

# GETTING CONNECTED

## Watts Happening at Kit Carson Electric Cooperative October 29, 2012

Kit  
Carson  
Electric  
Cooperative

### Watts Happening-Kit Carson Electric Cooperative Update

#### Watts Happening

*Watts Happening* is an information resource to keep you up to date on what's happening at your coop. *Watts Happening* will be e-mailed to members periodically with news on our Enchanted Light Fiber Optic project, solar projects, plus other news and events of interest. *Watts Happening* will not replace our newsletter, which is sent with your utility bill, but rather supplement that publication. Of course, members have the option of opting out of this feature. We welcome your feedback, so don't hesitate to let us know if you have questions or comments. Contact Public Information Officer, Steve Fuhlendorf, at (575) 758-2258 ext. 143 or e-mail [sfuhlendorf@kitcarson.com](mailto:sfuhlendorf@kitcarson.com).

#### Enchanted Light Fiber Optic Project Update

The Enchanted Light Fiber Optic Project is funded through a grant of \$44 million and a loan of \$19.3 million by the U.S.D.A Rural Utility Service. This was a highly competitive process, which we were very fortunate to have funded. In the short term it means jobs. We anticipate 300 local workers will be getting a much needed paycheck when both the overhead and underground portions of the project are being built. In the long term it means jobs too. When the company is spun off upon completion there will be positions available for technicians, call center personnel, salespeople and administrators. In addition, many companies and individuals who have been unable to do business in Taos due to inadequate internet speeds will now be able to do business as they would in any big city with high speed broadband connectivity.

We have a local labor force of about 200 working on the project at this point. They are presently constructing the network in Arroyo Hondo, Arroyo Seco, Angel Fire, Weimer Foothills and overhead lines between Amalia and Questa. We will keep you informed on progress as we moved toward bringing high speed internet service to our members.

KCEC has been beta-testing Virtual Fiber in the Pot Creek area using wireless transmitters. The transmitters broadcast to a specific area and make available much higher speeds than DSL. Doug Swinehart, local CPA at CPA Southwest,

gave us his review of the Virtual fiber test:

**"The high speed access is just what I needed in order to do work from home without the frustration of a dial-up connection. In the past, it was actually faster for me to drive 10 miles in to town to access high speed than wait for the dial-up info to make the trip to my computer. The installation was painless and professional and the support has been outstanding."** Doug Swinehart

#### Coop Connection Card

We are rolling out a new feature to benefit our members and encourage shopping locally. The KCEC Coop Connection Card will be available to KCEC members very soon. Cardholders will be able to take advantage of discounts at many local merchants. Stay tuned for more information in the days ahead, including a guide to which local merchants accept the card.

#### New KCEC Website

Our newly redesigned website is now up and running at [www.kitcarson.com](http://www.kitcarson.com). We invite you to take a tour and experience the easy navigation. The site has new features to better serve our members, including videos with energy saving tips and Kids Zone with Learn, Play and Save options. Please let us know if you have suggestions that will make the site more useful.

#### Community Solar Celebration

KCEC Community Solar is now available to our members. The solar array at Taos Charter School we dedicated on August 29, 2012 with federal, state and local dignitaries in attendance. This is the first Community Solar project in the state of New Mexico. Our members can now purchase panels on the array for only \$845 each. All the electricity produced by the panels is then credited directly to their KCEC bill. The panel investment payback is as little as 12 years. KCEC Community Solar makes taking advantage of our abundant sunshine more affordable and more widely available than ever before. Find out more at [www.kcecsolar.com](http://www.kcecsolar.com).



***Dedication Ceremony for New Mexico's first Community Solar Project.*** Pictured from left: PRC District 3 Commissioner Douglas Howe; Clean Energy Collective CEO Paul Spencer; Senator Tom Udall representative Michelle Jacquez-Ortiz; Congressman Ben Ray Lujan representative Jennifer Manzanaras; Taos Charter School Representative Mary Emery; TCS student; KCEC Board of Trustees President Bobby Ortega; KCEC CEO Luis Reyes; KCEC Board of Trustees members Art Rodarte, Ambrose Mascarenas & Francis Cordova

***Taos Charter School Solar Array Information:***

- Type:** Parking Lot-36 spaces
- Capacity:** 98,700 watts=420 panels
- Panels:** 235 watts
- Owner:** Clean Energy Collective
- Builder:** Sol Luna Solar
- Utility:** Kit Carson Electric Coop
- Annual savings to KCEC consumers:** \$24,000
- Panel Warranty:** 50 years
- Member Price/Panel:** \$845
- Lifetime Environmental Benefit:** 19,500 trees
- Financing Available:** Yes



**Board of Trustees**

Bobby Ortega	President	Questa	District 2
Manuel Medina	Vice President	Taos	District 1
Chris Duran	Secretary	Penasco	District 4
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Francis Cordova	Trustee	El Prado	District 1
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Virgil Martinez	Trustee	Cerro	District 2
Arturo Rodarte	Trustee	Ojo Caliente	District 3
Ambrose Mascarenas	Trustee	Llano	District 4
Jerry Smith	Trustee	Ocate	District 5

**Board Meeting**

The board of trustees meet the last Tuesday of the month at 9:00am in the cooperative boardroom.

**Main Office:** (575) 758-2258/ 1-800-688-6780

**Customer Service:** (575) 751-9064/ 1-800-944-8159

**Contacts:** Customer Service Fax: (575)758-4611 Administration Fax: 758-4890

**Automated System:** 751-8132      **Angel Fire:** (575) 377-1137

**Power Outages/Service Interruptions:** (575) 758-2258

**Emergency Line-locates:** 1-800-688-6780 ext. 173

**Questa Satellite Office:** (575) 586-2113      **Peñasco Satellite Office:** (575) 587-1900

**Ojo Caliente Satellite Office:** (575) 583-2072

**New Mexico Public Regulatory Commission (PERA Building):** 1-800-947-4722

**Learn more about Kit Carson Electric on the Internet**