



Upcoming Events

November 18 — 20
Water/Wastewater Operators
Training Workshop
Holiday Inn Northwest, Des Moines
Register/more information:
<http://www.iamu.org/calendar/>

December 1
Municipal Electric & Gas Utility
Regional Meeting, Greenfield
Register/more information:
<http://www.iamu.org/calendar/>

December 3
Municipal Electric & Gas Utility
Regional Meeting, Denison (a.m./
Sanborn (p.m.)
Register/more information:
<http://www.iamu.org/calendar/>

December 4
Municipal Electric & Gas Utility
Regional Meeting, Algona (a.m./
Osage (p.m.)
Register/more information:
<http://www.iamu.org/calendar/>

December 5
Municipal Electric & Gas Utility
Regional Meeting, Dayton
Register/more information:
<http://www.iamu.org/calendar/>

December 8
Municipal Electric & Gas Utility
Regional Meeting, Mt. Pleasant
Register/more information:
<http://www.iamu.org/calendar/>

December 9
Municipal Electric & Gas Utility
Regional Meeting, Maquoketa
(a.m./Independence (p.m.)
Register/more information:
<http://www.iamu.org/calendar/>

Energy, climate expected to rank high with Obama



“A clean-energy economy can be the engine that drives us into the future in the same way the computer was the engine for economic growth over the last couple of decades.” — President-elect Barack Obama

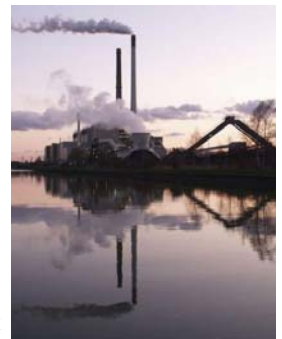
◆ **The ailing economy will be the number one priority for the incoming Barack Obama administration and 111th Congress, but energy and climate will not be far behind—and the three issues will be intertwined.** “A clean-energy economy can be the engine that drives us into the future in the same way the computer was the engine for economic growth over the last couple of decades,” Obama said shortly before the election.

Beefed-up Democratic majorities in both houses of Congress will help the new administration—particularly if Democrats garner a veto-proof 60 seats in the Senate. The final outcome probably will not be known for a few weeks, with recounts looming and a runoff election in Georgia. However, energy issues tend to divide along regional, not party, lines.

The larger hurdle may be not finding votes, but money. That means not only finding federal funds in the face of a huge deficit, but dealing with the effect of climate change and energy programs on consumers’ pocketbooks.

An early test of Obama’s view that a solution to climate change and energy needs also can be one solution to economic problems may come as soon as this month. When Congress returns for a lame duck session on Nov. 17, Democrats are expected to offer a stimulus bill that includes infrastructure spending. That could include Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid’s plan to provide the Western Area Power Administration with \$2.5 billion in loan guarantees to construct transmission lines to serve renewable generation.

Coal became an issue very late in the presidential campaign, as Republican nominee Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., seized on Obama’s comment that without carbon capture and sequestration, coal plants would become prohibitively expensive. Controversy erupted when Obama was quoted in a San Francisco *Chronicle* story as saying, “So if somebody wants to build a coal-powered plant they can; it’s just that it will bankrupt them because they’re going to be charged a huge sum for all that greenhouse gas that’s being emitted.” In an interview with the environmental website *Grist*, Obama energy adviser Jason Grumet emphasized Obama’s support for a cap-and-trade rather than command-and-control approach.



How coal plants will fit in Obama’s vision for carbon reduction remains unclear.

