



KIT CARSON

Electric Cooperative • Internet • Propane



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Empowering Communities: Elevating
Members in North Central New Mexico.

(575)-758-2258

www.kitcarson.com

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Who We Are



CEO Message

LEADING WITH VISION

Kit Carson Electric Cooperative (KCEC) is more than just an electric utility provider – it's a community-focused cooperative dedicated to offering reliable and affordable services to the residents of northern New Mexico. In addition to providing electricity, KCEC offers high-speed internet and propane services, helping to bridge critical gaps in rural infrastructure, with a strong commitment to improving the quality of life in its service areas, KCEC ensures its members have access to the modern resources they need for everyday convenience and future growth. Whether you're powering your home, connecting to the internet, or utilizing propane services, KCEC continues to enhance and evolve its services to meet the unique needs of northern New Mexico's communities.

We firmly believe that the most pressing threat we face, both as a close-knit community and as a cooperative entity, is the challenge of fire mitigation. This issue looms large, not only endangering our homes and livelihoods but also jeopardizing the very essence of our shared environment. The potential for devastating wildfires compels us to take proactive measures, ensuring the safety and resilience of our community against this formidable natural hazard. The ongoing drought and lack of precipitation seriously threaten the state of New Mexico. KCEC has taken a proactive approach to wildfire mitigation through vegetation management, system hardening, and renewable energy integration. KCEC continues to implement strategic tree trimming and brush clearance near power lines and rights of way to reduce ignition risks, invest in infrastructure upgrades to improve system resilience and adopt advanced monitoring systems to identify and respond to potential fire threats promptly. Additionally, KCEC's transition to solar energy and battery storage reduces reliance on traditional transmission lines, often sources of ignition during fire-prone conditions. KCEC aims to ensure that, in the event of a wildfire or natural disaster, essential services, first responders, and individuals requiring power for medical devices or medication remain operational.

KCEC has embarked on various innovative projects, all focused on enhancing infrastructure, broadening access to essential services, and advancing clean energy solutions. Currently, KCEC operates entirely on solar power during the daytime, harnessing an impressive 42 megawatts (MW) of solar energy complemented by a robust 16.25 MW battery storage capacity.

The cooperative owns or operates 20 strategically placed solar arrays alongside two significant battery storage projects throughout its service territory. These installations are thoughtfully distributed across KCEC's service area, fostering a resilient energy network that guarantees reliable electricity delivery for its members. By leveraging cutting-edge technology and sustainable practices, KCEC is transforming the energy landscape and demonstrating a strong commitment to environmental stewardship and community empowerment. KCEC is committed to clean energy and has several projects currently under construction or planned for 2025. These projects include additional solar and battery facilities, three microgrid battery storage initiatives for resilience, and three clean hydrogen facilities that will utilize clean energy.



Luis A. Reyes Jr.

Chief Executive Officer
Kit Carson Electric Cooperative

CEO Message

Safety remains a top priority in every aspect of our operations, encompassing our internal staff and external partners. KCEC implements rigorous safety protocols and comprehensive training programs designed to protect the well-being of our employees and stakeholders alike. We are committed to fostering an environment where individuals can work confidently, knowing their safety is our foremost concern. Our preventative measures and ongoing safety evaluations ensure that everyone can return home to their families at the end of each day, healthy and safe.

"At KCEC, our top priority is to ensure that every employee returns safely to their loved ones, embodying our commitment to a culture of safety and care."

Safety involves several areas, including addressing cybersecurity threats and attacks, which are becoming more frequent and severe. KCEC has established dedicated teams and utilizes advanced monitoring software to protect its internal and external networks, ensuring its members' information privacy. Additionally, KCEC implements stringent cybersecurity measures to safeguard advanced metering systems and grid hardware infrastructure. As major corporate networks increasingly face attacks and intrusions, KCEC is collaborating with leading cybersecurity firms to maintain the security of KCEC's networks and infrastructure.

Kit Carson Internet (KCI), a division of Kit Carson Electric Cooperative, is a regional broadband provider committed to delivering high-speed internet access to rural and underserved communities in northern New Mexico. Leveraging an expansive fiber-optic network, KCI offers reliable and affordable internet services that support everything from remote learning and telehealth to small business operations and smart home connectivity. By investing in broadband, KCI is helping bridge the digital divide in rural areas, ensuring residents and businesses can fully participate in today's digital economy. In 2024, KCI built over 1,350 connections to homes and businesses with the help of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) under the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) grant. KCI continues to connect customers at little or no cost and encourages those who don't have our services to see if they qualify.

Kit Carson Propane (KCP), a Kit Carson Electric Cooperative subsidiary, provides dependable and affordable propane services to residential, commercial, and agricultural customers across northern New Mexico. Established to meet the region's growing energy needs, KCP emphasizes safety, customer service, and local accessibility. KCP offers a range of services, including tank installation, automatic delivery, and budget-friendly payment plans, making it easier for members to manage their energy usage year-round. By operating under a cooperative model, profits are reinvested into the community, supporting local economic development and ensuring customers benefit from lower rates and responsive, community-based service. KCP is excited to announce a significant expansion of its services to the Eagle Nest area. This strategic move is aimed at enhancing the company's ability to better serve the residents and businesses surrounding Angel Fire and Eagle Nest.

KCEC is upgrading its infrastructure and equipment to support the growing adoption of electric vehicles (EVs). We installed 36 EV charging stations with 58 charging points across northern New Mexico, making it easier for locals and tourists to travel throughout the region. KCEC has added 10 new Level 3 DC fast chargers, which allow EV drivers to charge their vehicles more quickly, encouraging more travel in this beautiful area. Members interested in purchasing an EV can charge in rural areas without worrying about range anxiety. KCEC now boasts one of the most extensive EV charging networks in rural northern New Mexico.

CEO Message

KCEC is deeply committed to community engagement, viewing its role as not just an energy provider but as a cornerstone of regional development and support. Through educational outreach, local partnerships, and support for schools and nonprofits, KCEC actively invests in the well-being and empowerment of the communities it serves. Initiatives include scholarships for local students, providing scholarships totaling \$47,000 to 33 students. Kit Carson Propane awarded \$5,000 in scholarships to five student recipients pursuing education in the vocational trades. Since its inception, KCEC has contributed \$656,500 to local students' secondary education, supporting our local youth in KCEC's service territory. KCEC is taking a new approach to learning opportunities by offering scholarships focused on vocational and trade schools.

