



Upcoming Events

January 21 — 23, 2009

Electric Utility System Operation Short Course

Register/more information:

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

January 26 — 30, 2009

Gas “Boot Camp” OQ Training

Register/more information:

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

January 28 — 30, 2009

Superintendent & Foreman’s Meeting

Register/more information:

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

February 2 — 6, 2009

Watt-Hour Meter Workshops (Basic & Advanced)

Register/more information:

<http://www.iamu.org/calendar/>
(click “February 2009”)

February 10 — 11, 2009

“Think Spring” IAMU (Winter) Meeting

Courtyard by Marriott, Ankeny

Register/more information:

<http://www.iamu.org>
(look for links on the front page)

March 9 — 10, 2009

**Iowa Storm Water Conference/
Iowa Water Conference**

Scheman Building, Iowa State University

For more information:

<http://www.iowastormwater.org/>

“Think Spring” and be informed at Winter Meeting



Think Spring!
IAMU (Winter) Meeting

This completes the return to a two-meetings-per-year schedule — the “Annual Conference” in the fall (October 7-9, 2009) and the winter business meeting. The winter meeting has been shortened to a two-day, noon to noon format.

In conjunction with the winter meeting is a legislative reception to be held at IAMU’s Training & Office Complex from 5 – 7 p.m. February 10. IAMU members are asked to urge their local legislative representatives to attend.

A conference luncheon with a guest speaker (Governor Chet Culver has been invited) will be held from noon – 1:30 p.m. February 10, with conference sessions immediately following. An associate member trade show will be held from 10:30 a.m.-noon and from 4 -5 p.m. February 10.

Registration for the meeting is \$100 per person. The meeting registration deadline is February 6. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Courtyard by Marriott at a rate of \$89 per night. The room reservation deadline is January 19. A full meeting agenda and registration form is available on the IAMU website, www.iamu.org (look for the links on the front page).

ENERGY STAR program now includes water heaters



◆ The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has announced a new ENERGY STAR program for residential water heaters, which went into effect January 1, 2009. The program covers five types of water heater technologies. Currently, 16 manufacturers are participating in the program, with a continually expanding product list.

With the new water heater inclusion, the ENERGY STAR program now addresses every major residential appliance found in most American homes. Water heating represents up to 15.5 percent of national residential energy consumption, the second largest end use of energy in homes, following heating and cooling. Using one of five specified water heating technologies, ENERGY STAR qualified water heaters can reduce water heating bills from 7.5 percent to as much as 55 percent. In five years, the new water heater criteria are expected to save American consumers \$823 million in utility costs, avoid 4.2 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions and achieve cumulative energy savings of more than 3.9 billion kilowatt-hours and 270 million therms of natural gas – enough energy to power more than 375,000 homes for a year.

For a detailed news release about the new water heater program, click here:

<http://www.energy.gov/news/6820.htm>.

Consumer information about residential water heaters from ENERGY STAR is available here:

http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=water_heat.pr_water_heaters

Resources for residential water heaters, including ENERGY STAR criteria, manufacturer guidelines and product submission forms, are available here: http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=manuf_res.pt_water_heaters

◆ It’s time to shed the winter blahs and “Think Spring” with IAMU’s (Winter) Meeting. We’re downplaying the emphasis on “winter” and looking ahead to warmer times as we also warm up your support of important issues February 10 -11 at the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel in Ankeny, and at IAMU’s Training & Office Complex.

This completes the return to a two-meetings-per-year schedule — the “Annual Conference” in the fall (October 7-9, 2009) and the



Legislative Reception

February 10
5 — 7 p.m.

IAMU Training & Office Complex

IAMU members: Be sure to invite your legislators to attend!

"60 Minutes" segment looks at energy trading

◆ IAMU is a long-time participant in the Commodity Markets Oversight Coalition, whose purpose is to encourage transparency in the trading of natural gas and oil.

A recent CBS "60 Minutes" segment on speculation behind the big run-up and subsequent crash in oil prices provides excellent background on how deregulation of trading at the behest of the defunct Enron Corporation contributed to the devastating situation now being faced. You can view the "60 Minutes" segment at <http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=4713382n>.

Eron Prevo, City of Bloomfield water employee

◆ The staff of IAMU is saddened to learn of the death of Eron Prevo, a water operator for the City of Bloomfield, an IAMU member. The 33-year old was killed in an automobile crash in rural Davis County January 10. He leaves a wife and three young sons.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. January 15 at the Bloomfield Christian Church. More information is available from the Bloomfield *Democrat* at <http://www.bdemo.com/>

Joel Logan new contact for EE questions at IAMU

◆ Joel Logan, IAMU Energy Services Engineer, will be the new contact person at IAMU for energy efficiency-related questions. Erin Buchanan has accepted a position with IAMU member Cedar Falls Utilities. Joel can be reached at jlogan@iamu.org or 515-289-1999.

IDNR reminds government entities of burning rules



◆ The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has been asked to provide notice to local government entities regarding the open burning of trees and tree trimmings. The policy states:

"Unless prohibited by local ordinances or regulations, the open burning of trees and tree trimmings not originating on the premises may occur provided that the following conditions are met:

- ▣ Burn site must be operated by a local government entity;
- ▣ Burn site must be fenced and access to the site controlled;
- ▣ Burning is conducted on a regularly scheduled basis and is supervised at all times;
- ▣ Burning is conducted only when weather conditions are favorable with respect to surrounding properties;
- ▣ Burn site is limited to areas at least one-quarter mile from any inhabitable building unless there is a written waiver from the building owner; and,
- ▣ Rubber tires shall not be used to ignite trees and tree trimmings."

Where the open burning of trees and tree trimmings causes air pollution, the DNR may take appropriate action to secure relocation of the burning operation. Open burning rules can be found at Iowa Administrative Code 567-23.2(455B).

You and your entity are legally responsible for any fire you start! When in doubt, contact your local DNR Field Office for assistance: Manchester (563-927-2640); Mason City (641-424-4073); Spencer (712-262-4177); Atlantic (712-243-1934); Des Moines (515-725-0268); and Washington (319-653-2135).

EE, renewable tax incentives extended by President

◆ On October 3, 2008, President Bush signed into law legislation to extend many of the Energy Efficiency Tax Incentives first enacted in 2005. The bill also includes extensions of many renewable energy tax incentives. Energy efficiency provisions include:

- ▣ An extension of commercial buildings tax deduction to the end of 2013.
- ▣ An extension of the tax credit for efficient furnaces, boilers, air conditioners, water heaters and insulation and window upgrades to existing homes (improvements installed in 2009 only).
- ▣ A one-year extension of the new energy efficiency home tax credit, to 2009.
- ▣ Three years of manufacturer tax credits for sales of high-efficiency refrigerators, clothes washers, dishwashers, and dehumidifiers (2008-2010).
- ▣ A new tax credit for plug-in hybrid vehicles purchased starting in 2008 and extending until shortly after the number of qualifying vehicles reaches 250,000.
- ▣ A new 10% investment tax credit for combined heat and power systems (until 2016).
- ▣ An extension of fuel cell and microturbine credits to the end of 2016.
- ▣ Accelerated depreciation for smart meters and smart grid systems.
- ▣ Extension of existing bonding program for green buildings and sustainable design, and establishment of a new energy conservation bond program that would help local and state governments to fund energy conservation efforts.



For more information, or to pass word to consumers, please see the following links:

<http://www.energytaxincentives.org/> (Tax Incentives Assistance Project)

<http://aceee.org/energy/national/> (ACEEE's National Energy Policy web site)

<http://ase.org/> (Alliance to Save Energy)

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