

CASE STUDY

Clean Economy Solutions in Action

HISPANIC LEADERSHIP
IN RURAL RENEWABLE
ENERGY AND BROADBAND
INITIATIVES



"The identity that we New Mexicans always wanted is to walk the talk and take care of the environment and the outdoors. That is what makes North-Central New Mexico very special."

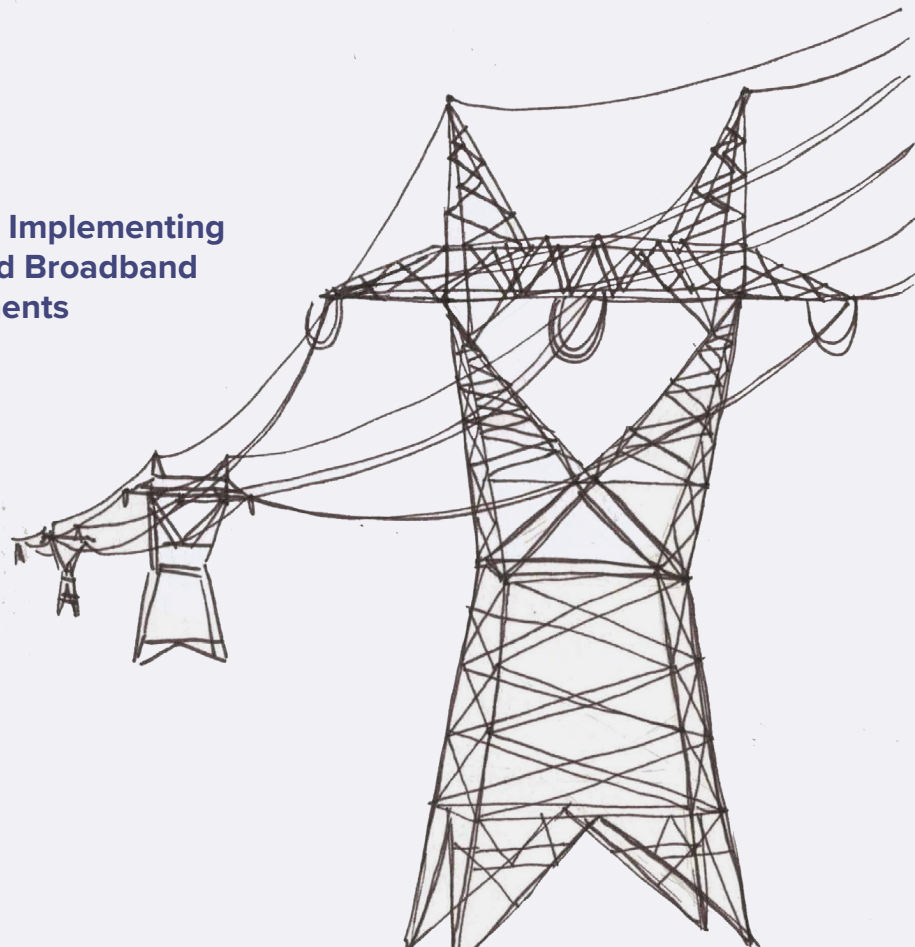
Luis Reyes



HISPANICS ENJOYING CAMPING,
HUNTING, AND THE OUTDOORS

Transforming Vision to Reality

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CLEAN ECONOMY SOLUTIONS IN ACTION BACKGROUND

Hispanic communities face disproportionate health impacts from fossil fuels and climate change.

According to a 2016 report released by Clean Air Task Force, National Hispanic Medical Association, and LULAC,¹ 1.81 million Latinos live within a half-mile of existing oil and gas facilities. This combined with higher rates of poverty and being uninsured, Hispanics are 51% more likely to live in counties with unhealthy levels of ozone than are non-Hispanic whites, and Hispanic children are two times more likely to die from asthma than non-Hispanic white children. Furthermore, more than half of the Hispanic population in the United States is located in either California, Texas, or Florida² — three states experiencing some of the most intense impacts of climate change from sea-level rise, hurricanes, extreme heat, drought, and wildfires. Hispanics are also more likely to work in industries that are most impacted by the effects of climate change including agriculture, manufacturing, and construction. Charting a path towards a clean energy economy must account for the needs of Hispanic communities on the frontlines of the climate and pollution crises.

Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hunting, and the Outdoors (HECHO) created a Clean Economy Solutions in Action virtual webinar series as a forum to engage with leaders from across the southwest and to discuss priorities and recommendations that ensure communities of color can access and economically benefit from federal investments in infrastructure and clean energy. We designed this series to complement and dive deeper into topics raised by national and community-based leaders at Clean Economy and Environmental Justice roundtables³ co-hosted by HECHO and the National Wildlife Federation.

On May 20, 2021, HECHO hosted “Clean Economy Solutions in Action: Rural Renewable Energy and Broadband Through Co-ops.” The panel featured Luis Reyes, CEO of Kit Carson Electric Cooperative (KCEC), and Christopher Miller, President of Guzman Energy. During the event, they discussed the clean power and broadband distribution potential of rural electric cooperatives, while sharing the story of KCEC’s journey to 100% daytime solar. In this case study we examine the critical role of rural electric cooperatives in clean economy transitions through the lens of KCEC. Highlighted throughout the case study are the tools and funding made accessible to electric cooperatives from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 and the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 – bills that were both advocated for by HECHO.





What Is A Clean Economy?

A clean economy is the portion of the broader economy that provides environmental benefit, whether that's through low or no carbon energy, electric vehicles, the conservation of lands, climate-smart agriculture, or the protection of clean water sources. When most people picture the "clean economy" they are probably thinking about renewable energy like wind and solar, but the truth is that the clean economy encompasses much more than just transitioning away from fossil fuels, it also includes energy efficiency and environmental management. That means that the jobs and businesses within the clean economy are more than just power distributors and solar installers, they include manufacturers, plumbers, electricians, carpenters, environmental engineers, water and wastewater treatment plant operators, traditional land users such as ranchers and farmers, and government and NGO leaders to name a few.

It's going to take a wide range of sectors all working together to facilitate this necessary shift to protect our environment, health, communities, and ecosystems, to combat climate change, and grow our economy.

Benefits of Clean Economy Jobs

As a result of experiencing the impacts of climate change at home and at work, when polled, Latino respondents overwhelmingly are concerned about climate change and want to see their government invest in clean energy.⁴ A 2016 National Council of La Raza report indicated that 87% of Latino respondents would prefer working for a business in the clean energy industry to the fossil fuel industry.⁵ With the right policies in place, the potential of growing a clean economy is huge for the Latino community. It has the potential for providing higher wages as well as lower health impacts both at work and in the surrounding community. According to the Brookings Institute, median wages in the clean economy—meaning those in the middle of the distribution—are 13 percent higher than median U.S. wages.⁶

Overall, the clean economy tends to employ a more diverse workforce than the fossil fuel economy. For example, solar installation employs 16,000 more Latino workers than the coal industry which is 87% white and male.⁷ Yet, a 2019 study⁸ found that 88% of senior executives at solar firms are white and 80% are men.⁹

Minority-Owned Businesses Are Vital to the Clean Economy

Given historic and current disproportionate impacts of climate change and fossil fuel pollution to Black, Indigenous, and Latino populations,¹⁰ it is vital that these communities benefit from the clean economy, and are leading the way as business leaders, owners, and entrepreneurs with opportunities— not just to earn a paycheck, but to also build wealth. The challenge and opportunity is to provide more pathways, like access to capital, for business owners in this sector.

Latino entrepreneurship is on the rise—in fact, Latinos are starting small businesses faster than the rest of the population.¹¹ This is why policies need to help leverage the significant opportunities of the clean economy with the talent and drive of Latino entrepreneurs and overcome the systemic barriers to building Latino wealth.



Between 1980 and 2000, the Hispanic population in rural America nearly doubled from 1.4 to 2.7 million

ELECTRICITY FOR RURAL AMERICA THROUGH COOPERATIVES

In 1936, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed the Rural Electrification Act as part of the New Deal Program. It enabled rural communities to create non-profit electric cooperatives to help expand access to electricity across rural America. As non-profits responsible for the needs of their members, cooperatives can be shaped by the communities they serve.

Today, this community model still exists, with cooperatives serving 42 million people across 2,500 counties, including 92% of persistent poverty counties, or counties that are classified as having poverty rates of 20% or more over the last three decades.

