

Hello All!

This is the September issue of, "Under the Sun," by the Arizona Solar Energy Association.

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**1.** Local Events -THE TOURS OF SOLAR HOMES ARE HERE!!!  
A lot going on this month in Arizona.

### **Let's start with the tours**

Flagstaff 9/30

2006 Tour Of Solar Homes Flagstaff: Willow Bend Center for Environmental Education 703 Sawmill Rd. September 30th, 9AM to 1PM. Call Sonya @ 226-2700 or Ed at 774-6308 for more info.

Tucson 10/28 10/29

Tucson Innovative Home Tour and Tucson Solar Tour

Info here:

[http://www.solarinstitute.org/innovative\\_home\\_tour/index.html](http://www.solarinstitute.org/innovative_home_tour/index.html)

Phoenix Metro Area 10/21 10/22

The Phoenix area is going to be having activity during the entire week of 10/14-10/22.

Sat. Oct. 14 — APS is doing an open house at the STAR center in Tempe, and have arranged to have an interactive trailer from NREL (the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Denver). info: (602) 250-4990. address: 1500 E University Drive, Tempe 85281-4246

Thu. Oct. 19 — The Environment and Energy Lecture Series continues with "Putting Together a Solar and Sustainable Future - Part 1 - The Oasis Realized: Issues and Conditions Reinterpreted in a new paradigm." 7 to 9 p.m. Free. City of Scottsdale Urban Design Studio located at the northeast corner of Indian School Road and 75th St.

Sat. Oct. 21 — Valley Living With the Sun - Az. Style Solar & Sustainability Tour. Several new homes with awesome features, this should definitely be the best tour in the valley in years!

Sun. Oct. 22 — A special tour to be announced soon.

### Others

There are other tours as well. More details as they become available.

There will be more updates between now and next month as more info becomes available, and as various tour guides become available online. Be sure to check out <http://www.azsolarcenter.org> for details as they come (check the online calendar as well!).

### **Other Upcoming Local Events**

#### North:

The 7th Annual Arizona Highlands Garden Conference is scheduled for Oct. 13-14 at the Hon-Dah Resort/Casino Conference Center in Show Low, AZ. They have some sessions on Xeriscape gardening, suitable plants for your area, building soil, successful tree planting techniques, etc.

[http://www.cals.arizona.edu/navajo/2006\\_highlands\\_conference.pdf](http://www.cals.arizona.edu/navajo/2006_highlands_conference.pdf).

Coconino County hosted a Sustainability Summit on Sept 15 at NAU. Sorry for the delay on the head's up...I guess it's too late now.

#### Central:

Thu. Sep. 21.

The Environment and Energy Lecture Series.

Put on by the Arizona Solar Energy Association and the Arizona Solar Center under the auspices of the City of Scottsdale Green Building Program, this month's topic is:

"Costs, Incentives and Rewards - Environmental, Energy, Economic, and Educational." -- Speaker to be Announced -

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Fri. & Sat. Oct. 6-7

The 9th Annual Green Building Expo

Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts

7380 E. Second St., in downtown Scottsdale

10-7 Friday. 9 - 5 Saturday

*FREE to the public!*

*No registration required*

Fri. October 20th,

There will be a corporation commissioner candidates' debate on ENERGY hosted by ASU in Phoenix or Tempe. This is going to be perhaps the most important debate of the whole election cycle in terms of energy and the environment. We need as many people to show up as possible. I will give more info as it becomes available. Stay tuned.

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## 2. AZ Sustainable Energy Politics

The ASEA Legislative Committee has sent out 2 sets of questionnaires to candidates for public office in Arizona. One set has been sent to corporation commissioner candidates, who regulate the electric utilities (among other things), and one set has been sent to candidates running for the state house and senate. The results of these will come out before the general election Nov. 7.

A lot is on the line this year as the corporation commission is going to be looking at a lot of items regarding how much renewable energy the utilities are to generate over the next ~20 years, and how they are to do this. The goal is 15% renewable by 2025, but depending on how good of a plan they make will determine if they will actually achieve this goal, or if the "standard" will eventually get canned because bad planning may make it cost prohibitive. It is important that the right people are in the corporation commission so a good plan is made so this mandate can actually be carried out. **IF THERE IS ONE THING YOU CAN DO TO HELP SUSTAINABILITY IN ARIZONA IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, YOU CAN VOTE FOR THE RIGHT PEOPLE TO GO THE CORPORATION COMMISSION THIS YEAR!** ASEA, as a 501©3 cannot endorse candidates, but we can inform you how they responded to our questionnaire. Please keep an eye out for it soon.

A lot is going on in state and federal congress as well. Some candidates have chosen energy as their number one priority, a situation we have not seen in decades. We will keep you informed of where the candidates stand on these issues. Stay tuned...

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### 3. Articles.

The Arizona Climate Change Advisory Group released their Climate Change Action Plan on September 8th, 2006 on how to curb Green House Gas Emissions over the next 34 years. The goal is this:

“Reduce Arizona's Green House Gas Emissions to 2000 levels by 2020, and to 50% below 2000 levels by 2040.”

The group was formed as the result of an executive order made by Governor Napalitano in February of 2005, and this action plan is a result of their efforts since then.

Here is a graph from the executive summary.

As you can see, our GHG emissions have increased by >70% in the last 15 years, far more than anyone else on this graph. And the recommendation is to take 14 years to go back 6. The difficulty in the reduction being from the prediction that AZ's population will reach 12 million by 2040 (from 6 million currently).

For the full report, executive summary, or anything else you want to know about this, go here: <http://www.azclimatechange.us/>.

This goes hand in hand with an article in the AZ Republic from 9/18/06, in which it was written:

“The number of days in a year that particulate pollution exceeded the federal standard [in Maricopa County] reached a record of 19 days in 2005. With 18 days exceeding the standard as of June 6, the county is likely to break that record this year. The Valley will become only the second region in the country to be placed on what is known as [the EPA's] '5 percent plan.' California's San Joaquin Valley, is the other. The county has until Dec. 31, 2007, to submit a plan to the EPA to reduce emissions 5 percent per year until it meets the standard. If it doesn't meet that deadline or doesn't implement measures it promised to take, Maricopa County faces a series of harsh sanctions, culminating in the loss of up to \$900 million in federal highway money.

A 2001 report from then-Gov. Jane Hull's office said brown-cloud pollution was responsible for an additional 250 to 1,000 deaths a year in the Phoenix area.

Last winter, the state issued warnings on 70 days between Oct. 1 and March 31 when particulate pollution looked like it might approach or exceed the standard, cautioning children, the elderly and people with respiratory problems to stay indoors. There likely will be more this winter.

'It seems outrageous to me that we appear to accept poor air quality that actually affects people's health,' said Sandy Bahr, director of the Sierra Club's Grand Canyon Chapter. 'We should not be planning our days around bad air quality. It's unacceptable.'"

I really wanted to put the whole article in the newsletter, but just go here:

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/0918winterair0918.html>

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That wraps up this month's addition. Please come to events, spread the word, and get out the vote! The opportunities are laid out before us to stay on this accelerating merry-go-round that is our solar system, all we need to do is find a way to hold on!

If you have any questions or comments, feel free to respond to this email.

Benjamin Marcus  
ASEA - Chairman