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Contact: Tiffany Clotfelter, 312-251-9931

tclotfelter@ksapr.com

AEP Ohio Program Saves Ohio Businesses Energy, Wins Award

COLUMBUS – AEP Ohio’s Continuous Energy Improvement (CEI) program, which saved businesses more than 40 gigawatt-hours (GWh) of energy last year, received the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance’s (MEEA) 2015 Inspiring Efficiency Innovation Award.

The CEI program, started in 2013, goes beyond the traditional capital investment projects to help participants enjoy sustainability, enhanced community perception and employee satisfaction. AEP Ohio, a unit of American Electric Power currently has 34 participating customers throughout the state.

This innovative new program in Strategic Energy Management (SEM) is one of the first in the U.S. – and unique in the Midwest – to apply a full treatment of energy use in large industrial facilities. The goal is to engage the largest industrial energy users in an all-inclusive program that organizationally transforms the customer’s usage of energy.

“The CEI program is ideal to engage the entire customer facility. It also is an unparalleled tool to completely revamp industrial energy use. The low cost/no cost measures are achievable and drive energy understanding so eventually capital improvements follow,” said Michelle Cross, CEI Program Manager.

For each of the next two years, AEP Ohio will start four more groups to work through the CEI program. The program will expand to large manufacturers, small manufacturers, hospitals and universities.

“We are getting extremely positive feedback from customers about the CEI program,” said Cross. “In the past, customers only had their bills to predict usage. CEI has given customers metrics for savings that they’ve never seen.”

Stacey Paradis, MEEA interim executive director, said, “AEP Ohio is a long standing MEEA member. We are proud to recognize AEP Ohio for its unique approach to the Continuous Energy Improvement program in providing tools, coaching, structure and resources for their customers to achieve substantial energy savings.”

Bestowed annually at the Midwest Energy Solutions Conference (www.meeaconference.org), MEEA’s Inspiring Efficiency Innovation Award is presented to a nominee that has developed a new and 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. Now in its 13th year, the conference continues to grow as energy efficiency investment across the Midwest increases.

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. www.mwalliance.org

About AEP Ohio's Continuous Energy Improvement (CEI) Program

CEI helps participants apply principles and practices of continuous improvement to implement strategic energy management that may help reduce their energy bill by 5 to 15 percent with little to no capital investment. Plus, AEP Ohio provides a total incentive of \$0.02 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) saved.

AEP Ohio's CEI program provides the tools, coaching, structure, and resources necessary to achieve energy savings by engaging participants' employees through operations and maintenance improvements.