

State of New Mexico  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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**Susana Martinez**  
Governor

**David Martin**  
Cabinet Secretary

**Brett F. Woods, Ph.D.**  
Deputy Cabinet Secretary

**Louise N. Martinez**, Division Director  
**Energy Conservation and  
Management Division**



## News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jim Winchester 505-231-8800; E-mail: [Jim.Winchester@state.nm.us](mailto:Jim.Winchester@state.nm.us)  
Beth Wojahn 505-467-3226; E-mail: [Beth.Wojahn@state.nm.us](mailto:Beth.Wojahn@state.nm.us)

### **Energy Conservation and Management Division Helps Local Governments Become More Energy Efficient**

**Santa Fe, NM** -- The Energy Conservation and Management Division (ECMD) announced today that it has received a significant grant from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to provide guidance to local governments on how to become more energy efficient.

ECMD will use the awarded \$300,000 grant to help local governments on ways to improve energy efficiency within their jurisdictions. With the grant money, ECMD will provide education, outreach and oversight during the process whereby four local governments participate in the Local Energy Efficiency Performance (LEEP) program. The LEEP program will hire a certified third-party engineer to oversee, monitor and verify energy saving recommendations of energy service companies. The LEEP program administers Energy Performance Contracts (ESPC) on behalf of the municipalities and counties.

“Most local governments are new to the widespread application of energy audits and energy savings performance contracts,” said Energy Secretary David Martin. “The LEEP program can create a proactive long-range strategy to support the successful use of energy savings performance contracting.”

The LEEP program aims to apply the ESPC process to drive demand for energy efficiency and renewable energy measures in public facilities among New Mexico’s 33 counties and 105 municipalities. The first LEEP programs are set to begin in 2015 through partnerships between energy service companies and the Cities of Las Cruces and Santa Fe, and the Counties of McKinley and Bernalillo.

“By partnering with local governments to more effectively reduce energy use and increase renewable energy generation, we can move toward reaching the State’s energy efficiency goal of 20 percent reduction in per capita energy use by 2020, as well as help meet EPA’s carbon dioxide reduction goal,” said ECMD Director Louise Martinez.

ECMD has worked with many local governments throughout the years to help them upgrade their facilities to reduce energy use and install solar, geothermal and other renewable measures. Cities and counties often wanted to do more but could not, due to budget and staffing constraints. With the \$300,000 grant in place, ECMD can provide the kind of support to overcome constraints.

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*The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.*