KCEC is a cooperative that thrives on community-driven initiatives, focusing on the needs and successes of its members. The organization continues to forge strong partnerships with local businesses, nonprofits, schools, governments, tribes, and municipalities, enhancing the economic benefits of its membership. KCEC has donated over \$187,000 and dedicated countless hours of in-kind services to community-based organizations that span from acequia restoration to community center repairs, veteran assistance, and other local initiatives. The successful community initiative of KCEC is a testament to the power of collaboration and the invaluable contributions of our local communities.

In conclusion, 2024 was a challenging year marked by inflation and uncertainty, forcing our members to make difficult choices. However, the cooperative continues to advance innovative initiatives that position KCEC for a stronger future. Guided by the Board of Trustees and its visionary CEO, KCEC is committed to enhancing the quality of life for its members by ensuring they have safe, reliable, and essential services to meet their needs and support their families. Whether providing assistance for those affected by employment changes or supporting acequia associations, KCEC will be there for its members and communities for generations to come. KCEC also wants to extend its gratitude to its hardworking employees, who enable the cooperative to remain one of the leading co-ops in the nation.



Richard Martinez
Chief Operating Officer



Carmella Suazo
Assistant Manager



KIT CARSON

Internet

Kit Carson Internet

Kit Carson Internet delivers more than just reliable internet access; it empowers customers to connect seamlessly with the world around them and experience the freedom and opportunities that come with a strong connection.

Kit Carson Internet (KCI) continues to successfully deploy the most reliable and robust Fiber Optic Network in Northern New Mexico. Currently, KCI serves Taos County, Colfax County, and Rio Arriba County, with plans for further growth and expansion over the next 24 months. KCI is dedicated to serving the rural communities of Northern New Mexico. Join us in transforming your internet experience! Funds are still available for free installations, so please call KCI offices to see if you qualify. Experience what makes us the best in Taos!

In 2024, KCI built over 1,350 connections to homes and businesses with the help of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) under the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) grant. This successful grant awarded KCI funding to assist in building just over 5,200 connections in rural America, totaling an annual sum of \$1,810,207.69 for ten years, amounting to \$18,102,076.90. KCI also succeeded with a Rural Utility Services (RUS)/USDA ReConnect 3 grant of \$23,600,000 to expand KCI's footprint into Abiquiu and down to Gallina, connecting the small towns along Highway 96. This project is fully designed, with hopes of commencing construction in mid-summer 2025. It aims to assist over 2,900 rural residents and community anchor institutions.



Jose Lovato
Internet Manager

The KCI Fiber Optic Network reaches 29 communities, serving approximately 20,500 households, 3,600 businesses, and 183 critical anchor institutions, including schools, hospitals, government facilities, and two Native American pueblos. KCI's service area spans 2,951 square miles in Northern New Mexico. In today's fast-paced world, individuals, families, and businesses must communicate and operate at unprecedented speeds.



At Kit Carson Internet, safety has always been our top priority. Over the past year, KCI has doubled its maintenance and repair efforts to ensure our infrastructure remains intact. This diligence helps minimize downtime and service outages. In 2025, we will continue to emphasize maintaining our existing infrastructure and developing a redundant backup system.

For more information, please visit our website at www.kitcarson.com, where you can explore Kit Carson's Internet, plans and pricing, and sign up! Call a customer service representative at 575-758-4838 for all the details.



Kit Carson Propane

Kit Carson Propane is dedicated to offering our customers affordable prices and high-quality services.

Kit Carson Propane was founded in October 2000, marking the inception of a vital community-focused energy provider in Northern New Mexico. The initiative to establish this propane business was driven directly by the membership of Kit Carson Electric Cooperative, Inc. (KCEC), underscoring a commitment to addressing the immediate needs of the local communities.

Our mission remains steadfast: to provide our valued customers with safe and affordable propane service. This core objective is pursued with an unwavering commitment to delivering excellent service. Recognizing that reliable and cost-effective propane is crucial for the comfort and safety of homes and businesses, we prioritize these fundamental aspects of our operations.

We offer a valuable after-hours service because propane-related emergencies can occur at any time. This critical provision ensures that customers have access to support when unexpected issues arise, providing peace of mind and demonstrating a genuine commitment to their well-being beyond standard business hours.



Shannon Vigil
Propane Manager

Kit Carson Propane is excited to announce a significant expansion of its services to the Eagle Nest area. This strategic move is aimed at enhancing the company's ability to better serve the residents and businesses surrounding Angel Fire and Eagle Nest. Plans are underway to open a new storage plant in Eagle Nest to support this expansion. This local presence will allow for more efficient and reliable propane delivery. Residents in the Angel Fire and Eagle Nest area are encouraged to stay tuned for the grand opening announcement, which will mark an exciting new chapter in Kit Carson Propane's commitment to serving Northern New Mexico.



Kit Carson Propane Board of Trustees

For those not yet part of the Kit Carson Propane family, a warm invitation is extended to complete an application and experience the benefits of reliable and customer-focused propane service. Choosing Kit Carson Propane means more than just securing a fuel source; it means becoming part of a community-oriented organization prioritizing our customers.



Cybersecurity

The Cybersecurity and IT team at KCEC is dedicated to safeguarding members from various cyber threats.

At Kit Carson Electric Cooperative (KCEC), the safety and security of our systems—and more importantly, the privacy and protection of our members—are of paramount importance. As we continue to evolve in a digital world, cybersecurity is no longer just an IT responsibility; it is an organizational priority that spans both our Information Technology (IT) and Operational Technology (OT) environments.

KCEC is actively engaged in implementing and maintaining a robust cybersecurity framework designed to protect the integrity, confidentiality, and availability of our systems. This framework includes the deployment of advanced threat detection and prevention technologies, continuous network monitoring, and strict access controls. KCEC follows industry best practices and align with standards such as the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Cybersecurity Framework to ensure our defenses remain resilient and responsive to emerging threats.

