

# **Hometown Connections**

**PROVIDING COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE TO PUBLIC POWER<sup>SM</sup>**

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## **Hometown Connections and The Energy Authority Team Up to Offer Specialized Risk Management Services to Public Power**

EVERGREEN, Colo. — Thousands of the nation's public power utilities will now have access to cost-effective risk management services thanks to a new marketing alliance between Hometown Connections and The Energy Authority Inc., the companies announced today.

This alliance gives community- and state-owned electric utilities the opportunity to employ TEA's Risk Advisor<sup>SM</sup> risk management services at a discounted rate, if the utility is a member of the American Public Power Association.

TEA's Risk Advisor program is an exclusive service designed to help public power entities identify areas of risk and formulate strategies to improve their overall efficiency. The program includes risk education workshops, risk policy development, risk assessments and risk strategy development services. Utilities can sign up for one or all of these services, according to their individual needs, company officials said.

"If public power utilities aren't actively managing their risk in the wholesale market, they may be exposing themselves to higher costs and unacceptable credit risk," said Bob Dyer, president of The Energy Authority.

"We help municipal systems understand what risks directly impact their operations and how that affects their rate-payers," Dyer said. "We're owned by some of the most respected public power systems in the nation. As a result, we understand the unique challenges faced by municipal systems and we have the expertise needed to help them succeed in today's challenging energy market."

"Hometown Connections could not be more pleased in announcing this relationship with The Energy Authority," said Tim Blodgett, president and chief executive officer of Hometown Connections.

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“With increasing uncertainty in the wholesale power marketplace, we believe all public power entities should engage in a periodic wellness exam. This exam should: increase risk awareness; identify short, medium and long-term exposures; and prescribe remedies to manage these exposures. Our relationship with TEA enables public power entities of any size or structure to cost-effectively receive this risk management support from experienced public power professionals,” Blodgett said.

Hometown Connections is a subsidiary of the American Public Power Association, a national service organization representing the interests of the nation’s public power entities — more than 2,000 in all. First launched in 1998, Hometown Connections helps APPA members address the changing electric utility marketplace by securing national group pricing and service arrangements from leading industry suppliers.

The Energy Authority is a non-profit power-marketing corporation headquartered in Jacksonville, Fla. It is currently owned by six public power entities: JEA, formerly the Jacksonville Electric Authority; MEAG Power, the Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia; Santee Cooper, South Carolina’s state-owned electric and water utility; Nebraska Public Power District; Gainesville Regional Utilities and City Utilities of Springfield, Mo.

TEA serves public power entities by securing long-term power sale and purchase contracts, operating a 24-hour trading desk for buying and selling surplus electric power on the wholesale market, trading financial tools — forward contracts, options, futures and basis hedges — and providing risk management services. Its mission is to help its members and other consumer-owned utilities maximize the value of their power supply resources and to minimize the risks associated with the new wholesale market.

Other TEA clients include Kansas City, Kansas BPU; Louisiana Energy and Power Authority; Lafayette Utilities Systems and Piedmont Municipal Power Agency.

For more information on Hometown Connections or The Energy Authority visit [www.hometownconnections.com](http://www.hometownconnections.com) or [www.teainc.org](http://www.teainc.org), respectively.

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