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Energy Demand, Grid Resilience, and Community Impacts in the Four Corners Region

How Energy and Economic Changes Create Pressure

- Coal plant and mine closures have reduced local power generation and affected workers and families.
- The region depends on large transmission lines, which help deliver electricity across New Mexico and to other states.
- More industries, buildings, and systems are using electricity, which increases the need for strong and reliable power.
- New clean-energy projects need grid upgrades so they can connect and run safely.
- Population loss and job changes make it more important to grow new industries and career paths.

What This Means for Community Energy Costs

- Higher electricity bills if upgrade costs are shared widely.
- Power reliability issues if grid improvements do not keep up with demand.
- Delays in bringing new renewable energy or clean manufacturing projects online.
- Greater impacts on rural and Tribal communities that have fewer resources to absorb higher costs.

What This Means for New Mexico's Clean Energy Transition

- Planning transmission upgrades alongside new clean-energy projects.
- Making sure the grid stays reliable as energy sources change.
- Using existing energy skills to support new industries and careers.
- Ensuring local communities benefit from energy and infrastructure investments.

Decision Points Explained

- Grid upgrades should be planned and funded in ways that keep electricity affordable for families and small businesses.
- Transmission projects should support clean energy while maintaining a reliable power system.
- Energy investments should create local jobs and provide long-term benefits for the community.

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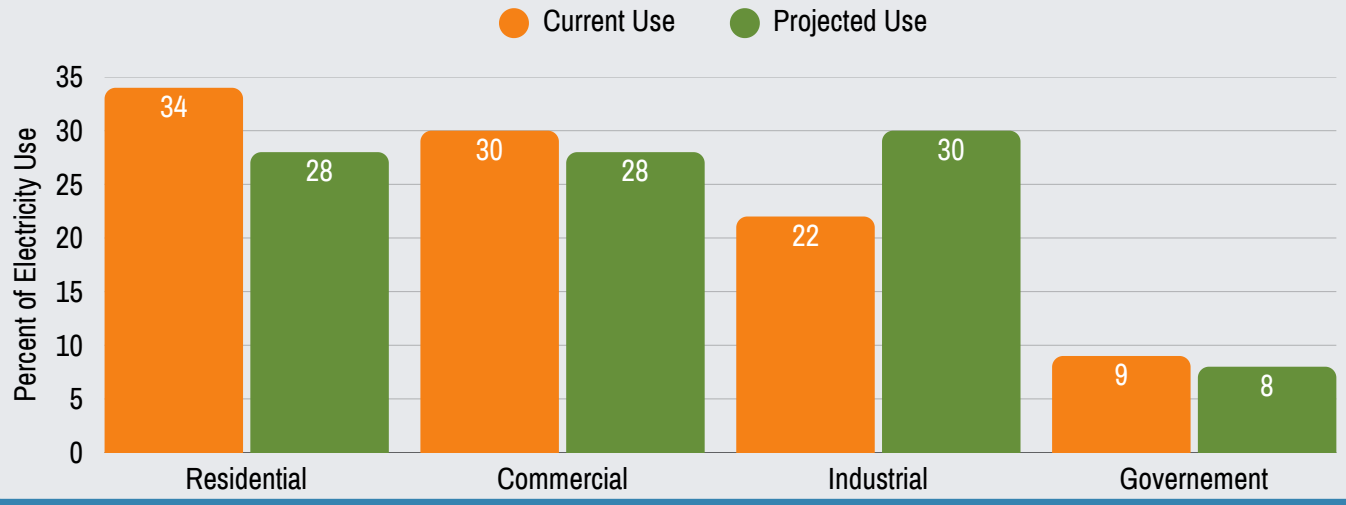
Energy Planning and Consultation on Rural Tribal Lands

Current vs. Projected Electricity Use by Sector in Northwest New Mexico in 10 years



Growing Regional Sectors

Advanced Manufacturing

Growth in transportation-related and supply-chain industries is increasing electricity demand across the region.

Energy Pilot Projects & Clean-Fuel Innovation

Emerging hydrogen, geothermal, and clean-fuel technologies require reliable power and new infrastructure to support testing and deployment.

Data Processing & Digital Operations

Data centers and digital services depend on round-the-clock electricity, adding steady, high capacity loads to the grid.

Tribal & Municipal Facilities

Local government and Tribal communities are expanding essential services, increasing the need for resilient, affordable power.

Key Insights

- Rising energy demand requires upgraded infrastructure and long-term planning.
- Without fair cost-sharing, communities may face higher electricity bills.
- Clean-energy expansion must align with grid capacity and transmission upgrades.
- New workforce opportunities are emerging in grid modernization, clean energy, hydrogen, and advanced geothermal.
- Better planning for forecasting can reduce community cost exposure and improve reliability.

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