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New Mexico named Energy Stewardship Champion

Henderson, NV—The Energy Services Coalition (ESC) recently announced its 2017 Energy Stewardship Champions given to states in recognition of outstanding accomplishments in leveraging Guaranteed Energy Savings Performance Contracting (GESPC) to achieve energy savings, infrastructure modernization, environmental stewardship, and economic development.

New Mexico was among 12 state Champions recognized for this annual award during the closing ceremonies at the ESC's Market Transformation Conference in Henderson, Nevada on Friday, August 11th.

"GESPC is a financial strategy leveraging guaranteed future energy savings to pay for energy efficiency upgrades today," said Jim Arwood, ESC Executive Director. "New Mexico has achieved considerable recent success in support of implementing energy efficiency projects in public buildings through the use of a GESPC."

Arwood added that the example New Mexico has set through executive and legislative leadership, program design and technical assistance, and private sector investment in public building energy retrofits using a GESPC financing solution, is a prime model of being a good steward of taxpayer's monies and using natural resources wisely.

New Mexico passed enabling legislation in 1995 that allowed for public institutions to use energy performance contracting program to pay for energy retrofits. But it wasn't until a \$15 million GESPC at New Mexico State University in 2013 that this alternative financing mechanism began to gain traction in the state. Today, New Mexico has

completed more than \$85 million in projects that are reducing the strain on taxes by updating public buildings and reducing utility costs and energy and water consumption.

The New Mexico State University GESPC is expected to save more than \$1.3 million annually. The project, which was completed in December 2015, includes two solar parking canopies that allowed NMSU to generate more than 50 percent of its own power during fiscal year 2016. The solar canopies total 180 kilowatts of power at full capacity, produced more power than NMSU purchased from El Paso Electric during its first year. Energy efficiency improvements have also reduced the university's overall electricity and natural gas consumption.

For more than 40 years now performance contracting has proven over and over again to be a smart solution for public organizations -- allowing them to pay for much needed energy upgrades using avoided future energy costs.

About the Energy Services Coalition

The Energy Services Coalition is a public private partnership promoting the benefits of, providing education on, and serving as an advocate for the widespread use of guaranteed energy performance contracting in public and private facilities. The ESC provides a unique forum in which all stakeholders can work together to address and overcome any barriers which are limiting the effective use of GESPC.