



2024 Salt River Project (SRP) Candidate Questionnaire

Please answer the following questions so that Arizonans whose electricity is provided by SRP can learn more about what you hope to accomplish if elected to the board of governors and councilors. We plan to make all responses available through our website.

What is your name?

Nick Brown

PhD Cornell, ecology and evolutionary biology

MS UT-Dallas, environmental sciences

BA Hendrix College, history of philosophy

Why are you running for a position on SRP's board of directors and councilors?

SRP does several things really, really well:

Customer service is excellent, earning multiple JD Power awards every year.

Community service is excellent, providing \$4.8 million per year to carefully screened non-profit groups that provide housing, energy assistance, help for homeless families and much more.

Affordability is also excellent; SRP ratepayers pay 10-15% less than counterpart rates at APS (the Valley of the Sun's other large power utility).

Reliability is also excellent; it's consistently a top ten performer nationally among large public utilities for CAIDI (customer average interruption duration index) and SAIDI (system average interruption duration index).

But for **sustainability**, not so good. SRP has the highest greenhouse gas emissions factor (CO₂e MWh⁻¹) among all utilities in USEPA's AZNM subregion. This is geekspeak for "SRP's climate-related performance is worst in class." We must do better. By heating the planet, we are limiting our progeny's opportunities for a prosperous future.

What type(s) of energy resources do you want to see SRP build more of?

- utility-scale solar + storage (100 - 300 MW projects)
- bi-facial solar over canals
- customer-owned rooftop solar + storage incentives and projects
- stationary flat-plate collector solar projects (typically 200 kW - 1MW) over scores of commercial parking lots, with innovative financing and ownership strategies
- contracts for Big Wind from NM and other places east and north of AZ
- pumped-back hydro below Roosevelt Dam to address summer afternoon super-peaks
- on-site and off-site large-scale solar projects in partnership with data centers and local tech giants, including Intel, Freeport-McMoran and others
- stand-alone energy storage projects at the distribution level across our service area

Do you think that SRP should make it easier for customers to install solar on their homes and businesses? If so, how would you achieve this?

The mechanics are pretty good as they are. Policy constraints need to be removed. (See item below.)

Do you believe that the credit SRP provides to customers who have solar is fair compensation for the energy they provide to the grid? If not, what changes would you propose?

No. We need to hire consultants who actually value solar to help us determine how to move from the current \$0.028/kWh to a more accurate VoS. For starters, we need to include a 'cost of carbon' or 'price on carbon.' There is currently no carbon market in AZ, and we are deficient in our financial calcs because of that.

What is your position on the customer charges and demand charges that SRP currently charges to solar customers?

The demand charge would be fair if every customer were working under the same rules. Targeting solar customers for demand charges while ignoring the impacts of co-incident demand for all other customers is unjustifiable and inequitable.

Do you think SRP should encourage adoption of residential battery storage by its customers? If so, how?

Yes. To meet increasing demand, Green Mountain Power in Vermont gave residential batteries to customers last fall, saying that was cheaper and much quicker than building new transmission lines to meet new demand.

Should SRP help its customers be more energy efficient? If so, how?

[We've done a pretty good job with customer-side EE.](#) One of our environmental NGO critics has even recognized our recent public input process for continuing goal development as being impactful and substantive.

Should SRP help customers integrate electric vehicles? If so, how?

SRP has EV rate plans that encourage overnight charging and discourage afternoon peak charging. I drive an EV, and I'm happy with my plan. The corporate goal is to support 500,000 EVs in SRP territory by 2035. "Support for 500,000 vehicles isn't defined in detail. I drive an EV and have a Level 2 home charger.

Do you think SRP should work to increase customer participation in its elections? If so, how would you achieve this?

Oh, gosh. Participation in elections is pitiful, in the 1% to 2% range. This is an issue that calls for significant board work (and significant push from NGOs).

What are your views on customer participation in SRP's planning process and stakeholder meetings?

I was a board observer in a recent process that updated corporate sustainability goals. We had thirty community leaders from environmental, academic and commercial sectors. It was a robust process, and final meeting summary comments indicated that the process was useful, legitimate, and well run. We can always do better, but the 2035 Corporate Goals Update process is a good model for acquiring technical and community input for managing emerging energy issues.

Is there anything else that you want to make sure voters know about you?

I've done renewable energy work since 1980-84 (Arkansas Department of Energy under then-gov Clinton), and environmental conservation work (Nat'l Center for Appropriate Technology, World Wildlife Fund-US, Forest Stewardship Council, NatureServe, 1998 - 2005), before moving to institutional sustainability work at two major universities.

Thank you for the opportunity to present myself, and for any potential support for our campaign!

Solar United Neighbors is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that works in Arizona and nationwide to represent the needs and interests of solar owners and supporters.