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### **Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency receives national energy innovator award**

**Orlando, Florida, June 22, 2021** — Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency in Rochester, Minnesota, received an American Public Power Association Energy Innovator Award during APPA's National Conference in Orlando, Florida. The award honors utilities that have developed or applied creative, energy-efficient techniques and technologies to their work, in order to provide better service to electric customers or projects that increase the efficiency of utility operations or resource efficiency.

Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency's (SMMPA) Member EV Charging Network was a collaboration between the agency, 17 of its member utilities, and ZEF Energy to facilitate the acceptance of electric vehicles and help with the transformation of both the electric utility and transportation industries. SMMPA made the investment in the chargers and maintenance programs, while member utilities located suitable sites and handled the installation.

This project will bring fast charging stations to the region and reduce range anxiety by providing EV owners with a quick charge when they are traveling longer distances. SMMPA has developed a blueprint for how to create an EV charging network across members within a joint action agency and has learned valuable lessons throughout this project. As a result, SMMPA has had several webinars on this project, including sessions on siting and site design, installation and commissioning, pricing and rate setting, and using the portal and various apps.

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*The American Public Power Association is the voice of not-for-profit, community-owned utilities that power 2,000 towns and cities nationwide. We represent public power before the federal government to protect the interests of the more than 49 million people that public power utilities serve, and the 93,000 people they employ. Our association advocates and advises on electricity policy, technology, trends, training, and operations. Our members strengthen their communities by providing superior service, engaging citizens, and instilling pride in community-owned power.*