

Hello All!

This is the March issue of "Under the Sun," the e-newsletter of the Arizona Solar Energy Association.

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Before I start I want to let everyone know that in April the Solar Spring Tours of Homes will be hitting most of the state. The tours happen twice a year, and showcase homes that use practical ideas and products to make homes more sustainable and comfortable. For people in the Phoenix area, planning meetings have been scheduled. If anyone is interested in volunteering, showing their solar/green home, or helping in any way, the next meeting is:

Mar. 6, Tuesday 6:30pm at the Orange Table Café in Scottsdale at the Center for the Performing arts (between Los Olivos to the west, SMOCA to the east, the Blue Moose to the south, and Jewel of the Crown Indian Restaurant to the north,). Totally free and open to the public. They also have incredible food at great prices, with a wide variety of drinks. Any questions? Simply reply to this email.

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## **1. Western Regional Climate Action Initiative**

Below is the official press release from Feb 26, 2007:

"Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano and the governors of California, New Mexico, Oregon and Washington today announced the Western Regional Climate Action Initiative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from their five states. The governors will sign an agreement creating the Initiative during the National Governors Association annually winter meeting.

The agreement charges the five states to develop a regional target for reducing greenhouse gases collectively among their states within the next six months. Then they have 18 months to devise a program, such as a load-based cap and trade program, to reach the target. The five states also have agreed to participate in a multi-state registry to track and manage greenhouse gas emissions in the region.

"In the absence of meaningful federal action, it is up to the states to take action to address climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in this country," said Governor Napolitano. "Western States are being particularly hard-hit by the effects of climate change."

The Western Regional Climate Action Initiative builds on existing greenhouse gas reduction efforts in the individual states. Last fall, Governor Napolitano issued an executive order setting a goal to reduce Arizona's greenhouse gas emissions to the 2000 emissions level by the year 2020 and to reduce emissions to 50 percent below the 2000 level by 2040.

Napolitano also directed state agencies to take a number of actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including requiring state agencies to purchase only vehicles that are hybrids, meet low-greenhouse gas emissions standards, or use clean-burning fuels.

In 2005, Governor Napolitano appointed the Arizona Climate Change Advisory Group, which in August 2006 issued 49 recommendations for reducing Arizona's greenhouse gas emissions. One of the group's recommendations called for Arizona to join with other western states to

create a regional greenhouse gas reduction program, such as a cap-and-trap program. The Western Regional Climate Action Initiative implements that recommendation.”

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## 2. Upcoming Events

### **March 5** - Sir Crispin Tickell at ASU

(Monday, March 5, 2007) Sir Crispin Tickell, Director of the Policy Foresight Programme at the James Martin Institute for Science and Civilization at Oxford University, and former Chancellor of the University of Kent. He serves as Advisor At Large to the President of Arizona State University. Sir Crispin Tickell will present The Impact of Environmental Change on Cities from 3:15-4:30 PM in Neeb Hall, Arizona State University Tempe campus. Sponsored by: The Office of the President; The Office of Sustainability Initiatives; The Global Institute of Sustainability; The School of Sustainability.

### **March 8** - The Sustainability Lunchtime Colloquium Series at ASU

(Thursday, March 8, 2007) Nora Haenn, Associate Professor, School of Human Evolution and Social Change, Arizona State University will present Cultural Difference and Green Democracies: Planning for Sustainability at 12:15 PM in the Global Institute of Sustainability, Tempe Center Rm. 158, Arizona State University Tempe campus. Luncheon will be provided by GIOS. Please RSVP to Tee Engle at [Tamlin.Engle@asu.edu](mailto:Tamlin.Engle@asu.edu) <<mailto:Tamlin.Engle@asu.edu>> by Monday, March 5. Seating is limited so please register early.

