



NEW MEXICO
GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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Agencies turning government green

By Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Secretary Sarah Cottrell Propst and General Services Secretary Ken Ortiz

SANTA FE - New Mexico state government buildings are about to lead the way on renewable energy.

In an exciting collaboration announced just in time for Earth Day, the General Services Department is planning a \$32 million project to improve the energy efficiency of state buildings in Santa Fe.

The project will lead by example in many ways, but an especially crucial component is the inclusion of state government's first battery storage for solar power.

The ability to store solar power goes a long way towards expanding this renewable energy source. Equipping our state government buildings with this technology reinforces our commitment to cutting energy costs and embracing new technology.

This administration is going all in on renewable energy. The Executive Order signed by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham requires state agencies to curb carbon footprints and this is a great first step to achieving that goal. In addition to equipping buildings with solar power, the GSD project calls for lighting upgrades, improved heating and air conditioning systems, and other energy-efficiency work on 29 buildings. A separate initiative by the department includes buying the first electric vehicles for the government motor pool and installing charging stations in Santa Fe.

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The energy efficiency upgrades won't just reduce our carbon footprint, they'll also cut down our bills. Our contractor on the project guarantees that New Mexico will see a savings of \$1.1 million a year!

This project also highlights the need for state agencies to work together. The General Services Department and the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department worked together to approve contracts and establish just how much savings the state can expect from this renewable energy expansion.

Moving forward, lots of state departments will benefit from having these energy efficiency upgrades installed in their buildings.

It's an exciting time for renewable energy, and our departments hope this example inspires other states to also lead by example when it comes to energy efficiency and renewable energy.

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