



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Governor Bill Richardson Announces Historic Effort to Combat Climate Change

(Santa Fe, NM) - Governor Bill Richardson today launched New Mexico's historic effort to combat climate change. The Executive Order signed today mandates a thorough evaluation of ways to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, sets aggressive reduction goals, and creates the New Mexico Climate Change Advisory Group with broad industry and environmental representation.

"A group of national science academies from various nations including Brazil, China, India, Japan, Russia, and the United States has confirmed the science of global warming and climate change," said Governor Richardson. "Those groups agree that we must work together to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and if we don't act soon, the potential consequences could be devastating - from sea level change, to drought, to weather disasters. Without action at the federal level, states like New Mexico have a responsibility to address this important issue."

Scientists have found continued warming in New Mexico could result in:

- A reduction in water supplies
- Shorter and warmer winters with winter precipitation falling more often as rain
- Earlier snowmelts
- Greater water loss due to evaporation
- More wildfires
- More extreme weather events, such as drought and floods
- Higher energy costs for cooling in the summer, and greater risk of heat related illnesses
- Disruptions to natural habitats and ecosystems (bark beetle infestation, for example)

The Governor's Executive Order directs the New Mexico Climate Change Advisory Group (NMCCAG) to find ways to reduce New Mexico's total greenhouse gas emissions to 2000 levels by 2012, 10% below those levels by 2020, and 75% below 2000 levels by 2050. These goals are among the most aggressive in the nation.

The NMCCAG is made up of approximately 40 representatives from industry, agriculture, environmental nonprofits, tribes, universities and our national labs. It includes representatives of the Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM), Phelps Dodge, the New Mexico Farm Bureau, Angel Fire Ski Area, Duke Energy, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Sierra Club, Coalition for Clean and Affordable Energy, Navajo Nation, All Indian Pueblo Council, and the Municipal League.

"Addressing climate change not only protect future generations, it also strengthens our economy," said Governor Richardson. "The corporate world knows that actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on a national level are coming. Companies that are out ahead of this curve will be the ones to benefit in this future economy. GE knows this and so does PNM. Together, we can continue to move New Mexico forward, in ways that are environmentally and economically sustainable."

The Advisory Group's first meeting will be held in July and will include an in-depth discussion on the science of climate change. This event, and all future meetings of the group, will be open to the public.

For further information please contact Jon Goldstein, New Mexico Environment Department Communications Director, at (505) 827-0314.

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