

## Live Solar.

If you believe in the potential of solar energy, we need your help. Ultimately, the transition to a clean, sustainable energy future will depend on the thousands of choices we make as individuals. Nobody can do it alone.

**Educate Yourself.** There are tons of events around our community to help you learn more about solar. Start by coming to a Solar 101: A Community Solar Energy Education Series event offered by my office in cooperation with the Tucson library. You will learn all about home-based solar, as well as some exciting projects happening in the community. Check the "Solar Page" on my website for upcoming Solar 101 events.

**Live Green.** Install a solar hot water heater on your home or business. Line dry your clothing. Put a sky light in your house. All of these energy-saving ideas will be great investments and save you money.



Congresswoman Giffords discusses residential solar at a Solar 101 event in November.

**Talk to your electric company.** Most electricity providers have programs that can help you cut back on your use of energy and support "green" power. Inquire with your electricity provider about ways to save energy or support solar.

**Tell your Friends.** Start a solar discussion group or host a neighborhood solar potluck. Form a business solar consortium. Encourage them to get involved. Share information and spread the word.



Congresswoman Giffords learns about solar vehicles while driving a prototype built by George Villec.

You can also contact me at my website, [www.giffords.house.gov](http://www.giffords.house.gov). I look forward to hearing from you.

**Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords**  
1661 N. Swan, Suite 112  
Tucson, AZ 85712

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gabrielle Giffords".

M.C.  
PRE-SORTED STANDARD

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## THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

**"Solar needs a boost"** December 18, 2007

...Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, D-Ariz., has been pushing the solar incentives that Arizona needs. Other members of the delegation should join her to make sure that the state's prospects for using our sunshine don't go dark at the end of 2008.

**"With over 300 days of sunshine in our state every year, it is critical that we harness the power of the sun.**

**Together, we can make Southern Arizona the "Solar-con Valley" of the nation."**

**Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords**

## A message from Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords

When I began my service in Congress over a year ago, I decided that one of my top priorities would be solar energy. With all of Arizona's abundant sunshine, maximizing its clean power is common sense. Solar energy offers an opportunity to address some critical problems that face our nation: global warming, U.S. dependence on foreign oil, and our need to boost America's technological and economic competitiveness.

### Green is the new red, white and blue.

When we invest in solar, we are building a future where our energy needs don't dictate our foreign policy; a future where our energy use doesn't threaten our environment; and a future where our energy dollars stay in our local community, creating high-tech, high-paying jobs that can never be outsourced.



## The Difference One Year Can Make

I am proud of what we have achieved to promote solar energy in Southern Arizona

- ▶ I sponsored the **Solar Energy Research and Advancement Act of 2007 (H.R. 2774)** that calls for research into thermal storage, a study in reducing water use in concentrating solar power (CSP) and integrating CSP into the grid, and for a training program for solar technicians. It was signed into law by President Bush in December 2007.
- ▶ Provisions from my **Renewable Energy Assistance Act (H.R. 3807)** that promote solar energy by extending the 30% solar Investment Tax Credit for individuals and businesses through 2016 and allowing public utilities to claim the tax credit, were passed as part of the Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act (H.R. 5351) on February 27, 2008.
- ▶ We launched **Solar Power 101: A Community Education Series**, in partnership with Pima County Public Library, on November 28, 2007 with over 250 people in attendance. This solar education series has held five forums throughout Southern Arizona and continues until May 2008.
- ▶ Through the work of my Solar Advisory Council, Dr. Joseph Simmons formed the **Arizona Research Institute for Solar Energy (AzRISE)**, a unique program at the University of Arizona to research, develop and implement solar energy solutions. With my support, the Arizona Board of Regents approved a \$3.35 million grant for AzRISE, assuring the long-term success of the Institute.
- ▶ I requested and secured **\$1 million in funding for the University of Arizona Mirror Lab** to build and test new solar array technology. The Mirror Lab project will help overcome the primary difficulty in harvesting free sunlight energy: the construction and operation of a large area of solar collectors.



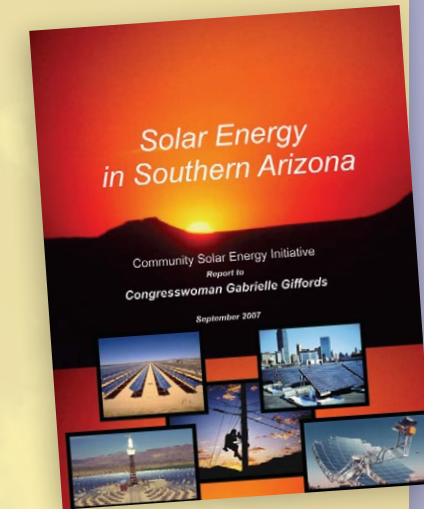
A student from Cornell University shows Congresswoman Giffords a solar-powered water heater at the Solar Decathlon in Washington, DC. The University of Arizona will participate in 2009.

## Congresswoman Giffords' Community Solar Initiative

Congresswoman Giffords believes we can make Southern Arizona the "Solar-con Valley of the Nation." That is why she launched the Community Solar Energy Initiative in April 2007 and formed a Solar Advisory Council. Its members include scientists, environmentalists, venture capitalists, government officials, educators and business leaders.

On August 22, 2007, the Council presented its final report, "Solar Energy in Southern Arizona," to the Congresswoman. The report identified the necessary steps for seizing the potential for solar energy usage in our state and made recommendations on market growth, research and development and congressional action.

To read the full report, please visit the "Solar" page at [www.giffords.house.gov](http://www.giffords.house.gov)



## Congresswoman Giffords Hosts Congressional Field Hearing on Solar

On March 17th, Congresswoman Giffords held a congressional field hearing in Tucson on utility-scale solar power. It was an **official bipartisan forum of the House Science and Technology Committee** on which she serves. The goal of the two-hour hearing was to **explore the potential of making solar energy a significant source of electric generating capacity in the United States**. An audience of 130 people heard testimony from six expert witnesses on solar technologies, energy transmission, regulatory issues and the role of government and the private sector in developing utility scale solar power. Other committee members participated including Chairman Bart Gordon (TN), Ranking Member Ralph Hall (TX), and Congressmen Harry Mitchell (AZ), Dan Lipinski (IL) and Jim Matheson (UT).



Congresswoman Giffords and Ranking Member Ralph Hall explore utility-scale solar power at a congressional field hearing.

