

State of New Mexico Community Conversation Series:

State of New Mexico Community Conversation Series: *Planning for Climate Change and Building Resilience*

Tuesday, June 11, 2024 6:00pm -7:30pm

Virtual

ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

Welcome to the Virtual Community Conversation & Open House! This event is proudly brought to you by the State of New Mexico's Climate Policy Bureau and Department of Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources. Together, we aim to foster dialogue & collaboration on local issues, current efforts to address them, and which strategies & resources the State should prioritize in order to build a more resilient future for you and your community. Together, we will:

- Discuss on-going State level efforts to build resilience
- Spotlight local efforts to plan for climate change and build resilience in your community.
- Discuss how to improve resilience in your community.
- Share relevant programs and resources.
- Improve the State's Climate Adaptation & Resilience Plan (CARP) based on your feedback



State of New Mexico Community Conversation Series:

TODAY'S AGENDA

- 6:00 pm** **Formal Welcome & Overview of the Evening**
Welcome to the Community Conversation! We'll review our goals, ground rules, and what to expect during this evening's workshop
- 6:05 pm** **Small Group Introductions (Breakout Session)**
- 6:10 pm** **Interactive Survey**
- 6:20 pm** **About the State Resilience Plan**
Learn more about New Mexico's new Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan (CARP) and hear an inspiring example of local resilience in action.
- 6:35 pm** **"What's Most Important to You?": Exploring Resilience Themes & Strategies**
Visit two of the six resilience themes: community & culture, ecosystem & natural resources, health and wellness, water systems, infrastructure, and local economies. Share your priorities and help evaluate the State's plan. (See pages 7-10 of this workbook!)
- 7:25 pm** **Summary & Closing Remarks**
Recap what we've accomplished and how your comments will be incorporated into the State's resilience efforts.
- 7:30 pm** **Adjourn**
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State of New Mexico Community Conversation Series:

TODAY'S SPEAKERS



Robert Gomez, Sustainability and Resilience Officer, Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department

Robert has been a dedicated member of the New Mexico Department of Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources' Energy Conservation and Management Division since October 2020. With over 25 years of experience in environmental protection, he has collaborated extensively with tribal, federal, and state agencies. At the EMNRD Climate Policy Bureau, he has played a pivotal role in developing the NM Climate Risk Map tool and completing the climate resilience assessment for the Climate Change Task Force. An alumnus of New Mexico Highlands University with a degree in Natural Resources Conservation, Robert's academic and professional journey reflects his deep connection to New Mexico and commitment to sustainability.

Robert is born to Towering House Clan (Navajo Nation), born for Taos Pueblo (Tiwa). Robert grew up in Taos County, where he developed a profound appreciation for the natural world. His work champions the principles of inclusion, diversity, and reciprocity, ensuring that all voices are heard in the fight against climate change. His dedication to environmental stewardship and inclusive approach to climate resilience underscore his commitment to participating in creating a just and equitable future for all New Mexicans, and being a good ancestor.

Tess Ngochi, Resilience Coordinator, Energy Minerals, and Natural Resources Department



Tess joined the New Mexico Department of Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources, Energy Conservation and Management Division as the Resilience Coordinator in April 2024. She holds a bachelor's degree in environmental engineering from the University of Notre Dame. With nearly 3 years of experience as a wind engineer, she has contributed to the development of wind farms across the United States, driven by her passion for implementing sustainable solutions. She is eager to begin working on identifying climate risks to local governments and strategizing ways for them to adapt and thrive

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CONVERSATION AGREEMENTS¹

SPEAK YOUR TRUTH/ENCOURAGE DIALOGUE

It is important that you can be vulnerable, honest, and open with your thoughts. Sometimes, we may not speak up because we feel our experiences are undervalued or underappreciated. Provide encouragement for your peers to share.

LISTEN FOR UNDERSTANDING

Sometimes the best action we can take is deeply and actively listening. Listening deeply to folks who choose to be vulnerable is sometimes the best way to show support and contribute to the conversation.

BE CURIOUS

The work we are doing together is important and at the same time it is important to allow space for curiosity, creativity, and play. Sometimes we engage more deeply when we approach problems and challenges with questions and bring a genuine desire to grow with us into the space.

ONE VOICE, ONE MIC

Let's commit to having one person speak at a time. Please leave a few moments between speakers to allow space for folks to process. We are not fighting for airtime in a conversation.

MOVE UP, MOVE UP

If you're someone who tends not to speak a lot, please move up into a role of speaking more. If you tend to speak a lot, please move up into a role of listening more.

STAY ENGAGED

Make a personal commitment to remain emotionally, intellectually, and socially involved in the dialogue and the space. For example, prioritize the meeting space by not using technology.

