



Upcoming Events

August 27

Water Distribution Workshop
Register/more information:
<http://www.iamu.org/calendar/>
(go to "August")

Sept. 9 — 10

IAMU/APGA Midwest Regional Gas Workshop
Register/more information:
<http://www.iamu.org/calendar/>
(go to "September")

Sept. 16 — 19

Underground Elec. Workshop

Sept. 9 — 10

Storm Water Post Construction Workshop
More information:
kgibbons@iamu.org

Sept. 30 — Oct. 2

IAMU Fall Conference
Courtyard by Marriott, Ankeny and
IAMU Training & Office Complex

October 7

Basic SWPPP & Inspections Workshop
More information:
kgibbons@iamu.org

November 6 — 7

Advanced SWPPP & Inspections Workshop
More information:
kgibbons@iamu.org

November 18 — 20

Water/Wastewater Operators' Training Workshop
Holiday Inn Northwest, Des Moines

Take steps now to help customers with high prices



◆ Once again, it is predicted that increased natural gas prices will have a major impact on utility customers in Iowa this winter. Coming at a time when many Iowans are still recovering from natural disasters earlier in the year, this could be especially burdensome for your customers. IAMU joins with other agencies in urging its member utilities to undertake efforts now to help minimize the impact of high heating bills this winter.

Utilities should do everything within their power in advance of the heating season to gain control over the purchase prices of natural gas, which can result in savings for your customers.

Customers should also be reminded about the LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program). Those who qualify can receive relief through assistance in paying a portion of their winter heating bills. More information about LIHEAP is available from the Iowa Division of Community Action Agencies at http://www.dcaa.iowa.gov/bureau_EA/index.html

Actively promote any energy savings programs you have in place, or implement a program before winter arrives. Many utilities offer rebates to customers who purchase energy efficient appliances, and some appliance manufacturers also offer rebates. These appliances include programmable thermostats, high efficiency heating/cooling systems, hot water heaters, replacement windows, washers/dryers, refrigerators, stoves and insulation. Customers should be educated to always look for the ENERGY STAR program identification when purchasing appliances. More information is available at www.energystar.gov and www.homeenergysaver.lbl.gov. Or, to discuss energy efficiency ideas in general, contact Erin Peiffer at IAMU, 800-810-4268 or epeiffer@iamu.org.

By raising awareness among your customers, you can play a key role in extending a helping hand to those who need it this winter.

Iowa Weatherization Challenge taking applications



◆ For the fourth consecutive year, the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) is coordinating Iowa's annual community-based initiative to weatherize homes for Iowans in need before the winter heating season. The IUB encourages community groups across Iowa to participate in the 2008 Iowa Weatherization Challenge by applying for either the new community grant of up to \$5,000 or for a matching grant of up to \$500.

The community grant of up to \$5,000 is available for one community with a population of 10,000 or less. It is intended to be used by the recipient to develop comprehensive weatherization and energy efficiency events and educate the community residents on these topics.

In addition to the community grant, the IUB will also offer matching grants of up to \$500 to as many as ten organizations throughout Iowa. These grants are to be used to weatherize homes and provide educational materials for Iowa's low-income families, elderly or disabled individuals. Participating groups or organizations applying for the matching grants are asked to raise initial funds up to \$500 for weatherization events in their local communities.

All grant awards will be earmarked for weatherization projects to be completed in Iowa by November 30, 2008. The IUB will receive grant applications beginning August 1, 2008. Grant information, including application forms and related materials, is available at www.state.ia.us/iub.

This year 17 meetings will be held around the state, with the major goal being to bring utility clerks together with Community Action Agency workers that serve the same customers.

Major topics to be discussed include the winter disconnection moratorium and the outlook for LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) grants; natural gas prices; and non-LIHEAP assistance.



Complete agenda and registration coming soon!

Current Transformers Wanted!



Does your electric utility have used CTs no longer in service?

Replacing substation equipment?

Please consider donating to IAMU for training purposes. All ratios and rating factors will be considered.

Contact Eric Stoll at IAMU: 800-810-4268 or estoll@iamu.org.

City clerks invited to IUB customer service meetings



◆ City clerks of IAMU member communities are invited and urged to once again attend the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) Customer Service (Winter Moratorium) Fall Meetings.

This year 17 meetings will be held around the state, with the major goal being to bring utility clerks together with Community Action Agency workers that serve the same customers. The IUB reports that when municipal utility customer service personnel and Community Action offices are not located in the same community, a disconnect sometimes occurs, to the detriment of the customer. By fostering acquaintance between the two groups, a common bond can be created, and ideas, concerns and problems can be shared; this can enhance customer service.

Major topics to be discussed include the winter disconnection moratorium and the outlook for LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) grants; natural gas prices; and non-LIHEAP assistance.

The meetings are all 90 minutes in length, and held in the morning or afternoon, depending on the location. The dates and cities for the meetings are as follows: Sept. 3, Indianola (a.m.) and Creston (p.m.); Sept. 4, Mason City (a.m.) and Emmetsburg (p.m.); Sept. 5, Leon (a.m.); Sept. 9, Sioux City (p.m.); Sept. 10, Sioux Center (a.m.); Sept. 17, Harlan (a.m.) and Carroll (p.m.); Sept. 18, Burlington (a.m.); Sept. 19, Davenport (a.m.); Sept. 22, Ottumwa (p.m.); Sept. 23, Marshalltown (a.m.) and Hiawatha (p.m.); Sept. 24, Dubuque (a.m.); Sept. 25, Decorah (a.m.) and Waterloo (p.m.).

More information will be coming from the IUB soon. Contact Chuck Seel at the Iowa Utilities Board, 515-281-5618 or chuck.seel@iub.state.ia.us.

See IAMU's display at the Iowa State Fair!

Iowa State Fair ◆ If you're heading to the Iowa State Fair this year, be sure to stop by the IAMU display. **august 7-17, 2008**

Your association will be exhibiting for the first time at the State Fair, to raise awareness of the benefits of municipal utilities in the state. The importance of energy efficiency and "green" awareness will also be promoted, and tied to municipal utility efforts. A two-sided card touting both topics will be among the handout items, along with imprinted pencils and other various items and informational material. The Hazard Hamlet interactive home electrical safety display for children and a model rain garden will also be part of the display.

The IAMU display will be in the Hall of Law & Flame, located under the east end of the main grandstand, just off the fairgrounds Main Concourse. Interested in helping out by working a shift at the display? Call us at 800-810-4268.

Iowa Smokefree Air Act: Are you up to speed?

◆ As of July 1, the Iowa Smokefree Air Act went into effect. The Act regulates smoking in public places, places of employment and certain outdoor areas. Local government facilities should set an example for the community by ensuring compliance with the new laws.



If you need information about the Smoke Free Air Act, including fact sheets and signage requirements/examples, go to the Act's official website, www.iowasmokefreeair.gov.

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