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Lakeland Electric receives Energy Innovator Award

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 9, 2020 – Lakeland Electric in Lakeland, Florida, earned the 2020 Energy Innovator Award (EIA) from the American Public Power Association's (APPA) Demonstration of Energy & Efficiency Developments (DEED) program. The EIA award honors utilities that have developed or applied creative, energy-efficient techniques and technologies. Awards recognize creativity, resource efficiency, benefits to utility customers, transferability, and project scope in relation to utility size.

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.

The Lakeland Electric Damage Assessment Restoration Toolset has been featured in the Florida Municipal Electric Association's Relay magazine, APPA's Public Power Daily, Lakeland's The Ledger newspaper, Government Technology magazine, WFTS ABC Action News Tampa Bay, Polk County Government TV and on ESRI's website. The application has also received praise from Lakeland's elected officials.

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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.