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## **GLENDALE GAINS FUNDING, CERTIFICATION TO HELP RESIDENTS ‘GO GREEN’**

**GLENDALE, Ariz.** -- Glendale residents have a variety of resources available to help them “go green,” thanks to federally funded education classes and the specialized training of a key Glendale manager who recently earned a rare certification.

Jo Miller, manager of Glendale’s Conservation and Sustainable Living programs, is the first municipal employee in Arizona certified as a Sonoran Sustainable Building Advisor. Nationwide only 700 people have passed the nine-month training, hands-on work and three-hour exam to earn professional certification in this emerging field.

“To have someone with a comprehensive background in all the disciplines it takes to build a sustainable community is a real plus for the City of Glendale,” says Leslie Lindo, president and lead instructor with Sonoran Sustainable Building Advisor Program (Sonoran-SBAP). “This certification prepares advisors to reach out and help people in every day life practice the principles of sustainability.”

That is just what Miller is doing – overseeing programs on energy and water conservation for the public. The classes have proven popular and, according to Lindo, the reason is clear.

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“When the economy crashed, people saw a need to make decisions that are more long-term. They’re re-evaluating their lives and what’s important,” Lindo says.

Saving money and more precious resources such as water and energy has become a top priority for those attending the “Green Living Class” series organized by Miller. It’s also a focus for school-age children who are learning conservation lessons through two city programs: Water Watchers and Watt Watchers.

Glendale’s outreach efforts are made possible with federal funds. The city garnered an Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) to expand its educational offerings beyond water conservation to other topics of green living. The grant is also funding incentives for residents such as free programmable thermostats.

To learn more about going green in Glendale and the class offerings for adults and programs for school children, contact the city’s Conservation and Sustainable Living Office at 623-930-3596 or go on-line to [www.glendaleaz.com/green](http://www.glendaleaz.com/green).

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