



# State of New Mexico

## Office of the Governor

**Bill Richardson**  
Governor

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Contact: Jon Goldstein  
(Santa Fe) 505-476-2248

## **Governor Bill Richardson Proposes Far-Reaching Agenda on Energy and Water Issues**

*Solar Tax Credit, \$45 Million Water Investment Part of Legislative Proposals*

SANTA FE -- Governor Bill Richardson today announced his legislative agenda in the areas of clean energy and water infrastructure. This agenda is designed to ensure that New Mexico remains at the forefront of the new clean and renewable energy economy that is fast approaching as well as future water needs.

“I am proud that the legislature and I have been able to work together in the past three years to make New Mexico the Clean Energy State,” said Governor Richardson. “We have created incredible momentum and today we are recognized as a national leader on clean and renewable energy, environmental conservation and especially on water issues. New Mexico is moving forward and this year, we will do more.”

Governor Richardson’s legislative agenda includes:

### **Renewable Energy Transmission Authority**

This new agency will lead New Mexico’s efforts to develop its wind and solar resources. It will also put the pieces in place for New Mexico to market and deliver this power to other states.

“There is incredible potential here. California is hungry for clean energy,” said Governor Richardson. “And here we sit, 600 miles away, with up to 6,000 megawatts of high-quality wind potential in eastern New Mexico that we could sell if only we had transmission. Developing this market will help ranchers and rural communities. It will create jobs. And it will help us diversify our energy sources.”

### **Solar Tax Credit**

This will be a \$5 million a year program, to promote the solar industry in New Mexico and encourage New Mexicans to install new solar energy systems. Combined with existing federal help, this tax credit would mean about one third off the cost of a typical residential solar system.

### **Land Conservation Fund**

Governor Richardson supports creating a \$10 million land conservation fund with a portion of the proceeds from the existing Oil Conservation Tax. This funding will support land, wildlife, and clean energy projects and

create an important legacy for future generations. For example, this fund would help ranchers protect their land from development, fund local communities looking to create trails and provide a resource for hunters and anglers who want to protect wildlife habitat. And it will continue to boost new renewable energy jobs and investments throughout the state.

### **Investments in Water Infrastructure**

Both through Governor Richardson's capital outlay budget and the Water Trust Board New Mexico will invest more than \$45 million in needed water infrastructure projects across New Mexico. Further projects will be announced in the coming weeks. Today's list includes projects that fix leaks, promote water reuse and help conserve limited water resources. (See attached list)

### **Other Proposals**

Governor Richardson also announced support for efforts to protect landowners from the damaging results of oil and gas development, proposing a \$2 million revolving loan fund to help small dairies produce energy from dairy waste and a tax credit for clean energy manufacturers – people who want to build things and create jobs in the wind, solar, biomass, and hydrogen industries.

Governor Richardson also supports increasing investment in the Strategic Water Reserve, protecting New Mexico's land and water supplies by increasing oil and gas pit inspections, and investing \$3 million in needed improvements to our state parks.

“Now is the time to take the necessary steps to ensure that New Mexico remains at the forefront of the new clean and renewable energy economy,” said Governor Richardson.