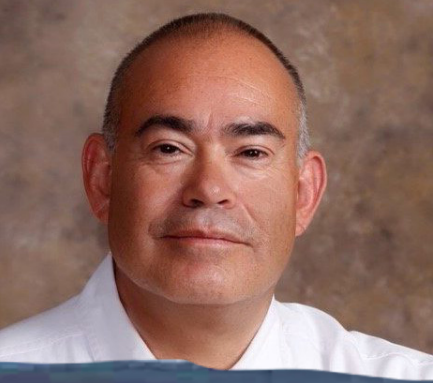
Rural America's demographics have also been reshaped in the last decade by becoming more racially and ethnically diverse, revitalizing communities. Between 1980 and 2000, the Hispanic population in rural America nearly doubled from 1.4 to 2.7 million,¹² according to a report from the Economic Research Service. And today, Hispanics are the fastest-growing population in rural America, projected to become the largest minority group in non-metropolitan areas by about 2025, as they did for the entire United States in 2003. Just as more Hispanics are dispersing to rural America in search of economic opportunities and quality of life, there are regions, such as Northern New Mexico, with an overwhelmingly high Hispanic population (approximately 80%) that has had a deep connection to the land for generations.

All communities, including those in fast-growing rural America, deserve a clean energy future, and rural electric cooperatives provide one avenue for expanding access to responsible and reliable renewable energy. When

cooperatives can respond to their members' demand for clean energy, they can transition to wind, solar, and other forms of renewable energy—a transition that will reduce dependence on fossil fuels and toxic pollution. Rural electric cooperatives can also provide broadband service to millions of households in the U.S. And as the COVID-19 pandemic has shown, broadband is critical infrastructure, essential for education, healthcare, and economic opportunity.

One recent study found that “electric co-ops supported nearly 612,000 American jobs and contributed \$440 billion in U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) from 2013 to 2017, or \$88 billion annually.”¹³ A 2016 outlook by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) noted that cooperatives are sourcing more clean energy, stating that “wind [energy] is set to remain the largest non-hydro renewable resource deployed by cooperatives, with more than 850 MW of new wind [power purchase agreements] planned over a two year period, accounting for nearly two-thirds of planned additions.” NRECA estimates that 95% of their distribution members offer renewable options, offering clean energy to 40 million people.

KCEC, in Taos, New Mexico, is an example of an electric cooperative that is fulfilling its members' desire for clean energy. Founded in 1944, KCEC is the second-largest cooperative in the state of New Mexico and provides electricity to over 29,000 members in Taos, Colfax, and Rio Arriba counties. In addition to electricity, KCEC provides broadband and propane services, and is an active employer in the communities that it serves.



THE LEADERSHIP OF LUIS REYES

Transforming Vision to Reality

Mr. Luis A. Reyes, Jr. began his career at KCEC in 1984 as a System Engineer before being selected as Chief Executive Officer in 1993, a position he still holds. In 2005, Luis started what would become his lifelong mission to build a climate resilience movement that would decrease dependency on fossil fuels, and reduce the toxic pollution that impacted the health of his rural community in his native Taos, New Mexico.

At KCEC, Luis worked to make his vision for a clean energy future and economic resilience a reality, and was motivated by his fundamental belief that socioeconomic status and location should not determine accessibility to affordable, responsible, and reliable renewable energy or broadband internet. By listening to the members of his cooperative, Luis brought both services and the possibility of a carbon-free future to the greater Taos community.

Leader in Innovation

Growing up with power outages in rural Taos, New Mexico, and lacking other urban amenities didn't bother Luis Reyes. He still believes there is no better place to raise a family than in the countryside, with pristine landscapes and clean air.

When he became the CEO of KCEC, a member-owned electric distribution cooperative serving Taos, Colfax, and Rio Arriba counties since 1944, Luis realized the potential of a green economy and how he could make a difference through renewable energy by delivering affordable power and a variety of opportunities to his community.

Under Luis' leadership, KCEC has received widespread recognition for its remarkable achievement in transitioning to 100% daytime solar energy. In June of 2021, Luis was appointed as a member of the Connect New Mexico Council, created to coordinate the state broadband programs with the Department of Information Technology.

