

Hello All!

April's table of contents are as follows:

1. ASEA has a new statewide board!
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1. The results from the election are in. Here is the new board lineup:

Chairman: Ben Marcus (me)

Vice-Chair: Dan Aiello

Secretary: Ferrell Anderson

Treasurer: Ursula Garrett

Northern Region Director: Bill Buckner

Central Region Director: Jim Stack

Southern Region Director: Vivian (Swearingen) Harte

Directors at large:

Bob Sheffield

Russ Clark

Andy Gerl

Thank you for participating.

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2. Phoenix Metro Area Spring Solar Tour

Sat. April 29th 9-4pm.

See, experience, learn, understand, and ask questions from real homeowners who have real, functional homes that utilize sustainable energy and environmental architecture, design, and equipment. Talk to homeowners about solar electric and water heating, different building materials, insulation, sustainable flooring, efficient and innovative appliances, permaculture, passive solar design, xeriscaping, etc., etc., etc.

15 homes will be on the tour, as well as APS' STAR (Solar Test And Research) center in Tempe. Check for updates with more information at <http://www.azsolarcenter.com>.

There will be a separate tour on Sun. April 30th of the Hydrogen House. Pre-registration is required. You can register online at <http://www.azsolarcenter.com>.

Tour guides and online tour guides will be made available soon. Tour guides will be able to be picked up at the following locations:
The Orange Table Café: 7373 E. Scottsdale Mall, Scottsdale
The APS STAR Center (day of tour only) 1500 E. University Dr., Tempe
AKA Green 8100 E. Indian School Rd. Scottsdale
The Stack Residence 1070 E. Jupiter Pl., Chandler

Planning meetings are held on Thursday evenings at 6:30. If you are interested in attending or volunteering for the event, please respond to this email.

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3. Status of sustainable energy and environmental legislation

The news is bad. Most of the bills ASEA has been supporting have failed to make it through the gauntlet of congress. One bill has made it to the governor, and 2 other bills are still alive in the Senate, but one of those has been weakened substantially.

To the Governor:

HB 2430 energy cost saving measures; requirements: cleans up several aspects of the statutes addressing energy efficiency and renewable energy. It will encourage state agencies and schools to utilize energy efficiency and renewable energy mechanisms. It will allow agencies to better pay for the investments over a reasonable period of time. *This passed the Senate 19-9-2 and has gone to the Governor.*

Senate Floor Vote for HB 2430:

Y=yay n=nay nv=not voting.

Edward Ableser	Y	Paula Aboud	Y	Linda Aguirre	Y
Carolyn S. Allen	NV	Marsha Arzberger	Y	Timothy S. Bee	Y
Robert Blendu	N	Bill Brotherton	Y	Robert "Bob" Burns	N
Robert Cannell	Y	Ken Chevront	N	Jake Flake	Y
Jorge Luis Garcia	Y	Ron Gould	N	Chuck Gray	Y
Linda Gray	N	Albert Hale	NV	Jack W. Harper	N
Toni Hellon	Y	John Huppenthal	N	Karen Johnson	N
Barbara Leff	Y	Dean Martin	Y	Richard Miranda	Y

Rebecca Rios Y Victor Soltero Y Jay Tibshraeny Y
Thayer Verschoor N Jim Waring Y Ken Bennett Y

Still alive in the Senate:

HB 2843 Tax credit for energy efficient appliances:

- \$150 credit for a central air conditioner or an air source heat pump that would qualify for the federal tax credit.
- \$100 for a washing machine certified as Energy Star by the USDE or the EPA.
- \$25 for a ceiling fan certified as Energy Star by the USDE or the EPA. The fan provision will be amended out because of changes in federal requirements.

This bill goes to finance committee and rules committee before going to senate floor. Watch out for Ron Gould, though, who dislikes tax credits, and his friend Jack Harper. Both Senators on this committee who both have a bad sustainable energy and environmental record. In fact, they both rejected HB 2427, which would have made renewable energy sales more profitable (see below).