In the realm of OT, where our critical infrastructure systems like electric and broadband services operate, we have enhanced segmentation and monitoring to minimize vulnerabilities and prevent unauthorized access. These efforts help protect our grid, ensure service reliability, and support community resilience.



Daniel Trujillo
Chief Information Security Officer

Equally important is our unwavering commitment to protecting member data. We employ strong encryption, conduct regular security audits, and ensure that all personnel are trained in cybersecurity awareness. Our goal is simple: to maintain your trust by protecting your information and ensuring safe, uninterrupted services.



KCEC was awarded Level Two of the NRECA Cooperative Cyber Goals program in recognition of its continued commitment to strengthening cybersecurity across both IT and OT infrastructures. This achievement reflects the cooperative's proactive approach to cyber resilience and its alignment with national best practices for rural electric utilities.

KCEC will continue to invest in modern cybersecurity technologies and partnerships to stay ahead of evolving cyber threats. We take our role as a community utility seriously and are proud to be a trusted energy and communications provider that puts member safety and privacy first.



Guzman Energy

Guzman Energy

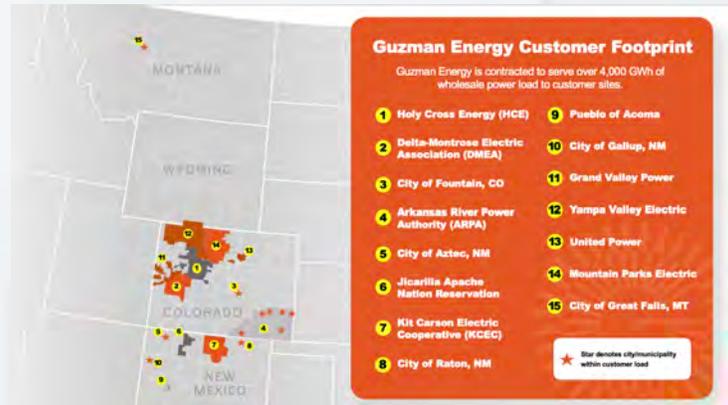
Guzman Energy is a wholesale power provider that helps communities find better energy options. The Guzman Energy team offers customers an executable wholesale energy strategy, and then serves them that power solution.

The products and services that Guzman Energy sells and manages span capacity, energy, transmission and renewable attributes. Guzman Energy provides customized electricity solutions for 24/7 reliable power and works to empower customers' communities.

KCEC & Guzman Energy: Partners Since 2016

KCEC's goals in working with a new wholesale power partner were to:

- Stabilize their wholesale cost of power; KCEC's wholesale rates had been raised at least 10 times over the 12-year period preceding its exit from its legacy G&T supplier
- Restore local decision-making and control over power choices like local generation and renewables
- Contribute to New Mexico's statewide objective to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 45% by the year 2030
- Be over 70% renewable energy powered by 2028, and ultimately 100% renewable energy powered



By KCEC leaving their legacy G&T cooperative supplier and partnering with Guzman Energy as exclusive wholesale power provider, KCEC has:

- Saved the KCEC membership an estimated \$150-170 million over the Guzman Energy contract lifetime
- Stabilized the wholesale cost of power with fixed rates offering price certainty
- Planned for or brought online almost 50 MW of local solar power generation along with storage assets whereas they'd previously been limited to 5% local generation of needed supply
- Achieved its goal to be 100% daytime solar powered
- Embarked on an ambitious clean hydrogen project thought to be the first one of its kind in the United States

Guzman Energy's business is strong and expanding. Guzman Energy is now contracted to serve 15 wholesale customer loads spanning seven cooperatives as well as several municipalities and tribes. Guzman Energy wholesale customers are based in New Mexico, Colorado and Montana with expansion planned in other states.

The Guzman Energy and KCEC Leadership Teams have viewed the partnership as something that goes far beyond power. It's about innovating and working together to meet the needs of the community.

Balance Sheet

Consolidated Balance Sheet

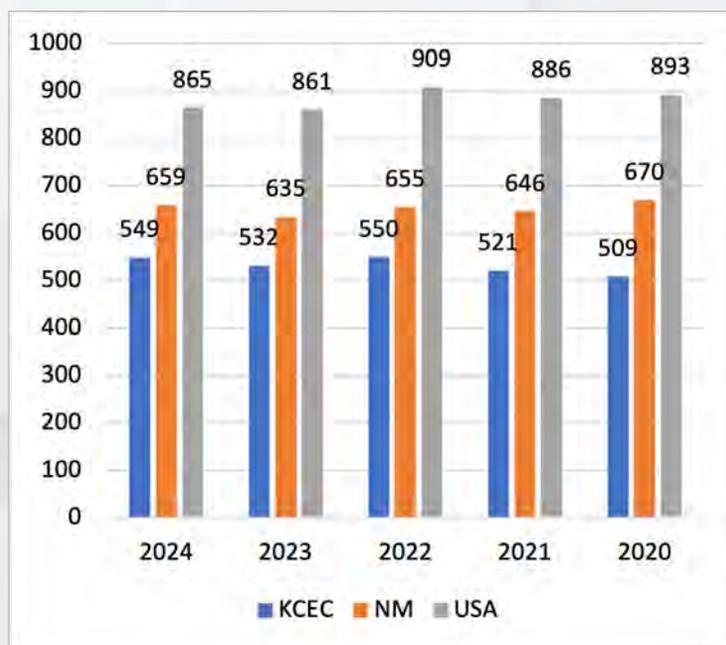
Assets

Utility Plant in Service	174,703,660
Construction Work in Process	3,031,679
Total Utility Plant	177,735,339
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	81,820,878
Net Utility Plant	95,914,461
Non Utility Plant	37,857,023
Investments - Assoc. Organizations	3,639,752
Total Other Property & Investments	41,496,775
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,097,293
Accounts Receivable	20,066,948
Materials & Supplies	3,900,949
Prepayments & Other Assets	1,340,893
Total Current & Accrued Assets	26,406,083
Operating Lease Right-of-Use Assets	4,743,672
Finance Lease Right-of-Use Assets	47,269,683
Deferred Assets	3,995,831
Total Noncurrent Assets	56,009,186
Total Assets	219,826,505

