



## Southwest Energy Efficiency Project

*Saving Money and Reducing Pollution through Energy Conservation*

### **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **SWEEP ANNOUNCES 2011 ENERGY EFFICIENCY AWARD WINNERS**

*(Salt Lake City, UT)* – The Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP) is pleased to announce that Deborah Kimberly, Denise Richerson-Smith, and James Wontor are the winners of its 2011 Leadership in Energy Efficiency Awards. The awards are given annually to individuals or organizations who demonstrate a strong commitment to advancing energy efficiency in the Southwest.

James Wontor leads the energy efficiency programs implemented by Arizona Public Service Company, Denise Richerson-Smith leads energy efficiency programs implemented by Tucson Electric Power, and Deborah Kimberly leads energy efficiency programs implemented by the Salt River Project. All three electric utilities operating in Arizona have greatly expanded their energy efficiency programs in recent years, with a combined budget increasing from about \$40 million in 2008 to \$130 million in 2011. Households and businesses in Arizona are saving hundreds of millions of dollars as a result of the energy efficiency programs implemented under the leadership of these three individuals.

The investor-owned utilities in Arizona also supported adoption of Energy Efficiency Resource Standards by the Arizona Corporation Commission. These standards call for 20% electricity savings from utility energy efficiency programs by 2020. The energy efficiency standards are among the strongest adopted in the nation. In addition, the utilities are supporting adoption of up-to-date building energy codes by local governments in their service areas.

This year's awards were presented at the Southwest Regional Energy Efficiency Workshop organized by SWEEP and held in Salt Lake City, Utah. The awards were presented by Howard Geller, SWEEP's Executive Director. "Under the leadership of Deborah Kimberly, Denise Richerson-Smith and James Wontor, Arizona's electric utilities are quickly becoming trendsetters in energy efficiency policies and programs. SWEEP is proud to recognize the outstanding contributions of these individuals," Geller said.

**About SWEEP:** The Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP) is a public interest organization dedicated to advancing energy efficiency in Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming. To learn more, visit [www.swenergy.org](http://www.swenergy.org).