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**Jonathan Field**

Smart Energy Consumer Collaborative

404-348-8015

[jonathan.field@smartenergycc.org](mailto:jonathan.field@smartenergycc.org)

**Smart Energy Consumer Collaborative Seeks Nominations for 2019 Best Practices Awards**

*Awards highlight customer-centric practices, programs from utilities in five distinct categories*

**ATLANTA – Aug. 16, 2018** – The Smart Energy Consumer Collaborative (SECC) announced today that nominations are now officially open for the 2019 Best Practices Awards, a unique awards program that highlights leadership from electricity providers in developing customer-centric practices, programs and services.

Going into their second year, the 2019 Best Practices Awards will again recognize five electricity providers (of all types, including energy retailers) across five distinct categories: Consumer Education, Smart Energy Innovation, Underserved Markets, Consumer Engagement and Culture Transformation. Full descriptions of these categories [can be found here](#).

In the inaugural year of the awards, the five winners for these categories were ComEd, Ameren Illinois, Direct Energy, Colorado Springs Utilities and CenterPoint Energy, respectively. Winning programs included a renewable energy-focused microgrid testbed, a digitized, cloud-based bill assistance program and a comprehensive, multi-channel customer education campaign. A guide detailing the 2018 winners [can be found here](#), and in-depth case studies on the five winning programs are being added to [SECC's case study archive](#) throughout 2018.

“The Best Practices Awards were developed by our membership to showcase real examples of successful customer engagement and consumer-focused innovation and to provide blueprints for other electricity providers to follow,” said Patty Durand, President & CEO, SECC. “After a very successful first year of these awards, we look forward to receiving many more nominations for the 2019 awards and showcasing what innovative utilities are doing to better meet the needs of today’s customers.”

Nominations can be submitted via an [online form](#), and the window to nominate for the 2019 awards will close on Friday, October 19. Five winners will be selected in November by an advisory panel of industry experts representing diverse organizations, including the U.S. Department of Energy, SmartMark Communications, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and Market Strategies International.

The winners will be notified in early December and officially announced at SECC's 2019 Consumer Symposium, which will be held on Monday, February 4 in New Orleans as part of DistribuTECH 2019. Registration for the Symposium is currently open on [DistribuTECH's website](#).

For more information on or questions regarding the 2019 Best Practices Awards, please contact SECC's Director of Operations Greg Schwartz at [greg.schwartz@smartenergycc.org](mailto:greg.schwartz@smartenergycc.org) or (404) 348-8017.