

## **RESOLUTION 2023-04**

### **A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE ACTION THAT ADVANCES AFFORDABLE CLEAN ENERGY.**

**Sponsored by Councilor Nicholas Prince**

**WHEREAS**, The Town of Silver City created a climate action plan in 2007, the Office of Sustainability in 2011 to respond to the impacts of climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, The Town of Silver City adopted the Sustainability Plan 2030 in 2013 which identifies improving energy security, reducing costs, and increasing the use of renewable energy as priorities; and

**WHEREAS**, The Town of Silver City adopted a Comprehensive Plan in 2017 that identifies economic development as a key strategy in its strategic planning; and

**WHEREAS**, our nation's top scientists released the Fourth National Climate Assessment (NCA) in November 2018 and their key message on Energy for the Southwest region stated: "The ability of hydropower and fossil fuel electricity generation to meet growing energy use in the Southwest is decreasing as a result of drought and rising temperatures. Many renewable energy sources offer increased electricity reliability, lower water intensity of energy generation, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and new economic opportunities;" and

**WHEREAS**, producing one kilowatt-hour of energy via solar photovoltaic (PV) systems requires approximately one-ninth of the water required to produce one kilowatt- hour of energy from a combined cycle fossil gas plant and producing a kilowatt-hour of energy via wind energy uses 11250th as much water as combined cycle gas plant; and

**WHEREAS**, renewable energy and storage are among the cleanest sources of energy with which New Mexican residences and businesses can power its establishments to achieve better air quality and reduce greenhouse gas pollution; and

**WHEREAS**, many state and local governments in New Mexico, including the Town of Silver City, have already begun reducing their greenhouse gas emissions through implementing energy efficiency, waste reduction, recycling, water conservation, fleet efficiency and renewable energy production facilities and operations; and

**WHEREAS**, The Town of Silver City wishes to encourage and work with the State of New Mexico, other counties, Native American Pueblos, Tribes, and Nations, and local governments to continue to prioritize the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Mexico State Legislature, New Mexican counties, Native American Pueblos, Tribes, and Nations, and local governments have significant opportunities to provide incentives and resources to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

**WHEREAS**, Local Choice Energy will allow for expansion of renewable energy generation, municipal aggregation of energy demand, and procurement; and

**WHEREAS**, Local Choice Energy stimulates local wealth creation, increases revenue for our communities and investments in our infrastructure, lowers costs for high quality energy, gives communities a choice in how they generate and purchase energy, supports innovation and resiliency, and creates jobs; and

**WHEREAS**, Local Choice Energy would enable counties and municipalities to leverage unprecedented federal funds forthcoming from the Inflation Reduction Act and the Justice40 initiative by making it easier for them to create municipal utilities to manage microgrid and renewable energy projects; and

**WHEREAS**, millions of people in the United States are already served by local choice energy providers known as Community Choice Aggregates (CCAs) in thousands of communities in 10 states; and

**WHEREAS**, communities served by these providers enjoy utility rates that are 15-20% lower than what they would pay investor-owned utilities; and

**WHEREAS**, CCAs utilize renewable energy and are a key part of reducing our carbon footprint; and

**WHEREAS**, CCAs are a proven powerful tool that involves the partnership of utilities, developers, community groups, local governments, state governments, and other industry actors in fulfilling objectives to meet carbon neutrality goals, catalyze community resilience safety and greater security, create impactful technology and infrastructure, generate more community wealth, and advance community benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, many CCA communities have developed programs that prioritize the empowerment of low-income residents in their transition to clean energy. For example, in 2021, some New York CCA communities participated in Community Distributed Generation (“CDG”)

projects. These projects enabled participating CCAs to automatically serve close to 100% of low-income residents in their locality with solar CDG bill credits; and

**WHEREAS**, CCA communities have demonstrated many success stories since first being implemented in Massachusetts in the mid-1990s, including their ability to deliver on renewable power investment, replicate and scale, while targeting climate and Justice40 goals. A high-level snapshot of the market shows:

- In California, there are 25 CCA programs serving more than 11 million customers and dozens of communities are either engaged in, or currently considering CCA. To date, CCAs in the state have contracted for almost 10,000 MW of new clean generation capacity through long-term power purchase agreements with terms of 10 years or more, while also offering a plethora of clean energy products and demand-side programs.

- Illinois CCAs are offering increased renewable power options to consumers at competitive costs. Currently, multiple Illinois CCAs are interested in evolving the market further through the formation of the equivalent of a Joint Power Authority which directly sparks the development of substantial new renewable power resources.

- In New York, there are over 150 CCAs. Of note, 19 of 20 municipalities in one CCA have selected a 100% renewable energy product offered at a lower rate than residents have historically paid for non-renewable supply. As of mid-2021, New York CCAs had already provided over 3 million MWhs of renewable energy supply to over 51 municipalities resulting in 770,000 tons of avoided carbon dioxide emissions. Additionally, a New York CCA enrolled approximately 1,700 customers in the nation's first community solar program in 2020.

- Ohio's largest CCA, Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC), serves over 900,000 customers in more than 235 communities. NOPEC estimates saving customers more than \$300 million in 2020 while awarding \$28 million in community energy efficiency grants since its inception in 2001. When NOPEC alone applies its purchasing power to developing new renewable power plants, this initiative could spark the construction of 7.2 million MWhs per year of greenfield renewable capacity; and

**WHEREAS**, Local Choice Energy advances the environmental sustainability and economic development goals of The Town of Silver City including carbon neutrality, ecological resilience, economic vitality, quality of life, and social equity.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved by The Town of Silver City:

1. THAT the Town of Silver City supports Local Choice Energy.
2. THAT the Town Manager ensures that this resolution and the Town of Silver City's support for Local Choice Energy is included in our legislative requests for the 2023 Legislative Session.

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** by the Governing Body of the Town of Silver City,  
Grant County, New Mexico, at its regular meeting of, 2023.

(Seal)

**TOWN OF SILVER CITY**

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Ken Ladner, Mayor

Attest:

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Alfred Sedillo,  
Town Clerk