



## City of River Falls News Release



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### For More Information Contact:

Scot Simpson, City Administrator

(715)426-3402

[ssimpson@rfcity.org](mailto:ssimpson@rfcity.org)

## **RIVER FALLS MUNICIPAL UTILITIES RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE**

**WASHINGTON, D.C., April 4, 2016** – River Falls, Wisconsin, Municipal Utilities (RFMU) today earned the 2016 Award of Continued Excellence (ACE) from the American Public Power Association's (APPA) Demonstration of Energy & Efficiency Developments (DEED) program.

The award recognizes continued commitment to the DEED program and its ideals, including support of research, development and demonstration, improving efficiency, renewable resources, and support of public power. The award was presented during APPA's annual Engineering & Operations Technical Conference, held in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

"For 17 years, River Falls has been active in APPA's DEED program," said APPA President & CEO Sue Kelly. "It has worked diligently to develop programs to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency, and it has been quick to share results with other public power utilities."

As part of the DEED program, RFMU has provided two scholarships to students attending the University of Wisconsin – River Falls. In 2012, the utility worked with a student who studied the implications of land use change on soil organic carbon and sequestration opportunities in western Wisconsin. The research developed strategies to curb carbon emissions by way of improved agricultural practices. Currently, RFMU is working with a student to investigate the effectiveness of sustainable housing models by performing cost analysis of net-zero homes in the city's Habitat for Humanity Eco Village when compared to conventionally constructed homes. "We are

proud and honored to be able to continue to reflect our community values through our local Municipal Utility with the use of programs such as DEED,” Said Utility Director Kevin Westhuis.

Locally owned, not-for-profit RFMU has also demonstrated a longstanding commitment to supporting and providing renewable energy options for its customers. Most recently, the utility worked with power supplier WPPI Energy to complete a community solar garden pilot project in River Falls. “River Falls has long been a leader among public power utilities in the areas of energy efficiency and renewable energy,” said WPPI Energy President/CEO Mike Peters. “This national recognition is well deserved.”

APPA is the Washington, D.C.-based service organization representing the nation’s more than 2,000 not-for-profit, community-owned electric utilities. The DEED program was created in 1980 and is the only research and development effort funded nationally by and for public power systems. It has funded almost \$14 million in energy projects since it was created.

For further information about APPA and DEED: [www.PublicPower.org/DEED](http://www.PublicPower.org/DEED).

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**Contact: Tobias Sellier - 202-467-2927, [MediaRelations@PublicPower.org](mailto:MediaRelations@PublicPower.org)**

*The American Public Power Association represents not-for-profit, community-owned electric utilities that power homes, businesses and streets in nearly 2,000 towns and cities, serving 48 million Americans. With no divided loyalties, these utilities are focused on a single mission — providing reliable electricity at a reasonable price, while protecting the environment. These public power utilities generate or buy electricity from diverse sources.*

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