

## *NEW MEXICO*

**Executive Orders: [2007-053](#) / [2006-69](#)**

**[RPS](#)**

**[Public Regulation Commission](#)**

**[Climate Change Web Page](#)**

**[Climate Change Action Plan](#)**

**[New Mexico Renewable Energy Transmission Authority](#)**

2008

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On February 28, Governor Richardson gave a [speech at the Pew Center on Global Climate Change](#). In his speech he announced that New Mexico is “the clean energy state.” He also outlined the steps New Mexico is taking or has taken to address climate change.

- Require utilities to use renewable sources for energy generation. 15% of electricity generated from renewable sources by 2015 and 20% by 2020.
- Create the country’s first renewable energy transmission authority enabling the delivery of New Mexico’s wind and solar energy to other states.
- Adopted legislation requiring utilities to reduce emissions by 10% in 2020.
- Invest in weatherization and new technologies.
- Eliminated taxes on hybrid cars.
- Construct a commuter rail link between Albuquerque and Santa Fe.
- Require proposed coal plants to evaluate gasification as a best available technology.

On February 27, Governor Richardson signed [HB 305](#), the Energy Efficiency Bill. HB 305 strengthens the Efficient Use of Energy Act and “directs electric and gas utilities to provide cost-effective and achievable energy efficiency resources to their customers.” The bill allows energy companies and New Mexico utilities to offer energy efficiency rebates, compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulb exchange programs, and assistance with home weatherization. [Press release](#). [Summary of HB 305](#).

On January 2, New Mexico joined 14 other states in a law suit against the EPA over the California Clean Car Program. [Press release](#).

2007

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On November 16, 2007, Governor Richardson signed Executive Order 2007-53 "Increasing Energy Efficiency in State Government by 2015 and Statewide by 2012 and 2020." The EO sets

additional responsibilities for the Climate Change Action Implementation Team, such as preparing the Statewide Energy Efficiency Report.

[EO-07-053](#) The EO sets a 20% reduction in energy usage target for state government and higher education facilities. It also sets a per capita energy use reduction target of 10% below 2005 levels by 2012 and 20% reduction by 2020. The EO establishes tax credits for commercial and residential homes meeting or exceeding the USGBC LEED Silver rating. It also sets up a Green Building Bureau to pursue mandatory energy efficiency measures.

On October 10, 2007, the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board approved greenhouse gas emissions reporting rules that will require industry in New Mexico – including power plants, oil and gas refineries, and cement plants – to report greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global climate change. Large industries must begin reporting CO2 emissions in 2008. Other industries and gases will be phased in.

[Governor Richardson Announces Mandatory Greenhouse Gas Reporting Regulations](#)

On August 7, 2007 the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission enacted a rule to implement the Renewable Portfolio Standards the legislature passed in 2007. “Public utilities will be required to diversify their renewable energy portfolios so that they include at least 20 percent solar-generated power and 20 percent wind-generated power by 2011. At least 10 percent of the portfolio should come from biomass or geothermal sources by that date, and 1.5 percent should be derived from distributed generation, under the new rule. So, for example, since public utilities will be required to generate 10 percent of their power from renewable resources in 2011, the 20 percent solar target means that 2 percent of all public utility electric sales will be expected to come from solar energy.” The 2007 law also requires rural electric cooperatives to meet an RPS of 5 percent beginning in 2015 and increasing to 10 percent in 2020, but cooperatives will not be required to meet the diversity targets.

Press Release: [PRC Approves Renewable Energy Targets Final Rule](#)

On June 27, 2007 a new report on carbon dioxide sequestration was issued by the Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department. The purpose was to coordinate with a stakeholder group to explore and identify statutory and regulatory requirements needed to geologically sequester anthropogenic carbon dioxide. The report lists several regulatory issues. A final report will be issued on December 1, 2007.

[Final Interim Report on Carbon Dioxide Sequestration](#)

On June 19, 2007 the Public Regulation Commission enacted a new rule requiring electric utilities to consider the cost of carbon dioxide emissions when planning how to supply energy to customers. Beginning in 2008, the utilities will be required to analyze the costs, ranging from \$8 - \$40 per metric ton of carbon emissions, in their Integrated Resource Plans.

