

June
2022



Kit Carson Electric Cooperative Newsletter

*From the
CEO at
KCEC*

*Luis A.
Reyes Jr.*

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, the management, and employees of Kit Carson Electric (KCEC), Kit Carson Propane (KCP), and Kit Carson Internet (KCI), it has been our pleasure serving our members. The Kit Carson family of companies has seen many significant accomplishments in 2019, 2020 and 2021; none could have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our employees and most importantly the continued support from "YOU" our members. We are continually striving to enhance the quality of life in the products and services we offer for our residents and businesses in the communities Kit Carson Electric serves.



To our valued Members, we should reflect on the successes of the past three years and recognize that our community and cooperative have gone through trying times; COVID-19 and extreme weather events. These caused many of us personal and business hardships.

As a community, I believe we have been able to survive this pandemic and extreme weather events. Hopefully we will become a better community since we banded together and supported each other in this time of need.

KCEC, KCI and KCP continue to work on providing affordable and reliable service, we never closed our doors and helped our Members and community in many ways.

I am happy to report that many of our goals have been achieved. I want to share a few of those goals. First and foremost, KCEC will complete our transition from our previous power supplier to Guzman Energy by paying off a \$37 million exit fee in the next couple of months. Because of this accomplishment, our members will notice lower bills and energy savings starting this summer and in the upcoming months.

KCEC's second goal that was accomplished was to create our own local energy delivery system, which encompasses 20 solar facilities throughout KCEC's service territory. KCEC will be 100% daytime solar this summer; this accomplishment allows KCEC to continue to stabilize rates into the future. It is important to note locals built our solar fleet for locals, which created job opportunities through these trying times.

KCEC's third accomplished goal that was accomplished was the success of the Broadband Program. To date, 11,000 subscribers are currently connected to high-speed quality internet with the fastest speeds in the southwest. During the pandemic, KCI allowed our children and teachers to continue their education journey and allowed many to work from home due to KCI's robust fiber system which also allowed businesses to continue to stay open and offer the capability of online orders. KCEC successfully obtained federal grant monies to continue to provide services to every member at little or no cost to connect. Our goal is to get every member connected to high-speed internet so our community can be successful.

Over the past three years, during these trying times, COVID-19, extreme weather events and the current fire, KCEC continues to support our members through programs. KCEC is financially stable and will become 100% daytime solar this summer which will lower power costs. KCEC will continue to work on the electric system infrastructure to address our system growth needs into the future and to be prepared for future extreme weather events.

KCEC continues to perform active maintenance and deploys an extensive tree trimming program to ensure reliable electric service and mitigate the risk of forest fires. KCEC also continues to review our operation, looking at efficiencies to optimize our overall operation.

KCP remains solid and viable by offering the best propane prices to its customers. KCP, through competitive buying, has allowed for and caused pricing to remain relatively stable in the areas we serve and continues to set the standards for improved safety practices for all propane customers and companies within the areas we serve. KCP employees use their extensive training to serve the community and continue to offer affordable propane products.

In closing, we continue to look at best practices for operating the electric system and promote safety as a priority for both our employees and the public. KCEC will continue to work diligently to provide sustainable, affordable, safe, and reliable services for our entire membership. On behalf of the Board, myself, and employees of KCEC, KCI and KCP it has been an honor to serve and support our members and I am very proud of our employee's hard work and continued dedication to providing members with the best service possible.

Visit our website to find out about the following [Kit Carson Propane Customer Appreciation](#) dates, times, and location as well information on the [August Propane Specials](#).

If you are looking for [High Speed Internet](#) at affordable cost and a free fiber optic drop, call [Kit Carson Internet](#) at 575-758-4838 to get connected today.

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Kit Carson Electric Cooperative (KCEC) and Guzman Energy today celebrated the cooperative’s achievement of providing 100% of its daytime power with solar energy this summer. Integral to this milestone, construction has been completed on KCEC’s Taos Mesa Solar Array. The completed array has testing underway as it nears ongoing generation and delivery of 15 MW of solar power, which will be capable of powering approximately 7,500 homes with locally generated renewable energy.



At a ribbon-cutting event today, KCEC marked the official construction completion and testing of the Taos Mesa Solar Array, which is located roughly nine miles northwest of the Town of Taos. The project spans roughly 170 acres, has 43,680 solar panels and is part of KCEC’s overall solar energy footprint totaling 41 MW of distributed solar throughout its service territory plus 15 MW of accompanying battery storage.

“When we partnered with Guzman Energy in 2016, we set an ambitious goal of becoming one of the cleanest energy cooperatives in America,” said Luis A. Reyes, Jr., CEO of KCEC. “Providing our members with 100% daytime solar power, delivered by locally built and maintained solar arrays and battery storage while also reducing cost for our members is an accomplishment, we are incredibly proud of. We are serving our members the clean power they’ve been asking for while lowering costs, and we’re also helping to meet our state’s overall climate change action initiatives.”

The state of New Mexico has set an objective to achieve a statewide reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 45% by the year 2030. Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham attended today’s event, noting that KCEC is leading the way for other cooperatives around the state and the country in driving the energy transition.

Guzman Energy has been the wholesale power provider to KCEC since 2016, when the coop exited its contract with Tri-State Generation and Transmission in order to provide the coop with more control over its energy mix and give its members more cost-effective and rate stable local energy. KCEC will complete repayment of its exit fee from Tri-State by the end of June 2022 while reaching its goals for cleaner and lower cost power. Coop members will see a decrease in their electric bills through the fuel adjustment line item and will realize savings of up to 25%.

“What Kit Carson Electric Cooperative has achieved here today is a phenomenal example of how rural cooperatives can make a significant impact locally for communities as well as globally on climate change,” said Jeffrey M. Heit, Principal and Managing Director, Guzman Energy. “Guzman Energy is proud to be KCEC’s partner delivering a blueprint for energy transition to cooperatives across America.”

Next Board of
Trustee Meeting,
June 28 at 9:00
AM Kit Carson
Board Room

118 Cruz Alta
Road, Taos, NM

BOARD MEMBERS

Bobby Ortega – President, District 2	Arthur Rodarte, District 3	Luisa Valerio Mylet, District 1
Cristobal Duran – Vice President, District 4	Bernie Torres, District 2	Michael Romero, District 4
Bruce Jassman – Treasurer, District 5	Robert Breshnahan, District 1	Russ Coyle, District 5
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