



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

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **SOUTHWEST REGION SHINES IN NEW STATE ENERGY EFFICIENCY SCORECARD**

*(Boulder, CO)* – The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) today released its *2010 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard*. In the Scorecard, states are ranked according to their energy efficiency policies and programs in a wide range of categories. The 2010 Scorecard designates three southwest states – Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah – as “most improved” since the 2009 Scorecard.

Arizona moved up from a ranking of 29<sup>th</sup> in 2009 to 18<sup>th</sup> in 2010. The stringent energy efficiency resource standards (EERS) adopted by the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) for electric utilities was a big reason for Arizona’s rise. “Investor-owned electric utilities in Arizona are required to reduce electricity consumption in 2020 by 22% through their energy efficiency programs,” noted Kris Mayes, Chair of the Arizona Corporation Commission. “These standards will save consumers and businesses in Arizona billions of dollars, as well as create jobs and improve energy security and the environment.”

New Mexico moved up from a ranking of 30<sup>th</sup> in 2009 to 22<sup>nd</sup> in 2010. Adoption of state-of-the-art building energy codes as well as expanding utility energy efficiency programs contributed to New Mexico’s improvement. “Under the leadership of Governor Richardson, New Mexico has made energy efficiency a high priority,” noted Tammy Fiebelkorn, New Mexico Representative for the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP). “I’m thrilled that New Mexico improved so much this year! SWEEP really made the difference in getting aggressive energy efficient building codes adopted,” said Craig O’Hare, Special Assistant for Clean Energy for the New Mexico Energy Minerals and Natural Resources Department.

Utah moved up from a ranking of 23<sup>rd</sup> in 2009 to a tie for 12<sup>th</sup> in 2010. Both electric and gas utilities in Utah greatly expanded their energy efficiency programs in 2009. Due to the efforts of Questar Gas Company, Utah was the top state in the nation with respect to energy efficiency program funding per capita by gas utilities. “Strong energy efficiency policies and programs make sense even in a state like Utah that has relatively low energy prices,” said Sarah Wright, Executive Director of the non-profit organization Utah Clean Energy.

“SWEEP played an important role in developing and supporting the policies and programs that helped Arizona and other southwest states boost their ranking in the ACEEE scorecard. I want to acknowledge and thank SWEEP for their efforts,” added Kris Mayes. In addition to the three

“most improved” southwest states, Colorado and Nevada remain among the top 20 states in the nation in the *2010 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard*.

Copies of the *2010 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard* are available for free download at <http://www.aceee.org/sector/state-policy/scorecard>.

Also see <http://www.aceee.org/press/2010/10/state-energy-efficiency-scorecard> for a copy of the press release issued today by ACEEE.

**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).