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GEFA's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Competitive Grant Program Provides Certified Energy Manager® Training in Georgia

ATLANTA – The Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Competitive Grant Program, administered by the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority (GEFA), awarded an Industrial Energy Efficiency Grant to the Association of Energy Engineers (AEE.). The grant will be used to award Certified Energy Manager® (CEM®) scholarships (based on CEM® eligibility and availability) to members of Georgia's industrial community.

The Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Competitive Grant Program was launched in July 2009 and funds 16 projects as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The CEM® training program and certification facilitates GEFA's objectives of implementing projects focusing on long-term, strategic initiatives that develop industrial energy efficiency in Georgia and apply energy-saving measures to industries across the state.

"The demand for Certified Energy Managers® keeps growing," said Albert Thumann, Executive Director, AEE. "We are witnessing more and more states enacting innovative forward-thinking policies, which will propel the energy efficiency, clean-tech, and green-job creation movement. We applaud GEFA and the state of Georgia for developing an action plan for the new wave of high performance energy efficiency industries."

"Georgia has made a strong commitment to conservation through a number of initiatives, including the Governor's Energy Challenge," said Phil Foil, GEFA Executive Director. "Training and educating knowledgeable Certified Energy Managers® to assist businesses, schools and other organizations on how to adopt and maintain energy-saving best practices is key to meeting and sustaining these goals."

Through the Governor's Energy Challenge, Governor Perdue has committed all state agencies, businesses, residents, non-profits, schools, and local governments to reduce energy consumption by 15 percent by 2020. The goal of the Energy Challenge is to reduce Georgia's dependence on traditional energy sources, support the economy and improve the environment. Programs such as The Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Competitive Grant Program and other GEFA initiatives, will help the state meet the Governor's Energy Challenge.

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Since its inception in 1981, the CEM® credential has been used as a measure of professional accomplishment within the energy management field, serving as the standard for qualifying energy professionals both in the United States and abroad. It is recognized by the U.S. Department of Energy, the Office of Federal Energy Management Programs (FEMP), and the U.S. Agency for International Development, as well as by numerous state energy offices, major utilities, corporations and energy service companies. The Georgia CEM® training program will target current engineers from the industrial sector seeking to increase their energy efficiency skills, as well as unemployed or underemployed engineers and those outside of industry with a desire to enter the energy management field.

Seminar and certification examination fees will be paid by GEFA under the grant program for all eligible participants who successfully attend the live training class and take the CEM® certification exam.

Registration and program details are available at <http://www.aeecenter.org/gefa>.

About the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority (www.gefa.org)

The Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority (GEFA) provides financial assistance and administers programs that encourage stewardship of the environment and promote economic development statewide. GEFA is the lead state agency for energy planning and alternative fuels; manages the Governor's Energy Challenge and the Georgia Land Conservation Program; maintains state-owned fuel storage tanks; and offers financing for reservoir and water supply, water quality, storm water and solid waste infrastructure.

About AEE

The Association of Energy Engineers (AEE) is the industry's source for information and networking in the dynamic fields of energy engineering and management, renewable and alternative energy, power generation, energy services, sustainability, and all related areas. As a growing professional association, AEE's overall strength is augmented by its strong membership base of over 11,000 professionals and its widely recognized certification programs. Its network of 71 local chapters located throughout the U.S. and abroad meets regularly to discuss issues of regional importance. For more information on AEE, visit www.aeecenter.org.

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