

## Northern AZ group joins APS Green Choice Program

February 6, 2008

Yesterday in Flagstaff, a group of northern Arizona businesses, governments, educational institutions and non-profit organizations pledged to join the APS Green Choice program with at least 5 percent of their power coming from renewable sources — then, every year, to increase this commitment by 5 percent.

Called the Northern Arizona Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Purchasing Group (NAREG), their goal cumulatively is to reach an amount of purchasing power (approximately 20 megawatts) that would justify APS issuing an Request for Proposals for a developer to build a renewable energy project in northern Arizona. It is estimated it will take approximately three years to meet the goal.

The APS Green Choice program allows customers to purchase additional renewable energy above what the utility already is providing its customers. For an additional 1 cent per kilowatt-hour (kWh), customers can elect to purchase renewable energy in specific amounts or as a percentage of their monthly usage.

"APS does not look at renewable energy as a Research and Development initiative, rather as an important part of meeting Arizona's energy future," said **Don Robinson** (right), Senior Vice President, Planning and Administration, at the ceremony marking the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which took place in the APS Atrium on the campus of Northern Arizona University.

The NAREG is a diverse group of public and private organizations that have come together to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy development in northern Arizona. Members include the city of Flagstaff, Coconino Community College, Coconino County, Flagstaff Medical Center, Flagstaff Unified School District, Foresight Wind Energy, Hozho International, Nestle Purina Pet Care Company, Northern Arizona University, Xanterra Resorts and the Museum of Northern Arizona.

When Coconino County joined the program, it pledged 20 percent of its energy purchases to be in renewables, which will make it the largest APS Green Choice purchaser in the program.

*Photo: Robinson signing the MOU*

