

Organizations want to bring more solar to Cave Creek

by *Philip Haldiman* - Jul. 6, 2011 06:27 AM
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Two organizations are coming together to make Cave Creek a greener place.

Cave Creek's Save-a-Watt program, a component of Green Cave Creek, plans to cut the town's electricity usage by 10 percent by fall 2012. Arizona SmartPower, a non-profit marketing firm, is partnering with the town to bring more solar power to Cave Creek. Toni Bouchard, director of Arizona SmartPower, said the partnership with Green Cave Creek will further bolster the message of sustainability.

"They've already done a lot of work with their Save-a-Watt program, talking to residents about similar issues," she said.

THE PURPOSE

Arizona SmartPower's mission is to promote clean, renewable energy and energy efficiency. Bouchard said going solar can be an overwhelming and complex process, and SmartPower has many free services to help residents with the process, including helping Cave Creek homeowners assess costs and savings, choose equipment and find qualified installers.

"Our solar coaches are **neutral** and can help in a non-biased way," she said. The company will be using its solar ambassador program to promote solar energy in town.

"This is going to be big in Cave Creek," she said.

CALLING SOLAR AMBASSADORS

Green Cave Creek and SmartPower are seeking residents who have already installed solar **technology** and are interested in being advocates for going solar to attend an informational meeting Aug. 9 at Desert Foothills Library, 38443 N. Schoolhouse Road, in Cave Creek. Bouchard said the meeting is open to the public.

OTHER PARTNERSHIPS

After two pilot programs in Flagstaff and the Sunnyslope community of Phoenix, SmartPower has formed partnerships with a number of municipalities in the state including Yuma, Casa Grande, Sun City West, Anthem, Goodyear, Prescott, Cottonwood and Clarkdale. Cave Creek is the most recent partnership. For information, visit www.CaveCreek.org/GreenCaveCreek, call SmartPower, 928-637-6598, or visit www.azsmartpower.org.

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