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News Release

WH MAKES AN EQUITY INVESTMENT IN ZEF ENERGY

Rockford, MN (December 13, 2019) —As part of a broader set of initiatives designed to promote adoption of Electric Vehicles (EV), Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association (WH), the state’s fourth largest electric cooperative, has made an equity investment in ZEF Energy.

Along with the investment, WH will also have a seat on ZEF Energy’s Board of Directors and input into the future direction of the company.

ZEF Energy is Minnesota and Wisconsin’s largest independently owned and operated D.C. fast charging network, and network software operator using it’s ZEFNET cloud solution. Over 80% of D.C. fast chargers in the surrounding four states have been installed by ZEF Energy. ZEF Energy’s ZEFNET solution allow utilities and consumers to view how much energy is used and when, as well as to curtail and shape load.

“Wright-Hennepin is excited about the bright future for Electric Vehicles across the region,” said WH President and CEO Tim Sullivan. “We believe ZEF Energy delivers a best-in-class charger/controller solution that greatly benefits consumers and utilities alike. We’re delighted to partner with them to help accelerate the adoption of EVs.”

Matthew Blackler, CEO and founder of ZEF said he sees the arrangement as “a natural partnership” in part due to the unique member-owned business model of electric cooperatives. “Being member-owned, electric cooperatives like Wright-Hennepin bring both a utility and consumer perspective to the challenge and opportunity of accelerating EV adoption. Over the long-term, the most successfully companies will deliver a winning solution for both.”

WH is currently conducting a pilot study with ZEFNET-enabled chargers produced by ZEF Energy. The study is tracking how much energy members use for their EVs, and when. This

data will assist with further development of EV charging programs that benefit consumers, utilities and the environment. Based on the findings, WH plans to further refine its EV charging programs and to use ZEF chargers to help manage the system's electric demand.

ZEF Energy chargers can be purchased directly by consumers through Great River Energy's (GRE) Energy Wise MN store. WH and 27 other Minnesota cooperatives purchase some or all their power from GRE. Members who purchase a charger on the Energy Wise MN Store receive a significant discount on the charger and a chance to help shape the future of EV programs. GRE is also conducting a pilot study using ZEF Energy chargers.

WH has a history of supporting electric industry innovation, having pioneered the state's first cooperative-sponsored community solar arrays in 2013. WH also owns several successful for-profit businesses, including WH Security, the largest independently owned retail security company in Minnesota, and WH International Response Center (WHIRC), which provides alarm monitoring services for 65,000 accounts across 32 states.

Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association is a member-owned, not-for-profit electric utility that provides power to rural Wright County and western Hennepin County. The cooperative has been a corporate citizen to the area since 1937 and currently serves more than 50,000 electric accounts. It is headquartered in Rockford, Minn.

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ZEF Energy CEO Matthew Blackler and WH CEO Tim Sullivan sign papers to make WH's investment in the company official.



WH recently installed six ZEF Energy chargers in their parking lot to prepare for future EV use by employees.



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