



---

## ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

---

FOR RELEASE: November 5, 2014

CONTACT: Rebecca Wilder (602) 542-0844

### **Commission Approves Voluntary Solar Fund Benefitting Habitat for Humanity**

**PHOENIX, AZ** – The Commission today approved a program for Arizona Public Service (APS), Tucson Electric Power (TEP) and Unisource Energy (UNS) through which anyone can voluntarily contribute funds to provide solar for Habitat for Humanity homes. The program will become effective as of January 1, 2015.

Funds collected by the program would be used to install solar panel systems on newly built residential single-family homes constructed by the Arizona chapter of Habitat for Humanity. The tax-deductible contributions could be made by anyone, not just the customers of the utilities, and would be made to the Arizona Community Foundation (ACF), who will hold the funds in a tax-exempt, irrevocable fund.

“Millions of ratepayer dollars have been expended on the promotion of renewable energy programs, specifically on rooftop solar. This voluntary contribution program provides an avenue for individuals to directly support rooftop solar through voluntary, tax-deductible contributions, thus, bringing the technology to individuals who may have not had access to it,” said Commissioner Bob Burns.

ACF would then provide funding to Habitat under the following conditions: Any home receiving a solar rooftop system under the VSC Program must be located within the Company’s service territory, but would be selected by Habitat without input from either ACF or the utilities. The selected homeowners must also meet Habitat’s requirements regarding home ownership and “sweat equity.”

The following conditions must also be met:

- the system must be sized to produce no more than 50% of the expected total connected load of the home, or 3 kW, whichever is smaller;
- the roof must be structurally able to support a rooftop system and the system must be oriented south, southwest, or west;
- and Habitat must select an Arizona licensed and qualified solar installer to install and maintain the system.

For each home to receive a system, the amount of funds available must be sufficient to purchase and install the system under warranty, and to provide an initial five-year operation and maintenance contract for upkeep of the system. The plan also stipulates that if it appears that contributions will not reach the level required to fund at least one system by the end of the two-year period, each company must contribute enough to fund one system through Habitat.

###