His vision has led the charge in creating opportunities for his and other communities. By taking a holistic view of how a rural electric cooperative can best service its people, Luis modernized KCEC's role to not only deliver electricity but to combine clean electricity and broadband together where service had been limited. This was accomplished while also ensuring that the immediate benefits of job creation were realized locally by working with area contractors to build out the infrastructure to make all of this possible. When confronted by growing monopolization in the energy sector, Luis guided KCEC toward the new markets of clean energy and broadband distribution that enabled it to survive.

The success of KCEC can be traced back to Luis' commitment to its members and their feedback. As a leader, he had to make tough decisions, and got members engaged and involved in solutions to the hurdles faced. Luis showed them he walked the walk.



In the last two decades, KCEC has been able to commit to its renewable energy goals and also create job opportunities by establishing those goals in tandem with members and leaders in the community and the Northern New Mexico region. Member and community engagement have guided Luis' actions at the cooperative, and they remain central to its success now. Through accountable leadership, Luis has set an example for other rural cooperatives across the country.

Among many efforts, Luis and KCEC have been involved in an innovative collaboration and public/private partnership enhancing educational opportunities, workforce development efforts, and small business support. The partnerships cultivated through the University of New Mexico-Taos' HIVE, or Hub of Internet-based Vocation and Education, which is also a co-working space, were celebrated and received a Minds That Move Us award for innovating how to connect rural students to the global job market. HIVE's integrated education and training model is successful because of the diversity of partners, including KCEC, that help it thrive.

At the core of what drives Luis' incredibly important work is the love he has for his community, and the deep connection he has to the lands that offer the resources needed to create the sustainable future he has dreamed of.

Luis continues to find ways to promote Hispanic leadership, break barriers for Latinos, and positively impact people's lives. He has ensured that every member of KCEC has access to renewable energy and a gig of broadband service regardless of their background, demographic, or economic status, delivering on a commitment to serve everyone including "last mile" households.

Luis embodies the community model that the KCEC is built upon. His community inspires his action. He looks forward to fulfilling his members' desires for more clean energy and moving towards a clean economy future.

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2000
Diversification of services was voted in by members at annual meeting. This included: propane, broadband/internet, telecommunication, and economic development.

2014
Began discussions with Tri-State on the eventual exit from Tri-State.

1951
Plains Electric Cooperative became KCEC's new energy supplier.

2006
Tri-State extended its contract to 2050. KCEC refused to extend the contract.



1944
KCEC was established.



2002
Tri-State increased the terms of KCEC contract, raising its rate, increasing wholesale electricity prices.

2000
Plains Electric Cooperative and Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association merged and Tri-State became KCEC's wholesale energy provider

2010
KCEC received \$64 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding for its project "fiber to home" to deliver broadband to 29 communities.





2020
Kit Carson Internet reaches 9,000 Fiber Connections.

2022
KCEC completed its buyout of the exit contract with Tri-State, resulting in a 40% wholesale cost decrease.

2023
KCEC starts the Green Chile 115-kilovolt Transmission Line research studies.



2016
In December, KCEC began its 100% Solar Daytime Peak Project.



2016
In July, the exit from Tri-State was finalized. KCEC signed a new Power Purchase Agreement with Guzman Energy.

2019
Released Battery Storage RFP for 7 MW of solar and up to 7 MWh storage capacity.

2021
Built 41MW Solar and 30 MWh of battery storage from IIJA funding.

2022
KCEC received \$24 million from the Inflation Reduction Act to expand broadband service to low-income communities.



THE ROLE OF FEDERAL FUNDING

Under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, rural electric cooperatives were initially established with funding from the federal government, playing a vital role in bringing electricity to rural areas in the United States.

In the early 20th century, electric utilities were primarily focused on providing power to urban areas, where the density of customers made it more profitable to build power plants and distribution networks. Rural areas, on the other hand, were often overlooked due to the cost and difficulty of building infrastructure over long distances with fewer customers. This left many rural communities without access to electricity, creating a significant disparity between urban and rural areas.

To address this issue, rural electric cooperatives were established as member-owned and operated utilities. These cooperatives leveraged their collective bargaining power to negotiate better prices for electricity, and they also had the flexibility to tailor their services to the unique needs of their communities. Over time, these cooperatives played a critical role in electrifying rural America, providing access to electricity to millions of people who otherwise would have been left in the dark.

