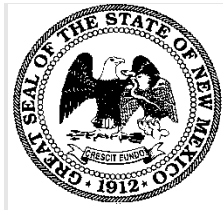


# NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Projects awarded to build and operate facilities in support of New Mexico's community solar program**

SANTA FE – The New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (PRC), along with program administrator InClime Inc., today announced that 45 projects have been selected to have the opportunity to build and operate community solar facilities in support of the development of the state's community solar program, with a statewide power generation of about 198 megawatts. The program will allow more customers of qualified utility companies to take advantage of economic and environmental benefits provided by renewable energy generation. The selected projects can be viewed online [here](#).

"Improving access to solar for all New Mexicans – regardless of income or living situation – is an important goal of the New Mexico Legislature and Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham," said Commissioner James Ellison. "The PRC's staff has put in a great deal of effort to make this program a success. The PRC is proud to play a role in bringing community solar to New Mexico."

Following a three-month-long application solicitation period, InClime received 408 submissions, totaling 1,700 MW of power generation. InClime evaluated each of the proposals using a point system for subscriber organizations set in the [Community Solar Rule](#), including experience in developing and managing community solar projects, proposed project site viability for interconnection, commitments beyond those required by statute, and benefits to local communities, disproportionately impacted

communities, and disadvantaged groups. Earlier this month, the PRC and InClime held a drawing to break any potential scoring ties.

The total statewide power generation amount falls just under initial cap of 200 MW power generation capacity allocated among the state's three investor-owned utility companies (El Paso Electric Company, 30 MW; Public Service Company of New Mexico, 125 MW; and Southwestern Public Service Company, 45 MW). Subscriber organizations developing selected projects may proceed to apply for grid interconnection with the utilities, which will review interconnection applications in the order of the rank awarded to each project in the selection process based on InClime's review of each application. The utilities must process each interconnection application within 10 business days.

Additionally, InClime will maintain a waitlist of projects ranked just below the selected projects for each qualifying utility company's territory. The list of selected projects and the waitlist for each qualifying utility company's territory are each capped at the level of the utility's allocated capacity.

Utility customers should receive community solar solicitations soon in the coming weeks. Still, utility customers cannot be offered a contract without first receiving a program disclosure form, scheduled to be released in June.

"We are thrilled to announce these exceptional projects and to celebrate the remarkable level of local involvement throughout the competitive bid process," said Miana Campbell, InClime's community solar lead for New Mexico. "As we look ahead, we eagerly anticipate the long-term monitoring of these projects and the fulfillment of these extraordinary commitments. The breadth of collaboration witnessed, ranging from partnerships with low-income communities, tribes, and cities is a testament to the strength of New Mexico's community solar program and its unwavering commitment to delivering significant benefits to utility customers."

Created by the Community Solar Act, the community solar program was designed so that qualifying customers – homeowners, renters, and certain organizations – can save on electricity bills and participate in the generation and consumption of renewable energy by tapping into solar energy without having to purchase and install solar panels. The program will also create a marketplace for community solar subscription agreements, which generally offer discounted rates on electricity.

Additionally, at least 30% of power produced by each community solar facility will be reserved for qualified low-income customers and low-income service organizations. The PRC is committed to assisting community solar facility developers and operators in

meeting this requirement and committed to reaching out to low-income utility customers who would like to participate in the program.

A [study](#) by the University of New Mexico Bureau of Business and Economic Research found that community solar has the potential to contribute substantially to the state's economy, including up to \$517 million in benefits, the creation of about 3,760 high-quality jobs in various sectors over the next five years, and over \$2.9 million in tax revenues annually.

For more information about New Mexico's community solar program, click [here](#).

*New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC) regulates the [utilities](#), [telecommunications](#), and [motor carrier](#) industries to ensure fair and reasonable rates, and to assure reasonable and adequate services to the public as provided by law. The NMPRC also promotes public safety through the offices of [Pipeline Safety Bureau](#) and [Transportation Division](#).*

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