

APS continues to expand renewable portfolio

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In the two years since the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) passed the state's Renewable Energy Standard, APS has expanded its renewable portfolio from 20 megawatts (MW) to 150 MW, a 650-percent increase.

"Renewable energy is a key component to APS' commitment to a sustainable energy future and a better tomorrow for Arizona," said **Barbara Lockwood**, Manager, Renewable Energy.

The standard, approved by the ACC on Oct. 31, 2006, requires the state's regulated utilities to provide at least 15 percent of their total electricity from renewable energy sources by 2025.

Today, APS provides enough renewable energy to power 38,000 homes. With several new projects scheduled to become operational in the next few years, APS' ability to provide homes with renewable energy will continue to increase.

In 2009, APS will add 100 MW of wind power from High Lonesome Wind Farm. This new project will increase APS' wind capacity to 190 MW. Then, in 2012, all the power from the Solana Generating Station, a 280-MW concentrating solar power plant, will be acquired for APS customers. Both Solana and High Lonesome are being built by third parties with APS signing long-term purchase agreements for the electricity.

With the electricity from these sources, APS will have available more than 500 MW of renewable energy, enough to serve at least 125,000 Arizona homes and make up 6.5 percent of APS customers' energy needs, well over the regulatory requirement of 3.5 percent.

Lockwood explained that because of APS' vision to create a sustainable energy future for Arizona — as well as other economic, social and political factors — adding renewable energy is a good strategic business decision. She also complimented the ACC for its leadership in helping spark the renewable revolution in the state.

"When the need to find new electric generation to meet APS' growth is combined with volatile natural gas markets and the prospect of national carbon regulation, renewable energy becomes increasingly important," Lockwood said. "Through a strategic and transparent process, APS is looking to find the most reliable and affordable renewable energy for our customers."