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SRP's 3rd Annual 'Champions of Energy Efficiency' Awards Event Honors School Districts, City of Chandler and Valley Businesses

It's rare for business leaders to take center stage and receive awards for making small changes that yield big rewards like switching to LEDs, upgrading air conditioning units and teaching employees to conserve.

Yet during today's SRP Champions of Energy Efficiency Awards and Luncheon, 16 innovative Valley businesses also walked away with bragging rights for saving money and conserving precious resources.

During the third annual event, Salt River Project honored businesses for their participation in SRP's commercial energy efficiency rebate and ENERGY STAR® Homes programs and for going "above and beyond" in their efforts to create a culture of conservation and stewardship within their organizations.

"Every year SRP helps businesses become more energy efficient by providing rebates on thousands of projects that our customers submit. We created this special event to honor our top commercial energy savers and recognize their ongoing commitment to energy efficiency," said Dan Dreiling, SRP director of Market Research and Customer Programs. "Being named an SRP Champion of Energy Efficiency is a significant achievement. These companies serve as examples for other businesses to follow."

In a dynamic era of changing resource and emissions requirements, energy-efficiency programs will play a pivotal role in cost-effectively meeting customers' power needs — while also helping to optimize resources and protect the environment.

Strong customer participation in SRP's energy efficiency programs helped to surpass corporate energy-efficiency goals. Last year, the programs for both residential and commercial customers resulted in a savings of more than 525-million kilowatt-hours, which is equivalent to powering about 28,000 Valley homes for one year.

2016 Champions of Energy Efficiency Award Winners:

Schools (K-12):

Phoenix Union High School District (PUHSD)

MEDIA RESOURCES



Additional resources:

- savewithsrpbiz.com
- [2016 Champions of Energy Efficiency \(winners and runners-up\)](#)

By “being smart” and committed to educating staff and students about energy conservation and sustainability, PUHSD has saved close to \$1.5 million. Students and staff are trained to know that leaving on a single computer monitor may only cost one penny per day, but multiplied by 30,000 monitors, the savings can be tremendous. In addition to cutting off energy “vampires,” the PUHSD has installed LED lights, some with automation and implemented a comprehensive recycling program. Also, through SRP energy-efficiency rebate programs, PUHSD has been able to reinvest savings back into its classrooms. Phoenix Union knew it couldn’t tackle the sustainability changes on its own, so it worked with strategic partners to reduce energy use and costs. These efforts have secured ENERGY STAR certification for all campuses in the district. With a mission to prepare all students for success in college, their careers and life, PUHSD is one of the largest high school districts in the country with 17 schools, 28,000 students and nearly 3,000 employees.

Large Business:

The Phoenician Resort

Located at the base of Camelback Mountain, the 250-acre Phoenician is a leader in environmental sustainability by participating in SRP Standard Business Solutions rebate program. Rooms in the luxury resort are currently under renovation and will all receive brighter, energy-efficient LED lighting in several areas, including bedside tables, sitting rooms and restrooms. New smart thermostats are being installed and room temperatures will automatically adjust when guests leave their rooms. These changes have resulted in a utility bill that is now 17-percent lower. The Phoenician has also installed smart irrigation technology with indigenous landscaping, as well as a food waste disposal system that converts food waste into water. The Phoenician has a goal to reduce water usage by 30 percent and fuel usage by 20 percent by the year 2020.

Municipality:

City of Chandler

Chandler has a reputation as the innovation and technology hub of the Southwest. The state’s fourth-largest city is rich in diversity, family fun and progressive entrepreneurship. Sustainability and energy efficiency are integral themes in the city of Chandler’s General Plan, Utility Master Plans and city policies. Power and water are absolute essentials that any thriving city must provide, and to be most effective, city leaders say a partnership with SRP has been critical. Chandler is one of the first 10 communities to be certified by STAR (Sustainability Tools for Assessing & Rating Communities).

