



For Immediate Release

## **IDEAL Energy Cooperative Holds its 2nd Annual Meeting!**

**Zoom** - Over 60 Member-Owners and Supplier/Vendor Partners participated in IDEAL Energy Cooperative's second annual meeting via Zoom at the end of March, with over 200 meetings having been facilitated during the 90-minute virtual networking event, a record breaking number for IDEAL!.

"The event was great, and so well organized! The networking that we were all able to participate in was spectacular, IDEAL should be proud!" Rita Peilunas of Otodata Fuel Innovation, IDEAL Partner.

IDEAL works with local, privately held energy retailers, to help them manage the ongoing challenges of consolidation from large utilities and national energy corporations. Working together, IDEAL helps local providers defend margin, prevent volume erosion, share best-in-class operational expertise, and offers a Fuel-Local brand to gain more customers. Member-Owners currently represent the delivery and service of propane, heating oil, diesel, gasoline, and biofuels.

All in good fun, IDEAL coined the term "Zoom Whiplash" from the speed and excitement of the networking sessions. Member-Owners were able to make connections with key industry leaders, their Supplier/Vendors, which will assist them with the products, services, and the expertise they need to keep their companies strong and growing.

Other topics discussed included some delayed shipping and shortages for various HVAC parts, components, and units along with steel-based products. Some of the reasons cited for delays included:

1. Manufacturing impacted by COVID in 2020, now inventory is finally being impacted.
2. Increased demand for home improvements.
3. More city dwellers moving into rural areas and retrofitting 2nd homes for more permanent living.
4. Asian tariff ramifications, impacting many products particularly coming from China.

"Despite COVID keeping us from meeting in person, IDEAL delivered on their mission which is to support, sustain, and secure independent retail energy businesses by aggregating resources, elevating Member-Owners by showcasing operational excellence through best practices, and supporting Fuel-Local. We are looking forward to seeing each other in person at our 2022 Annual Meeting. Many thanks to our supportive Member-Owners and Supplier/Vendor Partners." Ryan Jackson, IDEAL Board Chair

### **About IDEAL Energy Cooperative:**

Founded in October 2019, IDEAL currently has a Member footprint, along with supplier and vendor partners, spread throughout New England, New York, and Pennsylvania. IDEAL currently has buying power of more than 248 million gallons of propane, heating oil, diesel, gasoline, and biofuels, as well as more than half a billion dollars in business revenue. IDEAL is ready to welcome new members, suppliers, and vendors. All of the Cooperative's Members are proud to be privately held, and independently owned and operated.

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