BE AWARE OF TIME

Respect everyone's time and commitment to our space and time together. Please come back from breaks on time.

NO ONE KNOWS EVERYTHING; TOGETHER WE KNOW A LOT

This speaks to the fact that we all have room to grow, and we all have something to contribute to our space together. It's important to share questions as well as they provide learning opportunities that we all can learn from.

¹ **DEVELOPED BY:** Kimberly Barrett, Equitable Development Strategist **INSPIRED BY:** Diversity and Inclusion Handbook for Outdoor Educators by Monserrat Alvarez

State of New Mexico Community Conversation Series:

UNDERSTANDING CLIMATE CHANGE IN NEW MEXICO

Anticipating Climate Change Risks and Impacts

Understanding the climate risks facing New Mexico is paramount to proactively addressing the challenges presented by a changing climate. Communities across New Mexico are already dealing with the wildfires, droughts, floods, and extreme temperatures that come with increasing temperatures and variable precipitation patterns driven by climate change. The unique geography and diverse climates within New Mexico result in a complex climate risk profile, affecting government operations, critical infrastructure, natural resources, economies, culture, and the overall well-being of our residents. The effects of climate change are not uniform, and certain communities are more vulnerable due to systemic burdens, including environmental and socioeconomic inequities. Factors such as racial discrimination, economic distress, housing insecurity, limited access to healthcare, and chronic health conditions can exacerbate vulnerability. ***Partnerships with Tribes, local communities, and other stakeholders are essential to comprehensively address barriers impacting communities' ability to adapt and thrive.***

Key Climate Related Concerns

Water, Aridity, and Drought: New Mexico's rich history of water use and management faces challenges as warming temperatures lead to increased evaporation and decreased snowpack. Projections indicate a 25% decrease in surface water runoff and groundwater recharge in the next 50 years, affecting agriculture and ecosystems across the state.

Extreme Heat: Warming temperatures will result in more frequent and severe heat waves. By 2050, New Mexico may see twice as many dangerously hot days per year, with some areas experiencing even greater increases. Vulnerable populations, including older adults, children, and those with pre-existing health conditions, are at higher risk of heat-related illnesses.

Wildfires: The risk of wildfires, like those experienced recently, is projected to rise. Wildfires can directly impact people and property while also decreasing air quality and enhancing the risk of smoke inhalation and other health impacts.

Flooding: Flooding remains a concern, especially for properties in floodplains and areas susceptible to flash floods and landslides. Vulnerable communities, especially those with limited mobility or transportation challenges, are at the greatest risk.

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SHARE HOW YOU & YOUR COMMUNITY HAVE BEEN IMPACTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE

Overview

Weather and climate disasters like wildfires, extreme heat, prolonged drought, and floods have affected each of us, our family, our friends, and our neighbors in some way.

Visit the Climate Change station to:

1. Learn more about changing weather and climate conditions in your community, and
2. Share your personal experience with climate hazards.

Instructions

Reflect on an extreme weather or climate event that has affected you personally, your family, or your community. Consider the following questions:

- *Where were you?*
- *What happened?*
- *How were you affected?*
- *What did you do afterward?*

Write down your experiences on a post-it note and add it to the poster board. Feel free to post multiple thoughts & experiences.

Later on, we'll discuss how to build resilience to future weather and climate conditions. After you post your climate experiences, reflect on how you might reply to the following questions.

- *How did what happened affect you? How did it affect your family's health and wellbeing?*
- *What effects did you see across your community?*
- *Were some people more affected than others?*
- *What do you think could have been done differently before, during, and after the event?*
- *Were there any particular challenges that you overcame?*
- *What do you think you learned from this experience?*

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UNDERSTANDING RESILIENCE THEMES & STRATEGIES

New Mexico's State Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan (CARP)

Through a series of workshops held in 2023, attended by representatives from state agencies, we have developed a Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan (CARP) for the State. The workshops focused on fostering cross-departmental collaboration, enhancing understanding of climate impacts, and creating a shared framework for resilience efforts. This included State agencies grouping critical assets at risk of being adversely impacted by changing climate conditions, among other exercises.

As a result, the working group identified six resilience themes that represent important focus areas for building resilience statewide:

1. Community & Culture
2. Ecosystems & Natural Resources
3. Health and Wellness
4. Water systems
5. Infrastructure
6. Local economies

Resilience is the ability to adapt and thrive amidst change.

Working across these six **themes**, we can develop an **integrated approach** (e.g. list of **strategies**) that strengthens the resilience of our communities as they navigate the complexities of climate change, extreme weather events, and other disruptions that impact their ability to thrive and adapt. The success of this approach lies in recognizing the **interconnections among themes**. Consider wildfire impacts, for example: People rely on infrastructure for shelter, food, transportation, and healthcare services. If this infrastructure is damaged, it affects a community's ability to thrive.

