



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

PRESS RELEASE

Hold for Release:
November 13, 2008

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GOVERNOR RITTER TO RECEIVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AWARD
Colorado Legislator and Energy Office Director Also To Be Honored

(Denver, CO) – The Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP) is pleased to announce that Colorado Governor Bill Ritter will receive a 2008 Leadership in Energy Efficiency Award. Awards will also be given to State Representative Claire Levy and to Tom Plant, Director of the Colorado Governor’s Energy Office. The awards are given annually to policy makers who demonstrate a strong commitment to advancing energy efficiency in the Southwest.

The award is being given to Governor Ritter for supporting important energy efficiency legislation, adopting a Climate Action Plan with strong energy efficiency provisions, and including energy efficiency as a key part of his New Energy Economy agenda. In 2007, Governor Ritter signed into law two important bills pertaining to energy efficiency, one to advance utility energy efficiency programs and the other to advance building energy codes. Energy efficiency is also prominently featured in the Colorado Climate Action Plan issued by Governor Ritter last November. “SWEEP applauds Governor Ritter for striving to make Colorado as energy-efficient as possible,” said Howard Geller, SWEEP’s Executive Director. “Consumers and businesses in Colorado will save billions of dollars if the energy efficiency goals in Governor Ritter’s Climate Plan are met.”

Colorado State Representative Claire Levy sponsored House Bill 07-1037 and House Bill 07-1046, both of which were adopted and signed into law in 2007. The former is leading investor-owned utilities in Colorado to greatly expand their energy efficiency programs. The latter is helping to improve the energy performance of new homes and commercial buildings by stimulating local governments to adopt state-of-the-art building energy codes. “Representative Levy has been a very effective advocate for energy efficiency legislation in Colorado. Citizens and businesses across the state are benefiting from her efforts,” said Geller.

Tom Plant established a Clean Energy Fund and has initiated numerous energy efficiency programs as Director of the Governor’s Energy Office under Governor Ritter. These programs are helping consumers, schools, public agencies, and communities cut energy waste and lower their utility bills. Tom Plant also sponsored important energy efficiency legislation when he was a Colorado State Representative. “Tom Plant understands the importance of energy efficiency in Colorado’s New Energy Economy. He has played a critical role in advancing energy efficiency throughout the state,” Geller said.

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The 2008 Leadership in Energy Efficiency Awards will be presented at SWEEP's Fifth Annual Southwest Regional Energy Efficiency Workshop, to be held at the Sheraton Denver Hotel. The awards will be presented at a luncheon November 13 at 1:30 p.m.

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.