

Frequently Asked Questions

Questions about providing renewable energy to APS

How does APS receive its renewable energy?

Currently, APS contracts with independent developers to purchase renewable energy. These developers build, own and operate the renewable project. APS purchases the power through the use of a power purchase agreement.

I have land that is suitable for solar, wind, geothermal (or other renewable energy) projects.

Does APS purchase or develop the land for a renewable energy project on the property?

APS does not currently purchase or lease land to develop renewable energy projects. It is recommended that you find a renewable energy developer.

How does APS select renewable energy projects?

APS selects renewable energy projects based on the best fit for its load and at the best price for customers. APS typically identifies renewable power opportunities through periodic open and competitive requests for proposals (RFP) www.aps.com/rfp.

APS also reserves the right to purchase energy through a bi-lateral contract. On very rare occasions, this process is used when there are compelling reasons (cost and time) not to go through a full RFP process.

How do I submit a project for a bi-lateral contract?

Selecting projects through a bi-lateral process is very rare. First, there must be a compelling reason for not going through the traditional RFP process (see previous question). APS is only interested in renewable energy technologies that have been in proven commercial applications for greater than one year at a size at least one-tenth the scale of the proposed project. To receive a pre-screening form, please e-mail renewableenergy@aps.com.

My company has a renewable energy (solar, wind, geothermal, biogas, etc.) technology that I would like to present to APS. Who do I contact?

APS is interested in learning about renewable energy technologies that have been in proven commercial applications or are demonstrated to be viable near commercial technologies. If your technology meets this description, please send an email to renewableenergy@aps.com. Enclose a brief summary of the technology including where and when it has been demonstrated or applied in commercial operation.

APS is not interested in renewable energy technologies that are in the research and development (R&D) stage. The following institutions may offer some aid to those looking for R&D assistance: [The U.S. Department of Energy](#), [Sandia National Laboratories](#) and the [Arizona Science Foundation](#).

I would like a renewable project on my property, how do I locate developers?

Please contact the [Arizona Department of Commerce Energy Office](#) as well as the [Interwest Energy Alliance](#).

How do I find out more information regarding the APS transmission system and interconnecting to it?

Information regarding the APS transmission system and interconnecting to it can be found at <http://www.oatioasis.com/azps/index.html>. Additional information regarding transmission in the southwest U.S. can be found at www.westconnect.com.

Does APS need to purchase more renewable energy because of the requirements of the Renewable Energy Standard Tariff (REST)?

APS is required by the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) to provide 15 percent of the energy it brings to customers in the form of renewable energy by 2025. Using sound business principles, APS invests in proven renewable energy projects. APS selects energy from projects that are the best fit for customers and the company's renewable energy portfolio. While always interested in quality, cost effective renewable energy projects, APS does not select every project proposal it receives.

What criteria does APS use to select renewable energy projects?

In order to find those projects that are the best price for customers and are the best fit with APS' existing generation portfolio, a stringent quantitative and qualitative process is used. Numerous factors are considered including: the price APS pays for the power, transmission and distribution compatibility, and the ability of the developer to complete the project. The RFPs may contain additional criteria required for specific projects.

How does APS notify potential renewable energy developers that an RFP is being issued?

APS will notify renewable energy developers with known expertise to gauge their interest in receiving an RFP. APS will also issue press releases to announce an RFP for renewable energy and post the RFP on our website at www.aps.com/rfp.

For customers interested in receiving renewable energy**How do I receive my electricity from renewable resources?**

All APS customers already receive a portion of their power from renewable resources. Currently, APS customers receive a little more than 2 percent. This amount will continue to increase as APS accelerates the amount of renewable energy that is brought onto the grid.

What if I want more than what APS already provides?

For those customers who want additional renewable energy, APS provides several voluntary options: the Renewable Energy Incentive Program and Green Rates.

What is The Renewable Energy Incentive Program?

The APS Solar and Renewable Energy Incentive Program offers money to customers (residential, commercial, and industrial) who install qualified renewable energy technologies. These include wind mills, roof-top solar electric systems and solar water heaters. [Learn More](#)

What are Green Rates?

APS' Green Choice Program enables customers to select either a percentage or a specific amount of their total energy usage to be supplied from a renewable energy source. APS will use the money from the Green Choice Rates to acquire additional renewable energy resources, above what is currently being used to meet the Renewable Energy Standard goals. [Learn More](#)

How do I know the power that is being brought to my house comes from renewable energy?

For any given moment in time, APS knows how much energy must be placed on the grid to meet customer's needs. APS then makes sure that it provides the appropriate amount of energy. The energy is placed on the grid in bulk and cannot be directed to any individual customer. However, when renewable energy is placed on the grid, it reduces the amount of energy placed on the grid that is generated from other sources.

Since renewable energy comes “free” from the sun, wind or other, why do I need to pay more for the Green Choice Rate program to purchase renewable energy?

While the fuel is free, there are other costs associated with producing renewable energy, such as power plant construction and maintenance. These costs, plus other factors such as supply and demand, dictate the price APS must pay suppliers for this electricity. At this time, the price for “green” energy is higher than energy generated from other sources. Therefore, in order to receive this energy, customers pay a similar, small premium.

For those interested in working for or on renewable energy projects including the Solana Generating Station**How do I let APS know that I would like to help build a renewable energy power plant?**

At this time, APS is not building its own new renewable energy generation plants. Instead, the company contracts to purchase renewable energy produced by independent developers. These developers build, own, and operate the renewable project. APS then purchases the power through a power purchase agreement. To find developers, please contact the [Arizona Department of Commerce Energy Office](#) as well as the [Interwest Energy Alliance](#).

I am interested in job opportunities at the new Solana Generating Station or with Abengoa Solar, Inc.

Abengoa Solar has requested that people interested in job opportunities at the Solana Generating Station complete the application posted at: www.solanasolar.com/opportunities.

I am interested in business or subcontracting opportunities at the new Solana Generating Station or with Abengoa Solar Inc.

Abengoa Solar has requested that people interested in subcontracting opportunities at the Solana Generating Station complete the application posted at: www.solanasolar.com/opportunities.

I have a question regarding renewable energy that is not listed here. Where can I go?

If you haven't found your answer among these commonly asked questions, you can contact APS at RenewableEnergy@APS.com.