

# Energy Planning and Consultation On Rural and Tribal Lands

## What This Means for Community Energy Costs

Many rural and Tribal households already face high energy costs. Without community involvement, energy system changes can lead to:

- Higher electricity bills
- Reliability challenge if upgrades do not keep pace with demand
- Delays in connecting local clean-energy or community scale projects
- Greater impacts on elders, fixed-income households, and small businesses
- Increase reliance on diesel generators during outages or peak demand

## What This Means for Reliability and Resilience

Reliable power is critical for health and safety. Rural and Tribal communities often face:

- Long power lines exposed to weather
- Limited backup power options
- Longer repair times during outages

## What This Means for New Mexico's Energy Transition

New Mexico's energy transition should move forward in partnership with rural and Tribal communities by:

- Respecting Tribal sovereignty and consultation
- Engaging communities early and often
- Supporting local energy solutions
- Connecting energy projects to local jobs and benefits

## What This Means for Rural and Tribal Communities

Rural and Tribal communities are at a decision point:

- Energy demand is increasing across many sectors
- Clean-energy projects are expanding across the state
- Transmission and distribution systems need modernization
- Community energy burdens remain high

## Decision Points Explained

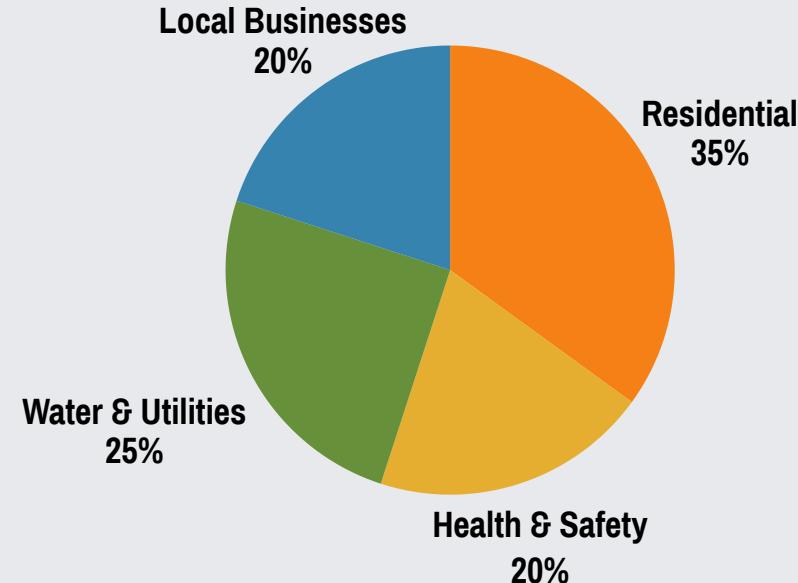
- Respect Tribal sovereignty and local leadership in energy decisions.
- Consult early, clearly, and throughout the process.
- Keep energy upgrades affordable for households and small businesses.
- Ensure energy projects deliver real community benefits.
- Treat Tribes and rural communities as long-term partners.



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## Current Community Electricity Use & Essential Service



## Guiding Principles for Energy Planning



### Community Role

Rural Tribal lands are central to New Mexico's system, hosting critical infrastructure that supports communities.



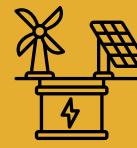
### Tribal Energy Leadership

Tribal leadership in clean energy can deliver energy security, revenue, and grid benefits.



### Investment & Incentives

Tribal land projects can access grants, tax credits, and incentives not available elsewhere.



### Local Energy Solutions

Community-scale solar and storage can lower costs and improve reliability.



### Sovereignty & Partnership

Respect partnerships and culturally appropriate assistance support Tribal energy decisions.

## Key Insights



- Electricity use is growing faster than local grids were designed for, increasing strain on rural and Tribal systems.
- Infrastructure upgrades can raise electricity bills if costs are not shared fairly or paired with protections for households.
- Outages affect essential services, including water systems, clinics, schools, and Tribal facilities, making resilience planning critical.
- Tribal lands hold a larger share of renewable resources than their land area—especially in New Mexico.
- Tribes are leaders in clean energy innovation, advancing projects that support sovereignty, resilience, and local economies.



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