Themes, Strategies, and Actions



30,000 ft.

Themes: Broad categories that include multiple strategies.
Example: Local Economies



5,000 ft.

Strategy: Broad statements that expresses **what** we will do to enhance resilience. **Example:** Support energy transitions needs in local communities.



1,000 ft.

Actions: Specific and discrete activities to implement a strategy and express **how** a strategy will be achieved.
Examples: Work with industry and local governments to identify workforce transition needs and create state programs that support reskilling and upskilling.

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DISCUSS HOW TO BUILD RESILIENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY & EVALUATE STRATEGIES

Overview

During the breakout session, you'll have an opportunity to visit two resilience themes. At each breakout station, you will discuss how climate change is affecting assets, resources, and people in that thematic area, the challenges this creates, and the opportunities to enhance resilience. You'll also vote on which strategies for building resilience are most relevant to your community and comment on why you would like to prioritize a strategy (or why not).

Instructions

1. Choose the resilience theme that is most relevant or interesting to you and go to the corresponding breakout station.
2. Share your perspective on the theme's discussion questions with the group (verbally or in writing).
3. Vote for the two (2) strategies for building resilience that you like best and use post-it notes to comment on the strategies.



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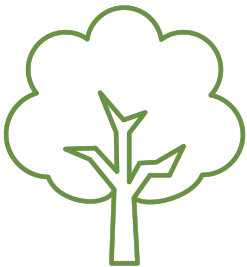
Community & Culture



This theme focuses on empowering communities to preserve and draw upon their cultural heritage (and where appropriate traditional knowledges) to foster social cohesion, community engagement, and collective action for resilience.

- How does climate change impact your community's culture and social connections?
- What cultural strengths or local traditions can strengthen community resilience in the face of climate challenges?
- How do we make sure resilience plans and strategies are inclusive and respect diverse cultures?

Ecosystems & Natural Resources



This theme addresses the protection, restoration, and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems to strengthen ecological resilience and support ecosystem services that benefit communities.

- How has climate change impacted nature in your community?
- What is needed to safeguard nature and boost its resilience to climate change?
- How can residents, local groups, and government collaborate to protect nature in a changing climate?

State of New Mexico Community Conversation Series:

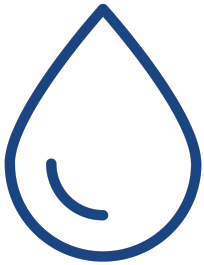
Health & Wellness



This theme prioritizes public health and well-being to build resilience in the face of pandemics, health crises, and both chronic and acute environmental health risks, ensuring access to healthcare services, mental health support, and effective disaster preparedness and response.

- How is the health and well-being of your community now, and what future challenges do you see?
- What does your community need to reduce health risks and increase resilience generally?
- What about during a natural disaster or climate event?

Water Systems



This theme focuses on safeguarding vital water resources, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility among communities, and supporting the cultural values and practices that are intertwined with water management.

- How are water systems in your community now, and what future challenges do you see?
- What is needed to make water systems more resilient to future climate conditions?
- How can your community ensure water is managed fairly in a changing climate?

Infrastructure & The Built Environment



This theme focuses on enhancing the resilience of physical infrastructure, including critical facilities, transportation networks, and utilities, to withstand and recover from various disruptions, including natural disasters and climate events, while also supporting daily activities.

- Have you noticed any changes in roads, bridges, or buildings due to recent climate events?
- What infrastructure improvements could help your community better withstand future climate conditions?

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Local Economies



This theme strengthens local economies by promoting economic diversification, supporting small businesses, fostering job creation, and encouraging sustainable economic practices resilient to external shocks and stressors.

- How is the local economy now, and what future challenges do you see?
- What is needed to help local businesses be more resilient to changing climate conditions?
- How can your community encourage diverse economic growth?

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Adaptation - refers to adjustments to human and natural systems that leverage opportunities and moderate adverse impacts of actual or expected climate (or other) changes.

Adaptive Capacity - the ability of people, institutions, systems, and communities to adjust and respond to impacts and take advantage of opportunities.

Assets - characteristics or resources that make it easier to perform core functions, manage affairs, and improve over time. Assets can be tangible (e.g., physical infrastructure or emergency vehicles) or intangible (e.g., social networks or neighborhood cohesion).

Built environment - man-made structures, features, and facilities viewed collectively as an environment in which people live and work.

Cascading impact - the direct impact of hazard events and/or crises generates a sequence of events resulting in physical, social, or economic disruption in other systems.

