



## Southwest Energy Efficiency Project

*Saving Money and Reducing Pollution through Energy Conservation*

### PRESS RELEASE

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### **ENERGY EFFICIENCY BILL WILL CUT ENERGY COSTS IN STATE FACILITIES IN ARIZONA**

*(Tucson, AZ)* -- The Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP) applauds the adoption and passage into law of H.B. 2324, a bill that is projected to result in about \$90 million of energy conservation savings in state buildings and universities in Arizona by 2015. Adopted by the Arizona State Legislature and signed today by Governor Janet Napolitano, the bill includes the following features:

- State agencies and universities will achieve a 10% reduction in energy use per unit of floor area by 2008, and a 15% reduction by 2011;
- State agencies and universities must purchase cost-effective ENERGY STAR® or Federal Energy Management Program-designated energy-efficient products; and
- New state buildings will meet energy conservation standards developed by the Arizona Department of Commerce's Energy Office, consistent with the standards used in two widely adopted model energy codes.

“H.B. 2324 will reduce energy use in state facilities and save the state government both energy and money,” stated Rep. Randy Graf (R-Green Valley), sponsor of the bill. “Cutting energy costs in state buildings and facilities is especially important given Arizona’s severe budget deficit. And the bill ensures that the state will ‘lead by example’ in demonstrating model energy efficiency strategies and techniques that can also be embraced by Arizona’s residential, commercial, and industrial sectors.”

The Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP), which played a critical role in crafting and lobbying for the new rules, estimates that the bill will reduce energy costs in state buildings and universities in Arizona by around \$11 million per year as of 2011. During the twelve-year period 2004-2015, the bill should cut energy costs for the state facilities by around \$90 million according to SWEEP’s estimates. “There is a great deal of potential for improving the efficiency of energy use in Arizona. This bill represents a significant step in the direction of greater energy efficiency and thus lower energy costs for the state and its taxpayers, lower pollutant emissions, and less water consumption by power plants,” commented Jeff Schlegel, SWEEP’s Arizona representative.

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State agencies are expected to make use of Energy Service Companies (ESCOs) to implement energy savings projects without forcing the state to make up-front capital expenditures in times of fiscal difficulties. ESCOs are businesses that develop, install, and finance projects designed to improve the energy efficiency and lower the operating costs of buildings and facilities. The projects are financed by the savings in energy costs.

This summer the state legislature is expected to explore additional energy efficiency policies through an energy study committee headed by Rep. Graf.

“With the passage of H.B. 2324, state government will be doing its part. Now it is time to expand energy efficiency policies and programs for households, businesses, and industry in Arizona,” added Howard Geller, SWEEP’s Executive Director.

**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. For more information, visit the SWEEP website at [www.swenergy.org](http://www.swenergy.org).