**March 15** - The Solar Series - Free Lectures in Scottsdale, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Presented by the Arizona Solar Center and the Arizona Solar Energy Association (State Chapter of the American Solar Energy Society). March Topic: TBA. NOTE NEW ADDRESS: Granite Reef Senior Center, [1700 N Granite Reef Rd.](#) (NW corner of McDowell and Granite Reef, behind the convenience store). Questions? Contact [j2envarch@aol.com](mailto:j2envarch@aol.com) or call 602 952-8192, Scottsdale, AZ

**March 17** - [Introduction to Building with Natural Materials - A Dawn SouthWest Workshop - Adobe, cob, & straw bale, along with earth plasters & finishes will be used in a hands-on workshop to build & sculpt small structures, such as garden walls & benches. Tucson, AZ](#)

**March 20** - [Tour the STAR Center, 8:30 a.m. Third Tuesday of each month. Reservations required. Call Janet Crow \( 602\) 250-4990 for reservations, Tempe, AZ](#)

**March 21**- [Renewable Energy Monthly Seminar and Teleconference Series, Topic: Wind Projects Update. A multi-site seminar and teleconference \(held monthly\). A forum for examining and disseminating information about the expansion of markets for renewable energy, energy efficiency and distributed generation.](#)

**March 24-25** - [Modern Phoenix Home Tour and Expo "Progress + Preservation", including lecture on sustainable retro landscaping, Phoenix, AZ](#)

**March 28** - ASEA Sedona Chapter Meeting (4th Wednesday of the month). 7:15 p.m. Sedona Winds Retirement Home, 405 Jacks Canyon Rd. For more information, contact Bill Buckner, [realtorbill@earthlink.net](mailto:realtorbill@earthlink.net) or (928) 203-1018, Sedona, AZ

### **And in April...**

The Spring Solar Tour Of Homes – Appearing in many areas of the state throughout the month of April. Stay tuned for details!

**April 19** - ASU Green Summit 2007

Hosted by the School of Global Studies Student Association, School of Liberal Arts and Sciences, W.P. Carey School of Business and the Global Institute of Sustainability the Green Summit is a hybrid product showcase/career fair for the green industry. The summit is geared toward attracting companies/organizations that promote a sustainable future. The goal of the summit is to bring sustainability into the mainstream of students and the general community. It will be held on the Student Services Lawn, W.P. Carey Patio, and Memorial Union Mall. For more information contact Christopher Samila at 480-459-0692 or [csamila@asu.edu](mailto:csamila@asu.edu) or [<mailto:csamila@asu.edu>](mailto:csamila@asu.edu).

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### 3. Legislative Update

There are a number of bills going through the legislature this session that have to do with solar energy and energy efficiency. We'll be following many of them as they try to make their way to the governor. Below is a list. Information on when they are due for important votes will come out as details become available. Also, feel free to contact your representatives on any bill you see below whenever you like. You don't have to wait until it goes to their committee, or to a vote on the floor. There are many bills, and the schedules change a lot. So, if you can't keep up with the crazy schedule down at the capitol, simply send them something soon. Remember, you get the most points for showing up in person, then a hand written letter, then a printed letter, phone call, and of course, there are points for email as well. Find ways to contact them here: <http://www.azleg.gov/>

#### HB2491--Solar energy tax credit; application

This bill provides a critical technical correction to the commercial solar energy tax credit established last year. It clarifies that third party financiers are eligible for the tax credit, effectively enabling the tax credit to be applied to installations on state facilities, schools, nonprofits and other non-taxpaying entities.

#### HB2593--Homeowners associations; solar panels

This bill prohibits homeowners associations from banning the installation or use of a solar energy device. There is already a law in place for this, but it needs to be clarified (which this bill does), as HOAs have still been a huge problem in Arizona for homeowners who want to install solar.

#### HB 2275 – Local Energy Conservation Codes

Requires municipalities to adopt and annually update a building energy code for residential and commercial construction that conforms to the International Energy Conservation Code adopted by the International Code Council.

#### HB2530 – Environment; Greenhouse Gases

Establishes a greenhouse gas registry and a reporting system, and requires a reduction in the emissions of greenhouse gases in Arizona to 2000 levels by 2020 and 50% below 2000 levels by 2040. This recommendation was included in those made by the Climate Change Advisory Group last year.

#### HB2606 – State Buildings; Energy Conservation

Increases the energy saving goals for state buildings and universities to 30% by 2020. Also requires that all state agencies, universities, school districts and community college districts purchase at least 10% of their energy requirements from green (renewable and nonpolluting) sources in the public buildings that they administer by July 2012. Green sources in this bill include solar, wind, landfill gas and low impact hydroelectric generation. Requires that all new or leased state buildings conform to the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system developed by the U.S. Green Building Council, in a manner prescribed by the Department of Commerce Energy Office.

