

PIMA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

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Alternative Energy EXPO to emphasize solar energy

Tucson averages 300 days per year of sunshine, and discussions on how to harness this energy resource locally are beginning to take place.

One forum where solar energy will be on the agenda is during Pima Association of Governments' Alternative Energy Expo, which will feature a solar energy panel.

Themed "Moving Toward Energy Sustainability," the expo will be held Sept. 14 and 15 at the Tucson Convention Center. The solar energy panel discussion will be held at 2:45 p.m. on Sept. 15. Dennis Dickerson, PAG's environmental planning coordinator and a member of U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords' solar advisory panel, will moderate the discussion.

Panelists include:

- Dr. Paul Komor, author of *Renewable Energy Policy*, a book that takes a pragmatic, nuts-and-bolts look at government efforts to promote renewable sources of energy.
- Thomas N. Hansen, vice president of Environmental Services, Conservation and Renewable Energy for Tucson Electric Power, is an expert on the generation of power from solar systems and has guided the development of TEP's Springerville Solar Generating Station, currently the largest of its kind in the United States.
- Dr. Martin J. (Mike) Pasqualetti, professor in the School of Geographical Sciences at Arizona State University, is an internationally recognized expert on alternative energy and was twice appointed as Chairman of the Arizona Solar Energy Advisory Council, on which he served from 2002 through 2006.

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●Dr. Christopher A. Simon, author of *Alternative Energy: Political, Economic, and Social Feasibility*, a work that systematically explores the most viable alternative sources of energy, discussing the technical, political, economic, and social feasibility of each technology in understandable terms.

The expo will include more than 35 exhibitors and a variety of energy-efficient vehicles as well as local vendors with a solar focus. Solar-oriented participants include: The Solar Store, Global Solar, Arizona Solar Solutions, Helicol Solar, Progressive Solar and SolarForRent.

Pima Association of Governments is an association of local, state and tribal governments with a mission to build consensus among its members and the public on regional planning for transportation, air quality and water quality. PAG's staff gather and analyze data, provide accurate information, and coordinate an open and cooperative planning process to promote good decision-making for the region. Please visit www.pagnet.org for more information.