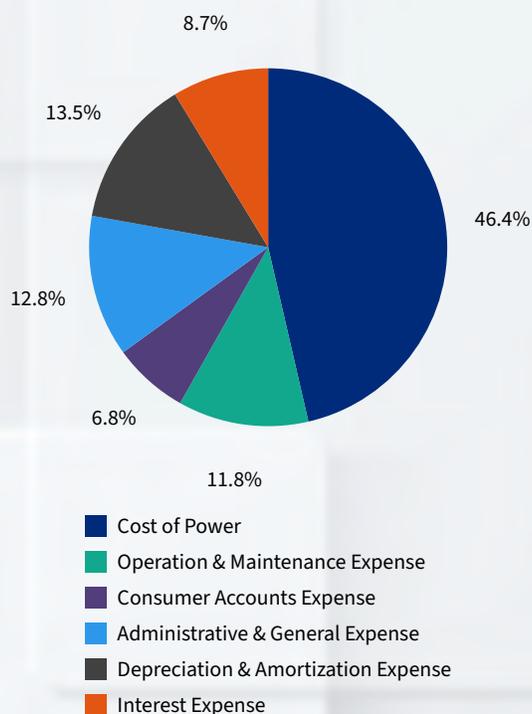
Equities and Liabilities

Patronage Capital	52,523,097
Other Equities	1,947,233
Total Equities	54,470,330
Long Term Debt	91,547,098
Finance & Operating Lease Liabilities	48,814,252
Deferred Tax Liabilities	28,419
Total Long Term Liabilities	140,389,769
Accounts & Notes Payable	7,484,652
Current Maturities of Long Term Debt and Lease Liabilities	10,907,893
Accrued Liabilities	5,131,564
Consumer Deposits	351,703
Total Current Liabilities	23,875,812
Deferred Credits	1,090,594
Total Equities and Liabilities	\$219,826,505

Average Monthly Usage (kWh)



Income Statement Breakdown



Income Statement

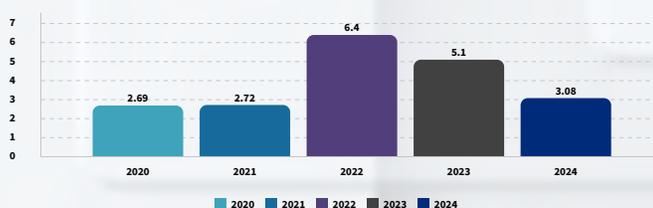
Electric Income Statement

Revenue	\$	46,963,491
Expenses:		
Cost of Power		19,409,849
Operation & Maintenance Expense		4,932,910
Consumer Accounts Expense		2,859,198
Administrative & General Expense		5,356,268
Total Operations & Maintenance		32,558,225
Depreciation & Amortization Expense		5,637,109
Interest Expense		3,644,032
Total Cost of Electric Service		41,839,366
Operating Margins		5,124,125
Interest Income		35,696
Non Operating Margins - Other		(124,706)
Other Capital Credits		665,550
Patronage Capital or Margins \$		5,700,665

Operations & Maintenance Expense

Year	Operation & Maintenance Expense
2020	\$ 3,971,318
2021	\$ 3,684,846
2022	\$ 4,549,814
2023	\$ 4,820,565
2024	\$ 4,932,910

Year	Outage Hours Per Customer
2020	2.69
2021	2.72
2022	6.40
2023	5.10
2024	3.08



KCEC Awarded Funding

Electric

Description	Amount
CREBS	\$5,000,000
USDA RUS Command Center	\$2,860,000
US DOE IRA Angel Fire Energy Facility Tax Credit	\$4,000,000
Nothern NM College Micro Grid Demo	\$853,700
NM EV VW Settlement Grant	\$200,119
NM DOT EV Charger LV 3 Grant	\$800,000
US DOE GRIP Grant	\$23,175,698
EMNRD Tree Trimming Maintenance	\$125,000
KCEC/ICAST Taos Pueblo Solar	\$10,000,000
Congressional Direct Spending Grant	\$625,000
USDA RUS Green Hydrogen Grant	\$231,000,000
Total	\$278,639,517

Broadband

Description	Amount
USDA	\$64,000,000
RDOF FCC	\$18,102,077
USDA Reconnect 3	\$31,499,982
NM PRC Broadband Drop Buildout	\$634,687
Total	\$114,236,746

In Progress

Total \$392,876,263

Description	Amount
KCEC/Jemez State of NM Broadband Connect	\$10,224,793
State of NM BEAD NTIA/NMOBAE	\$56,250,000
KCEC/Jemez State of NM Broadband Pilot	\$12,058,476
Total	\$78,533,269

Grand Total \$471,409,532

Commitment to Community

Kit Carson Electric Cooperative demonstrates a strong and enduring commitment to the communities it serves across northern New Mexico. As a member-owned cooperative, KCEC places local needs at the forefront of its mission, investing in initiatives that promote economic development, sustainability, and quality of life. The cooperative supports educational programs, sponsors local events, and leads efforts in renewable energy to ensure a cleaner, more resilient future. By prioritizing transparency, accessibility, and reliable service, KCEC fosters a sense of trust and partnership with its members, reinforcing its role not just as a utility provider but as a cornerstone of community well-being and progress.



Scholarships



Investing in Our Future Students

In 2025, KCEC awarded \$47,000 to 33 students, including five scholarships from KCP in its northern New Mexico service territory.



History of Giving To Education

KCEC has given approximately \$656,500 since its inception to students pursuing their dreams and aspirations!



