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**Ohio Hospital Association Wins 2012 MEEA Innovation Award for Saving Hospitals Money through Energy Efficiency**

**CHICAGO** – The Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA) announced today the Ohio Hospital Association has won its 2012 Inspiring Efficiency Innovation Award for helping hospitals save money by holding the line on energy costs and reducing electric bills through energy efficiency.

The Ohio Hospital Association, which represents 165 hospitals and 16 health systems throughout the state, educates hospitals about electricity rebates and the application process for energy efficiency projects, conducts hospital energy audits that identify energy savings opportunities, maintains an Energy Star database that enables a participating hospital to compare its energy efficiency (including cost per bed or square foot) to comparable facilities, and identifies financial and other resources from public and private sources to assist hospitals in implementing savings opportunities.

To date, 25 AEP Ohio-supplied hospitals have submitted approved energy efficiency applications representing 11 megawatts of energy savings and earning them a total of \$828,000 in rebates. Nine Dayton Power and Light Company-supplied hospitals have submitted approved energy efficiency applications representing 2 megawatts of energy savings and earning them a total of \$200,000 in rebates. And FirstEnergy's rebate program—approved in late April—has seen 10 hospitals submit energy efficiency applications representing 11 megawatts in energy savings and almost \$500,000 in rebates.

“In all the energy reduction totals 24 megawatts, enough to power as many as 240,000 homes,” said MEEA Executive Director Jay Wrobel. “We are honored to recognize the Ohio Hospital Association’s impressive energy saving program with our innovation award.”

“The OHA energy team has extensively developed and sustained collaborative relationships with Ohio’s electric utility companies, working with them to provide technical assistance and financial incentives to promote hospital participation in energy efficiency and demand response programs,” said Mary Gallagher, OHA senior vice president & chief operating officer. “I am not aware of any other state hospital association that has provided a comparable level of energy efficiency advocacy and assistance for its members, or resources that enable its members to serve as energy efficiency champions to their communities.”

Bestowed annually at the Midwest Energy Solutions Conference ([www.meeaconference.org](http://www.meeaconference.org)), MEEA’s Innovation Award is presented for developing and implementing a new innovative program, idea or policy in the Midwest.

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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 10<sup>th</sup> 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.