



### Upcoming Events

Sept. 1 — 2, 2009  
IAMU/APGA Natural Gas OQ Workshop [Register/more information: Here](#)

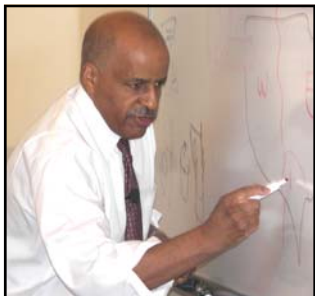
September 9 — 10, 2009  
Water Distribution & Leak Detection/Line Locating Workshops [Register/more information: Here](#)

September 15 — 18, 2009  
Underground Electric Distribution Workshop. [Register/more information: Here](#)

September 24, 2009 Stormwater Design for Non-Engineers. [Register/more information: Here](#)

October 7 — 9, 2009  
IAMU Annual Conference, Holiday Inn Des Moines — Airport/Conference Center. [Register/more information: Here](#)

November 17 — 19, 2009  
Annual Water/Wastewater Operator Conference, Holiday Inn Northwest, Des Moines.



*Skip Collier of Professional Training Systems was again hard at work in the IAMU Training & Office Complex Auditorium August 24 as he presented a one-day Smart Grid course. Officials representing a cross-section of IAMU member utilities attended the meeting to learn how Smart Grid techniques can aid their bottom line.*

**i**nformer Online  
[www.iamu.org](http://www.iamu.org)  
Click on the "Informer" tab

## “Whole town audits” for small towns have EE value

◆ Small communities face barriers to adopting energy efficiency, such as higher percentages of low- and fixed-income residents, few housing starts, and fewer industries.

IAMU is interested in working with some small municipal utilities (500 or fewer customers) to develop “whole town audits” that could identify missed energy efficiency opportunities. The goals and objectives of the project are: To identify limiting factors for implementing energy efficiency programs in small communities; assist the communities to select cost-effective programs tailored to their characteristics; and speed program implementation by innovative delivery.



If your utility is interested in participating in a “whole town audit” contact IAMU’s Anne Kimber ([akimber@iamu.org](mailto:akimber@iamu.org)) or Joel Logan ([jlogan@iamu.org](mailto:jlogan@iamu.org)) by email or by phone at 515-289-1999.

## Poll results: More public education on energy needed



◆ While Congress debates the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, much education is needed to enhance public knowledge, understanding and interest in various sources of electrical power, their associated benefits and risks and the value of becoming more energy efficient. That is one of the key findings in a recent poll conducted by Harris Interactive.

Data also revealed only one in ten Americans (9%) are very knowledgeable about sources of electrical power, while 50% are fairly knowledgeable.

The poll also covered the subjects of renewable energy and natural gas, where participants were asked questions regarding risk vs. benefit for energy sources. A large proportion of Americans said they believe the benefits of solar (82%), wind/turbine (78%), hydroelectric (water) (73%) and natural gas (66%) outweigh any risks associated with the different sources. Coal, which provides approximately half (49%) of electrical power production in the United States and is the most heavily used source of energy, is perceived differently. Two in five Americans (42%) say the risks of using coal outweigh the benefits while 36% believe the benefits outweigh the risks.

The poll indicates that with limited knowledge and interest in the topic, as the debate over the Energy bill rages on, public opinion can be based on incomplete or inaccurate information about the various sources of energy and their perceived benefits and risks. Significant room exists to educate the public on the pros and cons of each source of energy, including factors such as current and future use of each source, reliability, cost, environmental impacts and ways to become more energy efficient. Much work is needed by Congress, energy companies, utilities and communities to engage consumers in the dialogue around this new energy economy.

IAMU Annual Conference 2009  
**Embracing Change**  
*Supporting Tradition*



Holiday Inn Des Moines — Airport/Conference Center

## Register now for IAMU Conference

◆ Join together October 7-9 for important information, entertainment and social networking at your association’s Annual Conference at the Holiday Inn Des Moines — Airport/Conference Center. Utility members click [here](#). Associate member businesses click [here](#).

A block of rooms has been reserved at a special rate of \$89 per night (reservations must be made by September 15).

◆ More Annual Conference information on the IAMU web site home page: [www.iamu.org](http://www.iamu.org).