



Heartland Utilities for Energy Efficiency

2011 Annual Report

“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”

MEMBER UTILITIES:

Atmos Energy
Independence Power and Light
Platte-Clay Electric Cooperative

Kansas Gas Service
Kansas City Board of Public Utilities

HUEE is a community service project of the member utilities and is a fund of the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation

BACKGROUND

Organized in 2002, Heartland Utilities for Energy Efficiency (HUEE) is a vehicle for leading electric and gas utilities to advance a mission for the public good: "Promote progressive energy efficiency in the Regional Kansas City marketplace through energy education, resources and actions to help assure a secure energy future for area residents." As such, it may be the only dues-paying collaborative of natural gas, propane and electric utilities 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.

The Greater Kansas City Community Foundation is a public charity under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c) (3). Its mission is to improve the quality of life in Greater Kansas City by increasing charitable giving, connecting

HUEE currently works within the Mid-America Regional Council's (MARC) "*Tier One Region*" which includes eight counties: Cass, Clay, Platte and Ray in Missouri, and Johnson, Leavenworth and Wyandotte 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 energy sources.

On an annual basis, HUEE makes grants to nonprofit organizations to implement specific education projects. It's Board of Directors, whose members are drawn from the participating utilities that provide service in the above counties, makes funding decisions and provides overall governance.

2011 HUEE Board of Directors

Gary Milligan – Atmos Energy
Mary Kay Alitz – IP&L
David Deihl – PCEC

Margaret Steele – KGS
Patrice Townsend – BPU

HUEE's Activities and Accomplishments

In 2011, HUEE awarded \$43,976 in grants towards educating the public and utility customers on energy efficiency. The organizations major cumulative accomplishments are listed below:

Public Awareness through Media: HUEE implemented its Public Awareness program through the HUEE website, *Greenability Magazine* advertisements and television media.

Project Living Proof– HUEE provided a design grant for MEC's Project Living Proof in 2006. The grant helped to facilitate by BNIM Architects and Henderson Engineers design work for an energy efficient and green demonstration renovation. Final construction drawings were completed in April 2008. The design supported fundraising during 2008, with the expectation of breaking ground in 2009.

Public Service Announcement School Challenge - A public service announcement (PSA) contest to create public awareness about energy wasting habits and how to correct those habits in the home and/or school. The contest is an exciting opportunity to engage middle school students to be creative and learn more about energy efficiency and sustainability.

Bridging the Gap – Five Green Things is a concise, live presentation of environmental issues, followed by five high impact solutions, given by 130 trained volunteer speakers to more than 16,000 people in the last three years. The program is supported by a website which encourages those who have seen the presentation (and some who have found us on the internet) to pledge to do at least five, and as many as 37, green “things”. The carbon emissions averted by these citizen pledges are tallied daily at the bottom of our home page (www.bridgingthegap.org). In addition to averting carbon emissions, the program provides outreach support for the goals of local utility companies, including explanation of the importance of programmable thermostats and home weatherization online. A large number of the “green things” highlighted in our presentations and interactive online program relate to energy efficiency (replacing conventional bulbs with CFL’s, using programmable thermostats, switching washing machines to cold water, weatherizing, etc).

Youth Build of KCK - will provide a free evaluative service to 100 low-income homeowners by purchasing an infrared camera and blower door tester.

Youth Build of KCMO - develop a mobile energy efficiency training unit for Youth Build weatherization training and public education.

Looking Forward

It has been an exciting year for HUEE as the board worked diligently accomplishing many of the goals set forth in the previous year. However our work is not done as we find our organization well positioned to take advantage of the renewed emphasis and importance of energy efficiency within the communities our utility companies serve. HUEE is committed to helping our communities in this renewed era of energy efficiency by offering energy saving information that helps reduce energy consumption while providing better value and comfort for customer’s homes.

- HUEE has committed in 2012 to increase energy efficiency education among youth in utility service areas.
- Engage homeowners/residential community in energy efficiency education in utility service areas.
- Increase membership of HUEE with utility and non-utility organizations.
- HUEE will continue outreach to the general public through public awareness by sponsoring educational energy efficiency programs.