



2026 AMP AWARDS PROGRAM

Recognize excellence

Share your community's story

Celebrate leadership



About AMP



American Municipal Power, Inc., (AMP) is the nonprofit wholesale power supplier and services provider for more than 130 Members in the states of Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia; as well as the Delaware Municipal Electric Corporation, a joint action agency with eight Delaware municipal members. Combined, these Member utilities serve more than 665,000 customers. AMP Members receive their power supply from a diversified resource mix that includes wholesale power purchases through AMP and the open market and energy produced at AMP- and Member-owned generating facilities utilizing fossil fuel, hydroelectric, solar, wind and other renewable resources. For additional information, visit AMP's website at www.amppartners.org.



Why Seek an AMP Award?

Your utility's success deserves the spotlight. That is why AMP refreshed the annual Awards Program and wants to highlight the people, projects and achievements happening at your utilities and in your communities. Please consider recognizing excellence, celebrating leadership and sharing your community's story by submitting nominations for AMP Annual Awards before June 26, 2026.

Members can nominate themselves or others for awards in any category. Simply complete and submit one or more of the nomination forms on the [Awards Program page](#) of the AMP website at www.amppartners.org. Details about each award are located on the award nomination forms.

AMP Annual Award winners will be announced at the 2026 AMP Annual Conference, Oct. 12-14 in Columbus. After the conference, a news release will be sent to the local media of communities that received an award.

**Deadline for all AMP Awards nomination submissions:
June 26, 2026**

For questions about the AMP Awards Program, please contact:

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Jeffrey Barres, Electric Superintendent for the Village of Pemberville, accepts a 2025 System Improvement Award.

System Improvement Awards

Beginning in 2026, System Improvement Awards are presented in two categories – Grid Resilience and Technology – recognizing utilities for promoting the interests of public power through projects that advance system reliability and resiliency, as well as those that deploy new technology. Additional consideration will be given to innovative or holistic approaches, with recognition that the significance of projects can be commensurate with system size.

System Improvement – Grid Resilience

The System Improvement – Grid Resilience Award recognizes projects or initiatives that strengthen grid reliability, enhance cybersecurity, or improve disaster preparedness for public power systems, resulting in overall improvement to electric service and reliability to customer-owners. Winners may be considered for the American Public Power Association's (APPA) E.F. Scattergood System Achievement Award.

Eligibility:

- Project must have been completed prior to May 1, 2026, including multi-year projects
- Routine system maintenance will not be considered
- Only one project per Member may be submitted each year
- Project can only be submitted for an award one time

Criteria:

- Projects or initiatives should demonstrate that they strengthen grid reliability, enhance cybersecurity, or improve disaster preparedness for public power systems, resulting in overall improvement to electric service and reliability to customer-owners.
- Entries will be judged in six divisions based on your utility's meter count:
 - Division 1: 0-999 meters
 - Division 2: 1,000-2,499 meters
 - Division 3: 2,500-4,999 meters
 - Division 4: 5,000-8,999 meters
 - Division 5: 9,000-14,999 meters
 - Division 6: 15,000+ meters

Recognition:

- More than one award can be given each year

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System Improvement – Technology

The System Improvement – Technology Award recognizes utilities that demonstrate innovation and application of technology and data to improve operations, enhance customer experience, enhance efficiency and public power objectives. Winners may be considered for the APPA's E.F. Scattergood System Achievement Award.

Eligibility:

- Project must have been completed prior to May 1, 2026, including multi-year projects
- Only one project per Member may be submitted each year
- Project can only be submitted for an award one time

Criteria:

- Projects or initiatives should demonstrate innovation and application of technology and data to improve operations, enhance customer experience, enhance efficiency and advance public power objectives.
- Entries will be judged in six divisions based on your utility's meter count:
 - Division 1: 0-999 meters
 - Division 2: 1,000-2,499 meters
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 - Division 4: 5,000-8,999 meters
 - Division 5: 9,000-14,999 meters
 - Division 6: 15,000+ meters

Recognition:

- More than one award can be given each year

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Edgerton Mayor Robert Day accepts a 2025 Safety Award during the AMP Annual Conference.

Safety Awards of Excellence

Safety Awards of Excellence recognize public power utilities and individual employees for exemplary commitment to safety. Awards honor communities that demonstrate strong overall safety performance, as well as individual employees who have contributed to safety within their community during the past year, shown adherence to on-the-job safety procedures, and promoted electrical safety within their department and community.

