

YOUTH UNITED FOR CLIMATE CRISIS ACTION



2021 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

1. COMMUNITY SOLAR **REP. ROYBAL CABALLERO & SEN. STEFANICS**

Community Solar allows multiple individuals, households, or businesses to become a subscriber in a community solar array thereby sharing the cost-saving benefits of a large-scale solar array regardless of income or home/property ownership. Native American tribes, organizations, municipalities, counties, for-profit and nonprofit entities, including low-income service organizations, will be authorized to transact to construct, own and operate community solar generation facilities, or contract with others to do so. Solar energy is one of the lowest-cost energy solutions on the market. 19 states have laws allowing community solar programs.

2. LOCAL CHOICE ENERGY **SEN. SHENDO & SEN. STEINBORN**

Local Choice Energy opens up New Mexico's electricity markets to competition and puts local communities in control of who supplies their energy. It would allow any local community to pool their electricity demand and create a local utility, who works with the investor owned utility in the service area to transmit and distribute that electricity. NM has two investor-owned (IOU) monopolies and a majority of residents in NM are forced to use PNM and El Paso electric even though we'd rather not pay for their gas, coal, or nuclear energy portfolios. The bill would make it legal for communities and Tribal Nations to create utilities and decide where our energy comes from, produce our own energy, and keep energy dollars circulating in our local and state economies instead of shipping energy profits off to Wallstreet.

3. PRODUCED WATER AMENDMENTS **SEN. SEDILLO LOPEZ**

HB546 The Fluid Oil & Gas Waste Act passed in 2019 providing a path for the NMED to regulate the use and sale of fracking waste water "Produced Water" to be used for other uses. YUCCA does not condone use of fracking wastewater or the excessive use of freshwater resources in New Mexico. The 2021 amendments are still being finalized, but essentially will explicitly prohibit any roadway or agricultural use and make spills illegal with enforceable penalties which is a step forward to holding industry accountable for its its damage to lands and waterways.

4. HAZARDOUS WASTE ACT AMENDMENTS

In order to further address the dangers of produced water, this bill will simply amend the Hazardous Waste Act so that produced water is no longer named as one of the substances except from Hazardous Waste regulation.

5. THE GREEN AMENDMENT

**REP. FERRARY, SEN. SEDILLO
LOPEZ & SOULES**

This bill would amend the New Mexico Constitution (Article II) in order to add enforceable environmental rights, specifically the “right to a clean and healthy environment, including pure water, clean air, healthy ecosystems, and a stable climate, and to the preservation of the natural, cultural, scenic and healthful qualities of the environment” for both present and future generations. It is a constitutional amendment, so the bill would go to a statewide referendum and NM voters to vote to adopt into the NM Constitution.

6. ECONOMIC TRANSITION RELATED BILLS

NEW MEXICO FUTURE JOBS & ECONOMY PROSPERITY ACT **REP. RUBIO**

Based on recommendations from the NM Clean Energy Workforce Report to advance equitable development of green jobs and facilitate the transition to a sustainable state economy.

SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY TASKFORCE

SEN. STEWART

Establishes a sustainable economy task force to develop a strategic plan to transition the state's economy away from reliance on natural resource extraction and achieve carbon neutrality.

7. 16 VOTE

REP. MARTINEZ

This bill would lower the voting age from 18 to 16 years old for local elections in NM. Young people deserve to have a say in the decisions that affect them in all realms of society from representation on our school boards to the State Legislature. The working age is 16 years, making young people contributors to our tax base. And additionally, with looming crises such as climate change and ecological collapse threatening our planet, we believe that it is crucial for the generations who will be most impacted by these threats to have a say in determining our collective response. There are 4 US cities with a voting age of 16.