

## Robinson applauds ASU taking the lead on solar

April 1, 2009

During a celebration marking the first phase of the “solarization” of Arizona State University, **Don Robinson**, APS President and COO (*right*), applauded the university for helping to lead the state in taking advantage of one of Arizona’s most important resources — the sun.

ASU recently completed the addition of four solar systems on its campuses. In total, the new systems provide 1.85 megawatts of solar capacity. This is just the first part of a long-term initiative that will culminate with the university having 12 megawatts of solar power capacity on its buildings.

The event on Tuesday was held on the top floor of the Stadium Parking Structure located just south of Sun Devil Stadium. The garage’s roof is covered by 3,500 single-axis tracking solar panels, providing the university with 711 kilowatts of capacity. Along with a system installed in 2004, the ASU-owned solar systems total 1.88 megawatts of capacity, all together making it the largest solar installation by any utility customer in the state. It is four times larger than APS’ second largest customer installation, the 255-kilowatt system at Luke Air force Base.

“By solarizing its campuses, ASU goes beyond the obvious benefits of clean energy for its students and staff. ASU positions itself as a progressive university with a clear vision for the future. It illustrates a state university that is fully engaged in the economic synergy and public policy taking place within the community,” Robinson told the more than 100 in attendance, including the Sustainability Board of the University. **Bill Post**, PNW Chairman, as a member of the Sustainability Board attended the event as a guest of ASU.

APS, through the Renewable Energy Incentive Program, is providing an estimated \$8,655,000 to ASU for the current solar installations. For a majority of the funds, payments will spread out over 10 years, with actual amounts based on the annual production of the systems.

ASU is just one of the more than 2,500 APS customers who are participating in the APS incentive program. In total, APS customers have the capacity to generate almost 9 megawatts of electricity. Since the program’s inception in 2002, APS has provided nearly \$21 million dollars in incentives.