



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Kit Carson Electric Cooperative Selected for Taos County and State of New Mexico \$2,000,000 Community Energy Efficiency Development (CEED) Grant**

**Taos, NM — January 22, 2026** — Kit Carson Electric Cooperative (KCEC) announced today that it has been selected to receive funding through the Community Energy Efficiency Development (CEED) Block Grant, awarded by Taos County in partnership with the State of New Mexico. Taos County was recently awarded more than \$2 million through the CEED Block Grant program, with those funds allocated to KCEC as the service provider to deliver energy efficiency services and improvements to households that meet the required low-income threshold across northern New Mexico.

The CEED program supports local governments, utilities, and community partners in implementing projects that reduce energy consumption, lower utility costs, strengthen infrastructure, and support workforce and economic development. Through this award, our communities will expand and enhance energy efficiency efforts that deliver immediate and long-term benefits to cooperative members while supporting broader state and county energy goals.

Funding from the CEED Grant will enable KCEC to implement targeted energy efficiency improvements and deploy solutions that reduce overall energy use while maintaining system reliability. These efforts are expected to result in measurable energy savings, lower household energy costs, and increased resilience during periods of peak demand and extreme weather.

“This investment reflects a shared commitment to strengthening our local energy systems and delivering real value to the people we serve,” said Luis Reyes, CEO of KCEC. “The CEED Grant allows KCEC to accelerate energy efficiency initiatives that help members reduce energy use and costs, while ensuring our system remains reliable, resilient, and prepared for future needs.”

Taos County officials emphasized the importance of energy efficiency as an effective tool for reducing energy burden and supporting community well-being.

“Improving energy efficiency is one of the most effective ways to reduce costs for residents and strengthen our local energy systems,” said Brent Jaramillo, Taos County Manager. “Kit Carson Electric Cooperative has consistently demonstrated leadership in delivering practical, community-focused efficiency solutions. The CEED Grant supports projects that lower energy use, reduce utility expenses, and help ensure Taos County households and businesses benefit from long-term, sustainable energy improvements.”

Beginning as soon as March 2026, and in partnership with local community organizations, CEED will help low-income households improve home safety and comfort while reducing energy bills, energy use, and emissions. The service is free to qualifying households, and the program is expected to support local job creation and workforce development as implementation begins.

During a one-day appointment, Certified Energy Ambassadors will conduct an in-home audit and provide residents with a written assessment of the home’s safety and energy efficiency. The visit will also include the

installation of simple, cost-effective upgrades designed to deliver immediate savings and improved performance. Households will also receive a clear roadmap identifying additional follow-on improvements that may be needed, such as windows, insulation, heating and ventilation systems, and other appliance upgrades. Funding for these deeper retrofits is currently being planned.

To help ensure equitable access to program benefits, KCEC will partner with the Resilience Community Group, a collaborative network of local anchor institutions that includes Centinel Bank, Renewable Taos, Taos Community Foundation, Taos County, the Taos County Chamber of Commerce, Taos Ski Valley, Inc., and UNM-Taos, along with other community partners. The Resilience Community Group will support outreach and engagement efforts and help identify eligible low-income households so that program benefits reach residents who can benefit most from reduced energy costs and improved home energy performance.

To support effective implementation and ensure all grant requirements are met, KCEC will contract with Steve Meyers of Energy Demand Solutions to manage program execution and compliance. Energy Demand Solutions will assist with implementing CEED-funded activities, tracking performance metrics, and ensuring the grant is fulfilled completely and in accordance with program guidelines.

KCEC also thanks the New Mexico State Legislature and the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) for their leadership and continued support in ensuring that northern New Mexico communities have access to programs and resources that help residents reduce energy costs and improve quality of life.

KCEC has a long history of working collaboratively with Taos County, local governments, and state agencies to deliver locally tailored energy solutions. The cooperative's energy efficiency-first approach prioritizes affordability, system performance, and community impact—ensuring investments directly benefit members and support long-term sustainability.

Project planning and implementation are expected to begin in March 2026, with KCEC providing updates as key milestones are reached. The cooperative will continue working with community partners and stakeholders to ensure transparency, accountability, and maximum local benefit.

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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).