



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

PRESS RELEASE

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GOV. GUINN ANNOUNCES NEVADA ENERGY EFFICIENCY STRATEGY

CARSON CITY, NV – Gov. Kenny Guinn today announced that new policies for increasing energy efficiency could save consumers and businesses in Nevada nearly \$5 billion over the next 15 years according to the “Nevada Energy Efficiency Strategy” released today by the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP), the Nevada State Office of Energy (NSOE), and the Nevada Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Task Force (Task Force).

“By increasing energy efficiency in a time of high energy prices, we protect Nevada’s economic vitality.” Gov. Guinn said. “The report will help Nevada consumers and businesses lower their energy bills by providing a blueprint that identifies the most effective programs for Nevada. I am grateful for SWEEP’s insights and will be proposing new policies for increasing energy efficiency in the near future.”

The “Nevada Energy Efficiency Strategy” considers 14 energy policy options for reducing electricity and natural gas consumption through greater energy efficiency. The options range from expanding utility energy efficiency programs, to upgrading building construction energy codes, to adopting energy pricing structures that will encourage reduced electricity demand when demand is greatest. Seven of the policy options are designated highest priority.

“The ‘Nevada Energy Efficiency Strategy’ shows that increasing energy efficiency can greatly reduce peak electricity demand, especially in Nevada Power’s system,” said Dick Burdette, Governor Guinn’s Energy Advisor and head of the NSOE. “These strategies let us use the existing electricity system more efficiently and reduce, in part, the need for costly investments in new power plants and transmission lines – even with Las Vegas’ rapid population growth.”

“The Task Force is pleased to have helped develop these policies. Our next focus will be how to implement them,” said Dr. Jane C.S. Long, Chair of the Nevada Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Task Force. Recommendations for implementing the “Nevada Energy Efficiency Strategy” will appear in the Task Force’s 2005 Annual Report to the Governor of Nevada and the 2005 Session of the Nevada State Legislature.

“The seven high priority policies could reduce electricity use 22% and natural gas use 19% by 2020. In addition, the high priority policies could expand and diversify employment in the state and save over 5 billion gallons of water per year by 2020,” said Howard Geller, Executive Director of SWEEP and lead author of the *Strategy*. “Given these wide-ranging benefits, we urge policymakers in Nevada to make a strong commitment to increasing energy efficiency.”

The “Nevada Energy Efficiency Strategy” was prepared by SWEEP with funding from the Energy Foundation, Nevada Power Company, and the Nevada State Office of Energy (NSOE). Two workshops organized by SWEEP and the Task Force provided critical input. The “Nevada Energy Efficiency Strategy” is available on the NSOE website at www.energy.state.nv.us and the SWEEP website at www.swenergy.org/pubs/Nevada_Energy_Efficiency_Strategy.pdf.

About SWEEP: The Southwest Energy Efficiency Project is a public interest organization dedicated to advancing energy efficiency in Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming.

About the Task Force: The Nevada Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Task Force was created by the 2001 Session of the Nevada State Legislature to advise the Nevada State Office of Energy in the development of periodic review of the comprehensive state energy plan with regard to the use of renewable energy and the use of measures which reduce the demand for energy or which result in the more efficient use of energy.