MEMBER SINCE 2019

NEW MEXICO

CLIMATE SUCCESS STORY New air quality rules adopted by the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board were the product of years of public and stakeholder engagement.





New Mexico adopts nation-leading oil and gas industry emissions rules

After two and a half years of collaborative public and stakeholder engagement, the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board adopted new air quality rules that will eliminate hundreds of millions of pounds of harmful emissions annually from oil and gas operations in New Mexico. The rules will improve air quality for New Mexicans by reducing the emissions of ozone precursor pollutants—volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrogen oxides (NOx)—by approximately 260 million pounds annually, and will have the co-benefit of reducing methane emissions (one of the most potent short-lived climate pollutants) by over 851 million pounds annually.

The rules as adopted are more protective of public health and the environment than current federal requirements while allowing industry to use and develop cutting-edge technologies to prevent leaks and end the wasteful process of flaring natural gas as they comply. The rules also complement a set of methane waste reduction rules developed by the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department in 2021, which call for 98 percent gas capture in oilfield operations by 2026.

Starting in summer 2022, compliance obligations for new and existing oil and gas operations in New Mexico counties with high ozone levels will begin to take effect. The improved air quality for communities impacted by oil and gas operations will promote public health—reducing ozone-caused rates of asthma, other respiratory illnesses, and cardiovascular disease. The rules also reduce greenhouse gas emissions from methane in industry, New Mexico's largest emitting sector.



CLIMATE ACTION-AT-A-GLANCE

The following list includes both **statutory** and **executive** policies and actions that have been adopted or are in the process of being adopted.



ECONOMY-WIDE GHG TARGETS & CLIMATE GOVERNANCE

- Lead by Example programs & goals
- · Economy-wide GHG goal
- · Carbon neutral goal
- · State climate action plan



ELECTRICITY

- 100% clean electricity goal
- Renewable portfolio standards



JUST TRANSITION/EQUITY

- Environmental justice offices or interagency bodies
- · Environmental justice screening and policy tools
- Just Transition offices or interagency bodies



TRANSPORTATION

- · Low emission vehicle standards
- · Zero-emission vehicle standards



BUILDINGS/EFFICIENCY

• Electric utility energy efficiency resource standards



INDUSTRY

 Regulations addressing methane from oil & gas, landfill, and agricultural sources



NATURAL & WORKING LANDS

- · NWL in state GHG inventory
- · Healthy soils legislation
- NWL conservation or sequestration goal