



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: April 4, 2023

Contact: Shelby Ruff, President, Board of Directors, Eco El Paso – (915) 213-4858 – [info@ecoelpaso.org](mailto:info@ecoelpaso.org)

### **Let the Sunshine In: Cleaning Up After the El Paso Chamber's Misinformation Campaign**

#### **El Paso Climate Charter – Prop K**

For the first time in El Paso's history, the voters of El Paso have an opportunity to pass a Climate Charter (Prop K) that will build a clean energy economy, bring thousands of jobs to El Paso, hold the city accountable to enact these changes, turn the city's electric bills into a solar profit center, and clean up our polluted ecosystems.

The El Paso Chamber of Commerce and El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce paid an out of state fossil fuel consulting company to write a misinformation study riddled with false facts, fear mongering, and a total disregard for accurate information.

The purpose of Prop K is to accomplish three goals of paramount importance:

1. First, reduce the City's contribution to climate change.
2. Second, invest in an environmentally sustainable future.
3. Third, advance the cause of climate justice.

Based on the great success of climate plans implemented across the United States, Prop K aims to improve the quality of life for everyone in El Paso while protecting our environment for generations to come.

Prop K Will:

- Create sustainable high paying jobs that protect laborers and the planet.
- Bring new businesses, jobs, and industries to our city.
- Reduce the city's operating costs and will save taxpayers money.
- Reduce global climate change.
- Create climate mitigation plans.
- Promote climate justice.

- Protect our environment and sustain our ecosystem.
- Conserve our precious water resources.
- Create educational opportunities that don't exist today.
- It will preserve and attract new talent to our city.
- Create a more resilient city for all El Pasoans.

Myths and false statements by the Chamber of Commerce and their fossil fuel members:

- It won't cost the city \$9B or lose 198K jobs. This is made up math and false. Cities across the country have implemented these plans and this has NEVER occurred.
  - Converting to solar will save the city over \$275 million in electric bills over 25 years and produce over \$230 million in profits for the city, turning it into a profit center versus a cost center. This is a delta of over \$500 million over 25 years. This is just 1 example of the success it will bring to our city.
- The Charter **WILL NOT** force you to replace your gas appliances. The Charter focuses on the City Government facilities and never mentions residents or commercial businesses.
- Dirty, fracked, natural gas, is not clean in any way! It's just marketing from mass polluters who use our precious water resources, mix it with deadly forever chemicals for fracking, and then dump it back into the earth contaminating ground water, surface water, and water wells across the country.
  - Natural gas is made up mostly of methane, a potent greenhouse gas that traps more than **80 times as much heat as carbon dioxide**.
  - In the electric power sector, Natural gas is the #2 polluter of fossil fuels in the United States behind coal. This doesn't make it "good" or "clean".
  - Natural gas massively increases earthquakes from fracking, including West Texas.
- Prop K states we should assess purchasing El Paso Electric and possibly turn it into a municipally owned utility. This could take years to assess, they are not for sale today, and electricity will continue to flow like normal in El Paso. It's not a done deal.
- Water won't be turned off to existing fossil fuel projects inside or outside of the city that are currently under contract.

Read our full response: [Click Here](#)

### **About Eco El Paso:**

Eco El Paso is a 501(c)3 nonprofit focused on sustainability in the Hot-Arid climate of El Paso and the Chihuahua Desert. We are here to promote and educate the public about how we can live a more sustainable lifestyle in all aspects of our lives. Essentially, we promote sustainability to create a bright future for generations to come in El Paso.