



**Upcoming Events**

**May 27 — 28, 2009**

**Water Distribution/Leak Detection Workshops**

Register/more information:  
[Click here](#)

**May 29, 2009**

**Rain Gardens & Bioretention Cells for Managing Stormwater Quality**

Register/more information:  
[Click here](#)

**June 25 — 26, 2009**

**Safety Workshop**

Register/more information:  
[Click here](#)



◆ The premiere issue of IAMU's new e-zine, *Connections*, is nearing completion. The quarterly publication, which will be distributed to all IAMU utility members, associate members and other affiliated entities, will present an in-depth look at various current utility issues, energy topics, member activities, IAMU events and more.

The first issue, scheduled for release in early June, will feature the many facets of the developing green energy front in Iowa, its role in the world of municipalities and municipal utilities, and how the state is rapidly becoming a leader in the field.

Recipients of this e-newsletter will also receive *Connections*. To be added to the recipient list, contact Sandy Longfellow at IAMU at [slongfellow@iamu.org](mailto:slongfellow@iamu.org). For advertising opportunities, contact John Burnett at [jburnett@iamu.org](mailto:jburnett@iamu.org).

**Board recommends EE goals for IAMU members**



◆ Later this week, gas and electric utilities will receive a copy of the final report of their cost-effective energy efficiency potential. The study conducted by the Energy Center of Wisconsin was released in draft form to members attending an energy efficiency workshop in March. It concludes that the achievable cost-effective energy efficiency potential for Iowa municipal utilities averages 1.1 percent of annual electric consumption and 1 percent of annual gas consumption. The final draft includes the specific potential for each electric and gas utility.

Along with the report, utilities will receive a recommendation for how to set an efficiency goal for 2010 and 2011 and what financial resources may be needed to achieving the goal. The IAMU Board of Directors recommends goals that put utilities on a trajectory to achieve their 2012 potential and that resources equal to at least 2 percent of revenue from retail sales be committed to the task. The recommendation comes with a request that utilities set preliminary efficiency goals and spending commitments by July 15.

IAMU will request that each utility's final goal, along with the set of energy efficiency measures that will be employed to achieve it, be submitted to the association by October 31. The combined report with goals and measures for all municipal electric and gas utilities must be filed with the Iowa Utilities Board by the end of the year.

**Demand Response interest strong; are you on board?**



◆ Member interest in a joint demand response (DR) project has been very positive. Electric utilities are encouraged to look closely at the proposal and to consider it as part of energy efficiency goals and plans. While load control does not substantially reduce energy consumption, energy savings are much greater with the smart-grid thermostat, which is an important feature of the DR project. This technology is capable of shifting more air conditioning load to hours during which the ambient temperature is lower. In addition, it captures the efficiency associated with programmable thermostats and the added efficiency gained from the ability to send peak load and peak pricing information to the customer over the thermostat's display screen.

IAMU will seek grant funds to offset the cost of installing the smart-grid thermostats. The funding would enable utility employees or other individuals from the local community to get hands-on experience in installing thermostats and instructing customers in their use. If utility employees cannot be spared for thermostat installation, there may be recent retirees, under-employed construction workers, teachers, or other persons who could perform this function and serve as the utility's advocate in face-to-face contact with customers. As part of a training and certification program, those individuals could also receive training in evaluating the home or business for other energy efficiency programs the utility offers and, for example, could install CFLs in frequently-used lighting fixtures.

More information about the IAMU DR project is available on the IAMU web site: click [here](#).

The IAMU *Informer* is an electronic publication of the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities.

Editor: John Burnett 515-289-1999 [jburnett@iamu.org](mailto:jburnett@iamu.org)

To add an *Informer* subscriber: contact Sandy Longfellow at: [slongfellow@iamu.org](mailto:slongfellow@iamu.org)\*

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*From beginning pole climbing to stringing and “hot work,” many techniques were covered in the IAMU Overhead Electric Workshop May 19 — 22. Thanks to all utility representatives who took part, and to the sponsors who helped IAMU to present a successful workshop.*

## Energy audits for small businesses and ag producers



◆ Funding for energy audits of small businesses and agricultural producers with annual revenues under \$7 million is available from the Department of Agriculture. Electric and gas utilities may apply for audit funds on behalf of their customers. Eligible utilities must serve fewer than 50,000 customers.

Businesses must cover at least 25 percent of the audit cost. Individual audit costs vary. Typical audits would likely fall in a range of from \$500 to \$1,000.

IAMU is not eligible to apply on behalf of members, but can help with proposals, which are due June 9. A lead utility may be able to apply for several other utilities. Utilities wishing assistance from IAMU need to provide the number, size, and nature of the businesses. Water and wastewater utilities may also apply for energy audits of their processes and facilities, as any other commercial customer.

## IAMU Safety Workshop coming up June 25 — 26



◆ “Safety is ALL inclusive,” and that motto will be carried forward with another IAMU Safety Workshop June 25 – 26 at IAMU’s Training & Office Complex.

Designed for workers, administrators, managers, supervisors and safety coordinators, the workshop will present a look at various safety techniques and procedures related to city and utility functions, including: leadership; the new State of Iowa Electrical Inspection Program; the FTC Red Flags Rule and identity security; OSHA update; ANSI Fall Protection Guide & equipment; Drug Alliance Testing; confined space procedures; hand safety (gloves); respiratory equipment (Chlorine); Lockout-Tagout; and an update on the Iowa One Call program, the Common Ground Iowa program and IAMU’s Safe City.

A minimum of 15 attendees is required. A workshop brochure and registration form has been distributed; or, register and get more information on the IAMU web site; click [here](#).

## Emerald ash borer training classes May 26 & 27



◆ The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) has scheduled two meetings in northeast Iowa to provide basic information about the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) threat. The pest, which destroys ash trees, has been discovered in Victory, Wisconsin, just across the Mississippi River from Allamakee County, Iowa.

The first meeting, for Clayton and Fayette Counties, is scheduled for Tuesday, May 26 at the Strawberry Point City Hall from 6:30 – 9 p.m. On Wednesday, May 27, a second meeting will be held at the Decorah City Hall from 6:30 – 9 p.m.

For more information, contact Randy Cook at the IDNR at [Randy.Cook@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Randy.Cook@dnr.iowa.gov) (please note this is a new email address) or 515-281-5600; or Tivon Feeley at [Tivon.Feeley@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Tivon.Feeley@dnr.iowa.gov) or 515-294-1168.

## Emerald ash borer reported in St. Paul, Minnesota



◆ A recent headline on the front page of the Minneapolis Star Tribune read “The destructive Emerald Ash Borer: It’s here,” as the insect has now been found in St. Paul, Minnesota. The state has the second-highest number of ash trees in the nation (Maine is first). Ironically, many of the ash trees in Minnesota were planted as replacements for Dutch Elm trees which fell victim to Dutch Elm Disease in years past. With Interstate 35 providing a major direct transportation route into Iowa from Minnesota, officials are concerned that this could be yet another way the emerald ash borer could be unknowingly transported to this state.

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