



Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

**For more information
contact Wayne Crane in Willcox at (520) 384-5510
or in Sierra Vista at (520) 458-4691, extension 5510**

#11-007

For Immediate Release

SSVEC Recognized in National Association's Annual Survey of Increased Solar Utilization

Willcox, June 24 – The Solar Electric Power Association (SEPA), an educational and research non-profit focused on helping utilities integrate solar into their operations, has recognized Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC) as one of the top electric cooperatives in terms of utilization of solar power during 2010. SEPA analyzes information for the year from 230 investor-owned, municipal and cooperative electric utilities across the nation, both in terms of total solar megawatts (MW) added to their systems and the number of watts per customer.

SSVEC was number six among the 57 electric cooperatives in the survey with an increase of .454 MW of solar power added in 2010. This translates to 454,000 watts of solar capacity.

The other electric cooperatives comprising the top six in solar production were Tri-State Generation and Transmission Co-op Association in Colorado (30.2 MW), Kauai Island Utility Cooperative in Hawaii (.788 MW), North Georgia Electric Membership Corporation in Georgia (.683 MW), Kit Carson Electric Cooperative in New Mexico (.624 MW), and Trico Electric Cooperative in Marana, Arizona (.561 MW).

SEPA also ranks utilities based on the increased solar use in terms of watts per customer.

SSVEC ranked number five among electric cooperatives in this past year's survey with 8.975 watts per customer. (SSVEC was the top ranked utility for 2009 with 56 solar watts per customer.)

The other top-rated electric cooperatives on a watts-per-customer basis were Kauai Island Utility Co-op in Hawaii (24.383 watts per customer), Kit Carson Electric Cooperative in New Mexico (22.183 watts per customer), Tri-State Electric Membership Corporation in Georgia (15.979 watts per customer) and Trico Electric Cooperative in Marana, Arizona (14.26 watts per customer).

The SEPA recognized the increasing solar capacity among America's cooperatives. In its report titled *2010 SEPA Utility Solar Rankings* the association stated, "In 2010 cooperative utilities increased their total annual solar capacities by nearly 690 percent in aggregate."

SSVEC's Chief Member Services Officer Jack Blair acknowledged appreciation for the recognition. He said, "We have worked to provide information regarding solar energy and incentives for our members to install photovoltaic systems at their homes and businesses. This recognition confirms these efforts as SSVEC and cooperatives across the nation look to renewable energy options to help meet the increasing demand for electricity."

A copy of the complete report can be found at <http://www.solarelectricpower.org/solar-tools/sepa-utility-solar-rankings.aspx>.

ABOUT SSVEC

Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative is a distribution electric utility that serves approximately 50,000 members throughout southeast Arizona. Incorporated in 1938 as a rural electric cooperative, SSVEC is headquartered in Willcox, Arizona, and is regulated by the Arizona Corporation Commission. SSVEC's website is www.ssvec.org.

ABOUT SEPA

More than 700 utilities and solar industry members comprise the Solar Electric Power Association (SEPA). From national events to one-on-one counseling, SEPA is the go-to resource for unbiased and actionable solar intelligence. Breaking down information overload into business reality, SEPA takes

the time and risk out of implementing solar business plans and helps turn new technologies into new opportunities. For more information, visit www.solarelectricpower.org.

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