



AMEA *Communiqué*

Power That Works For You[®]

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P.O. Box 5220
Montgomery, AL 36103-5220

804 South Perry Street
Montgomery, AL 36104

www.amea.com

(334) 262-1126
(334) 262-2267 (Fax)

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MISSION STATEMENT

AMEA's mission is to provide for our Member communities a reliable and economical source of electric power, enabling them to preserve and enhance the benefits of municipal utility ownership for their citizens and the electric customers they serve. We strive to offer services that our Members need and can adapt to provide the best value for their communities and customers.

Group identifies service offering for Members

A third meeting of the Joint Action Services Group was held July 1 at AMEA. Member



electric managers from 9 of the 11 AMEA Member cities attended the meeting, as well as AMEA staff and facilitator, John Miner, President, Collaboration Unlimited.

The July 1 meeting was follow-up to the April 16 meeting in Opelika, at which the group developed a list of five potential service offerings, including:

1. Energy Conservation Programs (distribution system audits/loss management, customer energy audits, customer incentives and rebates, customer education programs);
2. Portable Equipment Rental/Leasing/Shared Ownership Sharing (thermography, cable testing, power quality analyzers);
3. Power Quality (testing, customer consultation, conditioning equipment);
4. Employee training and development;
5. SCADA/Metering Systems.

At that meeting, the group selected an initial service offering from the five identified. They selected the portable equipment service.

During the July 1 meeting, the group identified infrared cameras, power quality test equipment, and outage prevention test equipment, as the first portable equipment offering.

The next steps for the portable equipment project are:

1. Obtain pricing information to lease or purchase the equipment and to purchase services in lieu of leasing or purchasing the equipment.

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Group

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2. Identify the participating Members for each equipment or service type.
3. Determine the number of each equipment type that is needed.
4. Document the justification for the equipment or service and seek approve for AMEA to make the necessary purchases.
5. Develop agreements between AMEA and each participating Member.
6. Each participating Member to seek approval to enter in to agreements with AMEA. (AMEA may have one general services agreement with each participating Member and supplemental agreements for each Joint Action Services project.)
7. AMEA will determine insurance requirements and billing methodology.

The attendees made several suggestions during the meeting that could enhance the group's efforts. One of the suggestions was to include in the Members Only section of AMEA's web site a bulletin board, discussion section, and a schedule to help track each Joint Action Services project.

For further information, contact Ray Phillips, AMEA's Manager of Compliance and Special Projects, (800) 239-2632, Ext. 121, (334) 387-3505, or ray@amea.com.

Stimulus funds available for Smart Grid, broadband, and weatherization

Smart Grid

AMEA and its Members (those who have chosen to participate) are currently working with Survalent Technology on a joint application for stimulus funding for the U.S.

Department of Energy's (DOE) 1306 Smart Grid Investment Program. The application will include funding for Smart Grid initiatives. The project will create an integrated Smart Grid for AMEA and its participating Members through the deployment of Operational Data Management Systems (ODMS), Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), Meter Data Management System (MDMS), System Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA), Outage Management System (OMS), Engineering Analysis (EA), Substation Automation (SA), and Cyber Security.

Vendors participating in the project are Survalent Technology, Aclara, Milsoft Utility Solutions, and N-Dimension Solutions.

Survalent issued a Letter of Intent to DOE on behalf of AMEA and its Members July 16. The application will be submitted to DOE July 24. The deadline for Smart Grid applications (first round of funding) is August 6.

Broadband

The Agriculture Department's Rural Utilities Service and the Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) issued a joint notice July 1 soliciting applications for \$4 billion in stimulus funds for broadband service in unserved and underserved communities. Applications will be accepted from July 14 through Aug. 14. The application packages for electronic and paper submissions for both agencies' programs are available at www.broadbandusa.gov.