HB 2429 tax credits for solar energy equipment, still alive, but weakened. The largest benefit to homeowners has been taken away, which was increasing the cap on the state tax credit to \$2,000. However, it still exempts solar equipment from adding value to the home that would increase property tax, and the sales tax exemption on solar equipment and installation has been raised from its current level of \$5,000 to \$50,000. For commercial entities, there is a 10% state tax credit, and the exemption on sales tax goes to \$50,000 as well. The cap on the total cost of the corporate portion of this bill has been set at \$5,000,000 per year.

We need your help and support on these two bills. It is up to me and you to help these pass and become law. We've lost a lot of bills this session due to lack of public support. Please help and let your representatives know that energy and the environment are a priority for the citizens of Arizona!!!! YOU CAN DO THIS IN ABOUT 2 MINUTES!

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR SENATOR BELOW, AND TELL THEM TO SUPPORT HB 2843 AND HB 2429:

AZ Senate members:

All phone and fax numbers are in area code 602.

Name	Dist.	Party.	Email	Phone	Fax
Ken Bennett	1	R	kbennett@azleg.gov	926-5584	926-3429
Albert Hale	2	D	ahale@azleg.gov	926-4323	417-3160
Ron Gould	3	R	rgould@azleg.gov	926-4138	417-3165
Jack W. Harper	4	R	jharper@azleg.gov	926-4178	417-3154
Jake Flake	5	R	jflake@azleg.gov	926-5219	417-3223
Dean Martin	6	R	dmartin@azleg.gov	926-5284	417-3163
Jim Waring	7	R	jwaring@azleg.gov	926-4916	417-3150
Carolyn S. Allen	8	R	callen@azleg.gov	303	926-4480 417-3155
Robert "Bob" Burns	9	R	rburns@azleg.gov		926-5993 417-3225
Linda Gray	10	R	lgray@azleg.gov	926-3376	417-3253
Barbara Leff	11	R	bleff@azleg.gov	926-4486	417-3170
Robert Blendu	12	R	rblendu@azleg.gov	926-5955	417-3168
Richard Miranda	13	D	rmiranda@azleg.gov		926-5911 417-3171
Bill Brotherton	14	D	bbrotherton@azleg.gov		926-4485 926-3429
Ken Chevront	15	D	kchevront@azleg.gov		926-5325 417-3149
Linda Aguirre	16	D	laguirre@azleg.gov	926-3830	417-3145
Harry E. Mitchell	17	D	hmitchell@azleg.gov	926-4124	417-3164
Karen Johnson	18	R	kjohnson@azleg.gov	926-3160	417-3151
Marilyn Jarrett	19	R	mjarrett@azleg.gov	926-5288	417-3161
John Huppenthal	20	R	jhuppenthal@azleg.gov		926-5261 417-3157
Jay Tibshraeny	21	R	jtibshraeny@azleg.gov		926-4481 417-3152
Thayer Verschoor	22	R	tverschoor@azleg.gov		926-4136 417-3222
Rebecca Rios	23	D	rrios@azleg.gov	926-5685	417-3167
Robert Cannell	24	D	rcannell@azleg.gov	926-4139	417-3156
Marsha Arzberger	25	D	marzberger@azleg.gov		926-4321 417-3146
Toni Hellon	26	R	thellon@azleg.gov	926-4326	417-3159
Jorge Luis Garcia	27	D	jgarcia@azleg.gov	926-4171	417-3162
Paula Aboud	28	D	paboud@azleg.gov	926-5262	417-3166
Victor Soltero	29	D	vsoltero@azleg.gov	926-5342	417-3169
Timothy S. Bee	30	R	tbee@azleg.gov	926-5683	417-3147

Dead:

HB 2427 makes renewable energy sales more profitable: FAILED TO PASS in Finance Committee:

Robert "Bob" Burns N
Ken Chevront N
Jorge Luis Garcia Y
Ron Gould N
Karen Johnson N
Richard Miranda Y
Jay Tibshraeny Y

Jack W. Harper N
Dean Martin Y

HB 2501, giving money to schools to make them more energy efficient never got voted on to make it out of the House.

HB 2435 water protection fund; funding, never got voted on to make it out of the house.