Today, with nearly 900 rural electric cooperatives serving 42 million people across 48 states, the federal government continues to invest in rural communities through various programs. In recent years, rural electric cooperatives have become key players in connecting rural areas to high-speed

internet through broadband infrastructure. Like electricity, access to broadband is essential to economic development and social connectivity. However, the private sector has been slow to invest in rural broadband infrastructure due to the high cost of building networks in sparsely populated areas. Rural electric cooperatives have once again stepped in to fill this gap, and with federal funding are leveraging their existing infrastructure and expertise to deploy broadband networks across rural America. This has enabled rural communities to access educational resources, telehealth services, and e-commerce platforms, providing a lifeline to many small businesses and families who might otherwise be isolated.

Overall, rural electric cooperatives have been essential for connecting and sustaining the heart of the nation with electricity and broadband. Now, these cooperatives are at the forefront of providing clean energy to rural communities across America. With the federal funding included in the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, rural electric cooperatives will be able to meet their members' expectations of not only keeping energy prices down, but also reducing carbon emissions.

Federal funding is a valuable tool in ensuring America's rural communities are not left behind, as we've seen throughout the history of electrical cooperatives. That is one of the reasons why HECHO has been a strong voice in advocating for the historic investments made in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act.

Bill	Year	Funding Amount	Purpose
Rural Electrification Act	1936	\$7.5 Billion	Established rural electric cooperatives to expand access to electricity in rural America
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act	2009	\$4 Billion	Established the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program to help bridge the technological divide
USDA Rural Broadband Grant Program	2018	\$600 Million	Supported the expansion of high-speed internet in rural areas through rural electric cooperatives
USDA Renewable Energy Funding	2020	\$900 Million	Supported rural electric cooperatives in transitioning to cleaner sources of energy
Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act	2021	\$65 Billion	Provided funding to connect rural communities and low-income urban residents with high-speed internet
Inflation Reduction Act	2022	\$9.7 Billion	Established a financial assistance program to help electric cooperatives purchase or build clean energy systems

WHAT'S NEXT FOR KCEC

The next project on the horizon for Kit Carson Electric Cooperative is the Green Chile 115-kilovolt Transmission Line. The Green Chile Line is a project that would run from Taos County to the Ojo Substation in Rio Arriba County on the west side of the Rio Grande Gorge. The project's main objective is to control costs by developing a transmission line that only exports green energy and thus becomes more self-reliant. The project's aim is to enable more rural communities to access renewable energy by exporting it through the transmission system without any impediments from running through shared lines. While working with their power supplier and exploring solar energy options to stabilize and drive down rates, the company is currently conducting studies to achieve this next milestone and create the independent transmission system that successfully facilitates green energy export.

When asked about the significance of this project as a model for what is attainable in clean energy transition for rural electric cooperatives, Luis shared, "We are actually doing it in northern New Mexico. Everything we're doing

can be replicated if you have the funding. The bigger benefit is really demonstrating that you can grow a green energy economy, and the other important thing is showing that it's run by a Hispanic-led company. We are leading the way, and we're attracting big partners that want to be part of this project. In the end, we're trying to create a model that you can do anywhere in the United States."

The funding for the Green Chile Line project comes from NextEra, one of America's largest capital investors in infrastructure, with between \$50 and \$55 billion in new infrastructure investments just in 2022. Federal investments for transmission infrastructure projects, like this one, include funding and loan programs in recently passed legislation, and could be leveraged through public-private partnerships once federal guidelines processes are completed.

“ Everything we’re doing can be replicated... The bigger benefit is really demonstrating that you can grow a green energy economy, and that it’s run by a Hispanic-led company... ”





KEY LESSONS LEARNED

1 Motivated and mobilized electricity consumers will drive change

The KCEC has made remarkable progress in their mission to transition to clean and affordable energy, and all credit goes to the active involvement of their members. The cooperative provides various opportunities for members to voice their opinions and concerns, including member meetings, board meetings (with board members elected by members), and through consumer advisory committees. After numerous discussions, it became apparent that a substantial majority of members were in favor of exiting their contract with their fossil fuel-based energy supplier and switching to more cost-effective renewable energy options.

KCEC is a not-for-profit organization that operates based on the needs and wishes of its members, rather than pursuing profit. In 2010, when KCEC members voted for more clean energy, Luis Reyes acted promptly to establish new partnerships that would help the cooperative achieve their goals and satisfy their members' desires.