The July 1 notice sets general policy and application procedures for the Rural Utilities Service's Broadband Initiatives Program, which will extend loans and grants to facilitate broadband deployment in rural areas, and NTIA's

Stimulus

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Broadband Technology Opportunities Program, which will make grants for deploying broadband infrastructure in unserved and underserved areas, enhancing broadband capacity at public computer centers, and promoting sustainable broadband adoption projects. A remaining \$3.2 billion in broadband stimulus funds will be made available through subsequent funding opportunity notices.

Weatherization Assistance Program

Governor Bob Riley has awarded \$9.26 million, including \$4.86 million in federal stimulus funding, to help Alabama's low-income residents cut their utility bills by making their homes more energy efficient.

The Alabama Weatherization Assistance Program gives priority consideration to the elderly, those with disabilities and to low-income residents with children. Houses that qualify are modified to improve both energy efficiency and safety.



"Each month many Alabama families with limited incomes are forced to spend more than they should for utilities because their

homes aren't properly sealed and insulated," Governor Riley said. "By making houses more energy efficient, this program saves energy, reduces pollution and leaves residents with more money for other essentials."

To identify the most cost-effective measures for each home, an energy audit is performed. Depending on the results, a home weatherization project may include extra

insulation for the attic, walls and floor, sealing leaks in ductwork, repairs and tune-ups for heating, ventilating and air-conditioning systems, and replacement of incandescent lights with highly efficient compact fluorescent bulbs.

Families with gross income of 200 percent of the federal poverty level or less are eligible to apply. That means a family of four can have no more than \$44,100 a year annually in gross income. The qualifying cap for a family of two is an annual income of no more than \$29,140.

Alabama's weatherization program is getting a boost this year from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act which is supplementing \$4.16 million allocated to the state by DOE. The Energy Division of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs administers the state program. The office expects additional stimulus funds to be allocated at a later date.

To carry out the weatherization program, Riley awarded grants to 15 community action or other sponsoring agencies across the state. These agencies administer the program at the local level and receive applications from individuals who wish to be considered for assistance.

Below is a list of grants awarded, the counties served by each recipient agency and contact information for applicants in AMEA's Member cities:

- \$533,864 to Community Action Agency of Talladega, Clay, Randolph, Calhoun and Cleburne Counties. (Calhoun, Clay, Cleburne, Randolph and Talladega) (256) 362-8147.
- \$252,606 to Community Action Committee Inc. of Chambers-Tallapoosa-Coosa. (Chambers, Coosa and Tallapoosa) (205) 825-4287.

Weatherization

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- \$532,984 to Central Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission (Lee, Macon and Russell) (334) 262-4300.
- \$884,478 to Organized Community Action Program Inc. (Barbour, Bullock, Butler, Coffee, Covington, Crenshaw, Dale, Geneva, Henry, Houston, Lowndes and Pike) (334) 566-1712.
- \$671,900 to Community Action Agency of Baldwin, Escambia, Clarke, Monroe and Conecuh Counties Inc. (Baldwin, Clarke, Conecuh, Escambia, Marengo, Monroe and Wilcox) (251) 626-2649.

Alabama to get \$4.5 million for appliance rebates

The U.S. Department of Energy says Alabama will receive up to \$4.5 million for a rebate program for consumers who purchase new home appliances with an ENERGY STAR® rating.

Energy Secretary Steven Chu said the funding is part of the federal stimulus package. He says it's designed to save energy and reduce utility bills.



Chu said each state has to have its plan for distributing the money ready by Oct. 15, and the vast majority of the money will flow to the states by the end of November. The purchases that can be covered include heating and cooling equipment, water heaters, clothes washers, dishwashers, freezers and refrigerators, according to Chu.

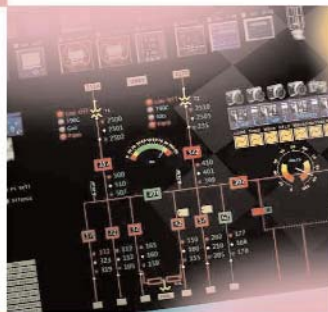


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