



SOVEREIGN ENERGY

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**Picuris
Pueblo**

New Mexico Community Solar Act

Senate Bill 84

Community solar development was not supported by all electric utilities, and Tribes did not have equal opportunity to pursue community solar without enabling legislation.

Community solar legislation directing state-regulated utilities would ensure that all Tribes are able to develop economically-viable projects.

Tribal members subscribe to the community solar array & receive credits on their electricity bills

Tribally-owned community solar array



Benefits of Tribal Community Solar Development

- Offset electrical costs for tribal buildings and homes
- Become a source of economic development
- Provide new job skills for community members in the area of solar installation, maintenance, and repair
- Energy self-sufficiency and reliability
- Grid resiliency
- Energy sovereignty and independence
- Reduce and mitigate climate change risk to preserve the climate and sustain cultural practices

Tribal Community Solar Task Force

- Meaningful Tribal consultation
- Devise legislative & recommendations envisioning power and benefit for tribal communities and environmental benefits

In New Mexico, community solar legislation positions Tribes as the leaders in renewable energy while providing economic development to their communities.

Community Solar Act Rulemaking

Community Solar Act mandates the PRC to:

“solicit input from relevant state agencies, public utilities, low-income stakeholders, disproportionately impacted communities, potential owners or operators of community solar facilities, Indian nations, tribes and pueblos and other interested parties in its rulemaking process” [Section 7 (D) (p.11)].



A Just Energy Transition

- Economic development and diversification
- Energy sovereignty & energy self sufficiency--renewable energy leadership
- Reduce and control electric costs for Tribal administration and Tribal members
- Grid resiliency and reliability
- Job creation and workforce development
- Community well-being and success—Presents opportunity to re-invest within the community
- Environment and climate change—Minimizing environmental impact of energy use to mitigate environmental harm impacting Native culture and Indigenous peoples
- Water preservation



Our Vision: To center Tribal energy sovereignty and Indigenous voices within the renewable energy transition to enable energy reparations and sustainability for Indigenous Peoples.

Our Mission: Sovereign Energy seeks to enable a just energy transition through advocating for Indigenous energy sovereignty prioritizing meaningful consultation, education, and outreach. We strive to be a trusted resource for renewable energy policy development and implementation which impact Indigenous Nations and community members while also providing expertise on renewable energy project development. We hold ourselves accountable to being trusted partners with intersectional efforts to enable all aspects of Tribal sovereignty and the rights of Indigenous peoples.



Organizational Goals

- Increase Tribal capacity, including general education about renewable energy project development, financing, and technical feasibility
- Engage in legislative and regulatory affairs at Tribal, state, regional, and federal levels as applicable
 - Provide information about current policy development and how it will apply to Tribal nations
 - Identify new opportunities for policy advocacy
 - Support and lead ongoing Tribal consultation processes as necessary
- Diversify co-op board representation that provide electricity service to Tribal communities
- Support Tribal Nations in Tribal utility development through facilitating education and information access



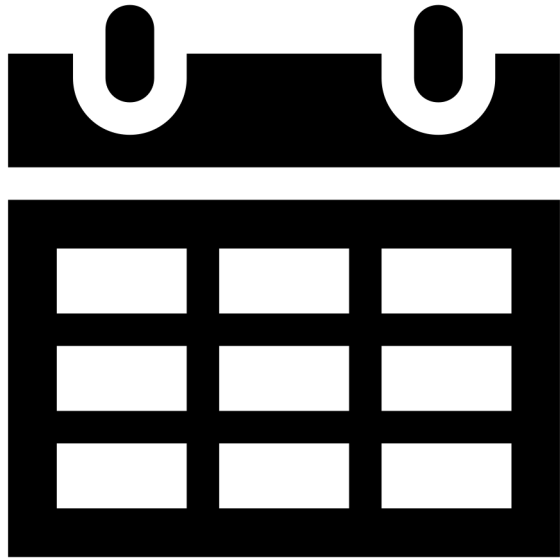
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Organizational Goals

- Identify and engage in new or ongoing opportunities for energy democracy serving Indigenous peoples and to increase access to clean energy technology
- Identify and engage in new and ongoing opportunities to mitigate environmental injustice that impacts our Indigenous peoples
- Support parallel and intersectional efforts that seek to help enable Tribal energy sovereignty and the rights of Indigenous peoples



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**Save
the Date**

**New Mexico
Tribal Solar
Economic Forum**

**October 14-15, 2021
Hyatt Tamaya**





Thank You!

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