

# Arizona Daily Star®

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## Giffords names 25 to boost area solar

**By Becky Pallack**

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U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords wants a group of 25 local leaders to pick up the pace on making Southern Arizona a world leader in the solar industry.

She named the 25 to a new council to advise her on the availability and use of solar energy.

Her Congressional Solar Energy Advisory Council will meet several times during the summer to develop an action plan, which will be presented at the Pima Association of Governments Alternative Energy Expo and Forum Sept. 14-15, said C.J. Karamargin, Giffords' spokesman.

Small steps have been made to build up the solar industry in Tucson, but the various interests need to work together to make strides, he said.

Giffords has said she plans to introduce several bills that would authorize investment in solar research, extend homeowner tax credits, make national parks showplaces of solar energy, and educate the public about the need for increased solar power use.

Leslie Tolbert, vice president for research at the University of Arizona, is a new board member. "With abundant sunshine, we ought to be able to lead the way in making good use of solar energy for power," she said.

The board members represent a variety of interests in solar power.

Roger Angel, a UA Regent's Professor of astronomy and optical sciences, is examining ways to turn research into marketable products.

"By developing new techniques and technology, we could get to the point where Arizona solar could supply the whole Southwest with energy," he said.

Others from the UA include Paul Portney, dean of the Eller College of Management; and Joe Simmons, head of the Department of Materials Science and Engineering. Others in education: Don Budinger, chairman of the Rodel Charitable Foundation of Arizona; and William Harris, of the Arizona Science Foundation.

Representing business are Kendall Bert, executive vice president of Tucson Regional Economic Opportunities Inc.; Prabhu Dayal, president of C Trade, an international renewable energy development company; Michael Gering, president of Global Solar; Tom Hansen, vice president of environmental services, conservation and renewable energy at Tucson Electric Power; Katharine Kent, president of The Solar Store; Col. Kent Laughbaum, commander of the 355th Wing at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base; John Wesley Miller, a builder; Valerie Rauluk, CEO of Venture Catalyst Inc.; and Arthur Schneider, a Raytheon engineer.

Policymakers include Dennis Dickerson, environmental planning coordinator for the Pima Association of Governments; Richard Elías, chairman of the Pima Supervisors; State Rep. Steve Farley; Britt Hanson, deputy county attorney in Cochise County; Leslie Liberti, director of the city of Tucson Office of Conservation and Sustainable Development; Oro Valley Mayor Paul Loomis; Jacquie McNulty, a former member of the Arizona Solar Energy Advisory Council; Sierra Vista Mayor Bob Strain; Tucson City Councilwoman Karin Uhlich; and Tucson Mayor Bob Walkup.

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