wildfire risk in the watershed.

- Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District partners with Rio Grande Return, City of Albuquerque, and Bernalillo County to preserve and restore the Tijeras Sub Watershed and the Candelaria Nature Preserve.

5.3 Reduce Impermeable Surfaces

- The City of Albuquerque Low Impact Development Program promotes green infrastructure in redevelopment.
- Water-harvesting curb cuts are now legal in Albuquerque (Lancaster, August 2025).
- Bernalillo County's Green Stormwater Infrastructure and Low Impact Development (GSI/LID) Standards provide technical guidance and standard drawings for arid-adapted GSI/LID best management practices.
- The Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority incorporates water capture and green space into flood control projects.
- The City's Complete Streets Ordinance allows homeowners to request curb cuts to direct stormwater into landscaped areas.
- Bernalillo County joined the Smart Surfaces Coalition, which provides local government partners with the tools, training, and support needed to quantify and transform their surfaces to cool as the world warms, reduce flooding, and cut electricity bills. 5.4 Densify Communities
- The City of Albuquerque Integrated Development Ordinance enables mixed-use zoning, accessory dwelling units, and higher-density infill.
- The Transitions 2045 MTP promotes compact, multimodal development patterns.
- Local New Mexico MainStreet districts (e.g., Barelas, Nob Hill, Downtown) support walkable, mixed-use corridors.
- The Arid Low Impact Development Coalition, a multi-disciplinary network of professionals and practitioners, provides a platform for collaboration to increase the use of green stormwater infrastructure, low impact development, and rainwater harvesting in New Mexico through education, policy advocacy, and demonstration projects in the Middle Rio Grande and New Mexico.

5. Existing Efforts and Resources in Land Use and Agriculture

5.5 Promote Sustainable Agriculture

- The NMSU Cooperative Extension Service offers training on soil health, irrigation efficiency, and regenerative practices.
- Three Sisters Kitchen and the South Valley Economic Development Center provide commercial kitchens for small food businesses and local producers.
- The Quivira Coalition supports regenerative agriculture and ranching transitions.
- The Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District promotes responsible land and water use on both rural and urban lands.
- The Rio Grande Agricultural Land Trust conserves farmland and acequia landscapes through easements.
- The Cultivating Bernalillo County Grow the Growers Program is a comprehensive farm training and business acceleration initiative designed to support new and emerging farmers, based at the historic Gutiérrez-Hubbell Open Space in the Albuquerque South Valley.
- The New Mexico Healthy Soil Working Group offers education, resources, and networking opportunities for land stewards, including urban farmers and gardeners.
- The Healthy Soil Program under the NM Department of Agriculture provides grants to improve soil health. The Sevilleta Long Term Ecological Research site (UNM) studies climate, fire, and land-use impacts; the New Mexico Bumble Bee Atlas is a long-running pollinator monitoring effort.
- Local networks like Agri-Cultura Network, Rio Grande Community Farm, and Sweet Grass Co-op, support small farmers and farm-to-table distribution.
- Los Jardines Institute and Valle Encantado Farms lead community-based urban agriculture and education in the South Valley.
- Pueblo-led food sovereignty initiatives restore traditional agricultural practices and seed stewardship.
- The New Mexico Farmers' Marketing Association supports farmers' markets, Double Up Food Bucks, and local food access programs that reward sustainable production.
- Community Supported Agriculture farm shares links consumers directly with local food producers, giving farmers the capital they need and members fresh food throughout the season.

6 | Appendices

Acknowledgements

Land Acknowledgement

Central New Mexico is the ancestral homelands of the Pueblo peoples—lands where communities lived in relationship with one another and with the land, where lifeways overlapped, converged, and continue to sustain connections across generations.

These ancestral homelands include the Tiwa Pueblos of Isleta and Sandia; the Keres Pueblos of Acoma, Cochiti, Kewa, Laguna, Santa Ana, San Felipe, and Zia; the Towa Pueblo of Jemez; and parts of the Navajo/Diné Nation, including To'hajiilee, established after the Long Walk.

Today, over 80,000 residents of Central New Mexico identify as Indigenous, representing members of more than 400 Tribal Nations from across the world. Some have always called this region home; others came for family, work, or safety.

