



## **Kit Carson Electric Cooperative's Largest, 3MW Solar Array Becomes Operational**

### ***Taos array catapults co-op toward 100% daytime solar goal***

**TAOS, NM – May 18, 2020** – In its continued effort to achieve 100% daytime solar energy, Kit Carson Electric Cooperative (KCEC) announced that its largest solar array to date has come online as of Thursday, May 14. The Taos array will deliver 3MW of solar energy – enough to power approximately 1,500 to 1,600 families in Kit Carson's member base.

Located near the Town of Taos Water Treatment Plant, the Taos array consists of more than 12,000 solar panels and will serve KCEC's largest substation and member base. The opening of this array helps KCEC come even closer to reaching its goal of powering its members with 100% solar energy during the day by 2022.

The Taos array marks KCEC's 17<sup>th</sup> live solar array and brings a total of 19.8MW of solar power to local homes and businesses.

"The construction of solar arrays in our communities has been a great economic development venture while giving our members the choice of renewable energy that our community has wanted for years," said Luis Reyes Jr., CEO of KCEC. "With every panel installation and every array coming online, we are getting that much closer to our renewable energy goals, thanks to our great partnerships with Guzman Energy and the Town of Taos."

Local developer ParaSol constructed the array with the use of all local labor. Construction began in of the Taos array began in October 2019, and was financed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS), which supports rural communities with infrastructure improvements.

The array is part of KCEC's partnership with Guzman Energy, a wholesale power provider that develops customized energy solutions to meet the goals of its customers. KCEC partnered with Guzman in 2016 to help the co-op meet its renewable energy goals as well as drive down its overall power costs. With three more arrays in development, KCEC will have a total of 53MW of renewable energy capacity, to include both solar energy and storage.

"Kit Carson Electric Cooperative is extremely forward-thinking, and the continued realization of its plans and goals is setting an example for rural communities around the country," said Chris Miller, President, Guzman Energy. "They are proof that co-ops can provide renewable energy sources, lower energy costs for members, and bolster the local economy at the same time."

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### **About Kit Carson Electric Cooperative**

Formed in 1944, Kit Carson is a member owned electric distribution cooperative in northern New Mexico and is the second largest cooperative in the state. Kit Carson is one of 16 electric



cooperatives that serve rural New Mexico communities, serving nearly 30,000 members in Taos, Colfax and Rio Arriba counties. To learn more about Kit Carson, visit [www.kitcarson.com](http://www.kitcarson.com).

### **About Guzman Energy**

Guzman Energy is a full-service wholesale power provider focused on providing market-based solutions to address our customers' energy challenges by delivering reliable, clean and affordable power. We work closely with communities to identify their initial and ongoing energy goals and customize solutions based on increased economic competitiveness and sustainability. Our platform is leading a transformation from the legacy energy economy to the renewable and distributed age. To learn more, visit [www.guzmanenergy.com](http://www.guzmanenergy.com)