Scholarship Recipients

Sierra Casias
Julianna Flores
Alexandra Gonzales
Lillianna Lavadie
Damariz Rascon
Alexandra Romero
Madeline Rowlison-Elliott
Damaris Sanchez-Paredes
Analy Rosas
Amadea Gallegos

Faith Lewis
Jesus Pacheco
Delilah Rael
Aliyah Santistevan
Jacob Vallejos
Erick Cordova
Kenneth Gallegos
Davina Gonzales
Katelynn Griego
Leandro Lopez
Isabella Garcia
Abbaleigh Muller
Maleah Velarde

Jude Martinez
StellaDean Lopez
Alayna Sandoval
Jezelle Chavira
Alyssa Vigil

Noelle Comtois
Cole Farmer
Alivia Farmer
Rowan Benjamin
Isaac Martinez

**KCEC, KCP & Guzman Energy
Providing Opportunities to
our Local Students!**

\$187,000 to Community & Counting!

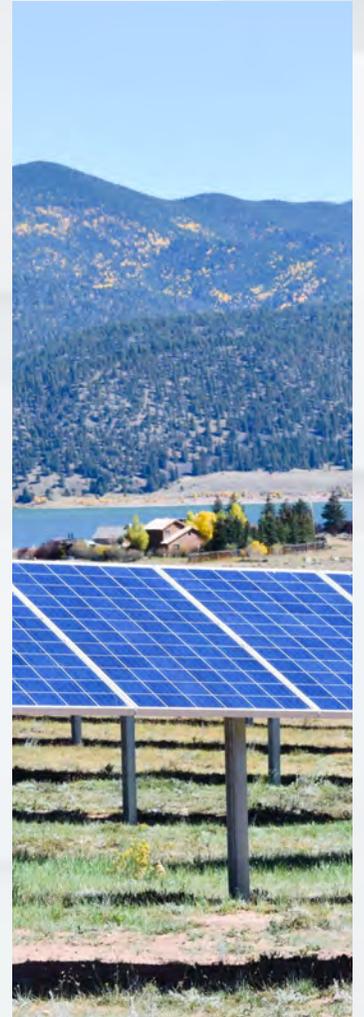
KCEC contributed over \$187,000 in-kind contributions for community projects throughout its service territory. Kit Carson Electric Cooperative continues to provide services for the better quality of life members deserve in our local rural communities. For a complete list of donations and contributions, visit us at kitcarson.com

- Holy Cross Medical Center
- True Kids 1
- Arroyo Seco Community Center
- Talpa Community Center
- Cerro VFW
- Cañon Mutual Domestic Water Association
- Rodarte Mutual Domestic Water Association
- Shuter Library of Angel Fire
- Questa Library
- Costilla Neighborhood Association
- Peñasco Valley Historical Preservation Society
- Upper Des Montes Domestic Water Association
- Lower Des Montes Domestic Water Association
- El Prado Community Center
- Rio Lucio Mutual Domestic Water Association
- Taos Historical Museum
- Red River Community House
- El Salto Domestic Water Consumer Association
- Eagle Nest Learning Lab



Advancing Forward

KCEC is expanding its renewable energy and broadband infrastructure to better serve its members. The cooperative is exploring innovative solutions to improve reliability and resilience. KCEC is advancing its initiatives, which include the development of additional solar and battery facilities, microgrids, and clean hydrogen energy solutions.



KCEC Distributed Energy Resources

KCEC Total Current Generation



Solar
41.2 MW



Battery
16.25 MW



Battery Duration
32.50 MWh

2025 KCEC Total Projected Generation



Solar
55.6 MW



Battery
37.9 MW



Battery Duration
108.25 MWh

KCEC Solar Fleet

<u>KCEC Solar Array</u>	<u>Date COD</u>	<u>Size AC</u>
UNM -Taos Array	2009	445 kW
KCEC Array	2010	82 kW
KTAO Array Canopy	2010	38 kW
Penasco Schools	2010	50 kW
Taos High School	2010	50 kW
Chevron	2010	1,050 kW
Taos Eco Park Canopy	2011	60 kW
Amalia Array (RCCLA)	2012	1,250 kW
Taos Charter School	2012	100 kW
Blue Sky Energy	2012	1,250 kW
Eagle Nest Elementary	2015	100 kW
Tres Piedras Solar Array	2017	2,000 kW
Picuris Pueblo (Penasco, NM)	2017	1,000 kW
Eagle Nest Lake, NM	2018	1,040 kW
Northern NM College (EL RITO, NM)	2019	1,500 kW
Town of Taos Waste Water Treatment	2019	3,000 kW
El Rito NM North Questa	2020	1,500 kW
TOT Waste Water Treatment(TOT)	2021	1,000 kW
Net Metering (696)	ongoing	3,160 kW
Taos Mesa Solar	2022	15,000 kW
Angel Fire, NM Solar	2023	7,500 kW
Total		41.2 MW

<u>KCEC Battery Storage</u>	<u>Size AC</u>
Taos Mesa Battery (2022)	12,500 kW
Angel Fire, NM Battery (2023)	3,750 kW
Total	16,250 kW

<u>KCEC Solar Projects In Progress</u>	<u>Size AC</u>	<u>Capacity MWh</u>
Amalia II Solar (2025)	8,750 kW	17.5 MWh
Taos Pueblo Solar (2025)	5,000 kW	20 MWh
Picuris Pueblo (2025)	675 kW	38.25 MWh
Total	14,425 kW	75.75 MWh

<u>KCEC Battery Projects in Progress</u>	<u>Size AC</u>	<u>Capacity MWh</u>
Amalia II Battery (2025)	8,750 kW	17.5 MWh
Taos Pueblo Battery (2025)	5,000 kW	20 MWh
Migrogrid Project	7,900 kW	38.25 MWh
El Rito West ,Taos Ski Valley		
Picuris Pueblo, NM		
Total	21,650 kW	75.75 MWh

Wildfire Mitigation

KCEC is actively implementing wildfire prevention measures for 2025. The region's lack of precipitation during winter heightens the risk of wildfires. KCEC will systematically and proactively carry out its tree trimming and maintenance program and build wildfire mitigation microgrids to reduce fire hazards in preparation for the upcoming months. This ongoing work is crucial for the safety and well-being of our communities. Some of these wildfire measures include:

Vegetation Management - Regular clearing of brush, trees, and vegetation near rights-of-way and power lines to prevent contact that could spark fires.

System Hardening

- Replacing wood poles with fire-resistant materials.
- Installing covered conductors and undergrounding lines in high-risk areas.
- Using fault protection and fast-acting fuses to minimize the duration of sparks.