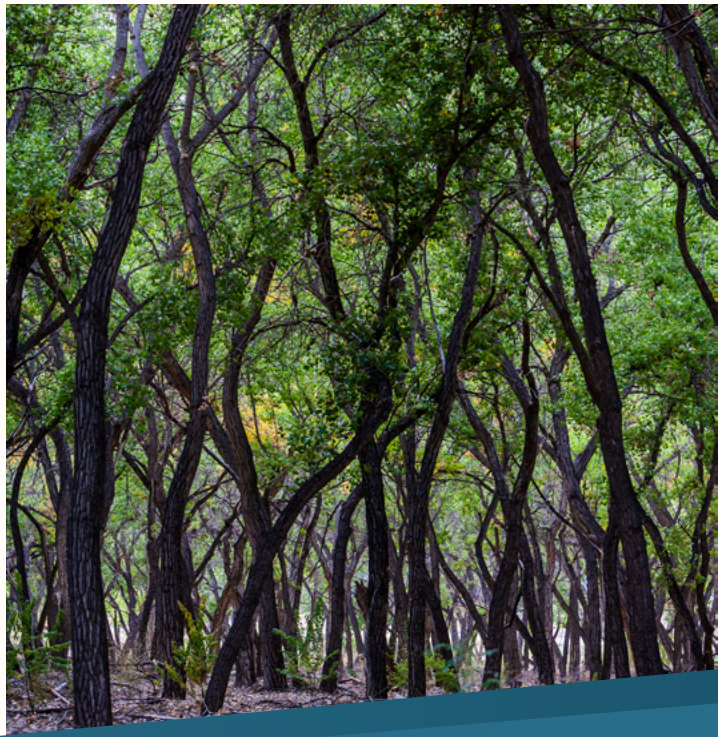
We acknowledge this history with humility and commit to learning from, and uplifting, Indigenous knowledge and stewardship as we work toward a climate-safe future for everyone.

Community Acknowledgement

The Central New Mexico Climate Action Plan was prepared by the City of Albuquerque's (the City's) Office of Sustainability on behalf of our four-county region—Sandoval, Bernalillo, Valencia, and Torrance Counties. This plan is the product of partnership: built with community leaders, shaped by major institutions, and grounded in the wisdom of residents across Central New Mexico.

We are deeply grateful to the 2025 Community Task Force and the Albuquerque Justice40 Oversight Coordinating Committee for guiding this work and helping amplify community voices. To our core partners and more than 300 leaders of grassroots organizations, businesses, higher education, Tribes, and local governments: thank you for anchoring this plan in local context and lived experience.

This plan combines the best available practices in climate planning with what we heard directly from people who call this place home. Together, more than 1,000 community members contributed their time, ideas, and priorities.



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Acronyms & Abbreviations

Acad:	Academia
Biz:	Businesses/Private Sector
CCAP:	Comprehensive Climate Action Plan, the Plan
CPRG:	Climate Pollution Reduction Grant
EPA:	Environmental Protection Agency
EV:	Electric Vehicle
GHG:	Greenhouse Gas
Gov:	Local, Regional, or Tribal Governments.
Ind:	Individuals, typically those earning over $75,000 per year
LED:	Light-emitting diode
$MTCO_2e$:	Metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent
NGO:	Non-Government Organization, Non-Profit
PNM:	Public Service Company of New Mexico
SO:	City of Albuquerque Sustainability Office
UNM:	University of New Mexico

Definitions

2025 Community Task Force:	A group of community representatives providing input and guidance to shape the climate action planning process.
Adaptation:	Steps taken to cope with the impacts of climate change already happening or expected to occur.
Albuquerque Justice 40 Oversight Coordinating Committee:	A local body that helps ensure federal climate and infrastructure investments benefit underserved communities in alignment with the Justice40 Initiative.
Carbon Footprint:	The total amount of greenhouse gases a person, organization, or activity produces.
Carbon Neutrality (Net Zero):	Balancing the greenhouse gases we emit with the amount we remove from the atmosphere.
Climate Justice:	Ensuring the benefits of climate action and the burdens of climate impacts are shared equitably.
Climate Pollution:	Greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere that contribute to global warming and climate change.
Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG):	A federal funding program that supports states and local governments in planning and implementing strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
Co-benefits:	Additional positive outcomes—such as cleaner air, better health, or economic savings—that occur alongside climate actions.
Consumption-Based Emissions:	Greenhouse gas emissions associated with the goods and services a community consumes, regardless of where they were produced.

Definitions

Electrification:	Electrification: Switching machines, appliances, or vehicles from fossil fuels to electricity.
Emissions Inventory:	A detailed accounting of all greenhouse gas emissions from a city, region, or organization.
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):	The federal agency responsible for protecting human health and the environment, including climate and air quality regulations.
Energy Efficiency:	Using less energy to provide the same service or perform the same task.
Greenhouse Gas (GHG):	Gases like carbon dioxide and methane that trap heat in the atmosphere and warm the planet.
Local Emissions:	Greenhouse gases released within a community's geographic boundary from sources like buildings, vehicles, and waste.
Metric Tons of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent ($MTCO_2e$):	A standard unit that compares the warming impact of different greenhouse gases to the impact of one metric ton of carbon dioxide.
Mitigation:	Actions that reduce or prevent greenhouse gas emissions.
Renewable Energy:	Energy from sources that naturally replenish, like solar, wind, and geothermal.
Resilience:	A community's ability to withstand, recover from, and adapt to climate-related disruptions.

Definitions

Sequestration:	Capturing and storing carbon in plants, soils, oceans, or technology-based systems.
Sustainability:	Managing resources in a way that meets today's needs without harming future generations' ability to meet theirs.
Urban Heat Island Effect:	Higher temperatures in city areas caused by buildings, pavement, and limited tree cover.
Water Scarcity:	A condition in which water demand exceeds available supply, often worsened by climate change.