

Help Promote a Clean Energy Future for Arizona

Support Energy Efficiency!

The Arizona Corporation Commission is currently considering two ways to increase energy efficiency programs in Arizona. One is an open docket on energy efficiency and the other is the Arizona Public Service Company (APS) rate case. APS has applied to the Arizona Corporation Commission for another rate increase – a proposed increase of 9.3% for the average residential customer bill. To help reduce energy bills and offset increased rates for its customers, and to help customers become more energy efficient, APS should invest more in energy efficiency programs. The regulatory process for this rate increase has already begun and there will be a public hearing on March 30, 2009.

Please write today and tell the Arizona Corporation Commission you support increasing energy efficiency programs in this rate case, thus reducing emissions of carbon dioxide and other pollutants and lowering electric bills, even if it means a slightly higher electric rate. By increasing energy efficiency and reducing energy consumption, customers can reduce their energy *bills* by 10-50%, even if the cost of the customer programs increases electric *rates* by 1-2%.

You can send the same letter to the general docket on efficiency. Ask that the Commission consider requiring a 20 percent increase in energy efficiency from current levels, by 2020.

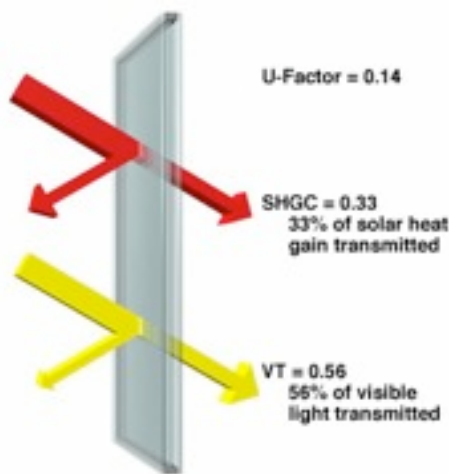
Energy efficiency saves us all money and is very cost-effective; in fact energy efficiency is the lowest cost of any resource. The Western Governors' Association *Energy Efficiency Task Force Report* indicates that the average cost for energy efficiency programs is \$0.02 to \$0.03 per lifetime kilowatt-hour (kWh) saved – much lower than the cost of new conventional generation (\$0.05 to \$0.09/kWh) and lower than current electric rates (about \$0.10/kWh).

The less electricity we use, the less pollution we generate. That means fewer greenhouse gas emissions, fewer mercury emissions, and less pollution overall. It also means we use less water as most power-generation requires significant amounts of water. It is a true win-win – we reduce pollution, conserve water, and save money.

What can we do to increase energy efficiency?

These rate-making processes afford the public opportunities to support larger investments in energy efficiency. Programs to support include:

- Rebates to electric utility customers who purchase energy efficient appliances, air conditioners, lighting devices, or invest in measures in their home, office or other buildings that result in reductions of energy use.
- Technical assistance and financial incentives for businesses that upgrade their energy efficiency.
- Design assistance and incentives for builders who construct efficient new homes or commercial buildings.
- Grants for low-income home weatherization.
- Programs to reduce the urban heat island effect through shading, cool roofs, and cool pavements.
- Technical assistance and incentives for schools and local governments to increase their energy efficiency.
- Training and certification of builders, contractors, and other energy service providers.
- Training and technical assistance for commercial and industrial facility managers.



Energy efficient window

The Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) will balance many competing claims about APS' need for a rate increase. To expand the availability of the APS energy efficiency programs for utility customers, the Commission needs to hear from APS' residential and business customers who support efficiency programs. This support can be provided as a letter to the Commission (Docket Control, Arizona Corporation Commission, 1200 W. Washington St., Phoenix, AZ 85007, indicating **Docket Numbers E-00000J-08-0314, G-00000C-08-0314 for the open docket on efficiency and**

E-01345A-08-0172 for the APS rate case), and/or as a public comment at the hearing. You can also email it to commissioners by clicking on each of their names -- [Kris Mayes](#), [Paul Newman](#), [Sandra Kennedy](#), [Bob Stump](#), and [Gary Pierce](#). The Commission is currently scheduled to take public comment on March 30, 2009 at 10:00 AM in the hearing room at the Commission offices at 1200 W. Washington St. in Phoenix.

Here is a sample letter to the ACC:

March 2009

Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: Docket Numbers E-00000J-08-0314, G-00000C-08-0314, and E-01345A-08-0172

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to you in support of increased energy efficiency requirements as part of the APS rate case and as part of the Commission workshops on energy efficiency. Energy efficiency is the cleanest and cheapest energy source we have. We should maximize efficiency measures and require the utilities to offer programs to assist customers to increase their energy efficiency.

I realize that energy efficiency programs require some up front funding that can result in slightly higher electricity rates. I also know that investing in efficiency measures will help to lower overall electric bills – weatherization, new energy efficient lighting and appliances, and mitigating the heat island effect can all reduce energy consumption. I am willing to pay higher rates to fund programs that will help me to lower my energy use and my electric bills.

As part of the APS rate case and the Commission’s workshops, I encourage you to require that APS invest in programs to provide rebates and technical assistance to electric utility customers who purchase energy efficient lighting, air conditioners, and other equipment, or invest in measures in their home, office or other buildings that result in reductions in energy use. I also would like to see programs to help reduce the urban heat island effect through shading, cool roofs, and cool pavements. As an APS customer, these are programs that will benefit me by helping to lower my electric bills.

I also support measures to provide technical assistance and financial incentives for businesses and schools that increase their energy efficiency, as well as design assistance and incentives for builders who construct efficient homes and buildings. Any efficiency program should include grants for weatherizing low-income housing – rental and owner-occupied.

Thank you for considering my comments as you deliberate over increasing energy efficiency in Arizona.

Sincerely,

Include, name, address, and email or phone number.

For more information on what you can do to promote energy efficiency in Arizona, please contact Sandy Bahr at (602) 253-8633 or sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org

