



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 AND LOCAL FACILITIES IN NEVADA

(Carson City, NV) -- The Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP) applauds the adoption and passage into law of A.B. 398, a bill that could result in about \$120 million of energy savings in state and local buildings in Nevada during 2004-2015, according to estimates by SWEEP. Adopted by the Nevada State Legislature and signed yesterday by Governor Kenny Guinn, the bill includes the following features:

- State agencies are authorized to enter into performance contracts with energy service companies for the purpose of installing energy efficiency and other cost-savings measures.
- Local governments are authorized to enter into performance contracts with energy service companies for the purpose of installing energy efficiency and other cost-savings measures.
- Performance contracts may extend for a term of up to 15 years.

“A.B. 398 facilitates the use of performance contracting to upgrade the energy efficiency of state and local government buildings,” stated Assemblyman Jason Geddes (R-Reno), sponsor of the bill. “Cutting energy costs in state and local facilities is especially important given Nevada’s budget deficit, rising energy costs, and weak economy.”

The Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP) estimates that the bill could reduce energy use and costs in state and local buildings in Nevada by around 20 percent as of 2015. “Nevada is the fastest growing state in the nation in terms of both population and energy use. This bill represents a step towards greater energy efficiency and thus lower energy costs for the state and its taxpayers. A.B. 398 also will lower pollutant emissions and reduce water consumption by power plants,” commented Howard Geller, SWEEP’s Executive Director.

“A.B. 398 makes it much easier for state and local agencies in Nevada to upgrade their energy and resource efficiency through the use of performance contracting. It creates opportunities for governmental entities to use an open, competitive process to identify and select performance contractors. And it will create job opportunities for companies that wish to compete in the building retrofit market in Nevada. A.B. 398 builds on other energy savings efforts, such as the Energy Conservation Plan for State Government announced by Gov. Guinn in 2001 and the adoption of an updated energy code for new State buildings in 2002,” said Carl Linvill, Governor Guinn’s Economic and Energy Advisor.

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

SWEEP assisted with the preparation of A.B. 398 and actively supported it as moved through the legislative process. “SWEEP hopes that the bill will be complemented by other initiatives to improve energy and resource efficiency in households and businesses in Nevada,” added Geller.

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.