Homebuilder:

Maracay Homes

For 25 years, Maracay Homes has been an Arizona real estate industry leader in providing homebuyers with smarter choices that serve both their lifestyle and the environment. These ENERGY STAR-certified homes feature the latest generation of high-efficiency technologies and sustainable building materials and practices. Maracay’s LivingSmart[®] program continues this comprehensive approach to green living through responsible development, water and energy efficiency, and designs and features that maximize both comfort and conservation. Maracay Homes has become a Champion of Energy Efficiency and a top name in new home construction by embracing its responsibility to the environment and by partnering with SRP’s ENERGY STAR Homes program. In addition to promoting energy efficiency in its 22 active communities, Maracay also encourages conservation at the corporate office through installed features such as motion sensors and programmable thermostats.

Midsize Business:

San-Mar Enterprises

San-Mar Enterprises, which owns Arizona Hair Co., has been a staple of the Valley’s beauty scene for more than 30 years. As a locally owned and operated company, San-Mar takes pride in its contributions to the community through charitable giving and job creation. Many of its 250 team members have been with the

company for decades. The company's commitment to sustainability and conservation fit right in with the mission of SRP's rebate programs. San-Mar has implemented many sustainability features in its salons and corporate office. It has utilized ceiling fans, installed LED lighting and motion sensors, added insulation and solar reflective window treatments and planted shade trees. Employees also turn up thermostats during off hours and unplug hair tools at the end of the day. San-Mar's sustainability goals continue to grow along with the company.

Small Business:

Phoenix Vineyard Estates

The Vineyard Estates multifamily apartment community provides much-needed affordable housing to lower-income families. Residents and managers of the Vineyard Estates Apartments want to save energy and costs, and everyone is reaping the rewards of energy efficiency by participating in SRP's rebate programs. The biggest benefit has been through upgraded lighting. Managers say that after LED lights were installed, they realized how much brighter and safer it made the complex for residents. Additionally, maintenance costs have been reduced with fewer bulb replacements needed. Vineyard Estates also is tracking its energy trends with monthly utility logs. It has an accounts payable staff member dedicated to look for spikes in utility service so that issues can be addressed quickly. Vineyard Estates has also upgraded the community's hot water systems and started to replace plumbing and lighting fixtures to yield about 140,000 kilowatt-hours of energy savings over the last year.

Charitable and Nonprofit:

Risen Savior Lutheran Church

The Risen Savior Lutheran Church serves the community of Sun Lakes in Chandler. Church leaders worked closely with their SRP account representative to learn about the different options for energy savings. Risen Savior approaches its commitment to saving energy and money as it does its commitment to ministries. By tinting windows, installing smart thermostats, new lighting and replacing old air conditioning units, the church will save more than 178,000 kilowatt-hours annually and plans to use the extra money toward additional ministries that directly benefit the congregation and surrounding community. Risen Savior also hopes to be an inspiration to other congregations looking for ways to conserve and save.

Sustained Excellence:

Peoria Unified School District

Peoria Unified goes above and beyond to teach students, teachers and staff how to conserve energy. School leaders say participation in SRP's commercial rebate program has been essential to its success. The Peoria Unified School District has implemented several features to become more sustainable, such as installing high-efficiency mechanical systems, lighting controls, occupancy sensors and carbon dioxide controls. It has also upgraded energy control systems and installed low-flow water fixtures.

Dignity Health

As the fifth-largest health system in the nation with more than 40 hospitals across three states, Dignity Health is a vibrant, national health care system. Dignity Health was awarded the Sustained Excellence honor for enhancements made at Chandler Regional Medical Center. Automation has been key in energy-efficiency success at the hospital. To create a more sustainable energy- and cost-efficient campus, a Siemens water temperature control system and variable frequency devices were installed and have driven the reduction in energy usage along with automated light sensors. The automated controls are also monitored by daily rounds, which further help control and adjust temperatures. The improvements have led to lower energy use and utility costs. By participating in the SRP rebate program, Chandler Regional yielded a yearly savings of more than one-million kilowatt-hours. Chandler Regional Medical Center has set the standard for future Dignity Health facilities, as these conservation and sustainability efforts are currently being implemented in new construction and remodeling projects.

SRP is a community-based, not-for-profit public power utility and the largest provider of electricity in the greater Phoenix metropolitan area, serving more than one million customers. SRP is also the metropolitan area's largest supplier of water, delivering about 800,000 acre-feet annually to municipal, urban and agricultural water users.

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