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## SRP revamps renewables

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[Salt River Project](#) is revamping its renewable energy portfolio, gathering for meetings starting this week in a effort to determine how the utility will proceed going forward.

It is the first revamp of SRP's portfolio since 2006, and over the next four months the utility will try to craft a new policy with input from various stakeholder groups into one that reflects what is going on with renewable energy today, said **Debbie Kimberly**, SRP's manager of energy efficiency and policy analysis.

"What we really want to leave customers with is that SRP is committed to sustainability," Kimberly said, adding that commitment comes with a price, and the utility must balance its push for solar, wind and other renewable energy items with its customers desires to not have rates hiked.

SRP's process involves three public meetings starting on Thursday, March 3. The first session will provide more information and is designed to give stakeholders an idea of where SRP now stands in terms of its renewable portfolio.

The second meeting, scheduled for March 21, is for stakeholders to give their input on the working plan, which will be presented to the board at a third meeting April 18, and potentially voted on May 23.

The changes advocated in whatever becomes the final plan won't take affect with SRP until its 2013 budget year. Planning for the 2012 budget year, which begins May 1, already is under way, Kimberly said.

"We also need to do some assessment in terms of what it means in terms of cost," she said.

SRP is a quasi-governmental entity, and as such is not bound by the Arizona Corporation Commission's mandate that utilities must get 15 percent of their electricity from renewable sources by 2025.

It has pledged to meet that goal, but its renewable resource mix include hydropower from its dams along the Salt and Verde rivers. The ACC plan does not include hydropower.

SRP has come a long way from its first plan in 2004, which required that it get 2 percent of its power from renewable resources. It has been involved on several wind projects, is starting to install utility-scale photovoltaic solar, and has developed several energy-efficiency programs.

"We wanted to see if those projects bore fruit, and in a lot of cases they have," Kimberly said.

The question will be how much customers will be willing to pay for moving the utility to renewables. SRP has a monthly fee for its environmental programs, and currently is undertaking a study to see what its customers will be willing to spend per month on the programs.

That study is being finalized now, and broad information could be ready by the first meeting. A detailed analysis of the customer survey, however, will be ready for the second meeting, Kimberly said.

The first two meetings will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day at the SRP PERA club. For info: [www.srpnet.com/spp](http://www.srpnet.com/spp).