Grid Modernization

- Implementing Smart Grid technology to detect faults and shut down power faster.
- Enhanced system monitoring with SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) systems.
- Preemptively placing system on non-reclose in high wind or dry conditions to prevent ignitions.

Community Collaboration

- Partnering with local fire departments and emergency services.
- Conducting community outreach and preparedness education.

KCEC Microgrid Benefits for Wildfire Mitigation



Resilient Power Supply

- **Isolated Operation (Islanding):** Microgrids can disconnect from the main grid during wildfires to continue powering critical infrastructure (hospitals, emergency shelters, communication systems).
- **Minimized Outages:** In fire-prone areas where utilities preemptively shut off power to prevent ignitions, microgrids can maintain local electricity supply.

Reduced Wildfire Ignition Risk

- **Less Dependence on Long-Distance Transmission:** KCEC Microgrids reduce the need for high-voltage lines traversing forests and dry terrain, which can be a source of ignition during high-wind events.

Support for Firefighting and Emergency Services

- **Power for Pumps and Water Systems:** Reliable local power ensures fire suppression systems, such as water pumps or hydrants remain operational during emergencies.
- **Support Base Operations & Communications:** KCEC Microgrids can power firefighting base camps, temporary shelters, and command centers even if the larger grid is offline. Keep communications and members requiring power for medical life saving devices online in rural areas.



Kit Carson Electric Cooperative

Microgrid Project

Strengthening Energy Resilience in Northern New Mexico

Why It Matters?

- Over 30,000 KCEC members utilize essential services that enhance their daily lives
- The region is facing a rise in wildfires and severe weather events.
- Vulnerable populations depend on uninterrupted power
- Power for essential services: dialysis, oxygen machines, businesses, schools

Community Benefits

- **Emergency Power:** Hospitals, fire stations stay online
- **Prevent Wildfires:** Reduce grid stress in high-risk areas
- **Economic Stability:** Keeps small businesses & schools running
- **Jobs & Training:** Building the clean energy workforce
- **Environmental Protection:** No emissions, low noise, recyclable materials

Project Snapshot

- 7.5 MW / 38.25 MWh Battery Storage
- 3 Sites: Taos Ski Valley, Penasco, El Rito West
- Partner: PowerSecure (2.5 GW microgrid experience)
- \$23M DOE Grant: \$15.4M federal, \$7.7M local cost-share

System Performance

- Backup Duration: ~4 hours at full discharge
- Cycle Life: 15–20 years before recycling
- Cost to You: No increase in electric bills
- Toxicity: No cobalt, minimal emissions even in fire scenarios

Microgrid System in Action

- LFP (Lithium Iron Phosphate) Batteries: Long-life, low fire risk
- 24/7 Monitoring & Maintenance
- Fire Safety Systems: Stat-X™ aerosol, Dry-pipe sprinklers, Thermal barriers & deflagration panels

Your Questions Answered

- **Will the system interfere with nature?** No, it blends into the landscape and protects wildlife habitats.
- **Can it explode or overheat?** No, multiple safeguards are in place.
- **What if there's a fire?** Immediate alerts, advanced suppression systems, and training for firefighters.

Contact & More Info

- Contact: Richard Martinez
- Email: rmartinez@kitcarson.com
- Phone: (575) 758-2258

www.kitcarson.com



Kit Carson Electric Cooperative Amalia II Solar & Battery

Overview and Strategic Importance of Amalia II Project

Project Launch and Scope

On April 24, 2025, Kit Carson Electric Cooperative (KCEC) formally broke ground on its Amalia II Solar & Battery Energy Storage Facility, located in Amalia, NM, near the scenic Sangre de Cristo Mountains. This facility will feature:

- 8.75 MW of solar photovoltaic (PV) generation
- 8.75 MW / 17.5 MWh of battery storage
- The Amalia II installation will be constructed next to the existing 1.25 MW Amalia I facility, and together these projects will help elevate KCEC's total renewable portfolio to approximately 52 MW of solar and 25 MW of battery storage capacity, making it the second-largest solar installation within KCEC's territory

Construction Timeline and Partnerships

The project is scheduled to begin construction in June 2025 and is being realized in collaboration with:

- RCCLA (Rio Costilla Cooperative Livestock Association): Local land partner and community advocate.
- Luminace: Project developer and long-term energy supplier via a 25-year Power Purchase Agreement (PPA).
- Guzman Energy: KCEC's wholesale energy provider, managing operations and battery dispatching.

Community-Driven Collaboration

The project sits on leased land from RCCLA, whose membership includes local ranchers, farmers, and hunters. RCCLA's involvement has been critical to:

- Ensuring sustainable land use.
- Preserving natural beauty and biodiversity.
- Protecting wildlife migration corridors.
- Considering agrivoltaic applications (combining agriculture and solar energy).

Environmental and Resilience Benefits

Beyond increasing renewable energy capacity, the Amalia II facility supports:

- Wildfire mitigation efforts.
- Grid reliability and energy resilience, particularly in a rural and mountainous region.
- Integration with three upcoming microgrid projects.
- Future incorporation of clean hydrogen to address non-daylight power demands.

Broader Impacts

This project illustrates KCEC's role as a leader in rural energy innovation, and provides a scalable model for other electric cooperatives. It blends: environmental conservation, technological advancement and long-term community investment. The strategic partnerships with RCCLA, Luminace, and Guzman Energy also reflect a shared commitment to building energy infrastructure that serves KCEC members.

Contact & More Info

- Contact: Richard Martinez
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www.kitcarson.com



Kit Carson Electric Cooperative Clean Hydrogen Project

A Bright Spot in Rural Economic and Energy Development

Project Overview

- Location: Questa, NM, Taos, NM and Penasco, NM
- Lead: Kit Carson Electric Cooperative (KCEC)
- Funding: \$231 million USDA award (grants + loans)
- Technology: Clean hydrogen via solar-powered electrolysis
- Capacity: 104 MW – enough to power 25,000 homes annually

Why Clean Hydrogen?