2 It is possible to terminate a long-term contract with your energy supplier

Responding to the wishes of its members, KCEC's leader Luis Reyes made a bold move to exit the cooperative's long-term contract with its fossil fuel-based energy supplier, who supplied 95% of their power. Luis sought out a new partnership with Guzman Energy, a decision that marked a significant turning point in the cooperative's transition to cleaner and more affordable energy sources. They not only helped KCEC navigate the buy-out of their contract, but also provided KCEC with the flexibility needed to build as many community solar installations as needed. KCEC's Power Purchase Agreement with Guzman Energy demonstrates how a wholesaler can become an authentic partner and a resource for building economically sustainable and successful communities.

Guzman Energy and KCEC forged a partnership based on their shared vision for serving the communities they both operate in. As a result, they did not put a cap on the potential for renewable energy, paving the way for KCEC to achieve its ambitious target of sourcing 100% of its power from solar energy by 2022. This remarkable milestone not only demonstrated KCEC's strong commitment to a sustainable future but also highlighted the significant impact that partnerships between like-minded organizations can have in achieving shared goals.



3 Rural electric cooperatives can access funding from the Inflation Reduction Act, but will need help navigating complicated processes

In recent years, the federal government has allocated billions of dollars in funding for rural cooperatives looking to transition to renewable energy. While the potential funding opportunities are significant, the legislation governing them is often complex and can be challenging to navigate. To address this, KCEC opted to hire a specialist to help them identify and apply for funding that aligns with their goals and objectives. This strategic approach allowed them to focus their efforts on the most promising funding opportunities, rather than wasting time with the overwhelming process of identifying all potential sources of funding.

In addition to hiring outside help, KCEC also leveraged its network to seek guidance from policymakers, legislators, and other industry experts. This proved to be a wise decision, as it enabled them to access unique tools and provisions embedded in these bills, such as the Direct Pay provision outlined in the Inflation Reduction Act. This provision allowed KCEC to receive direct cash payments, rather than income tax credits, which helped to streamline and simplify their access to funding.

4 Rural electric cooperatives can increase member benefits with clean energy and reliable broadband internet - both are critical to our nation's infrastructure

In our 21st century society, internet access plays a vital role in education, business, healthcare, decision-making processes, remote work, and various other areas. In 2010, KCEC secured a multi-million dollar federal grant for their “Fiber to Home” project. This initiative encompassed over 3,000 miles of fiber optic broadband infrastructure, enabling broadband services in Taos and surrounding areas. Currently, every member of KCEC can enjoy high-speed broadband internet up to a gigabyte, and plans are underway to increase that to five to ten gigabytes. It's worth noting that alongside providing broadband internet through fiber optic cables, KCEC also extended electricity poles, fostering improved access to clean energy.



5 Clean electricity and the electrical grid are intertwined, and modernizing our interconnected energy infrastructure will enhance efficiency, storage, and resiliency

The U.S. electrical grid consists of a patchwork of older and newer technologies that deliver electricity to consumers. With renewable energy projected to become the largest electricity source in the U.S. by 2050, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, the electrical grid must undergo a massive transformation to ensure efficient, reliable, secure, and flexible power. Grid modernization involves integrating advanced technologies, innovative policies, and improved transmission infrastructure to respond to challenges such as variability of renewable energy sources, cyberattacks, and climate change-related extreme weather events.

Recognizing the significance of grid modernization, KCEC is actively working to integrate renewable energy sources with storage solutions, broadband access, smart devices, and microgrids. By embracing these advancements, KCEC aims to create a more sustainable, resilient, and interconnected energy system.

6 Renewable energy and electric vehicles go hand-in-hand

Significantly reducing carbon emissions through electrification only works if the electricity generation is done with renewable energy. Throughout the nation, electric vehicle use and accessibility are increasing, with personal cars, commercial fleets, and public transportation relying more on renewably sourced electric power. The buildout of infrastructure that can meet this growing demand means increasing public charging stations in communities and along highways, and it means securing a sustainable and responsibly-sourced supply chain of battery and component materials that can be recycled.