Member System Safety Award

This award recognizes municipal electric systems for their safety performance and encourages municipalities to improve their present safety program.

Eligibility:

- Safety Awards will be given to systems with no time loss due to reportable accidents
- Safety Commendations will be given to systems with less than one percent time loss
- Reporting period runs from Jan. 1–Dec. 31, 2025
- To determine time loss, divide the total number of hours away from work and restricted by the total work hours of exposure for the period of Jan. 1–Dec. 31, 2025

$$\text{Time loss} = \frac{\text{Total number of hours away from work and restricted}}{\text{Total work hours of exposure for the period}}$$

Criteria:

There are two categories:

- Transmission/Distribution
- Generation

Recognition:

- More than one award can be given each year

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Hard Hat Safety Award

This award honors utility employees who have contributed to safety within their community during the past year, shown adherence to on-the-job safety procedures, and promoted electrical safety within their department and community.

Eligibility:

- Members can nominate one employee from their electric distribution department
- Members with generation can also nominate one employee from their electric generating division

Criteria:

An electric utility employee who:

- Adheres to on-the-job safety procedures
- Promotes electric safety within their department
- Is 100 percent safety conscious

Recognition:

- Recipients are nominated by the municipal electric system's director or superintendent and approved by the AMP safety staff
- More than one award can be given each year
- A plaque will be presented to recipients at a safety meeting in their community

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Paul Jakubczak, Director of Utilities for the Coldwater Board of Public Utilities and member of the AMP Board of Trustees, accepts a 2025 Public Power Promotion Award during the AMP Annual Conference.

Community and Workforce Development Awards

Community and Workforce Development Awards recognize Members for strengthening their communities and building a skilled workforce. Awards honor meaningful community engagement, customer outreach, and promotion of public power, as well as sustained investments in employee training and development, apprenticeships, scholarships, and career pipelines that support long-term utility and community success.

Public Power Community Engagement and Service Award

This award, formerly called Public Power Promotion, recognizes good neighbor activities that demonstrate the utility's commitment to the community. In addition, it honors utilities that have taken significant strides to promote public power through marketing, consumer awareness and branding. The award celebrates initiatives that foster strong relationships with local community, improve customer service, engagement, and satisfaction through innovative tools, programs, or outreach. Additional consideration will be given to holistic and/or sustained efforts, with recognition that the significance of projects can be commensurate with system size. Winners may be considered for the APPA's Sue Kelly Community Service Award.

Eligibility:

- Project must have been completed prior to May 1, 2026, including multi-year projects
- Only one project per Member may be submitted each year
- Project can only be submitted for an award one time

Criteria:

The project or initiative should:

- Demonstrate meaningful involvement in the local community through programs, partnerships or services that reflect the utility's role as a trusted community partner
- Effectively promote the value of public power through customer communications, marketing, branding or educational efforts that increase understanding, awareness, and appreciation of locally owned public power
- Strengthen customer relationships and satisfaction through thoughtful outreach, engagement or service improvements, with additional consideration given to holistic, innovative or sustained initiatives appropriate to the utility's size

Recognition:

- More than one award can be given each year

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Employee Engagement and Workforce Advancement Award

New for 2026, this award recognizes utilities that invest in training, apprenticeships, networking and personal and professional development across all employee groups through continuing education, training, workshops, conferences and attendance or participation in user/interest groups. It also recognizes investment in scholarship programs and training programs to develop the next generation of public power professionals. Additional consideration will be given to utilities who invest in holistic and sustained programs across their utility workforce.

Eligibility:

- Project must have been completed prior to May 1, 2026
- Only one project per Member may be submitted each year
- Project can only be submitted one time for an award

Criteria:

- The utility must demonstrate active investment in employee engagement, workforce development, and career advancement through training, education, or professional development initiatives
- Eligible initiatives may include, but are not limited to, continuing education programs, apprenticeships, mentorships, workshops, leadership development, conference participation, or involvement in local, state, or national user or interest groups
- Initiatives that support future workforce development – such as scholarship programs, internships, career pipeline programs, or partnerships with educational institutions – are eligible for consideration
- Additional consideration will be given to utilities who invest in holistic and sustained programs across their entire utility workforce

Recognition:

- More than one award can be given each year

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Dave Carroll, CEO of Paducah Power System and AMP Board of Trustees Chair (left), presents Don Harrod, Village Administrator of the Village of Minster, with the 2025 AMP Seven Hats Award during the AMP Annual Conference.

