

5. ADVOCATING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE LEGISLATION

New Mexico Legislature and Climate Change



In our democracy (as in the church), we pass legislative proposals (overtures) to set a course of action. The State of New Mexico Legislature reviews many more proposals than are passed and signed by the Governor.

To learn about this is a simple task:

Go to: <https://www.nmlegis.gov>

From there, scroll across to the word "Legislation"
Then scroll down to "Find Legislation by Keyword"
Then type a subject such as "Climate Change"

This past year, there were 27 pieces of legislation. Nearly all of them related to taxation issues. Most failed to be approved by the respective committees assigned to review them.

When you see the word "Chaptered," that means the legislation was passed and was signed by the Governor. Of the 27 proposals, four were approved, three were "substituted," and one was vetoed.

The Current Legislative Session calendar:

- January 3-13 - Pre-filing of new legislation
- January 17 - Opening Day
- February 16 - Deadline for Introduction of new legislation
- March 18 - Session Ends
- April 7 - Legislation not acted upon by the Governor is "Pocket Vetoed"
- June 16 - Effective Date of New Legislation (unless otherwise stated in the bill).

NOTE: At the time of this writing (fall 2022), there were no proposals filed. It is easy to see the 2023 legislation by going to the [nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov) Website.

From the Presbytery's EarthCare Team's Suggested Advocacy



Presbytery of Santa Fe

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

A Community Collaborating in Worship, Education, and Mission

GROUP/GOVERNMENT ACTIONS

Energy conservation, from better insulation to fuel efficiency, must be encouraged and mandated by government as an investment in a more appropriate infrastructure for the difficult times ahead.

- In North America, we should stop using natural gas as a fuel for new electricity generators, or for upgrades to existing electricity generators.
- None of these measures will prevent a great reduction of consumption, but may prevent serious social disorganization. We need to figure out how to retain social cohesiveness while going through the reduction.
- Write, call, or talk to your representatives.
- With all we know now, and experts and scientists have been pointing this out for decades, do you still want your state and federal governments to subsidize the oil and coal industries? They do, to the tune of billions of dollars. Let your representative know, and use your vote wisely in the next election!