#### HB 2497 - Public Buildings; Energy Savings Goals

*Reduces state utility costs by increasing the energy savings goals for state facilities.*

Increases the energy savings goals in ARS 34-451.C (10% reduction in energy use per square foot of floor area by 2008, and 15% reduction per square foot of floor area by 2011) by adding a provision to increase the energy savings percentage to 20% per square foot of floor area on or before July 1, 2015. In addition, clarifies that 34-451.E (requirement to purchase cost-effective Energy Star or FEMP-designated products) applies to all state agencies, universities, community colleges, and schools, and not solely to the state building systems currently listed in 34-451.C. Changes the Energy Office annual reporting date to October 1 (from July 1).

HB 2495 - Schools; Energy Performance Standards (SFB Standards, Consider LEED)

*Increases energy efficiency and reduces utility costs in new schools.*

Implements energy and water performance standards (to be approved by the School Facilities Board) that all new school projects approved after June 30, 2007 must meet. Requires that the School Facilities Board consider Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards for new schools. The amendment in WA provides a funding mechanism (5% of the base cost of a new school) and caps any increase in cost at 5% of the base cost.

HB 2494 - Energy; Water; Savings Loan Fund (Striker: grant fund for schools)

*Develops a grant fund for cost-effective energy and water saving projects in existing schools, to reduce utility costs in schools. (Priority in majority platform)*

Develops a grant fund (\$20 million annually) to assist existing school facilities in implementing energy and water saving projects. Grants could be matched with other sources of funding. Grant funding would be available for five fiscal years. Fund to be administered by the School Facilities Board, with technical assistance provided by the Department of Commerce Energy Office.

HB 2493 - Energy Production; Tax Credit (Combined Heat and Power)

*Provides a state tax credit to encourage efficient combined heat and power (CHP) systems.*

Provides a tax credit (1.5 cents for each kWh produced) for the production of electricity from efficient and clean Combined Heat and Power systems (CHP), which generate electricity and thermal energy from a single fuel source (previously labeled "cogeneration"). CHP systems can also be used to provide dedicated power to essential services in case of a grid emergency. Includes caps of \$2 million total annually and \$100,000 per installation. Includes language allowing the tax credit to be claimed by a third party, such as the developer of the CHP project, for example, if the customer is a non-tax paying entity.

HB 2492 - Local Development Fees; Energy Credit (for Energy Efficient Homes)

*Provides a financial or time saving incentive for builders of energy efficient homes.*

Provides a financial incentive (discount on impact fees) for builders of very energy efficient homes. Specifically, provides a 15% reduction in local development impact fees for builders or developers of homes that qualify for the federal tax credit for energy efficient homes (50% more energy efficient than the IECC 2003 code). (Considering time-saving incentive instead; discussing with League of Cities and the Counties Association.)

HB 2691- Renewable Energy Enterprise Zones

Uses the existing enterprise zone system to create incentives for the new installation of solar and manufacturing. Adds language to the enterprise zone statute to create Renewable Energy Enterprise Zones (ARS Chapter 41, Chapter 10, Article 2), and rewards power producers and manufacturers that locate and operate in enterprise zones in Arizona.

HB 2638 - Local Energy Plans

- Encourage and reward efficient use of energy in the community;
  - Assess policies and practices that provide for greater use of renewable energy sources.
- The Growing Smarter Oversight Council, initiated under Governor Hull, recommended this change in its 2006 report. (Amendment in WA on Feb. 15)

HB2243 - New School Facilities; Energy Efficiency

Increases energy efficiency and reduces utility costs in new school facilities by providing funding for energy and design elements approved by the School Facilities Board. Multiplies the final base cost of a new school by 5% to fund cost-effective energy and design elements

**HB 2674- Electricity Consumption Tax; Solar Rebates**

Establishes a solar rebate program to encourage the installation and use of solar projects in Arizona. Funds the solar rebate program through a sales tax on electricity sales (.0005 of one cent per kWh for residential, and .0007 of one cent per kWh for commercial and industrial).

**HB 2709- Solar Thermal Applications; Study Committee**

Establishes a joint study committee on solar thermal applications consisting of the following members; three members of the House of Representatives who are appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, three members of the Senate who are appointed by the President of the Senate. The committee shall study the use of solar energy for solar thermal applications, historical efforts and developments and the current level of technical development and usage for solar thermal applications in Arizona.

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That's all for for now. Stay tuned for lots of updates and a lot more information next month.

Ben Marcus  
Chairman – ASEA