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## Twenty Organizations Applaud Arizona Corporation Commission Vote to Establish Carbon-Free Electricity Standard

*Decision will create jobs, save consumers money, and boost investment in renewable energy*

**Phoenix, Ariz. (November 13th, 2020)** – Twenty organizations applauded a vote today by Arizona Corporation Commissioners requiring utilities to be 100% carbon-free by 2050 and meet benchmarks along the way. The bipartisan decision also established a new energy efficiency policy to help customers save money on their electricity bills.

The historic vote comes after years of study, more than a dozen public meetings, thousands of written comments, and hundreds of hours of engagement by stakeholders.

The policy changes approved by Chairman Bob Burns and Commissioners Boyd Dunn, Sandra Kennedy, and Lea Márquez Peterson include:

- A **carbon-free electricity standard** that requires Arizona Public Service (APS) and Tucson Electric Power (TEP) to be 100% carbon-free by 2050 and reduce their carbon emissions by 50% by 2032 and 75% by 2040.
- An **energy efficiency standard** that requires APS and TEP to cut energy waste over the next decade and provide customers with more rebates and services to replace old air conditioners, swap out inefficient water heaters, and otherwise save energy.
- A **distributed storage standard** that will drive the deployment of more than ~200MW of customer-owned or leased energy storage systems by 2035, the equivalent of ~40,000 home battery storage systems.

- **Improvements to the integrated resource planning process** that will support greater transparency and stakeholder engagement as utilities develop their 15-year plans for the power system, as well as favorable siting for renewable energy in fossil fuel impacted communities.

The Commission's action directed the start of a formal rulemaking process to adopt the policy changes they approved. That process will unfold over the next several months and include opportunities for stakeholders to provide written and public comments in the lead up to a final vote by utility regulators sometime next year.

A [broad coalition of more than 30 industry, faith-based, and community groups](#) have worked together for more than two years to urge the Commission to modernize its clean energy policies. They celebrated the Commission's action today:

"Today, the Arizona Corporation Commission has spoken: Arizona will restore its role as the country's clean energy leader," **says Ellen Zuckerman, Utility Program Director for the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project.** "Energy efficiency will take its rightful place as the least-cost resource to meet customer needs and spur economic growth."

"As a faith leader who understands the urgency of responding to climate change, I commend the Commission's decision," **says Doug Bland, Executive Director of Arizona Interfaith Power & Light.** "We are all called to care for God's creation, and this decision has done that."

"The Commission's vote today moves Arizona to a clean energy future that will protect our climate, our air and our health," **says JoAnna Strother, Senior Director of Advocacy with the American Lung Association in Arizona.** "Arizona's new clean energy rules will support public health by increasing energy efficiency and non-combustion renewable sources that can reduce harmful pollution that threatens our health today and supports a healthier future."

"Today's decision comes at a critical moment in our history, as we witness catastrophic wildfires and record-shattering temperatures," **says Adam Stafford, Staff Attorney of Western Resource Advocates.** "This vote positions Arizona to create jobs, save consumers money, boost investment in renewable energy, and respond to our climate crisis."

"For decades, Arizonans have benefited from Navajo coal and water as my people have suffered the consequences," **says Nicole Horseherder, Director of Tó Nizhóní Ání.** "The Commission's decision will give communities like mine a seat at the decision-making table and is long overdue."

"This vote positions Arizona to be a national leader in new energy technology, giving homeowners access to rechargeable batteries that help lower electric bills while providing benefits to all Arizonans," **says Marta Tomic, Interior West Senior Director of Vote Solar** "These clean energy rules will help give Arizonans more energy choices, create good-paying jobs, supercharge the local clean energy economy, and help Arizona rebuild for a brighter future."

The organizations applauding the Commission today included:

- American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy
- Arizona Faith Network
- Arizona Interfaith Power and Light
- Arizona Lung Association
- Arizona Public Health Association
- Solar Energy Industries Association
- Solar United Neighbors
- Southwest Energy Efficiency Project
- Sunrun
- Tó Nizhóní Ání

- Arizona Solar Energy Industries Association
- Citizens' Climate Lobby
- Interwest Energy Alliance
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- Sierra Club
- Tucson 2030 District
- Vote Solar
- Western Grid Group
- Western Resource Advocates
- Yavapai Climate Change Coalition

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### **About the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP)**

*The Southwest Energy Efficiency Project is a public interest organization promoting greater energy efficiency in Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming. For more information, visit [www.swenergy.org](http://www.swenergy.org).*

### **About Arizona Interfaith Power & Light**

*Arizona Interfaith Power & Light mobilizes people of faith in Arizona to reduce the causes of global climate change through spiritual reflection, education, advocacy and action. For more information, visit [www.azipl.org](http://www.azipl.org).*

### **About Western Resource Advocates (WRA)**

*Western Resource Advocates works to protect the West's land, air, and water so that our communities thrive in balance with nature. WRA's team of scientists, lawyers, and economists craft and implement innovative solutions to the most complex natural resource challenges in the region. For more information, visit [www.westernresourceadvocates.org](http://www.westernresourceadvocates.org).*

### **About Tó Nizhóní Áni**

*Tó Nizhóní Áni's mission is to preserve and protect the environment, land, water, sky and people and advocate for the wise and responsible use of the natural resources of the Black Mesa region (Dził Yijiin). For more information, visit [www.tonizhoniani.org](http://www.tonizhoniani.org).*

### **About Vote Solar**

*Since 2002, Vote Solar has been working to lower solar costs and expand solar access. A 501(c)3 non-profit organization, Vote Solar advocates for state policies and programs needed to repower our electric grid with clean energy. For more information, visit [www.votesolar.org](http://www.votesolar.org).*

### **About the American Lung Association**

*The American Lung Association is the leading organization working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease through education, advocacy and research. The work of the American Lung Association is focused on four strategic imperatives: to defeat lung cancer; to champion clean air for all; to improve the quality of life for those with lung disease and their families; and to create a tobacco-free future. For more information about the American Lung Association, a holder of the coveted 4-star rating from Charity Navigator and a Gold-Level GuideStar Member, or to support the work it does, call 1-800-LUNGUSA (1-800-586-4872) or visit: [www.Lung.org](http://www.Lung.org).*

### **About AriSEIA**

*AriSEIA's mission is to develop and support policies which create opportunities to advance Arizona's economy through solar energy and storage. AriSEIA advocates for sustainable job creation in deployment of solar and complementary technologies, and collaborates with stakeholders to encourage utilization of Arizona's greatest natural resource: the sun. AriSEIA members are also committed to upholding a code of ethics to protect and serve the best interests of our customers and the general public. [www.ariseia.org](http://www.ariseia.org)*