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Sacramento Municipal Utility District receives national energy innovator award

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Nashville, Tennessee, June 14, 2022 — The Sacramento Municipal Utility District in Sacramento, California, received an American Public Power Association Energy Innovator Award during the American Public Power Association's National Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. 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.

The Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) launched a pilot natural refrigerant incentive program intended to leverage existing relationships with its electricity customers to inspire and test local installations of innovative climate-friendly natural refrigerant systems. The program has been in operation since 2017, with two grocery store chains currently participating in a comparative performance evaluation. Supermarket refrigeration systems have been identified as a leading contributor to the emissions of harmful gases due to their complex designs and typically high leak rates.

Because SMUD had been active in local climate collaborative planning and regional greenhouse gas inventory development, the utility realized that it had an opportunity to assist the region in raising awareness and helping its customers make this transformation. The innovation of the SMUD natural refrigerant incentive program will result in benefits not only in providing utilities with a blueprint for achieving deep decarbonization of existing buildings, but by providing third-party validated energy performance, cost analysis, and overall emissions reductions.

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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 96,000 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.