- From Liability to Asset: - Uses reclaimed water for clean energy.
- Leverages Local Strengths: 300 days of sun = ideal for solar-powered hydrogen production.
- Hard-to-Serve Area: Region lacks fossil resources – clean hydrogen innovation is essential.
- 100% clean hydrogen: solar + reclaimed water
- Aligned with NM’s zero-carbon by 2050 goal
- Supports long-duration storage (up to 16 hrs)

Economic Impact

- \$298 million in regional benefit (5 years)
- \$44 million in new tax revenue
- 350+ construction jobs, 70+ permanent jobs
- Supports EMS/fire services in wildfire-prone area

Supporters

- Governments: Questa, Taos, Red River, etc
- Healthcare & Education: UNM-Taos, Taos and Questa Schools, Holy Cross Medical
- Business & Nonprofits: Chambers, Economic Dev. groups
- Federal & State Leaders: Governor, Representatives & Senators

Safety is Priority

KCEC has launched a Hydrogen Safety Assessment Project to explore the safe and effective use of hydrogen as a clean energy source in Questa, Penasco, and the Town of Taos, NM. Details include:

- Hydrogen Safety Assessment: Detailed evaluation of public, operational, and safety risks.
- Process Hazard Analysis (PHA): Identifies risks and mitigation measures in the hydrogen facility design phase.
- Community Engagement: Ongoing public feedback and educational sessions to ensure transparency and community input.

Your Questions Answered

- What is hydrogen? A clean, abundant gas used for energy, created here via electrolysis.
- How is it Clean? Solar power drives the process, reclaimed water is used, no emissions from generation
- Is it safe? Yes—nontoxic, lighter than air (dissipates quickly), strict monitoring, safety protocols in place.

Contact & More Info

- Contact: Richard Martinez
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www.kitcarson.com



Our employees are the heartbeat and spirit of our cooperative.

Our team is dedicated to empowering communities by delivering electricity, high-speed internet, and propane with unwavering commitment.



MEET OUR TEAM

Accounting



From left to right: John Shafto-CFO, Marcos Tafoya-Junior Accountant, Cletus Stoflet-Accounting Manager, Ophelia Trujillo-Senior Accountant, Carla Mossman-Bookkeeper

CSR/Billing



From left to right: Sandra Cebada-CSR, Ariana Archuleta-CSR, Brianna Ortega-CSR, Lori Ortega-CSR, Dani Tafoya-Kesson-CSR, Annette Rael-CSR Supervisor, Rosemarie Apodaca-CSR, Victoria Trujillo-CSR

Administration



From left to right: Brianna Trujillo-Executive Secretary, Michelle Polanco-Receptionist, Ruby Alaniz-Receptionist, Rose Santistevan-General Secretary, Carmella Suazo-Assistant Manager

Dispatch



From left to right: Elizabeth Aguilar-3rd year Dispatcher, Jessica Garcia-3rd year Dispatcher, Lisa Muniz-4th year Dispatcher, Eve Trujillo-4th year Dispatcher
Not Pictured: PeggyRose Lucero-1st year Dispatcher

Collections



From left to right: Magdalena Pino-Cashier, Kathy Coca-Cashier & Collections Supervisor, Dalia Martinez-Greeter, Victoria Espinoza-Collections I, Betty Maes-Collections CSR, Leonard Griego-Meter Reader/Collector, Nelson Tafoya-Meter Reader/Collector

Engineering



From left to right: Kambrel Coleman-Staking Agent II, Brandon Bocanegra-GIS Mapping Technician, Tracy Chancellor-General Secretary, Jacob Tafoya-Staking Agent I, Andrew Valerio-Engineering Department Supervisor

MEET OUR TEAM

HR/PR/Safety



From left to right: Heather Nichols-HR Manager, Michael Santistevan-PR Coordinator, John Ortega-Interim Safety Coordinator, Jake Ortega-Custodian

Information Technology



From left to right: Daniel Trujillo-Chief Information Security Officer, Fred Garcia-Help Desk Support Specialist, Lorenzo Rael-SCADA Technician, Miguel Aguilar-Cybersecurity Analyst

Line Spotter



Pictured: Jordan Cardenas-Line Spotter Not pictured: Rodney Arellano-Line Spotter

Meter



Back row left to right: Ronnie Archuleta-3rd year Apprentice Meterman, Norbert Abeyta-Meter Reader, Matthew Chavez-Meter Reader, Adam Cordova-1st year Apprentice Meterman Front row left to right: Dandy Aguilar-3rd year Apprentice Meterman, Dwight Muller-4th year Apprentice Meterman, Pablo Vasquez-3rd year Apprentice Meterman, Giovanni Rodarte-4th year Apprentice Meterman, John Jaramillo-Meter Department Supervisor

Mechanics



From left to right: Marcus Mascarenas-Mechanic Helper, Armando Ortega-Mechanic, Jerry Chacon-Mechanic

Warehouse



From left to right: Paul Martinez-Warehouse Supervisor, Elias Montoya-Warehouse Helper, Victor Rael-Warehouseman

MEET OUR TEAM

Operations



Back row left to right: Alonzo Visarraga-Line Construction Supervisor, Joey Lopez-3rd year Apprentice Lineman, Fernando Trujillo-3rd year Apprentice Lineman, Orlando Dimas-3rd year Apprentice Lineman, Fidel Lopez-Lead Lineman, Michael Fernandez-Tree Trimmer, Jared Herrera-4th year Apprentice Lineman **Back middle row left to right:** Antonio Salazar-Lead Lineman, Edward Trujillo-Line Maintenance Supervisor, Darrell Vigil-Journeyman Lineman, Damian Duran-3rd year Apprentice Lineman, Raul Minchaca-Journeyman Lineman, Carlos Rivera-Lead Lineman, Jose Alan Granados Aboytes-Tree Trimmer, Antonio Garcia-Tree Trimmer **Front middle row left to right:** Matthew Suazo-Lead Lineman, Adrian Cardenas-2nd year Apprentice Lineman, Donaciano Medina-4th year Apprentice Lineman, Marcos Casias-Tree Trimmer, Bryce Romero-2nd year Apprentice Lineman **Front row left to right:** Jonathan Gonzales-1st year Apprentice Lineman, John Martinez Jr.-Tree Trimmer, Bryan Vigil-Line Equipment Operator, Austin Martinez-Lead Lineman **Not pictured:** Orlando Archuleta-Journeyman Lineman, Christopher Leyba-2nd year Apprentice Lineman, Tomas Romero-1st year Apprentice Lineman, JonMichael Velasquez-Line Equipment Operator

Safety Committee



The **Kit Carson Safety Committee** is a collaborative group comprised of representatives from three key sectors: Electric, Propane, and Internet services. This diverse committee includes both staff employees and those represented by collective bargaining agreements, ensuring a wide range of perspectives and expertise. In addition to these members, the committee features one representative from the Electric Board and one from the Propane Board, thereby enhancing its governance and oversight.

