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ADEQ Officials Announce Selection of First Six Members of Arizona Voluntary Environmental Stewardship Program

PHOENIX (March 4, 2015) – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality officials announced today the first six members of the Arizona Voluntary Environmental Stewardship Program (VESP), which was adopted by the state Legislature and signed into law to provide recognition and incentives for organizations to go above and beyond environmental law requirements.

The initial members from large business are PING Inc. of Phoenix, which manufactures golf clubs, and Arizona Public Service’s Ocotillo Power Plant in Tempe. The first small-business members are eGreen IT Solutions of Phoenix, which recycles electronic waste, and an auto repair shop, Integrity Diesel, and its corporate office, Integrity Auto Corporation, both of Tucson. The first municipality to be accepted to the program is the Town of Eagar in east-central Arizona.

“This is an important program to recognize the excellent job that many businesses and municipalities in Arizona are performing in their operating procedures to protect the environment,” ADEQ Director Henry Darwin said. “We encourage others to apply for admission to the VESP and showcase their activities statewide.”

The VESP has five levels of recognition – platinum, gold, silver, bronze and copper. PING and Ocotillo are entering the program as platinum members, Integrity Diesel, Integrity Auto Corp. and eGreen as gold members, and Town of Eagar as a silver member. Each member will receive a certificate of recognition and will be listed on ADEQ’s website.

Platinum level membership is limited to entities with a fully implemented environmental management system (EMS) and gold level is limited for those willing to develop and maintain an EMS that is consistent with industry standard. Silver is for those improving their environmental footprint through pollution prevention and conserving natural resources, bronze is for regulated facilities making demonstrated efforts to comply with environmental regulations and copper is for those who have completed a project that results in measurable improvements to the environment.

For more information about the VESP, click this link <http://www.azdeq.gov/vesp.html>. For further information about joining VESP, contact ADEQ Ombudsman Ian Bingham at (602) 771-4322 or by email at ldb@azdeq.gov.

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