



Contact: Michael Santistevan
msantistevan@kitcarson.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 29, 2024

Taos Pueblo, Kit Carson Electric Cooperative (KCEC) and International Center for Appropriate and Sustainable Technology (ICAST) Awarded \$10 Million Match from the United States Department of Energy Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations

Award will Advance Energy Sovereignty and Deliver Positive Economic Impact for Taos Pueblo on Pueblo Tribal Lands

Taos, New Mexico - The United States Department of Energy Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations announced a \$10 million match to Taos Pueblo, Kit Carson Electric Cooperative (KCEC) and International Center for Appropriate and Sustainable Technology (ICAST) as part of the federal governments commitment to fund 17 projects across the U.S. to expand access to renewable energy on Native American reservations and in other rural areas.

The award for solar and battery storage system on Pueblo Tribal lands aims to lower tribal energy costs and deliver positive economic impacts. The full DOE announcement can be viewed [here](#).

This significant award centers around a tribally owned project that will pass benefits directly to tribal members and diversify economy beyond tourism. In addition, this match will lower energy costs and enhance energy resilience during brownouts for Taos Pueblo Tribal members. Finally, this award will allow the entities to leverage local resources to provide apprenticeship opportunities and train local workforce.

This project seeks to install a 5 MW solar photovoltaic (PV) and 10 MWh battery storage system located on Taos Pueblo lands in New Mexico and strives to eliminate an estimated 279,210 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions per year over its 25-year lifespan and facilitate a 33% reduction in energy costs for 2,500 rural, Taos Pueblo Tribal members. Taos Pueblo, as owners of the project assets, will receive income over the project's generating life, which it anticipates passing on to Pueblo citizens through a direct credit of approximately \$700 per household annually.

Taos Pueblo is the only living Native American community designated as both a [World Heritage Site](#) and a [National Historical Place](#), and the Tribe ranks in the 94th percentile of energy-burdened communities, with 42% of households living below the state poverty line.

As part of its Community Benefits Plan, this project plans to partner with UNM-Taos to aid in local workforce training, as well as provide apprenticeship opportunities for Taos Pueblo community members. Additionally, the project's lead applicant, International Center for Appropriate and Sustainable Technology, and the City of Taos have solidified their partnership through a Good Neighbor Agreement, outlining measures to address potential impacts on the city and its residents through active engagement with city officials and community leaders.

"ICAST is thrilled to partner with Taos Pueblo and KCEC to develop solar and energy storage assets that will benefit the Pueblo, the Tribal households through lower utility bills, and the local economy" said Ravi Malhotra, Founder and President of ICAST.

"KCEC is extremely grateful to the U.S. Department of Energy for recognizing our continued commitment and willingness to support Indian energy sovereignty and always aiming to help low income communities while building renewable energy assets," said KCEC CEO Luis A. Reyes. "Together with Guzman Energy, our energy partner, we look for opportunities to support and invest in community projects to advance our mission."

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.

Related Links

<https://www.energy.gov/articles/biden-harris-administration-announces-366-million-lower-energy-costs-and-enhance-energy>

https://www.energy.gov/oced/energy-improvements-rural-or-remote-areas-selections-award-negotiations?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery