



AEP AMI is coming to WV

This Wed: March 24, 2021: 12 noon – 1 pm EDT

Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) is an architecture for automated, two-way communication between a smart utility meter and a utility company. The goal of AMI is to provide utility companies with real-time data about power consumption and allow customers to make informed choices about energy usage. Appalachian Power Company plans to install an additional 400,000+ AMI meters in WV before the end of 2022 which will complete the state. Learn more about how they work and communicate and what they can do to help owners, onsite energy managers and consultants in this outstanding WV ASHRAE Chapter sponsored meeting. APCo is very interested in feedback from these same groups to hear what information would benefit them.

Presenter – Martin O Seay, AEP Meter Revenue Operations Manager

Smart meters are just part of AEP's company commitments. AEP is at the forefront of the energy industry's transformation. They have developed next-generation sustainability goals for a brighter energy future. Some highlights of our clean energy strategy include:

- Achieving net zero carbon dioxide emissions by 2050, with an interim goal to cut emissions 80% from 2000 levels by 2030
- Adding more than 10,000 megawatts of regulated wind and solar through 2030
- Investing \$4.9 billion in renewables through 2025
- Continuing to invest in a smarter, more modern power grid
- Educating customers on how to optimize their energy efficiency
- Advocating for and enabling wider usage of electric vehicles

For example, AEP are working on installing EV charging stations along the interstates in their service area. Also, starting July 1st, AEP will offer rebates for Level 2 EV chargers and Level 2 Charging Stations for residential customers.

And "Appalachian Power offers a residential off-peak charging program for Virginia customers. Customers also receive credits for EV charging that takes place during off-peak periods, such as overnight."

ASHRAE Federal Government Relations News Update

As you may know, Congress passed a \$2.3 trillion legislative package in December of 2020 to fund the government through September 30, 2021. The package also provided \$900 billion in Coronavirus relief and included energy and tax provisions. The 5,593-page bill included the following:

- **Appropriations:** With \$1.4 trillion to fund the government in FY 2021, there were large increases to several programs that impact the building sector. The bill provides the Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) office with \$2.86 billion, an increase of \$72 million above the fiscal year 2020 level and \$9.24 billion for the EPA, \$180 million above the 2020 enacted level. The EPA funding includes \$40 million for the EnergySTAR program.
- **COVID-19 Relief:** The legislation approves up to \$600 in direct payments to Americans of a certain income and revives a \$300-per-week supplemental benefit for the unemployed. The relief measure also provides billions of dollars in aid for businesses. Additionally, \$82 billion was allocated to the Education Stabilization Fund, which includes funding for schools for updating their building systems to improve indoor air quality and minimize viral transmission.
- **Tax Extenders:** Several energy focused tax incentives were reauthorized. This included a permanent extension of the 179D tax deduction for energy-efficient commercial buildings. The tax deduction also updated ASHRAE Reference Standard 90.1 from the 2007 standard to the most recent standard as of two years before the start of

construction, in addition to increasing the deduction by accounting for inflation.

- **HFC Phasedown:** The legislation will require a phasedown of the production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) by 85% over 15 years, per the schedule in the Kigali amendment to the Montreal protocol. ASHRAE has **supported this legislation** (the AIM Act) previously and it was included in ASHRAE's **Public Policy Priorities** for Society Year 2020-2021.
- **Energy Provisions:** Numerous energy provisions were included in the package, including building energy and water efficiency measures for schools, federal buildings and data centers; smart building accelerator program; and reauthorization of the weatherization assistance program. The bill in total includes \$35 billion in energy technology authorizations, but money will need to still be appropriated next year

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