The committee convenes monthly to address safety concerns and initiatives, reflecting the Coop's unwavering commitment to prioritizing safety in all its operations. The primary objective of the committee is to foster, enhance, and promote a robust safety culture throughout the organization, ensuring that all employees and stakeholders are engaged in maintaining a secure and healthy work environment. By actively collaborating and sharing best practices, the committee aims to reduce risks and enhance safety standards across all areas of the Coop's operations.

MEET OUR TEAM

Kit Carson Internet



Back row left to right: Noah Romero-Fiber Optic Technician, Daniel Vigil-GIS/Mapping Technician, Diego Marquez-Cuevas-Fiber Optic Technician, Johnny Griego-Warehouse, Ray Lopez-Fiber Optic Technician, Brallan Garcia-Fiber Optic Technician **Middle row left to right:** Jordan Cisneros-Fiber Optic Technician, Jamie Muniz-Fiber Optic Technician, Joey Provencher-Help Desk Lead, Chris Abasta-Fiber Optic Technician, Jose Fonseca-Fiber Optic Technician, Ryan Ferguson-Operations Manager, Nathan Montoya-Lead Fiber Optic Technician, Isaiah Segura-Outside Plant Supervisor, Sam Kelly-Staking Agent/Estimator **Front row left to right:** Michael Archuleta-Estimator, Adelaida Dominguez-Voice Administrator, DeeAnn Jensen-Tier 1 ISP NOC Technician, Reyann Aguilar-Cashier/Receptionist, Sharon Garcia-CSR, Cassandra Trujillo-CSR, Francina Trujillo-CSR, Becky Martinez-CSR II, Emlyn Olguin-CSR, Nadine Varela-Assistant Manager, Michelle Roaque-CSR II, Jose Lovato-KCI Manager **Not pictured:** Luis Chavira-Lead Fiber Optic Technician, Miguel Martinez-Tier 1 Help Desk Technician, Cheyanne Romero-CSR, Laura Valerio-NOC Manager

Kit Carson Propane



Back row left to right: Tyler Gurule-Delivery Driver, Tommy Quintana-Delivery Driver, Jeremy Torres-Operations Manager, Jordan Banks-Technician, Nathaniel Padilla-Delivery Driver, Eugene Wilson-Lead Delivery Driver **Front row left to right:** Isaiah Trujillo-CSR II, Michelle Vigil-CSR III, Yvette Quintana-Bookkeeper, Debbie Trujillo-Baca-Accounts Receivable Assistant, Shannon Vigil-KCP Manager, Katalina Salazar-CSR

Contact



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PO Box 578, Taos, NM 87571

Main Office: (575)758-2258

Customer Service: (575)751-9064

Report Outage: (575)758-6100

Office Hours

Monday-Friday: 8:00 am-4:30 pm

Maintenance and Construction Hours: 7:00 am-3:30 pm

After Hours and Holidays: (575)758-6100

Automated Bill Pay: (575)751-8132

KCEC Mobile App - KCEC Coop on Android and iPhones



116 Cruz Alta Rd, Taos, NM 87571

Main Office: (575)758-4838

Office Hours

Monday- Friday: 8:00 am-4:30 pm



KCP Main Office

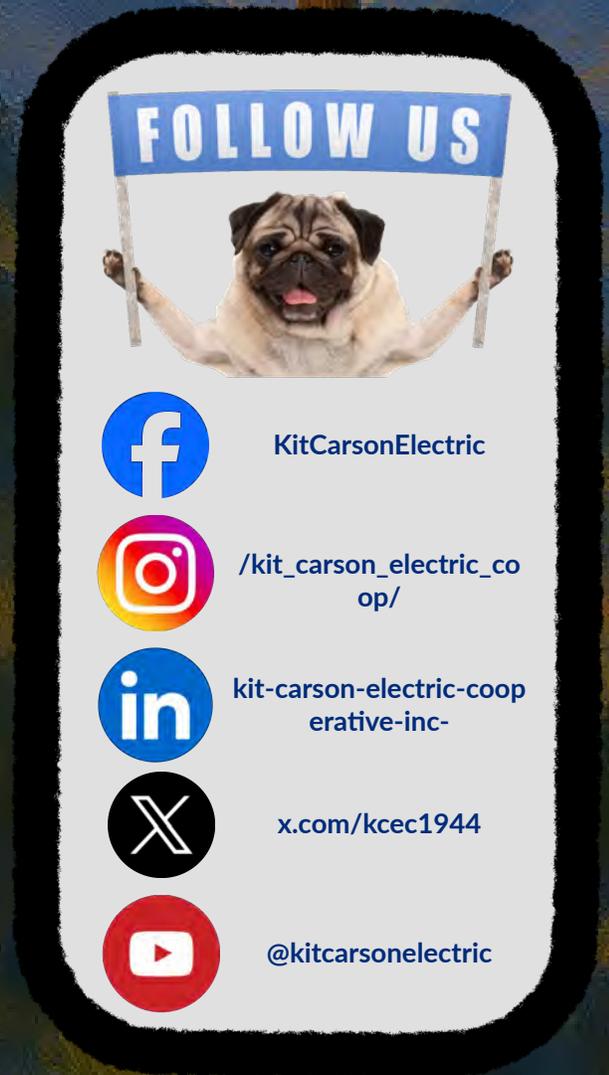
201 Cruz Alta Rd, Taos, NM 87571

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