However, Grumet also told *Grist* that “we remain confident that under a carbon-reduction regime like that which we propose, which would obligate an 80% reduction over the next three-and-a-half decades, it is profoundly uneconomical to build a new facility that is going to pay a very significant fee to operate.” Obama’s New Energy for America plan features a cap-and-trade program



The text of President-Elect Barack Obama’s New Energy for America plan is available at

<http://www.barackobama.com/>
 (“Issues” then “Energy/
Environment”)

to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050 and government investment of \$150 billion over 10 years “to catalyze private efforts to build a clean energy future” and create five million new jobs. The plan also calls for ensuring that 10% of the nation’s electricity comes from renewables by 2012, and 25% by 2025; putting one million plug-in hybrid electric cars on the road by 2015; permanently extending tax credits for renewables; and closing loopholes in Commodity Futures Trading Commission regulations to end excessive energy speculation.

Under Obama’s proposed cap-and-trade plan, all emission allowances would be auctioned. A small portion of the proceeds of \$15 billion per year would be used to support development of clean energy, energy efficiency and clean energy vehicles. The remaining receipts would be used for rebates and other transition relief for families and communities, the plan said.

Portions reprinted from American Public Power Assn. Public Power Daily, Nov. 7, 2008

IAMU receives award from green design magazine



◆ **IAMU's Training & Office Complex office structure recently received an Evergreen Award from Eco-Structure magazine.** Eco-Structure magazine is a publication dedicated to improving environmental performances of buildings and their surroundings. This marked the inaugural round of Evergreen Awards for the publication.

IAMU's office structure won the "Flashback" Award, for its ability to demonstrate 12 months of exemplary energy- and water-consumption data. The 13,000 square foot structure, which incorporates many energy efficient design features, uses only 28,000 Btus of energy per square foot per year, which is less than the 34,600 Btus of energy per square foot per year the designers had originally predicted. A comparable, code-compliant building typically uses 65,800 Btus of energy per square foot per year.

Eco-Structure's story about IAMU's office structure can be accessed via this link: <http://eco-structure.com/>.

IUB clarifies new electric outage reporting rules



◆ **The Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) has announced that the new incident reporting requirements for municipal electric utilities has been working well. In fact, a little too well, which has prompted the agency to clarify policy.**

Over the past several months the IUB has received several calls from municipal electric utilities with outages lasting less than two hours. Reporting requirements for municipal electric utilities require reporting when there is a loss of service to a municipality and surrounding area for more than two hours when "substantially all" of the customers are out of service. The order defines the term "substantially all" to mean notification is required when significantly more than 50%, but not necessarily 100%, of customers in a municipality and surrounding area served by the same utility lose service. This does not change the requirements for accident reporting under Chapter 25.5.: human death or hospitalization, \$15,000 of damage or significant and/or newsworthy events.

If electric service is not available to a city for two or more hours, electric utilities need to report that to the IUB duty officer as soon as possible. This means the outage should be reported as soon as officials realize service will be off for two or more hours – not after two hours has elapsed, or the next day during business hours. The notice should include the number of customers (meters) served (rounded off or approximate is acceptable) and the duty officer should obtain a name and call back number. If possible, the duty officer should be told the possible cause or extent of the problem, and/or an estimate of the time of restoration.

If the situation warrants a follow-up written report, that can be filed either by postal mail or online using email to: iubdutyofficer@iub.state.ia.us, providing the information set forth in the rules.

These reporting requirements and the duty officer contact information can be found on the IAMU website front page at www.iamu.org (look for "IUB Incident Report Requirements").

State environmental award applications being taken



◆ **Municipal utilities in the state are eligible for the 2008 Governor's Iowa Environmental Excellence Awards.**

Applications are now being accepted. These are the premiere environmental honors in Iowa, recognizing leadership and innovation in protecting Iowa's water, land and air.

The program honors outstanding comprehensive environmental sustainability practices, in addition to special projects in: Air quality; disaster recovery; energy efficiency/renewable energy; environmental education; habitat restoration; waste management; and water quality. Additionally, the program now includes a Special Project Award category in environmental education, recognizing a program that helps to engage and empower participants to be stewards of their local natural resources; and a Disaster Recovery category exclusively for 2008. It will honor an organization that utilized beneficial environmental practices in recovering from one this year's destructive weather-related events.

Any entity interested in applying should go to: <http://www.iowadnr.gov/other/ee/index.html> for more information and to download applications.

