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**2020 Innovators**

**DEED’s Energy Innovator Award Winning Utilities**

The American Public Power Association’s research program, Demonstration of Energy & Efficiency Developments, nurtures innovation in public power. Each year we recognize our most innovative utility projects with the Energy Innovator Award. There are three winners this year:

**American Municipal Power, OH; *Public Power EV Planning Toolkit and Guidebook***

American Municipal Power teamed up with Smart Electric Power Alliance (SEPA) to create a DEED Public Power Electric Vehicle Planning Toolkit and Guidebook. The EV Toolkit is a user-friendly, intuitive resource for APPA member public power agencies to obtain insight into the preliminary economic impacts of electrification efforts with their internal fleet vehicles, and increased loading on residential distribution system service transformers under various EV charging scenarios. The EV Toolkit also provides increased awareness of EVs and associated market trends; supports the preliminary evaluation of customer engagement and EV charging management options when creating a program; provides insight into the potential timing at which proactive steps are best taken for maximum economic impact; and supplies accurate data and useful resources to support preliminary EV planning activities.

**Heartland Consumers Power District, SD; *Renewable Cost Calculator***

During the summer of 2019, Heartland employed a college intern to develop calculator tools to help determine the annual benefit and cost of installing a renewable energy system, particularly a solar array. One calculator is for retail customers who want to install solar panels on their property, while the other is for the utility to determine the cost to the utility itself. The solar calculators are complete and functional within the Microsoft Excel program. The calculator makes some assumptions but does so based on answers to certain questions including geographic location, making it a useful tool for any utility.

**Lakeland Electric, FL; *Damage Assessment Restoration Toolset***

Lakeland Electric designed a Damage Assessment Restoration Toolset which utilizes existing Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) Geographic Information System applications in conjunction with customized dashboards developed in-house, to create an easy mobile solution for all facets of damage assessment and data collection. The Toolset captures location, image and expense data required by Federal Emergency Management Agency for cost reimbursement utilizing a built-in program manager application to coordinate and update collections. The entire platform works in conjunction with GIS data and maps and is integrated with Lakeland Electric's workforce management products to coordinate work orders and employee time. The Toolset works on any mobile device, with or without wi-fi or wireless networks, to enable field crews to input real-time damage assessment information while at the worksite.

**Special thanks to our Judges Panel, a group of five energy experts, who evaluated the 2020 Energy Innovator Award Applications.**

1. Henry L. Berman, CEO, Exponent Philanthropy
2. Mark Crisson, former President and CEO, American Public Power Association
3. Marcos Gonzales Harsha, Principal Deputy Director, Office of Technology Transitions, U.S. Department of Energy
4. Sherry Loos, Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP) State Coordinator, Great Lakes Community Action Partnership
5. Virginia L. Wright, Energy Cyber Portfolio Program Manager, Idaho National Laboratory