Individual Recognition and Awards

Individual recognition and awards honor exceptional leadership, service and emerging talent among AMP Members. Awards recognize managers and administrators who lead systems to excellence, individuals who take on expanded responsibilities in smaller communities, rising leaders who contribute to public power's mission, and professionals whose careers have made lasting impacts on AMP, Members and public power as a whole.

AMP Seven Hats Award

The AMP Seven Hats Award recognizes a utility manager who serves a smaller community, and whose management responsibilities extend well beyond the scope of a manager in a larger system who has a larger staff. Winners may be considered for the APPA's Larry Hobart Seven Hats Award

Eligibility:

- Any superintendent or manager of an AMP Member utility that serves 2,500 electric meters or less

Criteria:

- Utility manager who serves a smaller community and whose management responsibilities extend well beyond the scope of a manager in a larger system with a larger staff
- Nominees must possess desirable qualities and skills in the following areas:
 - Planning and design
 - Administration
 - Public relations
 - Field supervision
 - Accounting
 - Personnel or employee direction, relations, policies, etc.
 - Community leadership
- Nomination form to be completed by local elected official

Recognition:

- Only one award can be given each year

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Managerial Excellence Award

New for 2026, the Managerial Excellence Award recognizes a top-level administrator or leader of a municipal electric system of any size who leads their public power system to excellence and who has been with their organization for at least five years. Winners may be considered for the APPA Mark Crisson Leadership and Managerial Excellence Award.

Eligibility:

- A leader of a municipal electric system of any size
- Must be a top administrator/leader and not an elected official (unless that is the top administrator)
- Nominee must have been with their organization for at least five years

Criteria:

Nominees should:

- Have demonstrated the capacity to empower and inspire employees to achieve common goals
- Be recognized as an innovative leader who guides employees and organizations to demonstrated success
- Have raised the performance of the employees and organizations to a higher standard

Recognition:

- Only one award can be given each year
- This award may not necessarily be given each year

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AMP Rising Star Award

The AMP Rising Star Award recognizes up-and-coming leaders in public power who have made significant contributions and have demonstrated dedication to the goals and principles of public power. Winners may be considered for the APPA's Robert Roundtree Rising Star Award.

Eligibility:

- An employee at any level of a public power utility who has been employed for five or fewer years in his/her current position is eligible

Criteria:

Nominees must demonstrate:

- Dedication to the goals and principles of public power
- Contributions that have had a positive impact on the utility
- Commitment to meeting community needs

Recognition:

- More than one award can be given each year
- The award includes a scholarship of up to \$1,000, toward the cost of attending an AMP conference (AMP Technical Services or AMP Annual Conference) or an AMP training program

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AMP Service Distinction Award

The AMP Service Distinction Program is designed to recognize employees of Member public power utilities, partners and consultants who have made significant local contributions to public power.

Nominations:

- Nominations can be made by any Member community, the AMP Board of Trustees Nominating Committee and/or the AMP President/CEO
- The nomination must include basic information about the nominee's public power career and an explanation of why the nominee should be considered, along with the identity of the nominator
- Nominations must be submitted via the online application or via email to Amanda Smithey, Member Events and Program Manager, at asmithey@amppartners.org
- Nominations will be accepted year-round for consideration; however, awards will be considered at the AMP General Membership Meeting held in conjunction with the AMP Annual Conference
 - As such, nominations to be considered for that year's conference must be submitted no later than 30 days prior to the AMP August Board meeting
 - Submissions received after this time will be considered for the subsequent year's AMP General Membership Meeting
- Nomination form to be completed by local elected official

Criteria:

The AMP Service Distinction Award shall be limited to individuals who have met all or a majority of the criteria below:

- A distinguished public power career; or a career with significant contribution to public power
- Members, partners or consultants who have made significant contributions to public power and supported the mission, vision and values of AMP
- Special consideration given to individuals dedicated to the betterment of public power communities who have retired from service or have announced that they will be retiring soon

Recognition:

- More than one award can be given each year

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