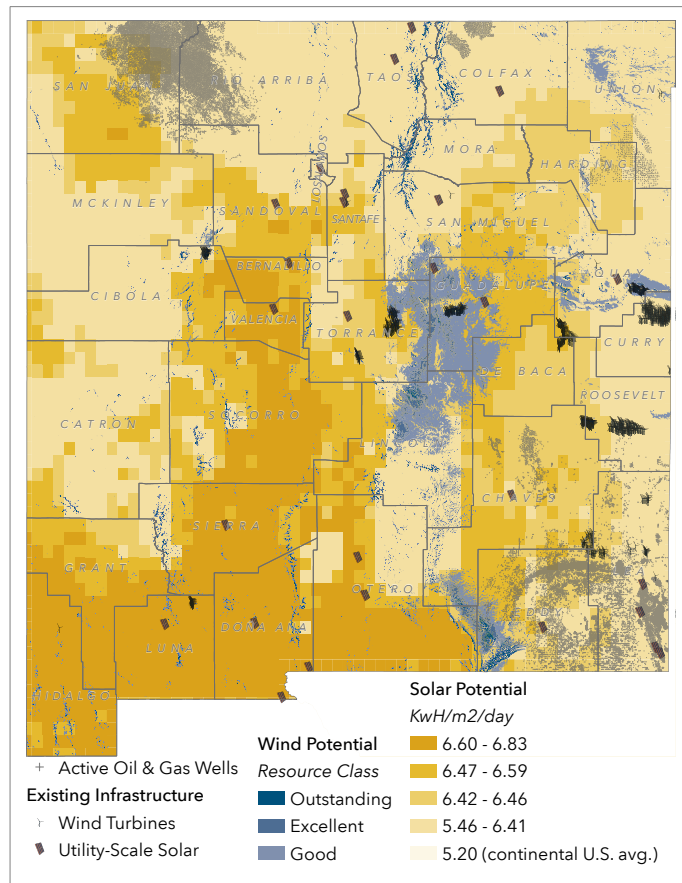


# Transitioning to Renewable Energy While Mitigating Pollution from Oil and Gas

An estimated one in fifteen New Mexicans lives within a half mile of an active oil and gas well—and may be exposed to associated health hazards. Health-harming air pollutant emissions can be partially reduced in tandem with efforts to control methane emissions. Air, water, and other oil and gas-related pollutants can be more fully reduced through an economy-wide transition away from fossil fuels towards renewable energy production.



**Active oil and gas wells, wind turbines, solar farms, wind energy potential, and solar energy potential.**

- Oil and gas production emits nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, hazardous air pollutants, and other pollutants which are associated with adverse birth outcomes, respiratory disease, cancer, and other public health impacts.
- Greenhouse gas emission reduction efforts focused on reducing methane emissions at oil and gas wells can simultaneously reduce health-damaging air pollutant emissions; these efforts can be enhanced through increased air pollution monitoring & leak detection.
- Achieving statewide greenhouse gas goals will require reducing and ultimately phasing out oil and gas production, which will yield statewide public health benefits, and additional measures to remediate brownfields and plug abandoned wells will be needed to help minimize legacy pollution.
- New Mexico has significant potential to expand solar and wind electricity generation during a clean energy transition in the coming decades, supplying both the state and the southwest with renewable electricity.
- The build-out of this renewable energy infrastructure should also consider land-use impacts, economic and job opportunities, and end-of-life planning for solar panels and wind turbines to minimize ecological and environmental health impacts and return economic benefits to the surrounding communities.

For more information, visit:

[www.psehealthyenergy.org/our-work/western-states-deep-decarbonization/](http://www.psehealthyenergy.org/our-work/western-states-deep-decarbonization/)

