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**Ipswich Electric Light Department receives national energy innovator award**

**New Orleans, Louisiana, June 10, 2025** — Ipswich Electric Light Department, of Ipswich, Massachusetts, received an American Public Power Association Energy Innovator Award during the American Public Power Association’s National Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana. 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.

Ipswich Electric Light Department set out to advance its decarbonization and electrification efforts, in alignment with Massachusetts’ decarbonization and clean energy targets. Following a feasibility study conducted in 2021 on Inclusive Utility Investments, Ipswich launched its own IUI program. This innovative program enables customers to finance home energy upgrades, such as whole-home heat pumps, weatherization, and other electrification measures, without upfront costs. IUI allows residents to repay project costs through a fixed monthly tariff that does not exceed the savings in energy costs afforded by the upgrades. By tying the costs for upgrades to the property instead of the customer, this program allows future occupants of the property to benefit from lower energy bills. In 2024, Ipswich received a $5 million loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Rural Energy Savings Program to support the program.

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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.*