



**Southwest Energy Efficiency Project**  
*Saving Money and Reducing Pollution through Energy Conservation*

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**SWEEP ANNOUNCES ENERGY EFFICIENCY AWARD WINNERS**

*(Phoenix, AZ)* – The Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP) is pleased to announce that Arizona State Representative Lucy Mason and Nevada State Senator Randolph Townsend are the winners of its 2005 Leadership in Energy Efficiency Awards. The awards are given annually to policy makers and others who demonstrate a strong commitment to advancing energy efficiency in the Southwest.

Representative Mason (R-Prescott) was honored for sponsoring and leading the advocacy of Arizona House Bill 2390 – Energy Efficiency Appliance Standards. Signed into law in April, HB 2390 sets minimum energy efficiency standards on 12 products sold in Arizona beginning in 2008. SWEEP estimates the standards will save businesses and consumers over \$650 million on their energy bills, and will reduce water consumption in Arizona by 15 billion gallons during 2008-2020. “As a result of Representative Mason’s strong leadership in steering this bill through the legislature, HB 2390 is now the law in Arizona, and has influenced the national dialogue on appliance energy efficiency standards,” stated Howard Geller, SWEEP’s Executive Director.

Senator Randolph Townsend (R-Reno) was recognized for sponsoring Nevada Assembly Bill 03, an omnibus energy bill. Among its provisions, the bill allows electricity providers to receive credits towards Nevada’s energy portfolio standards for energy savings from certain energy efficiency measures. It also encourages greater energy efficiency in new or renovated state buildings as well as in buildings constructed by the private sector, and updates the state’s building energy code. Nevada is one of the first states in the nation to merge energy efficiency and renewable energy requirements for its electric utilities. “We commend Senator Townsend for his vision and tenacity in backing this innovative energy policy,” Geller stated.

This year’s awards were presented at the Energy Efficiency Program Design and Implementation Workshop, held this year in Phoenix and co-sponsored by SWEEP and the Salt River Project. At the workshop, Howard Geller announced that 2006 will be the first year in which electric utilities in the Southwest will spend over \$100 million on energy efficiency programs. He challenged the utilities to spend over \$200 million per year on these valuable programs by 2010. “With energy prices skyrocketing, we need more leaders like Representative Mason and Senator Townsend to step up and help consumers and businesses save energy and lower their energy bills,” Geller noted.

**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. To learn more, visit [www.swenergy.org](http://www.swenergy.org).

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