



Upcoming Events

April 24, 2009

**IAMU Demand Response
Workshop/Webinar**

Register/more information:

<http://www.iamu.org/calendar/>

April 28, 2009

**IAMU/ISWEP Green Roof
Workshop**

More information:

<http://www.iowastormwater.org>

May 1, 2009

Competent Person Workshop

Register/more information:

<http://www.iamu.org/calendar/>

(click "May 2009")

May 5 — 6, 2009

**Gas Plastic Pipe Joining & OQ
Workshop**

Register/more information:

<http://www.iamu.org/calendar/>

(click "May 2009")

May 19 —22, 2009

Electric Overhead Workshop

Register/more information:

<http://www.iamu.org/calendar/>

(click "May 2009")

May 27 — 28, 2009

**Water Distribution/Leak Detec-
tion Workshops**

Register/more information:

<http://www.iamu.org/calendar/>

(click "May 2009")

Stimulus funds coming: IAMU can help you prepare

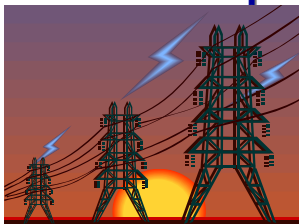


◆ \$787 billion will enter the U.S. economy as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Much of it will create jobs and spur economic activity through investments in infrastructure, including the pipes, wires, motors, pumps, machines, processes, and control technologies at the heart of municipal utility operations.

The American Public Power Association and other organizations have set up websites to help utilities find opportunities and navigate through the application process. IAMU has also been working to identify potential projects and sources of funding. We have retained counsel in Washington, D.C. to help us with proposals in a variety of competitive solicitations to federal agencies. IAMU is also tracking funds that flow through the states. For example, the Iowa Office of Energy Independence will administer over \$40.5 million of stimulus funds, another \$9 million in energy efficiency block grants, and \$3 million in supplemental funds for energy efficiency rebate programs. Stimulus funds have also come to Iowa by way of the State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) for water and wastewater infrastructure. IAMU has already received preliminary approval for a project to replace motors and pumps in about 30 water and wastewater utilities that responded to a survey.

The details of many of the funding opportunities have not yet been worked out. In the mean time, IAMU has prepared a **list of projects** and technologies that may be eligible for funding. We urge you to take a few minutes to look over the list. If there are projects that you think would make sense for your community, let us know or watch the *Informer* and other announcements for how to apply. Also, many projects may have a better chance for success if they are filed jointly with other utilities/cities. IAMU will focus attention on these. Send us an email or circle the projects of interest and fax it (515-289-2499) with your contact information.

Demand Response workshop/webinar this Friday



◆ It's not too late to register for the free workshop on a joint demand response program. The workshop will be held at IAMU's Training & Office Complex this Friday, April 24, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. IAMU utility members may attend in person or by webinar.

To attend by webinar, you will call in on a conference



telephone line while you watch a presentation on an internet site. You can read more about the **workshop** and **register** on the IAMU web site or register by phone at 800-810-4268.

If your utility is interested in joining with others to reduce the cost of managing peak loads, this workshop offers an opportunity to hear about the latest technology from the experts. They can answer your questions about integrating demand response with other technology for monitoring peak loads or for other smart-grid applications.

Access back issues of the *IAMU Informer* and the *Informer Story Index* on the IAMU **website**.



It may be necessary to download the latest version of Adobe Reader (Adobe Reader 9.1) to view the *IAMU Informer*. Download it **here**.

Fire control workshop provides valuable training

◆ IAMU's Training & Office Complex saw the return of the Natural Gas Fire Control Workshop April 15. Gas employees from IAMU member cities received valuable hands-on training in extinguishing live gas line and gas meter fires on IAMU's Safety & Training Field. Classroom activities included presentations on fire retardant clothing, fire behavior and more.



Fire suppression and safety was the focus inside and outside with the Natural Gas Fire Control Workshop.

IAMU signs letter asking for change in gas legislation



◆ IAMU is part of a coalition that has signed on to a letter sent to U.S. congressional leadership and the House and Senate Energy Committees. The letter asks the bodies to include language in the federal energy bill that would amend Section 5 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA) to allow the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) the authority to grant refunds to natural gas consumers that have been overcharged.

Other associations, advocacy groups and joint action agencies are also represented in the letter, which was spearheaded by the American Public Gas Association (APGA). The language to allow the regulatory modification is contained in the Natural Gas and Electricity Review and Enforcement Act, drafted by Senator Maria Cantwell of Washington State.

The APGA has long maintained that reform of Section 5 is needed due to the fact that the current system allows pipelines to keep overcharges instead of refunding consumers.

A copy of the coalition's letter is available on the APGA web site, www.apga.org. Senator Cantwell's web site can be found at <http://cantwell.senate.gov>.

Emerald Ash Borer just outside Iowa; make plans now



◆ Following discovery of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) beetle just across the Mississippi River from Iowa, the Iowa Emerald Ash Borer Team has renewed calls for action on the part of city and utility officials in this state. A new infestation was found in Victory, Wisconsin, on the east bank of the Mississippi River across from Allamakee County, Iowa.