Climate adaptation - taking action to prepare for and adjust to both the current and projected impacts of climate change (like extreme heat, wildfire, or flooding) and making the most of any potentially beneficial opportunities associated with climate change.

Climate change - changes in global or regional climate patterns attributed largely to human-caused increased levels of atmospheric greenhouse gasses.

Climate resilience - the capacity of a system to maintain function in the face of stresses imposed by climate change and to adapt the system to be better prepared for future climate impacts.

Community resilience - the ability of communities to function so that the people living and working in them survive and thrive no matter what stresses or shocks they encounter.

Constraints - stressors, limitations, or deficits that make it difficult to perform core functions, manage affairs, and improve over time (e.g., aging infrastructure or outdated design, limited access to data and modeling, few internal opportunities, understaffing, limited administrative support).

Diversity - the range of human differences that shape identity, perspective, and experience such as age, physical ability, gender, beliefs, sexual orientation, and race/ethnicity.

Ecosystem Services - Ecosystem services produce the many life-sustaining benefits humans receive from nature that are important for human health and well-being. These services include, but are not limited to clean air and water, fertile soil, pollination, and flood control.

Emergency preparedness - the steps you take to make sure you are safe before, during, and after an emergency or natural disaster.

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Environmental health - the relationships between people and their environment.

Equity - the consistent and systematic fair, just, and impartial treatment of all individuals, including individuals who belong to underserved communities that have been denied such treatment. When everyone has meaningful and fair access to opportunities and resources that enable people to thrive, regardless of who they are or where they come from. This requires that factors preventing access to resources and opportunities are acknowledged and addressed, including implicit biases and systemic barriers that different groups of people face, whether that is in association with social, economic, demographic, or geographic characteristics. Climate equity affirms the fundamental right to political, economic, and cultural self-determination of all people.

Exposure - impact on an individual, institution, system, or community due to stressors such as storms, floods, and other extreme weather and climate events. Exposure can be direct or indirect. Impacts can be negative, or in some cases, positive.

Hazard Mitigation - any sustainable action that reduces or eliminates long-term risk to people and property from future disasters.

Inclusion - the intentional practice of recognizing, appreciating, and incorporating the talents and skills of people from all backgrounds such that processes and environments are designed in a way that maximizes the meaningful participation and contributions of all participants.

Local Capacity - the ability of an actor, organization, or system to perform core functions, manage affairs, and improve itself over time.

Mitigation - actions to reduce the emissions or heat trapping gasses (greenhouse gasses) or enhance absorption of these gasses to avoid the long term and most severe impacts of climate change.

Needs - resources that could make it easier to perform core functions, manage affairs, and improve over time (e.g., material, monetary, administrative, political, or social).

Overly Burdened Communities - a community or population—especially people of color, women, tribal communities, immigrants, youth, low or no-income earners, rural communities, and communities dependent on extractive industries—for which multiple systemic burdens, including environmental and socioeconomic inequities, negatively affect their health, economic prosperity, and environment².

Resilience - the ability to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from disruptions with minimum damage to social well-being, the economy, and the environment.

Sensitivity - the degree to which people, institutions, systems, and communities can be affected directly or indirectly by extreme weather, climate, and natural hazards.

Social vulnerability - the ways in which people and communities are vulnerable to the effects of hazards and disasters that go beyond physical exposure, including social, economic, health, cultural, and historical factors.

² New Mexico Climate Change Task Force Climate Equity Guiding Principles

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Shock - acute environmental, social, or economic events that challenge human and environmental systems that communities rely on. Shocks might include things like natural disasters, pandemics, abrupt economic transitions, and cybersecurity attacks.

Stressors - any past, present, or future weather events, climate conditions, or natural hazards that affect or will affect how a component of a stormwater system currently functions.

Sustainability - managing resources to achieve environmental, social, and economic goals in ways that can be sustained long term.

Traditional Knowledges - the multiple ways of knowing that are prevalent in Tribal and Indigenous communities which encompass the lifeways, beliefs, traditions, practices and how those knowledges are transmitted and shared.

Vulnerability - The relative potential impacts to systems, institutions, communities, or individuals posed by climate change and related hazards. Vulnerability is determined by climate related exposures, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity.

Vulnerability Assessments - assessments that identify potential climate and weather-related vulnerabilities of key components of a system or community, including physical infrastructure, residents, land areas, essential services, transportation, financial capacity, etc.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Speakers

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Facilitators

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Thank you for joining us on New Mexico's Climate Resilience Journey!

To stay up to date on Climate Adaptation & Resilience Planning for New Mexico, visit <https://climateaction.nm.gov/carp/>!

Read the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan

Read the Report

Share Your Feedback!

