

# Arizona Lifestyle

April – May 2008

**APS**  
THE POWER TO MAKE IT HAPPEN®

## APS earns ENERGY STAR award

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has recognized APS with a 2008 ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year award for excellence in delivering the APS ENERGY STAR Homes program. Established in 1992, ENERGY STAR is a joint program between the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy designed to save money and help address climate change through energy-efficient products and practices at home and at work. In Arizona, the APS ENERGY STAR Homes program\* educates home builders on energy-efficient construction methods, products and sales techniques and provides incentives and advertising to promote the building and sales of energy-efficient homes throughout the state.

Currently 27 Arizona home-builders are participating in the APS ENERGY STAR Homes program in 115 subdivisions totaling a commitment of 22,492 homes.

APS ENERGY STAR Homes reduce the costs of operating a home, conserve energy, and reduce pollution. Based on the more than 22,000 homes committed to the APS program to date, the savings will be impressive.

Over the next twenty years, the energy savings from the homes committed to date in the program are projected to save customers over \$61 million in energy costs while reducing greenhouse gas emissions by more than 500 million pounds. The energy savings over this time are equivalent to the amount of energy needed to power more than 40,000 homes for a year.

The EPA awarded the APS program for its outstanding contributions to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by delivering information and services to its customers to

increase energy efficiency. APS' accomplishments were recognized at an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. on April 1, 2008. To find out more about the APS ENERGY STAR Homes program, visit [www.aps.com/newsletter](http://www.aps.com/newsletter). For more information on the EPA's ENERGY STAR program, visit [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov).

## New duct test and repair rebate of up to \$250 now available

If you are like most homeowners, as long as your cooling and heating system is keeping you comfortable, you usually don't give it much thought. But what you don't see could be costing you a lot of money each year. Most duct systems are installed where they are rarely seen or inspected. They may have been poorly sealed when installed, fittings may have come loose, and duct runs may have become disconnected. All of this leads to a lot of lost air — air that you pay to heat and cool. On average, almost 15 percent of cooling energy is wasted due to duct leakage. By having a trained and licensed contractor test your duct system and repair leaks you could be eligible for a rebate of up to \$250. By fixing duct system air leaks, you may be able to save more than \$200 in your annual

energy costs while improving the comfort of your home. Don't wait until the summer heat arrives to get your duct system repaired. Call 602-371-3636, outside the Phoenix metro area call 888-890-9730, to get a referral to a contractor that has completed the required training to help you qualify for this rebate. You can find more information on this and our other AC Rebates\* on [www.aps.com/newsletter](http://www.aps.com/newsletter).

*\*The APS Energy Star Homes and AC Rebate programs are funded by APS customers and are approved by the Arizona Corporation Commission.*



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We're available 7-days-a-week, 24-hours-a-day, [aps.com](http://aps.com)  
Metro Phoenix area: 602-371-7171 — Other areas: 800-253-9405

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## Financial assistance to help low-income families keep the power on

Financially strapped low-income families now have a new resource to help pay overdue utility bills and prevent potential electric or gas shutoffs. The Home Energy Assistance Fund (HEAF), administered statewide by the Arizona Community Action Association (ACAA) through Community Action Program (CAP) with offices in every county, may provide eligible individuals annual one-time financial assistance of up to \$500 to restore utilities to avoid disconnections. Individuals may only apply once in a 12-month period for funding. For information about the Home Energy Assistance Fund and the Arizona Community Action Association, visit [www.azcaa.org](http://www.azcaa.org) or call 602-604-0640.

## Save with APS' 7 p.m. to Noon rate plans

If you use most of your energy during late evening and morning hours and on weekends, our Time Advantage 7 p.m. – Noon Plan may be able to save you money. Electricity used during off-peak hours — 7 p.m. to noon Monday through Friday and all day on weekends — costs less than electricity used during on-peak hours (noon to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday) on this plan.

If you currently are a Standard Plan customer who lives in a home that is 1,100 sq. ft. or larger, typically use more than 1,000 kilowatt hours per month, and can shift the majority of your energy use to off-peak hours, you are likely to be able to lower your bill through the Time Advantage 7 p.m. – Noon Plan.

Your savings will increase as the percentage of electricity you use during off-peak hours increases.

However, if you can shift most of your energy use to off-peak hours *and* you can stagger the use of appliances to spread out your energy use during on-peak hours

then our Combined Advantage 7 p.m. – Noon rate plan may be your best money saver. Shifting energy use to off-peak hours **and** reducing your on-peak energy use by using only one high-energy appliance at a time is more likely to lower your bill through the Combined Advantage 7 p.m. – Noon Plan.

For more information or to compare APS' 7 p.m. – Noon Plans and our other rate plan options, visit [www.aps.com/newsletter](http://www.aps.com/newsletter) or call, 602-371-7171, outside the Phoenix metro area call 800-253-9405.

## Keep meter readers safe from dogs and debris

Help keep APS meter readers safe when they are on your property. Make sure the view of your meter is unobstructed by plants or other materials, unlock your gate on meter read day, keep the pathway to your meter clear of any debris that could trip or otherwise harm them and keep your dog inside your house.

APS meter readers are trained to respect customers' dogs and most meter readers genuinely like dogs. But our canine friends often take their jobs of protecting you and your property very seriously and may try to attack any stranger in the yard. Meter readers carry dog treats to distract dogs and a fiberglass dog stick to fend off aggressive dogs. As a last resort, the meter reader may use pepper spray to keep a dog from biting.

To prevent a dog attack, keep your dog inside the house on meter read days — and don't forget to secure the doggy door. If your dog must be outside, restraining them is a good idea. If your dog is barking at the meter reader, do not go out to quiet the dog — it usually makes the dog more aggressive as it is trying to protect you.

You can help us and your dog by calling APS at 602-371-7171 (outside the Phoenix metro area call 800-253-9405) and providing us with its name, whether or not it is aggressive, and if you have any new dogs on the property. For a schedule of your meter read dates visit [www.aps.com/newsletter](http://www.aps.com/newsletter) or call the number above. If our meter readers cannot read your meter, your monthly electricity use will be estimated based on your account history and your account will be reconciled the next month that the meter can be accessed.