Access back issues of the IAMU Informer and the Informer Story Index on the IAMU website's Informer page: <http://www.iamu.org/informer/default.htm>



It may be necessary to download the latest version of Adobe Reader (Adobe Reader 9) to view the IAMU Informer. Download it with this link: <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>

Regional electric/gas meetings registration now open



◆ IAMU is now accepting registrations for its upcoming series of **Municipal Electric and Gas Utility Regional Meetings**. These fast-paced half-day meetings will

cover a number of current policies and issues of great importance to IAMU members, including the renewable energy and energy efficiency potential assessments and the State Energy Policy reports.

Another key topic will be IAMU's new "Town Meeting Kit," which assists managers and policymakers in improving communication with customers regarding fundamental changes in the utility industry and in stressing the value of energy efficiency.

The meetings will be held in early December in Greenfield, Sanborn, Algona, Osage, Dayton, Mt. Pleasant, Maquoketa and Independence.

Access more information and register on the IAMU website, www.iamu.org (click on "Calendar/Registrations" on the front page or click on the links to the individual meetings under "Upcoming Events").



◆ **Additional winter weather information from the National Weather Service can be found at:**

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/dmx/?n=winter>

Mixed results for green, utility ballots November 4



◆ Election day November 4 had more than political office contests on the docket in many locations, including a few states where energy-related measures were up for votes.

Some of the more publicized votes were in California, where Proposition 7 would have required utilities, including government-owned utilities, to generate 20% of their power from renewable energy by 2010 (a standard that has applied only to private electrical corporations) and would fast-track approval for new renewable energy plans (among other requirements). The measure was defeated by a 64.8% to 35.2% vote. Also in California, Proposition 10 was to provide funding to help consumers and others purchase certain high fuel economy vehicles or alternative fuel vehicles, including natural gas vehicles, and to fund research into alternative fuel technology. It was also defeated, on a vote of 59.7% to 40.3%. In San Francisco, voters rejected a measure that would have allowed a takeover of Pacific Gas & Electric facilities in the city and would have set strict renewable energy standards (mandating that 51% of the city's electrical needs come from clean resources by 2017, and 100% by 2040). It also would have authorized the city's Board of Supervisors to issue bonds to acquire utility facilities without voter approval. Mayor Gavin Newsom opposed the measure, and Pacific Gas & Electric lobbied heavily against it.



Colorado voters turned down an amendment that would have increased the amount of severance taxes paid by oil and natural gas companies and put the money toward college scholarships, water treatment grants and renewable energy projects, among other beneficiaries. The severance tax is paid by companies that extract non-renewable resources from the earth.

In Missouri, voters approved an amendment to require investor-owned electric utilities to generate or purchase electricity from renewable energy sources such as solar, wind and biomass (including ethanol) and hydropower at the rate of 2% of retail sales by 2011, increasing incrementally up to 15% by 2021.



Also in Missouri, an amendment that dealt with changing provisions relating to the financing of storm water control projects (limiting funding to only public water and sewer districts) passed on a vote of 58% to 42%.

November 13 is Winter Weather Awareness Day



◆ **The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (IHSEMD) and the National Weather Service (NWS) have designated November 13 as Winter Weather Awareness Day in Iowa. Learn more on the IHSEMD Be Ready Iowa! website at www.bereadyiowa.org.**

The National Weather Service in Des Moines will change to a simplified winter weather warning and advisory product suite this winter. The purpose of the change is to simplify and clarify the communication and dissemination of winter weather hazards.

The National Weather Service will restructure its winter weather products by combining a number of advisory and warning products into categories associated with similar impacts. For example, conditions last winter that prompted the issuance of separate winter weather, snow and blowing snow advisories will be issued as winter weather advisories this winter. Certain hazards will retain their own product names due to the uniqueness of their impacts. A NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) weather radio is highly recommended for severe weather alerts year-round. Learn more at: <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/dmx/?n=nwr>.

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