

Wind Energy Development Near Corona, New Mexico

Timeline and project identification

The large wind developments near Corona, New Mexico were built in multiple phases. The first major construction associated with the Corona area began in November 2020, followed by major construction at the New Mexico State University Corona Range and Livestock Research Center in early spring 2021. That portion of the project was completed in late 2021.

Date / Period	Development / Event
September 2017	NMSU's Corona Range and Livestock Research Center joined Pattern Energy's effort to develop a wind farm in the Corona area.
October 2018	New Mexico's Public Regulation Commission approved location control for the Corona Wind Projects.
November 2020	Construction in the Corona area began.
Early spring 2021	Major construction began at the NMSU Corona Range and Livestock Research Center.
Late 2021	The NMSU portion of the wind project was completed; 39 turbines were installed on ranch property, with two additional turbines at the NMSU facility.
2021	Western Spirit Wind reached commercial operation, forming a major operating wind development in central New Mexico.
September 1, 2023	SunZia construction officially broke ground near Corona, beginning another much larger phase of wind and transmission development.
2023–2026	SunZia construction proceeded as a major expansion, with commercial operation targeted around 2026.

Key point: If you are asking when the wind turbines first appeared around Corona, the strongest documented answer is **late 2020 through 2021**. A substantially larger SunZia phase began construction in **September 2023**.

Sources

New Mexico State University reports that construction in the Corona area started in November 2020 and that the NMSU project was completed in late 2021. New Mexico Public Regulation Commission records document the 2018 approval and later project changes. The U.S. Department of the Interior documents the September 1, 2023 SunZia groundbreaking near Corona.