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Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives Wins MEEA Impact Award for Home Program

CHICAGO – The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives’ (AIEC) highly successful Home (pronounced “Home E”) program helped 25 distribution cooperatives in Illinois perform nearly 3,500 home energy audits and deliver more than 3,000 energy efficiency rebates to Illinois homeowners.

The program, one of the largest and most effective in Illinois history, was recognized with the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance’s (MEEA) 2012 Inspiring Efficiency Impact Award.

Home’s high success rate – more than 90 percent of participating homeowners followed through with at least some of the audits’ recommended improvements – allowed AIEC to use \$2.5 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding which spurred more than \$25 million in energy efficiency investments in just 15 months.

The Home program also eliminated an estimated 5,000 metric tons of CO₂ overall, and is projected to result in annual energy savings of nearly 500,000 kwh of electricity and nearly 150,000 therms of natural gas.

“Through Home, we were able to encourage cooperative members to improve the energy efficiency of their homes, and also make them more aware of their everyday energy use,” said John Freitag, vice president of operations for the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. “Additionally, for the first time in Illinois Electric Cooperatives’ 70-year history, every cooperative in the state is now providing energy audits to homeowners.”

“The Home program not only helped Illinois homeowners save money and save energy, but brought jobs and increased economic activity to the region as well,” said Jay Wrobel, MEEA executive director. “MEEA is proud to recognize AIEC’s efforts with this year’s Inspiring Efficiency Impact Award.”

Bestowed annually at the Midwest Energy Solutions Conference (www.meeaconference.org), MEEA’s Impact Award is presented to an organization that has made a significant contribution to energy efficiency market transformation, either through the implementation of a specific program or a policy change.

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About Midwest Energy Solutions Conference

The Midwest Energy Solutions Conference is the largest event of its kind in the region. Each year it brings together a broad range of private- and public-sector thought leaders from around the nation who share a vested interest in energy efficiency.

The conference is presented by the **Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA)**, the region's source on energy efficiency. Formed in 2000, MEEA is committed to advancing sound energy efficiency programs, policies and priorities in the Midwest. MEEA's membership represents a broad consortium of energy stakeholders from across a 13-state area.

Now in its 10th year, the conference continues to grow as energy efficiency investment increases in states across the Midwest. Responding to attendees, the conference has expanded to include a formal expo to provide more opportunities to highlight and promote energy efficiency programs, products and companies.