MMWEC Annual Conference: Leading the Way to Decarbonization

Ludlow, MA – May 9, 2022 -- The Commonwealth’s not-for-profit, consumer-owned municipal light plants (MLPs) are charging forward toward net-zero carbon emissions in 2050, as evidenced by the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company’s (MMWEC) 2022 annual conference. The conference, titled “Leading the Way to Decarbonization,” was held May 4-5 at Devens Common Center.

The conference, back in its May timeslot for the first time since 2019, offered MLP managers, staff, commissioners, and industry experts the opportunity to learn more about MMWEC programs, initiatives and projects designed to guide the MLPs toward electrification and decarbonization.

The first day of the conference featured updates on existing projects as well as projects under development. Guest speakers included representatives from Mayflower Wind, Anbaric and Ventry Associates, who offered an update on legislative activity on Beacon Hill. The evening dinner and awards presentation featured keynote speaker Judy Chang, Massachusetts Energy and Environmental Affairs Undersecretary of Energy and Climate Solutions. Chang updated attendees on the state’s developing climate plan, and addressed the need for transmission reforms in ISO New England.

The second day of the conference featured presentations on environmental justice, tariff-on-bill financing, time of use rates and emerging technologies, including a fusion presentation by Commonwealth Fusion Systems.

MMWEC recognized a municipal light plant and two individuals with awards at the conference.

The Groton Electric Light Department received the 2022 Francis H. King Leadership Award, named in honor of one of the founders of MMWEC. This award recognizes exceptional leadership and dedication to public power joint action, demonstrated by a long-term commitment to the ideals of public power and the philosophy of MMWEC.

Longtime Chicopee Electric Light Commissioner Robert Pajak received the 2022 Philip W. Sweeney Public Service Award, named in honor of the former director of MMWEC and chairman of the Marblehead Municipal Light Board. This award recognizes exceptional service to the public or in the public arena that advances the goals of public power.

Former Marblehead Municipal Light Department General Manager Robert Jolly received the James E. Baker Service Award, which recognizes distinguished service to the MMWEC organization, including service as a director, officer or member of an MMWEC committee.

MMWEC is a non-profit, public corporation and political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts created by an Act of the General Assembly in 1975 and authorized to issue debt to finance a wide range of energy facilities. MMWEC provides a variety of power supply, financial, risk management and other services to the state’s consumer-owned, municipal utilities.