WASHINGTON, D.C. — During its annual conference here, the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE) recognized Arizona’s investor-owned electric utilities Arizona Public Service Company and UniSource Energy Services for their cutting-edge energy efficiency programs.

APS received the highest “exemplary” award in the commercial and industrial comprehensive category for its Solutions for Business energy efficiency program.

UniSource, which operates Tucson Electric Power (TEP), received an “exemplary” award for its Home Energy Assessment Program in the residential category.

“ACEEE congratulates APS and UniSource Energy Services for implementing outstanding energy efficiency programs that benefit their customers and provide an example for utilities nationwide,” said Steven Nadel, Executive Director of ACEEE.

Profiles of APS, UniSource and other programs recognized at the conference will be published as a compendium late this spring and include program descriptions, performance and lessons learned.

Reviews of nominations from throughout the United States are conducted every five years by a panel of industry experts convened by ACEEE. The judges look for examples of leading-edge designs and practices for efficiency programs offered by utilities and related organizations.

“Energy efficiency is the lowest-cost, cleanest and last risky energy resource available to electric utilities,” said Dr. Howard Geller, Executive Director of the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project and author of a recent report that quantifies the benefits of cost-effective utility energy efficiency programs. “APS and UniSource have elevated Arizona to the top tier of states where ratepayers are reaping the benefits of robust energy efficiency policies and programs.”

Award-winning programs were required to demonstrate success in helping customers increase the energy efficiency of their homes, offices, businesses, and industries.

The Southwest Energy Efficiency Project is a public interest organization dedicated to advancing energy efficiency in Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming. SWEEP collaborates with utilities such as APS and UniSource, state agencies, local governments, energy efficiency professionals and clean energy advocates.

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