

Heartland Utilities for Energy Efficiency 2003-04 Annual Report

March 2004

"Promoting energy efficiency in the Greater Kansas City marketplace through energy education, resources and actions to help assure a secure energy future for area residents"



Heartland Utilities
for Energy Efficiency

Member Utilities:

Aquila, Inc.
Atmos Energy
Independence Power and Light
Kansas City Board of Public Utilities
Kansas City Power and Light
Missouri Gas Energy

Heartland Utilities for Energy Efficiency is a community service project of the member utilities and is a fund of the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation.

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Background

Organized in 2002, Heartland Utilities for Energy Efficiency (HUEE) is a vehicle for participating electric and gas utilities to “promote energy efficiency in the Greater Kansas City marketplace through energy education, resources and actions to help assure a secure energy future for area residents.” As such, it is one of the only local utilities collaborative in the nation working together on residential energy efficiency issues. In furtherance of this mission, member utilities contribute staff time to HUEE and charitable dollars to the “Energy Efficiency Education Fund” established at the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation. Founding HUEE members include:

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|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Aquila Inc. | Kansas City Board of Public Utilities |
| Atmos Energy | Kansas City Power and Light |
| Independence Power and Light | Missouri Gas Energy |

HUEE currently works within the Mid-America Regional Council’s “Tier One Region” which includes eight counties: Jackson, Platte, Clay, Ray, and Cass in Missouri and Johnson, Wyandotte, and Leavenworth in Kansas. The organization devotes its efforts to activities that promote and support the overall goal of improved energy efficiency without endorsing particular products, equipment, or fuel. On an annual basis, HUEE makes grants to nonprofit organizations to implement specific education projects and seeks other community opportunities for achieving its vision of “a community that continuously strives for the intelligent use and management of its energy resources within the marketplace. A Board of Directors, whose members are drawn from the participating utilities, makes funding decisions and provides overall governance.

2003-04 Grants

Community Services League

This is a continuation of the Planning Energy Efficiency Today & Tomorrow (PEETT) program funded in 2002-03, with the intent of expanding low-income energy efficient workshops in each of the HUEE member’s utility service areas.

Metropolitan Energy Center

HUEE is providing partial sponsorship of the weekly “The Home Energy Doctor” radio show that educates listeners about all facets of improved residential energy efficiency. The show is aired each Saturday morning on radios station KCMO, 710 AM, from 11 AM to 12 PM. More information about “The Home Energy Doctor” can be found at www.kcenergy.org.

Midtown Truman Road Corridor Historical Homes Energy Pilot

HUEE is co-funding with the City of Independence and the Metropolitan Energy Center a pilot project to provide homeowners who are rehabilitating historical and older residences with technical assistance on selecting energy efficiency measures. Through the installation of cost-effective energy saving measures, these homes can be made more sustainable for current and future residents. The pilot program, involving up to 20 homes, will identify and document efficiency measures that can be used in other historical homes in the metro area.

2003-04 Activities

Affordable Comfort Kansas City

HUEE served as a sponsor of this annual national event for the home weatherization industry held March 31 - April 5 in Kansas City and helped to underwrite the first-ever series of Saturday public education "Citizen Sessions." The 17th annual Affordable Comfort program was the first held west of the Mississippi River and drew 1,101 participants, the largest crowd in its history. Based on evaluation forms, the event also received the highest attendee ratings ever. For more information visit www.affordablecomfort.org.

2003 Kansas City Home & Garden Show

Under the guidance of the Metropolitan Energy Center and in cooperation with the Kansas Corporation Commission Energy Program and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, HUEE cosponsored the brochure "Home Performance With ENERGY STAR." In addition, HUEE members helped staff a booth on improving home energy performance through the U.S. Department of Energy's ENERGY STAR program. HUEE also cosponsored the show's morning welcome reception for guest speaker Steve Thomas from "This Old House."

Previous Grants - 2002

Community Services League

Planning Energy Efficiency Today & Tomorrow (PEETT) provided low-income residents with education on energy efficiency methods, how to reduce air pollution and use energy wisely, and tips on home weatherization. The PEETT sessions resulted in 58 classes that reached over 1,100 low-income family members in Jackson County.

Kaw Valley Habitat for Humanity

The Concrete Homes Certification and Study project conducted HERS ratings of 14 concrete homes built in Kansas City, Kansas for low-income buyers using several different construction approaches. Energy comparisons are being made for a two-year period and results will be summarized in brochures for public distribution.

Metropolitan Energy Center

The Whole House Energy Performance program offered a telephone number and web site (www.kcenergy.org) for consumers to reach qualified/certified contractors as well as 24 metropolitan area workshops for neighborhood associations, community service organizations, local governments, real estate companies, home building supply companies, and other energy-related businesses.

Future Directions

HUEE is achieving its mission of supporting educational efforts that improve residential energy efficiency. At the conclusion of 2003, the HUEE board placed in motion, new commitments to further refine the organization's outreach to the communities served by its member utilities. In support of this effort, the board has allocated resources to develop a residential energy efficiency display and related marketing materials that can be used in workshops and community energy events. Efforts are also underway to develop short and long-term strategies to improve HUEE's effectiveness and successes in the marketplace. These will focus on targeted initiatives to boost residential energy efficiency in homes owned by low and moderate-income residents throughout metropolitan Kansas City.