



AZSC



# AZ Solar Center Newsletter

[[www.azsolarcenter.org](http://www.azsolarcenter.org)]

Volume 1, Issue 5

This Newsletter is Sponsored by  
American Solar Electric, Inc

June 2010

**The Arizona Solar Center's** mission is to present unbiased information about renewable energy in Arizona, particularly solar energy, its most abundant renewable resource. In conjunction with the mission, the Arizona Solar Center uses its website, [www.azsolarcenter.org](http://www.azsolarcenter.org), to support commerce and industry in the development of solar and other sustainable technologies.

### \*\*\* Featured Project \*\*\*

Forward-thinking home builders, like Shea Homes Active Lifestyle Communities, have established an impressive standard of blending the aesthetic appeal of a home's design with solar. Over the past two years, American Solar Electric has installed more than 250 solar tile systems at Encanterra, A Trilogy Country Club and Trilogy at Vistancia by Shea Homes Active Lifestyle Communities. For homebuyers in these two communities, efficient and economical solar tile systems complement the design of their homes, while increasing their value.



"Installing solar electric systems adds even more value to Trilogy communities. Not only will it save new homeowners money on their utility bills for several decades, but they also will enjoy the increased property value a solar electric system provides. American Solar Electric is proud to be part of the team delivering this exciting new feature to Trilogy customers," said Sean Seitz, president of American Solar Electric.

Tile-integrated solar panels fit seamlessly into flat concrete and s-tile sloped roofs. Their low profile enables the homeowner to maintain the aesthetic appeal of their roofline while gaining the benefits of reliable electricity generation — and significantly reducing electricity bills. Since the cost of solar panels has decreased over the past



few years, tile-integrated solar electric (or solar tile) systems are now an affordable alternative to traditional solar panel systems.

"I have been paying bills to SRP for over 40 years. Living in my new home with an American Solar Electric system, I have seen the lowest monthly bills. The difference in the cost is phenomenal!" - Richard Griffin, solar electric system owner at Trilogy Encanterra.

As an added benefit, homeowners do not have to compromise on the durability of their roof. Solar tiles function as an integrated component of the home's roofing system. They are designed and tested to structural, wind-loading and fire-rating standards, just like other building products, and the Tile Roofing Institute has an approved method for integrating solar tiles into roofing systems. And just like traditional solar panels, solar tiles are exceptionally durable, reliable and require minimal maintenance.

#### Average System Specifications

System Capacity: 2.99 kWDC

PV Modules: 46 BP EnergyTile 65 Watt modules

Inverter: 1 Fronius IG+ 3.0 inverter

Estimated annual generation: 4,784 kWh

Installer: American Solar Electric, Inc.



Each AZSC Newsletter will showcase a Featured Project. If you would like one of your projects to be considered for this article please send a one page description of your project with four photographs to [janet@cactusmooneducation.com](mailto:janet@cactusmooneducation.com)

We thank the following AZSC Sponsors:



## Around the State

### Watch for the Riverpoint Solar Research Park!

Southwest Solar Technologies, Inc has begun construction of the Riverpoint Solar Research Park on the South bank of the Salt River in Phoenix.

The Park will be home for R&D and testing the advanced Solar Concentrating Dish Turbine system being developed by SolarCAT Inc, a sister company to SST.



In addition, the Park will provide opportunities to work with other researchers, educational institutions and businesses on educational and demonstration activities, and community outreach programs focused on renewable energy and sustainable technologies that are beneficial to Arizona.

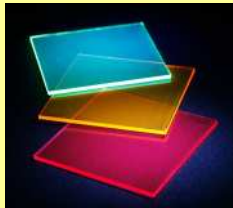
(For more information visit <http://www.swsolartech.com>)

\*\*\*\*\*

### Q&A

Q: Why are solar cells blue?

A: Most solar cells look blue/black in color because they're designed to absorb as much of the light falling on them as they possibly can. However, manufacturers are working on solar cells that are multicolored! Greensun Energy in Israel is currently developing a range of multi colored solar cells.



(For more information visit [www.greensun.biz](http://www.greensun.biz))

You have a question? We may have an answer!

\*\*\*\*\*

### Solar Production, How Does Your System Compare?

We would like to show typical solar PV system performance figures in this newsletter so that you can compare the performance of your system with others in the state. For the months of April and May we have the following:

Location	April	May	
Phoenix:	144	145	kWh/kW
Tucson:	147	144	kWh/kW
Yuma	144	145	kWh/kW
Flagstaff	142	148	kWh/kW

Please send us your system generation numbers.

\*\*\*\*\*

Your suggestions are welcomed: If you have suggestions or ideas as to how we can make this newsletter more useful or interesting please let us know. Contact us at [janet@cactusmooneducation.com](mailto:janet@cactusmooneducation.com) with your ideas.

## We're looking for sponsors!

Would you like to sponsor this newsletter? If you're interested please contact [Janet@azsolarcenter.org](mailto:Janet@azsolarcenter.org)

\*\*\*\*\*

### Seasonal Tip

We're approaching the most productive months of the year for your solar system. Please check your solar generation meter, compare your monthly generation numbers to ours—below and left—just to make sure all is well with your system!

\*\*\*\*\*

### From the Utilities

About 45 people attended a two-day training course on commercial solar water heating systems held Feb. 25-26 at Pima Community College's downtown Tucson campus. The two-day class was organized by TEP, the college and the City of Tucson.

"Our turnout was excellent and the attendees were very excited about the opportunities available in commercial-size systems," said Gabriel Torres, TEP Residential Technology Specialist. "The course was a good way to get everybody on the same page regarding what TEP is looking for in our commercial programs. Most installers in town are focused on residential systems right now."

Torres said TEP and its partners are planning to hold more workshops in the future.

(For more information on TEP's solar water heating training course contact Joe Barrios at [jbarrios@tep.com](mailto:jbarrios@tep.com))

\*\*\*\*\*

### From the Capitol

The legislative session is now over! Several bills challenging the Renewable Energy Standard didn't make it through the process. However, HB2700 extending the state incentives for solar energy did pass.

(For a summary of the session visit [www.arizona.sierraclub.org/political\\_action/tracker](http://www.arizona.sierraclub.org/political_action/tracker))

\*\*\*\*\*

### Upcoming Events

**June 7-8:** 3rd Annual Renewable Energy Projects in Indian Country Conference. (Scottsdale)

**June 12:** 8th Annual Solar Cook-Off & Expo. (Sierra Vista)

Rep. Giffords office holds Solar 101 meetings on a monthly basis. (For more information contact [sara.hummelrajca@mail.house.gov](mailto:sara.hummelrajca@mail.house.gov))

(For more information on upcoming events see the full calendar at [www.azsolarcenter.org/events-calendar.html](http://www.azsolarcenter.org/events-calendar.html))

\*\*\*\*\*