

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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NEWS RELEASE

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Collaboration between EMNRD Divisions expands renewable energy

Energy Conservation and Management Division installs new microgrid at State Forestry Division District Office

SANTA FE, NM – Today, the Energy Conservation and Management Division (ECMD) announced the completion of a microgrid and battery storage project at the State Forestry Division Cimarron District Office. By using solar energy to power the Cimarron District Office and installing a battery storage system to make the system even more reliable, our Department is providing a resilient energy source for one of State Forestry's most remote offices, while also addressing the threat of climate change head on. ECMD and State Forestry are both divisions of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) and this project highlights the benefits of inter-division collaboration.

One of the first executive orders signed by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham when she entered office committed New Mexico to reducing greenhouse gas emissions across state government. ECMD is proud to lead by example with this effort in collaboration with the State Forestry Division. Reliable power will also help the Cimarron District respond more effectively to wildfire emergencies and communicate with local fire departments, communities and other agencies. The worst possible time for a power outage is during a wildfire, and with this microgrid and battery storage system, the Cimarron District will have a reliable system that provides energy independence and reduces carbon emissions.

"Communication in the field is crucial for our district foresters, firefighters, and on-the-ground workers," said State Forester Laura McCarthy. "Thanks to the newly installed microgrid I am more confident that our staff will have the tools they need to communicate time sensitive information during wildfire emergencies. We look forward to bringing renewable energy systems to other District Offices throughout the state, with the help of our coworkers at ECMD."

"This project is a win-win, it's a win for renewable energy, a win for our firefighters, and a step forward toward meeting the goals of the climate executive order," said Louise Martinez Director of the Energy Conservation and Management Division. "ECMD is committed to making EMNRD a leader when it comes to advancing renewable energy and resiliency. This project is a great example of the positive changes we are making."

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ECMD looks forward to assisting other Divisions within EMNRD and other state agencies in expanding renewable energy throughout New Mexico.



New solar panels at the Cimarron District Office.

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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.

<http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us>