



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

PRESS RELEASE

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**GOVERNOR RICHARDSON, CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE
TO RECEIVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AWARDS
Nevada State Legislators Will Also Be Honored**

(Albuquerque, NM) – The Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP) is pleased to announce that New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson and the City of Albuquerque are co-winners of its 2007 Leadership in Energy Efficiency Award, sharing the award with Nevada State Senator Michael Schneider and Nevada State Assemblyman David Bobzien. The award is given annually to policy makers and others who demonstrate a strong commitment to advancing energy efficiency in the Southwest.

The award is being given to Governor Richardson for adopting a strong statewide energy efficiency goal. On November 14, the Governor announced an Executive Order setting goals of reducing total energy use per capita in the state 10 percent by 2012 and 20 percent by 2020, relative to energy use per capita in New Mexico as of 2005. The Governor also directed state agencies to achieve a 20 percent reduction in energy usage by 2015. “SWEEP applauds Governor Richardson for seeking to make all homes and businesses in New Mexico as energy-efficient as possible, and for leading by example in state government,” said Howard Geller, SWEEP’s Executive Director. “Consumers in New Mexico will save hundreds of millions of dollars on their energy bill each year if the Governor’s goals are met.”

In September, Albuquerque adopted a High-Performance Building Ordinance that will minimize the environmental impacts of residential and commercial buildings by more efficiently using energy, water, and materials. The ordinance was developed through efforts led by Mayor Martin Chávez and City Councilor Isaac Benton. “The High-Performance Building Ordinance will boost the energy efficiency of new homes and commercial buildings throughout Albuquerque, and serve as a model for other cities,” said Geller.

Nevada State Senator Michael Schneider and Nevada State Assemblyman David Bobzien are being honored for their work on Assembly Bill 178, now law in Nevada, which establishes a minimum energy efficiency performance standard for general-purpose lamps sold in the state beginning in 2012. AB 178 effectively bans today's general service incandescent light bulbs.

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“Senator Schneider and Assemblyman Bobzien led Nevada to be the first state in the U.S. to pass such legislation and we applaud this pioneering action,” stated Geller. “This bill will save consumers and businesses in Nevada money while reducing pollutant emissions and the need for costly and controversial new power plants, moving Nevada further down the path to energy independence.” With passage of AB 178, Nevada joined a growing number of organizations around the world that are backing an initiative to phase out inefficient incandescent light bulbs.

The 2007 Leadership in Energy Efficiency Award will be presented at SWEEP’s Fourth Annual Southwest Regional Energy Efficiency Workshop, to be held at the Marriott Albuquerque Pyramid North. The presentation will highlight the Award Luncheon on Thursday, November 15, and will take place 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.