

“Mining the Sky” in New Mexico

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) officials helped dedicate a solar carport at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center (IPCC) as part of the City of Albuquerque's Million Solar Roofs initiative and its

Rebuild Greater Albuquerque partnership.

DOE Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy **Dan Reicher**, **Dave Melton** of the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, and representatives of the Albuquerque Million Solar Roofs Partnership, were on hand to help dedicate the 10 kw system, which is the largest commercial photovoltaics (PV) array in New Mexico.

The PV panels were installed atop a solar carport or shading structure in the parking lot of the IPCC, and convert sunlight directly into electricity.

Reicher spoke about the importance of renewable energy to an audience of about 70 and presented a plaque from Million Solar Roofs to IPCC President **Rafael**

Gutierrez. In his comments, Melton described the PV method of using solar energy to make electricity and conserve water by reducing coal processing as “mining the sky, making it rain.”

A comprehensive monitoring system will be installed to monitor and calculate annual energy, water, and money savings resulting from the PV array. A kiosk inside the Cultural Center will graphically convey the energy savings to the 400,000 visitors to the Center each year. The solar carport will serve as an educational tool for the public, according to Melton.



From left: Dave Melton and Rafael Gutierrez of IPCC with DOE Assistant Secretary Dan Reicher.

Denver Regional Team Leader **Dave Waltzman** sees potential for greater Native American involvement in Rebuild America.

“The program with the Pueblo Cultural Center shows how dedicated individuals can successfully build partnerships with Native American programs and communities,” says Waltzman. “The Albuquerque initiatives have been an exciting opportunity for DOE to work with committed and innovative community leaders in New Mexico.”



Dan Reicher addresses the audience under the cover of the IPCC's new solar carport.