

sol • mates

A publication for APS Solar Partners
Summer 2001, Volume 2, Number 3



inside this issue

From the Desk of Ed Fox

Solar Partners Environmental Impact

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EPA Administrator Visits STAR Center

did you know...

110 Solar Partners toured the STAR (Solar Testing And Research) Center during its open house last May? Why not join us at the next STAR Center open house, November 17? Put it on your calendar and watch for details in the next edition of SolMates.

From the Desk of Ed Fox

Vice President of Communications,
Environment and Safety

Thanks in large measure to you, our valued Solar Partners, APS and Arizona continue to be recognized as leaders and innovators in the use of solar and renewable energy.

Earlier this summer, we were honored by a visit to our STAR Center by Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christine Todd Whitman. This visit to our solar center was the first of its kind by anyone in the Bush Administration, and validates what we already know — renewable resources are an important part of the country's future fuel mix that must be developed further.

You deserve applause for your role in making our solar program a success.

The Whitman visit is a nice feather in our collective cap, and marks a milestone in our program's development, but it also raises the bar in terms of future expectations. It means we must continue to develop renewable resources — and not just solar power.

We are also working with fuel cells and we are building Arizona's first Hydrogen/Compressed Natural Gas fueling station for use in internal combustion engines. We're excited about these other renewable endeavors and will tell you more about them in future issues of Sol Mates. So — stay tuned.

Again, I want to thank you for supporting the Solar Partners Program. You are a big part of our success.

Environmental Impact of Solar Partners Facilities

With the help of Solar Partners like you, APS now generates more than a megawatt (1 million watts) of electricity from photovoltaics. We all know supporting solar power helps reduce air pollution, but by how much?

While it varies from state to state, according to the United States Environmental Protection Agency calculations, a megawatt of photovoltaic capacity in Arizona reduces annual emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO_x) by 4,768 lbs., sulfur dioxide (SO₂) by 7,427 lbs. and carbon dioxide (CO₂) by 2,498,498 lbs.

Another way to look at solar and CO₂ reduction is that over a year's time, one megawatt of photovoltaics is the equivalent of not driving 3,123,122 miles in an average car or the amount of CO₂ absorbed by 352 acres of trees.

Visit www.epa.gov, the EPA's interesting interactive Web site. It features a wealth of information and activities including calculating emissions savings from solar generation in every state.



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Creating a Solar Future

Customers and APS — Partners in Progress

EPA Administrator Visits STAR Center, Applauds APS' Solar Efforts

With a wall of solar arrays as a backdrop, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christine Todd Whitman recently visited the APS STAR Center. Whitman visited the Center to stress the Bush administration's commitment to renewable energy resources and applaud APS' leadership in the development of solar technology.

"I am really excited to be at a facility like this because this is the future," Whitman said, during a tour with Arizona Gov. Jane Dee Hull. "What you're seeing here is the actual work that allows us to be able to say we have alternative renewable energy sources that are real."



EPA Administrator Whitman shares a ride in an electric car with Gov. Hull, Pinnacle West Chairman Bill Post and APS' Dr. Peter Johnston during her visit.

Whitman's visit to Arizona centered on the EPA's interest in renewable and alternate-energy technologies and acknowledged APS' leadership in developing solar generation.

"We must bring to balance the thriving economy and lifestyle we desire and enjoy a healthy, clean environment," she said.

Whitman said APS was leading the way in solar development in Arizona and was encouraged by the company's extensive testing and development at the STAR Center. She was also intrigued by the "cutting-edge" technologies featured at the site.

"APS is creating the kind of knowledge base here that will enable us to go forward as they make the technology affordable, and as they show the naysayers that it works," she said. Whitman acknowledged that the widespread use of solar power is attainable, but the problems facing its development are the lack of storage capacity and the high costs of its equipment.

For solar-powered plants in Arizona to be practical, Whitman said more solar generation must be built and the public needs to see that solar power is attainable and affordable.

Whitman, the former governor of New Jersey, also supported the Bush administration's new energy plan. She said she supports the fundamental principals of the President's plan, which includes conservation initiatives and the development of alternative energy sources.

During the tour, APS Chairman and CEO Bill Post told Whitman that APS plans to further expand the STAR Center and the company's solar programs.

"APS is working diligently to increase our renewable energy resources through solar generation. Our company just passed the one megawatt mark and within a year will double that amount," said Post. "Every kilowatt-hour of energy we can produce from renewable resources, such as solar, is important and will help maintain our energy reserves and the reliability of our electric delivery system."

Through its Solar Partners Program, APS recently dedicated three new power plants in the Arizona communities of Gilbert, Glendale and Prescott at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. These new plants will generate enough solar energy to serve about 500 homes.

Electricity generated by the plants directly feeds into the electrical grid system that serves APS customers statewide.

Becoming a Solar Partner

Know someone who would like to become a Solar Partner?

APS customers can sign-up online at www.aps.com, or request a sign-up form by calling 602-216-0318 (metro Phoenix area) or 800-659-8148 (other areas).

Questions? Contact Janet Crow by phone at 602-250-4990 or by e-mail at Janet.crow@apsc.com.

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