



# Heartland Utilities for Energy Efficiency

## 2017 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  
Spire formally Laclede Gas/MGE

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 donors to community needs they care about, and providing leadership on critical community issues.

HUEE currently works within the Mid-America Regional Council's (MARC) "*Tier One Region*" which includes eight counties: Cass, Clay, Jackson, 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.

### **2017 HUEE Board of Directors**

Shaylyn Dean – Spire, Inc. (Board Chair)  
Herb Webb – IP&L (Board Vice Chair)  
Margaret Steele – Kansas Gas Service  
David Allen – KCBPU (Past Chair)  
Bruce Palmer – Atmos Energy

Rae Lewis – Spire, Inc. (Alternate)  
Mary Kay Alitz – IP&L (Alternate)  
Linda Richardson – PCEC  
Patrice Townsend – KCBPU (Alternate)  
Gary Milligan – Atmos Energy (Alternate)

### **HUEE's Activities and Accomplishments**

In 2017, HUEE awarded \$11,000 to schools that participated in the PSA challenge and \$15,000 in grants to three (3) community organizations (CAAKC, HFHKC, & CHWC) towards educating the public and utility customers on energy efficiency. This is a decrease from last year of \$12,000 to schools and an increase from last year of \$5,000 to community organization (THHFH). The organization has plans to maintain and/or increase the grant awards for 2018. Some of our major accomplishments for 2017 are listed below.

**Public Service Announcement (PSA) School Challenge** – This was HUEE's seventh year for this contest. We had five entries this year that received first through third place in Missouri and first and second place in Kansas. We developed this 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. All winning videos are posted on the HUEE website at [www.huee.org](http://www.huee.org).

Schools receiving grants from the 2017 PSA School Challenge were as follows:

- Center Middle School, Kansas City, MO
- Kearney Middle School, Kearney, MO
- Piper Middle School, Kansas City, KS
- Plaza Middle School, Kansas City, MO
- Spring Hill Middle School, Spring Hill, KS

**Community Organization Grant Award:** This year HUEE was able to award \$15,000 in grants to the following organizations:

1. The board approved a \$5000 grant to Community Action Agency of Greater Kansas City (CAAGK) for their weatherization and healthy home projects. CAAGK's Weatherization and Healthy Homes Programs both address the problem of low-income families to be able to afford energy costs, to be able to afford necessary minor and energy-saving repairs to their homes, or to be able to solve problems of cleanliness, insect or rodent control, or the control of mold and moisture problems that if untreated can lead to or trigger chronic asthma and other Pulmonary disorders among infants, children or the elderly in their homes. HUEE grant funds will be used in minor home repairs, without which, Weatherization or Healthy Homes work cannot be carried forward. The organization will also purchase mid-price energy efficient gas and/or electric home appliances for homes that are in danger from unsafe items.
2. The board approved a \$5000 grant to Habitat for Humanity of Kansas City (HFHKC) to
  - a) Increase residential energy efficiency education awareness, knowledge, attitudes and behavior by conducting 50 on site walkthrough energy audits for homeowners of constructed Habitat homes (generally pre-1990) and of Habitat KC home preservation projects (ie. home repair projects) located in the Habitat KC service area of Wyandotte, Johnson, and Leavenworth counties in Kansas and Jackson, Clay and Platte counties in Missouri. Each homeowner will receive a written report on the results of the audit and an energy conservation supplies and information kit to help homeowners get started with energy efficiency improvements to their residence. The kits will likely include LED lights, weather-stripping, outlet/switch plate gaskets, low flow faucet aerator, energy conservation information booklet, and information on local energy conservation and utility financial assistance programs.
  - b) Assist low/moderate families by providing energy education and tools to address energy efficiency by households taking advantage of cost effective opportunities to reduce gas and/or electric bills that may help alleviate the financial crunch and reduce the family need to obtain LIHEAP or other utility financial assistance. Eligible homeowners needing significant weatherization work will be referred to area low-income weatherization programs.
3. The board approved a \$5000 grant to Community Housing of Wyandotte (CHWC) that will allow the organization to make the improvements in five or more rehabilitated existing homes including a) installation of programmable thermostats, b) conducting energy audits, c) air sealing, and d) training/education in energy efficiency. Each property will be evaluated, and energy efficiency improvements specific to each home will be built into the

scope of work. CHWC plans to invest \$1,000 in each of the five planned rehabs in 2018 for energy efficiency improvements.

**Public Awareness through Media:** HUEE continues its Public Awareness program through the HUEE website, Email and Twitter. We continually monitor and update the media sources to keep our viewers informed and interested. We also address any questions received through our website.

## **Looking Forward**

It has been another exciting year for HUEE as the board worked diligently accomplishing many of the goals set forth in the previous year. Although much was accomplished and we increased awareness in more diverse arenas we will continue to work aggressively until 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 stands 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 customers' homes.

- HUEE has committed in 2018 to increase energy efficiency education among youth in utility service areas by diligently contacting area middle schools to participate in the PSA contest. We will encourage more aggressive and creative thinking for the PSA's.
- HUEE plans to research and develop other youth energy efficiency education programs which will reach out to additional age groups.
- We will continue to focus on increasing membership of HUEE by contacting other utilities in 2018 for membership opportunities.
- HUEE will continue outreach to the general public through public awareness by sponsoring educational energy efficiency programs.