Recognizing this trend, KCEC began establishing EV charging stations in its service area back in 2019 as part of its efforts to expand its clean energy economy services. In 2021, their efforts were recognized when they were awarded a significant \$800,000 grant from the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) to support the engineering services, design, and installation of fast-charging EV stations. With this grant, KCEC will increase the number of charging stations in northern New Mexico to 50, providing a critical component to the region's expanding EV infrastructure. The economic, environmental, and public health benefits increase as the transition to electric vehicles continues to grow, and if new fleets of electric vehicles are powered by renewable electricity, it will allow us to cut carbon pollution to address climate change.



7 Partnerships with authentic, mission-aligned institutions are crucial

KCEC's extensive solar grid is not solely the result of internal endeavors; the cooperative actively engages in community partnerships to advance renewable energy and establish a clean energy economy in New Mexico. In 2019, KCEC collaborated with Northern New Mexico College to build a solar array on the El Rito Campus, benefitting both the campus and the broader KCEC membership grid. Furthermore, KCEC's foundation scholarship program has provided financial aid to students in northern New Mexico, fostering educational opportunities that contribute to a thriving local economy and community.

8 Clean energy leaders must make bold decisions grounded in a strong vision

Luis Reyes' capable and revolutionary leadership is made possible by one thing: bold and innovative risk-taking. This is done not with profit in mind, but a dedication towards meeting the needs of his cooperative's members. Wanting to provide electricity fully sourced from renewables, Mr. Reyes took on an immense risk in leaving a traditional wholesaler partnership in exchange for one that shared KCEC's vision. When faced with a monopolized energy sector, Mr. Reyes expanded into the internet business and other areas to diversify the cooperative's services to survive. Luis Reyes' brand of leadership will be needed to duplicate KCEC's work on a nationwide scale, resulting in transformative innovation that is equitable and accessible to all.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING RENEWABLE ENERGY AND BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

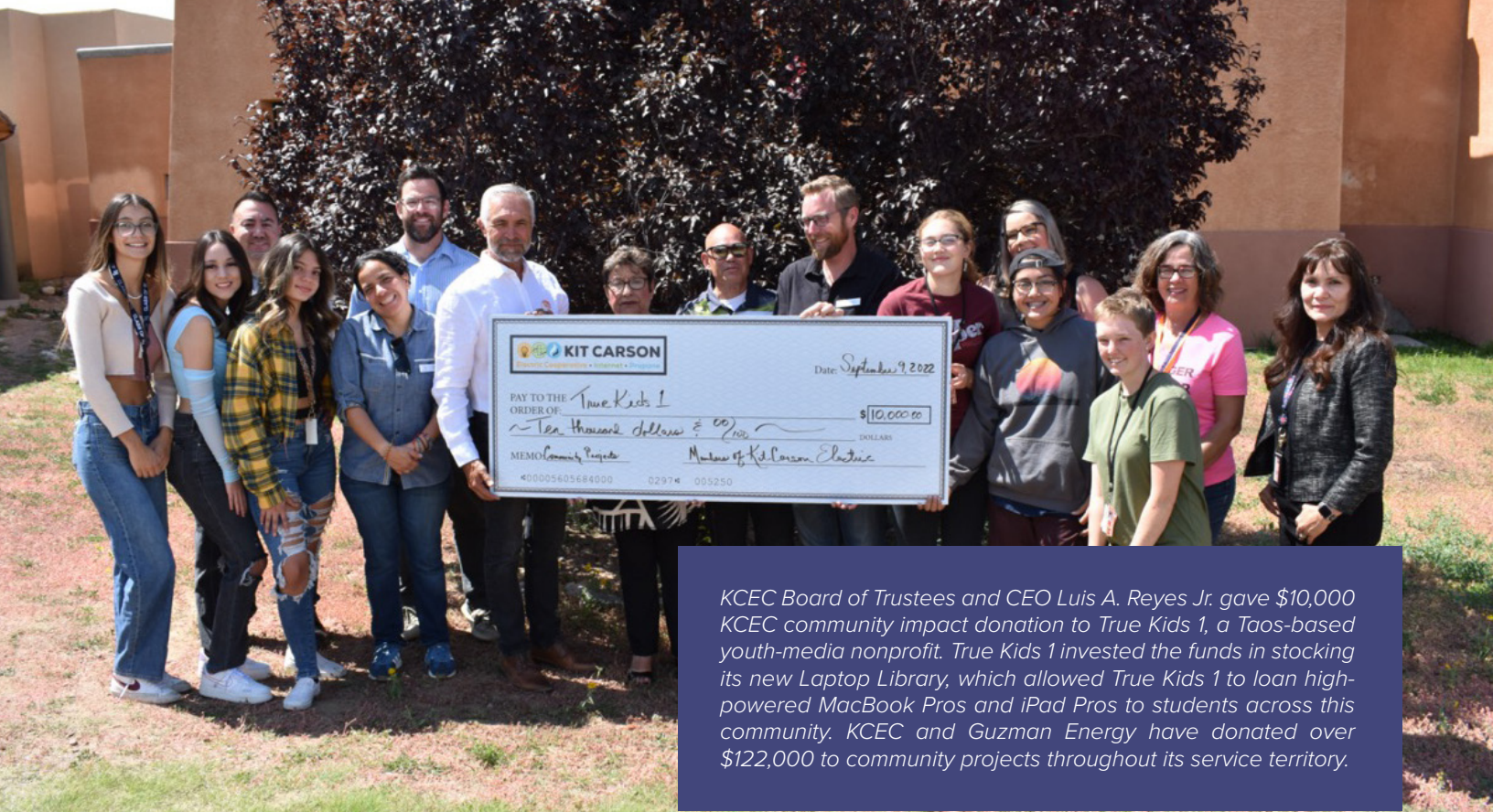
Expanding access to renewable electricity, broadband internet, and economic development in rural communities is a key strategy in the transition to a clean economy. A focus at the local level through rural electric cooperatives can reach 42 million people across 2,500 counties, including 92% of persistent poverty counties. However, significant barriers must be overcome with the bold investments made through the Inflation Reduction Act to bring about the full potential of the clean economy. We must look to scalable examples, like that of the partnership efforts between KCEC and Guzman Energy, and implement federal financial investments that:

- ▲ Support rural electric cooperatives to transition to clean energy sources, including local renewable energy generation and distribution, by increasing outreach and technical assistance.
- ▲ Leverage the rural electric cooperative model to deploy broadband access to all by incentivizing the joint deployment of renewable energy and broadband infrastructure.
- ▲ Modernize electric grid infrastructure with rural electric cooperatives in mind, seeking to create better efficiencies, reliability, and connections between rural communities.
- ▲ Electric vehicle infrastructure should be accessible in underserved areas, and should be built with a sustainable and responsibly-sourced supply chain of batteries and component materials that can be recycled.

Through diligent implementation of clean economy investments, we can help realize KCEC and Guzman Energy's success at a nationwide scale!



On September 13, 2019, KCEC, Guzman Energy and Northern NM College break ground on a 1.5 MW solar facility at the Northern NM College in El Rito, NM. The project provides an educational and economic component to the Northern NM El Rito Campus and provides reliable and resilient solar energy to the west part of KCEC's service territory.



KCEC Board of Trustees and CEO Luis A. Reyes Jr. gave \$10,000 KCEC community impact donation to True Kids 1, a Taos-based youth-media nonprofit. True Kids 1 invested the funds in stocking its new Laptop Library, which allowed True Kids 1 to loan high-powered MacBook Pros and iPad Pros to students across this community. KCEC and Guzman Energy have donated over \$122,000 to community projects throughout its service territory.



“Energy infrastructure in this country is a combination of old and new technologies that are all interconnected. Modernization has produced an age of digital revolution, but the infrastructure needed to upkeep such developments is lacking.”

– Christopher Miller, President, Guzman Energy

ENDNOTES

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ABOUT HECHO

From protecting the Grand Canyon from uranium mining and pushing for comprehensive legislation like the Great American Outdoors Act to supporting wildlife habitat connectivity migration corridors, HECHO connects a love for the land to advocacy opportunities for all the things the land gives us — clean water, clean air, wildlife, and landscapes to enjoy.

Nature-based practices run deep in our cultural history, including collecting piñon nuts, wood gathering, fishing, hunting, and camping. These traditions are passed down from generation to generation by accessing the outdoors and being in nature. Through this connection to nature and each other, we are motivated to advocate for public lands using HECHO as our platform to ensure Hispanic voices are heard, and so that we have a seat at the table.



To learn more about HECHO,
visit us at:

www.HECHOonline.org