



## **News Release**

### **Public Information Office**

*For Release: Immediately*

Contact: **Stu Robinson**

Public Affairs Specialist

Tel: 623-773-7336 Fax: 623-773-7944

E-mail: [stuart.robinson@peoriaaz.gov](mailto:stuart.robinson@peoriaaz.gov)

Page 1 of 1

## **Valley Forward Honors Solar Partnership in Peoria**

### **Project with 60 Dishes Is First Commercial-Scale Facility of Its Kind**

PEORIA, Ariz. (Oct. 7, 2010) – Peoria's partnership with Tessera Solar and Salt River Project on a 60-dish solar field earned the city a 2010 Valley Forward Environmental Excellence Award.

The 1.5-megawatt Maricopa Solar project located in southern Peoria received an Award of Merit for environmental technologies in the public sector. The SunCatcher™ dishes sit just north of SRP's Agua Fria Generating Station at 75th and Northern avenues. Completed in December 2009, Maricopa Solar was the first commercial-scale solar facility built using the innovative SunCatcher solar-thermal technology constructed by Scottsdale-based Stirling Energy Systems.

Tessera Solar operates the Maricopa Solar project under a 10-year deal. SRP purchases the solar energy generated at the site, which helps the utility fulfill its goal of meeting 15 percent of its retail energy needs with sustainable energy by 2025. In addition, the project has allowed SRP to get first-hand experience with the SunCatcher technology, its performance and integration into the grid. The Maricopa Solar partnership contributed to long-term renewable-energy development and ties into Peoria's goals of reducing the environmental impact of local projects and building responsibly for the future.

###

CONTACT: Seth Blumen, energy-efficiency analyst, 623-773-5148