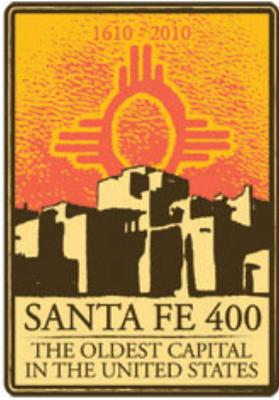


City of Santa Fe

The Oldest Capital in the United States



Santa Fe is the capital of the state of New Mexico. It is the fourth-largest city in the state and is the seat of Santa Fe County.

Santa Fe (literally 'holy faith' in Spanish) had a population of 62,203 at the April 1, 2000 census; the estimate for July 1, 2009, is 73,720.

The City of Santa Fe was originally occupied by a number of Pueblo Indian villages with founding dates from 1050 to 1150. The Santa Fe River provided water to people living there.

Mayor David Coss

David Coss was elected in 2006 and re-elected in 2010 to serve as Mayor of the City of Santa Fe, the oldest capital city in the U.S. known internationally for its unique historic, cultural, artistic and creative heritage.

Mayor Coss's priority is creating jobs and strengthening the economy. Mayor Coss considers supporting local businesses, the Santa Fe Living Wage Ordinance and affordable housing programs as integral to strengthening Santa Fe's economy and supporting working families. Coss remains committed to protecting Santa Fe's water and environment. He envisions Santa Fe becoming the sustainability and alternative energy capitol of the country.

Mayor Coss holds a bachelor's degree in Wildlife Science from New Mexico State and a master's degree in Zoology from Southern Illinois University. After completing his master's degree, Mayor Coss worked as a surface water scientist for the State of New Mexico. During this time he worked to create the New Mexico Environment Department and became Director of the Environmental Protection Division within NMED.



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Sustainable Santa Fe Commission

The Sustainable Santa Fe Commission is comprised of citizen volunteers that advise the City Council on issues of sustainability with expertise in a variety of areas. The commission is responsible for development of the [Sustainable Santa Fe Plan](#).



Sustainable Santa Fe Commission Key Points

1. The Commission is developing a plan to meet the goals of the US Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, which includes:

- Strive to meet or beat the Kyoto Protocol targets in their own communities, through actions ranging from anti-sprawl land-use policies, to urban forest restoration projects, to public information campaigns;
- Urge their state governments, and the federal government, to enact policies and programs to meet or beat the greenhouse gas emission reduction target suggested for the United States in the Kyoto Protocol -- 7% reduction from 1990 levels by 2012; and
- Urge the U.S. Congress to pass the bipartisan greenhouse gas reduction legislation, which would establish a national emission trading system.

2. The Commission prepared the Sustainable Santa Fe Plan with substantial input and guidance from the community, which addresses:

- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- Preparing the community to respond to the effects of climate change and peak oil (resiliency)

3. The Commission has actively sought ways to implement the plan since its adoption in October 2008, including:

- Adoption of the Residential Green Building Code has avoided about 420 CO₂e tons per year of greenhouse gases, which is equivalent to taking about 150 cars permanently off the road.
- ARRA funds have been used to replace lighting in city buildings.
- The City and Homewise, a non-profit, have allocated funds for energy efficiency and solar equipment installation for income qualified homeowners.
- The trail system has been expanded to provide more alternative transportation opportunities.
- Water conservation (and associated pumping impact reduction) has been accomplished through existing and new programs.
- The Santa Fe City and County Advisory Council on Food Policy was formed to address hunger and limitations in the local food system.