HB 2374 cities and towns; energy code - died to a strike everything amendment. Everything in it was taken out, and replaced with something about dentists.

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4. There are currently 4 layers of incentives for homeowners who install solar equipment in Arizona. These incentives have been changing quite a bit over the last several months, but have finally been solidified for the rest of 2006 (or until the new EPS gets implemented) just last week.

Solar Electricity:

1. Utility Credit Purchase Payment (rebate)
2. Federal Personal Income Tax Credit
3. State Personal Income Tax Credit
4. State and County Sales Tax Exemption

1. There are 2 ways the utilities compensate customers who have solar electric equipment on their homes. The first way is by paying for a large percentage to get the system installed. The second way is by buying any electricity the homeowner sells to the utility company.

APS and SRP offer \$3 / installed watt-DC of solar electricity with a cap of 10,000 watts. APS used to offer \$4 / watt or 50% of the system cost, whichever was less. SRP used to be at \$3 / watt, but with a cap at 3,000 watts.

The only difference between the programs now is that SRP offers net metering on a month-to-month basis, where they buy any electricity a residential solar electric system feeds into the SRP grid at the same price they charge the customer for it, however, it is not very beneficial for the customer to generate more electricity than he or she uses in

any given month. APS still buys back any electricity the customer sells to the utility at a greatly reduced rate, although this is scheduled to change once the new EPS program takes effect (see last month's e-newsletter). Eventually all the regulated utilities (SRP excluded-see others below) will have a Uniform Credit Purchase Payment Policy (rebate).

APS originally had set aside \$4.25 million for the 2006 program. Half was for residential, and half was for commercial. They had used a lot of this money back in 2005, so the 2006 funds ran out early in March. An amendment passed last week adding an additional \$4.25 million into the program until the new EPS program takes effect (sometime later this year...hopefully).

For commercial buildings, APS and SRP offer \$2.50 / installed watt. Neither APS nor SRP offers net metering for commercial buildings. For off grid buildings, in APS service territory the incentive is \$2 / watt; SRP offers \$3 / watt.

TEP and Unisource offer \$2.40 / watt up to 10,000 watts for residential grid-tied systems. They also offer net metering on a month to month basis.

The co-ops (i.e. SSVEC & AEPCO) offer \$4 / watt up to 2,000 watts, and don't pay for any electricity the homeowner sells to them.

The electric districts offer no incentives whatsoever.

2. With the passing of the Federal Energy Act of 2005, a 30% tax credit with a \$2,000 cap was created for homeowners who install solar electric systems on their homes in 2006 or 2007.

3. There is a state income tax credit of 25% with a \$1,000 cap for homeowners who install solar electric systems on their homes.

4. There is a current sales tax exemption on the first \$5,000 for homeowners who install solar electric systems on their homes.

Solar Hot Water:

1. Utility rebates

APS pays \$700 / system

SRP pays \$750 / system

TEP pays nothing, but offers a different rate plan that may be helpful.

Unisource pays nothing.

2. With the passing of the Federal Energy Act of 2005, a 30% tax credit with a \$2,000 cap was created for homeowners who install solar water heating systems on their homes in 2006 or 2007.

3. There is a state income tax credit of 25% with a \$1,000 cap for homeowners who install solar water heating systems on their homes.
4. There is a current sales tax exemption on the first \$5,000 for homeowners who install solar water heating systems on their homes.

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5. Miscellaneous

Sustainable Arizona has a new website. It has updates and news on sustainability in AZ, as well as an online forum. They also have links to cool stuff (I couldn't find a link to the Az Solar Center though). I found a link on there to a speech President Carter gave on energy that rings true today. The link to the text is here:

http://millercenter.virginia.edu/scripps/diglibrary/prezspeeches/carter/jec_1977_0418.html. There is audio as well here:

ftp://webstorage2.mcpa.virginia.edu/library/nara/jec/audiovisual/speeches/jec_1977_0418.mp3. "It takes \$2 to save a barrel of oil, and \$13 to waste it." (1977)

April 22nd is Earth Day. Happy Earth Day!

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That's all for now. Stay tuned for more.

Ben
Chair - ASEA