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## **Decentralized Energy Could Reduce Recent Power Losses** *Winter Storms are the Problem, Local Power is the Solution*

**WASHINGTON, DC** – Last week the *Associated Press* reported, “More than a week after an ice storm left 125,000 homes and businesses in Oklahoma in the dark, about 20,000 customers still have no power.” Extreme weather in the past weeks also caused widespread power outages to millions in Europe and in Australia.

“Decentralized energy, also known as local power, is a proven solution that helps keep the power on when it matters most,” according to David Sweet, executive director of the World Alliance for Decentralized Energy (WADE). “While decentralized energy certainly could not have prevented all of the power loss experienced from these disasters, it could have provided significant relief to many in the affected regions,” said Sweet.

In New York City during the 2003 blackout, a total of 53 hospitals lost power. However, by employing local power two hospitals were online throughout the blackout. When Hurricane Katrina swept the Gulf Coast destroying everything in its path, the Baptist Hospital in Jackson, MS never lost power. Onsite power allowed the staff to continue caring for their patients through the horrors of the storm outside. Yet again, in last week’s storm onsite power helped the electricity stay on even as neighbors struggled in the dark.

In most cases, power is sourced from a large remote power plant and distributed via power lines throughout a region. When the main grid shuts down, everything around it does also. In the case of the most recent storms throughout the Midwest, power outages occurred when the power lines delivering power from the grid were damaged due to weather.

Decentralized energy offers consumers the opportunity to produce power efficiently and cleanly and with less reliance on the grid, thus increasing the chances of keeping the lights on during hurricanes, snow storms and other disasters.

Decentralized energy allows the lights to stay on in times of darkness. To learn more about decentralized energy please visit [www.localpower.org](http://www.localpower.org).

***About WADE:*** *The World Alliance for Decentralized Energy (WADE), based in Edinburgh, Scotland, was established in 2002 as a non-profit research and promotion organization with the mission to accelerate the worldwide development of high efficiency cogeneration (CHP) and decentralized renewable energy systems that deliver substantial economic and environmental benefits.*

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