Press Release: [PRC Puts Price on Carbon Emissions](#)

[ORDER APPROVING RECOMMENDED DECISION AND ADOPTING STANDARDIZED CARBON EMISSIONS COSTS FOR INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLANS](#)

On March 5, 2007, House Bill 188 establishing a Renewable Energy Transmission Authority became law. The Renewable Energy Transmission Authority will help New Mexico export solar, wind and other renewable energy and further build our high-wage, and high-tech economy.

<http://legis.state.nm.us/Sessions/07Regular/final/HB0188.pdf>

On December 28, 2006 Governor Richardson signed an executive order that's directs state agencies to follow many of the recommendations of the Climate Change Advisory Group, which produced a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by the equivalent of 267 million metric tons and create a projected \$2 billion net economic savings for New Mexico's economy.

The Governor's Executive Order 2006-69 creates a state government implementation team tasked with ensuring policies from the order are carried out. Those policies include:

- Creating a market-based greenhouse gas emissions registry and reduction program
- Advancing carbon capture and sequestration technology'
- Promoting the use of manure from the dairy industry in power generation
- Developing an education and outreach program on green buildings for those private sector builders
- Creating new procurement rules that ensure state government offices have energy efficient appliances
- Mandating that state vehicles use mainly clean, renewable fuels
- Proposes a one-time tax credit of up to 40 percent for the purchase, construction or retrofitting of alternative fuel filling stations.

[http://www.governor.state.nm.us/orders/2006/EO\\_2006\\_069.pdf](http://www.governor.state.nm.us/orders/2006/EO_2006_069.pdf)

On December 1, Governor Bill Richardson's Climate Change Advisory Group released its recommendations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The recommendations would create greenhouse gas emissions reductions through initiatives in transportation, land use, energy supply, agriculture, forestry and energy use in residential, commercial and industrial operations. Some of the top recommendations of the advisory group are to increase the renewable energy portfolio standard, create incentives for energy efficiency in buildings, require cleaner cars and reduce emissions from oil and gas production. Press release at <http://www.governor.state.nm.us/press.php?id=320>  
Report at <http://www.nmclimatechange.us/>

In 2006, New Mexico became the first state to join the Chicago Climate Exchange, a greenhouse gas emission reduction and trading program.

On October 31, 2006, the Governor announced a package of energy proposals including a \$23 million investment in energy efficiency and green buildings, a recurring investment of \$9.6 million for land, wildlife and clean energy projects and \$3 million in tax incentives for biofuels, energy efficient appliances and renewable energy manufacturers.

In January 2006, Governor Richardson directed that any construction or renovation of state buildings employ cost-effective, energy efficient, green building practices to the maximum extent possible. [EO-06-001](#)

In September 2005, the Governor issued an Executive Order requiring all state vehicles to increase the use of alternative fuels such as ethanol and biodiesel. State agencies are directed to

replace 15 percent of their transportation fuels with alternative fuels by 2010. In addition, 75 percent of new vehicles purchased each fiscal year should be capable of operating on alternative fuels or should be gas-electric hybrids. [EO-05-049](#)

In June 2005, Governor issued the Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Executive Order [EO-05-033](#) and established the New Mexico Climate Change Action Council and the New Mexico Climate Change Advisory Group (CCAG)

The CCAG was directed to prepare a report that would include:

- Proposals to reduce New Mexico's total greenhouse gas emissions to 2000 levels by the year 2012, 10% below 2000 levels by 2020 and 75% by 2050.
- An inventory of existing and planned actions that contribute to GHG emissions reductions.
- Consideration of costs and benefits of proposals.
- An inventory of historical and forecasted GHG emissions in New Mexico.
- Findings on initiatives to create meaningful regional and national policy to address climate change.

In January 2006, state agencies issued a report on the adverse impacts of climate change on New Mexico.

The entire report is available online

at [http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/aqb/cc/Potential\\_Effects\\_Climate\\_Change\\_NM.pdf](http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/aqb/cc/Potential_Effects_Climate_Change_NM.pdf).

Renewable Portfolio Standard

In March 2007, a new law increased New Mexico's RPS to 15% in 2015, rising to 20% in 2020. <http://legis.state.nm.us/Sessions/07Regular/final/SB0418.pdf>

(The earlier standard had been 5% by 2006 increasing to 10% by 2011.)