The EAB is an extremely destructive pest that feeds on and kills ash trees, one of the most populated tree species in North America. The EAB is native to the Orient, but was introduced to the United States near Detroit in the 1990s. Populations have gradually migrated west since then, and officials have warned for the past few years that infestation in Iowa could occur at any time. One of the primary ways the EAB is spread is through the transport of firewood from other areas. The Iowa Emerald Ash Borer Team has defined high risk sites to be locations such as campgrounds, nurseries and sawmills.

In addition to increased vigilance, cities are urged to review their municipal ordinances and policies pertaining to removal of trees on private property. In other states where infestations have occurred, some cities have suffered severe financial hardship where they were required to pay for all tree removal.

For more detailed information about the Emerald Ash Borer (and other pests that threaten trees), go to: www.iowaTreePests.com or contact: Robin Pruisner, State Epidemiologist, 515-725-1465, Robin.Pruisner@iowaAgriculture.gov; Tivon Feeley, DNR Forest Health, 515-281-4915, Tivon.feeley@dnr.iowa.gov; or Jesse Randall, ISU Extension Forester, 515-294-1168, RandallJ@iastate.edu.

Iowa energy poster contest winners are announced



◆ Winners of the statewide energy poster contest for Iowa elementary school students have been honored in a ceremony at the State Capitol. The contest, sponsored by the University of Northern Iowa's Center for Energy and Environmental Education (CEEE) and the Iowa Energy Center, gives Iowa teachers a method for incorporating energy concepts into their curriculum.

The contest encourages students to put their knowledge about energy efficiency into practice.

Winners received a \$100 savings bond. Judges were representatives of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities, the Iowa Utility Association and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. A list of the winners, and their winning posters, can be found [here](#).

IAMU telecom workshop in June: Use this survey to help us plan



◆ IAMU is planning a telecommunications workshop for early June. The primary purpose will be to identify trends in telecommunications technology, evolving community needs, and opportunities to bridge the gap. Our goal is to provide a workshop that will be of general interest to IAMU members and also those operating broadband (BB) utilities. The workshop should be timely, with \$7.2 billion of economic stimulus earmarked explicitly for broadband services and \$4.5 billion to promote smart-grid technologies. To that end, we are asking for your response to this short survey of interest:

Interest Low High	How would you characterize your interest in the following topics (please print this page and fax it to IAMU at 515-289-2499):
1 2 3 4 5	A. What is the smart-grid? How would it help my utility?
1 2 3 4 5	B. Stimulus funds available for broadband and smart-grid technologies
1 2 3 4 5	C. Telecommunications infrastructure – implications for educational opportunities, health care, public
1 2 3 4 5	D. Technology/speed in your community versus consumer demand & commercial need
1 2 3 4 5	E. Public/private partnerships to advance broadband service
1 2 3 4 5	F. Distributed workplaces – determining whether there is a workable business plan for your community
1 2 3 4 5	G. What is net neutrality?
1 2 3 4 5	H. How likely is it that someone from your utility/city would attend such a workshop?
	I. Other:

We currently plan a workshop that begins at 10 a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m. The concluding session will be a roundtable discussion that includes presenters and representatives from existing BB systems. If there is sufficient interest, a second day morning session will be held for current BB operators. Preliminary topics include: status/stories of FTTH deployment; technology for phone over cable; AMI applications over BB, and a roundtable on successes, mistakes, threats, and opportunities.

Researchers: Cap-and-trade plan will not be enough



◆ A team of researchers from Carnegie Mellon University is claiming that even if a cap-and-trade policy for carbon emissions is employed, it would not be enough to sufficiently reduce greenhouse gases.

"While a cap and trade or carbon tax policy is an important step in reducing emissions, the range of prices for carbon dioxide permits being discussed will be too low to induce the large-scale investments we need," said Constantine Samaras, a co-author of the policy brief. A Carnegie Mellon news release on the subject can be accessed [here](#).

EPA finding sets stage for greenhouse gas regulation



◆ The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has moved one step closer to regulating greenhouse gas emissions in the United States following the issuing of a proposed finding that six gases contribute to air pollution and may endanger public health.

The specific gases in question are carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulfur hexafluoride. The proposed rule finds that the combined emissions of four of those gases from motor vehicles contribute to atmospheric concentrations and cause climate change. Although the proposed finding specifically addresses emissions from motor vehicles, the ramifications of future regulation will have a significant impact on the electric power industry, as power plants have also been targeted as major contributors to CO2 emissions. The proposed finding alone does not call for regulation, but rather identifies certain substances as dangerous, and sets the stage for possible regulation. It is seen as a way to spur Congress to address climate change issues.

The EPA will accept public comment on the proposal for 60 days after it is published in the Federal Register. Hearings will be held in Arlington, VA and Seattle, WA.

An EPA news release on the proposed finding can be found [here](#).

A detailed summary of the proposed finding can be found [here](#).