

GABRIELLE GIFFORDS
8TH DISTRICT, ARIZONA

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
502 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2542

DISTRICT OFFICES:
TUCSON OFFICE
1661 NORTH SWAN, SUITE 112
TUCSON, AZ 85712
(520) 881-3588

COCHISE COUNTY OFFICE
77 CALLE PORTAL, SUITE B-160
SIERRA VISTA, AZ 85635
(520) 459-3115



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AIR AND
LAND FORCES
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Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords
2007 Solar Energy Highlights
January 2008

- 1. Community Solar Energy Initiative convened by Congresswoman Giffords in April 2007.**
- 2. The Solar Energy Advisory Council is named in April 2007 as central decision-making body of the Community Solar Energy Initiative.**
- 3. The Solar Energy Advisory Council names three subcommittees – Market Growth, Research and Development, Education and Outreach. These subcommittees meet throughout the summer of 2007 to write a report on solar energy usage, outreach, and technology in Southern Arizona.**
- 4. Pima County Board of Supervisors resolves on May 12, 2007 to support sustainable growth, including the use of solar, in the “Resolution in Support of New County Sustainability Initiatives.”**
- 5. The City of Tucson receives a \$200,000 Solar American Cities grant that was matched with \$353,000 in cash and in-kind services from the Arizona Energy Office, Tucson Electric Power Co. and the Greater Tucson Coalition for Solar, he said. The Department of Energy also will offer the city technical assistance valued up to \$250,000.**
- 6. Arizona Attorney General Terry Goddard certifies on June 15, 2007, the Renewable Energy Standard and Tariff (REST), which will require electric utilities to generate 15% of the total electricity they sell from renewable resources, like solar, by 2025.**
- 7. Councilwoman Shirley Scott hosts “Solarfest 2007” on July 5, 2007, with vendors exhibiting their products, the first annual Solar Awards, and a tour of the facility.**
- 8. Councilwoman Nina Trasoff hosts Go Green II on August 21, 2007, featuring many environmental groups and displays, including solar.**
- 9. Solar Energy Advisory Council presents final report *Solar Energy in Southern Arizona* on August 22, 2007, to Congresswoman Giffords.**
- 10. The City of Tucson dedicates the largest municipal solar array in the state at the water facility near Thornydale and Tangerine Road on September 12, 2007.**

- 11. The University of Arizona holds Campus Sustainability Week (late October), including an open house at the new welcome center, which features solar panels.**
- 12. Congresswoman Giffords releases the Council's report on September 14, 2007 at the Pima Association of Government's Tucson Regional Alternative Energy Forum and EXPO, the first and largest alternative energy forum in Southern Arizona.**
- 13. Bisbee announces its "B-Cool Bisbee" conservation program and the City Council declares no permit fees for solar installation**
- 14. Dr. Joseph Simmons announces on August 22, 2007 the formation of the Arizona Research Institute for Solar Energy (AzRISE) at Congresswoman Giffords' Solar Advisory Council Meeting.**
- 15. Solar Power 101: A Community Education Series, in partnership with Pima County Public Library, is launched on November 28, 2007. The public response is overwhelming, with over 250 people in attendance. The series will continue monthly until May, 2008.**
- 16. The Arizona Board of Regents in December 2007 approves a \$3.35 million grant for the Arizona Research Institute for Solar Energy (AzRISE). The funding assures the long-term success of the Institute.**
- 17. President George Bush signs into law in December 2007 a new energy law which includes Congresswoman Giffords' solar legislation calling for research into thermal storage, reducing water use in CSP, and integration of CSP into the grid, and for a training program for solar technicians.**
- 18. In December a group of six utility companies releases a request for proposal for a 250 megawatt concentrating solar power plant.**
- 19. The Arizona Corporation Commission is working on finalizing the requirements for the Renewable Energy Standard and Tariff. The utilities around the state submitted their proposals by October 13, 2007. The ACC is also currently working on a net metering standard and an interconnection standard.**