

# Community Solar Program

Legislative Update

**Presented By:** NM Public Regulation Commission  
**Date:** November 17, 2025



# Program Momentum

- The Community Solar Program continues to gain traction statewide.
- Multiple projects are actively moving through development and nearing completion.
- Recent utility project tracker updates have improved visibility into project timelines and progress.
- Enhanced reporting capabilities allow for more accurate program monitoring and updates.



# Subscriber Readiness

- ✓ Subscriber enrollment has been ongoing across the state.
- ✓ Aim to have projects fully subscribed before they "go live"/energize/begin commercial operation to ensure strong project economics.
- ✓ Community engagement and outreach remain central to subscriber recruitment efforts.





## Community Impact Highlight

- **September 30**, Affordable Solar’s “**Cuidando Los Niños**” project celebrated its ribbon cutting.
- This marks the **first project in the Community Solar Program to go live!**
- The project demonstrates tangible community benefits and sets the stage for additional launches.



# What's Next

- According to utility reports, **10 additional projects** are anticipated to go live in **Q4 2025**.
- These projects represent a significant step toward scaling the program and delivering benefits to more communities.
- Ongoing coordination with developers and utilities will ensure smooth project transitions to operation.

PNM	SPS	EPE
Pino (ID 285)	Curry Road North (ID 270)	Bent Bow Solar (ID 176)
Global Give a Book (ID 215)	Ben Thomas (ID 331)	Wings for Life (ID 219)
Reynolds (ID 286)		SLT Las Cruces (ID 255)
Rockhound Sol (ID 424)		
Juniper Sol/Rancho Verano (ID 414)		



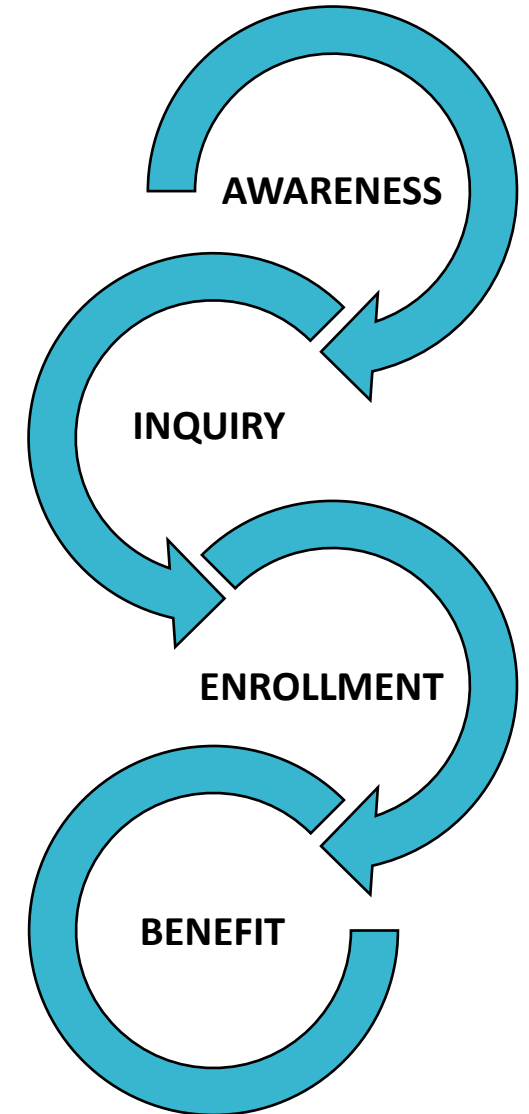
# Continued Program Growth

- Several additional projects are projected to **come online by December 2025**, resulting in more visible program outcomes in Q4.
- Each newly energized project will enable detailed tracking and reporting of:
  - % of energy (MWh) attributed to **low-income subscribers**
  - % of **overall community solar capacity** that is subscribed
- These data points will enhance program transparency and demonstrate equitable access.



# Outreach and Consumer Awareness

- Increased public awareness is generating more **calls and emails from residents** seeking information and legitimacy confirmation.
- The Commission and program partners are addressing these inquiries to maintain **consumer confidence and protect participants**.
- Continued focus on **clear communication, consumer education, and program credibility**.



# Low-Income Education & Outreach

- Program Administrator, InClime, subcontracted with Coalition of Sustainable Communities New Mexico (CSCNM) for low-income education and outreach.
  - CSCNM utilizes a train-the-trainer model designed to equip low-income serving organizations and municipalities with tools to educate their constituencies about the New Mexico Community Solar Program.
- CSCNM has:
  1. developed a webpage for education and outreach efforts (<https://www.coalitionscnm.org/community-solar>)
  2. hosted over a half a dozen webinars, reaching almost 50 attendees, with more planned
  3. distributed flyers at several in-person events in Santa Fe and ABQ, with additional events planned
- InClime is working with New Mexico Health Care Authority (HCA) and National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) to implement NREL's Clean Energy Connector Tool—enabling NM LIHEAP participants to indicate that they would like to be contacted by a community solar provider about subscribing to community solar.





# Community Solar Rulemaking Efforts

1. The Commission convened **Community Solar rulemaking workshops** to refine program design.
  - a) Working groups focused on:
    - i. SBC Methodology
    - ii. Project Selection Procedures
    - iii. Potential Amendments
    - iv. Low-Income Subscriber Concerns
2. Working from **March to August**, the stakeholders, including utilities and subscriber organizations, provided feedback on proposals.
3. Proposals were presented to the Commissioners at an **all-day public stakeholder rulemaking session held on November 6**—Commissioners reviewed, discussed the pros/cons, & provided feedback on the proposals.
4. **Next Steps** — PRC will draft a proposed rule based on workshop findings—incorporating potential alternatives where multiple options exist—and issue a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR) to begin the formal comment and hearing process under the State Rules Act.



# Key Takeaways

- Program **momentum** continues with multiple projects on track for energization by year-end 2025.
- New data will enhance reporting on equity and subscription performance.
- Continued outreach ensures trust and understanding—Increasing public interest.
- Regulatory workshops are shaping the next phase of program refinement and sustainability.



# Legislative Priorities

- ✓ Distinguishes between the duties and responsibilities of the commissioners and the agency's administrative and technical functions.
- ✓ Updates and streamlines statutory language for consistency and transparency, providing the agency with greater flexibility as to internal organizational structure, while preserving existing statutory responsibilities.
- ✓ Clarifies and expands opportunities for continuing education requirements for commissioners.
- ✓ Creates a dedicated fund to support regulatory activities and oversight.
- ✓ Revises how collected fees are allocated.



# Self-Fund Impact on Commission Efficacy

- Adequate, dedicated funding through inspection and supervision fees (from Utilities) ensures stable and predictable funding.
- Stable revenue allows investment in staffing, technical expertise, data systems and analytical tools, and long-term oversight—critical for better decision-making for complex energy, telecom, and water regulation.
- Utility fees are protected from being reallocated for other purposes, ensuring that the money collected is used solely for PRC regulatory activities.
- Self-funding ensures the Commission’s mission—protecting ratepayers and ensuring reliable, safe utility service—is not compromised by budget politics or lobbying influence.

