



For immediate release
May 20, 2008

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Governor Bill Richardson, Board of Finance Approve New Environmental Policy

Policy Requires Energy and Water Efficiencies on Public Projects

SANTA FE – Governor Bill Richardson voted today with the other members of the state Board of Finance on a new Environmental Policy that will encourage public entities that require Board approval to use technologies that protect the environment, improve energy and water efficiencies, and incorporate sustainable development.

The Environmental Policy, proposed by new Finance Board member John Loehr, is an extension of Governor Richardson’s aggressive Clean Energy agenda, which among other things, requires energy efficient, green building standards for new executive agency construction.

“While we have established green building standards in state government, until now, we have not considered similar standards for other construction projects that rely on state funding or approval,” Governor Bill Richardson said. “I commend John Loehr for coming up with an innovative way to encourage further green building and, in turn, doing more to protect the environment.”

The Board of Finance will apply the new policy to:

- Activities requesting the State’s private activity bond allocation;
- General Services Department construction contract approval requests;
- Higher education capital expenditures requiring Board approval; and
- Tax increment development projects requesting the State’s increment

“This proposal is consistent with Governor Richardson’s policies and strategies,” Loehr said. “I think that we will soon conclude that we need to go even further in order to fulfill the Governor’s goals and do what’s in the best interest of the citizens of the state. I certainly appreciate Governor Richardson’s support on this.”

The Board of Finance will also explore other opportunities to apply the new Environmental Policy, including working with other investing agencies, including the State Treasurer’s Office, the State Investment Council, the Public Employee Retiree Association and the Educational Retirement Board.