



Upcoming Events

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.

IUB Inquiry on Waxman-Markey; IAMU adds comments



◆ On July 16, the Iowa Utilities Board opened an inquiry on the American Clean Energy and

Security Act of 2009, also known by the name of its sponsors as the Waxman-Markey bill. The bill was amended and passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on June 26.

Among its wide ranging topics, the bill would establish a cap-and-trade regime on greenhouse gases. IAMU is among 25 organizations and individuals who submitted comments in the proceeding. Comments can be viewed on the IUB web site, www.iowa.gov/iub. Look for the link to the Board's electronic filing system.

IAMU grant proposals take advantage of ARRA funds

◆ IAMU has filed a number of grant proposals that would leverage funds available from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Summaries of two of the proposals are included in this edition of the *Informer*. Coming editions will include summaries of other proposals. Additional information can be found on the IAMU web site, www.iamu.org.



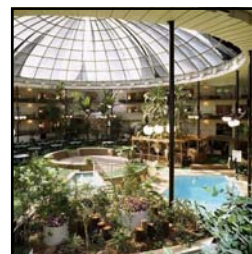
The first proposal, filed with the U.S. Department of Energy, is entitled: "Demand response using smart-grid thermostats with system control and data access for utilities and participating customers via a secure web portal." The following is the project abstract: Seventy-five consumer-owned utilities, serving over 96,000 customers in three states, will jointly purchase a demand response software platform, which will be hosted at a site with proven reliability and security. Smart thermostats capable of receiving control signals and displaying text sent from the utility will be installed by local personnel, trained and certified to perform the installation, provide customer training in the use of the thermostat, and perform other energy efficiency services, such as the installation of CFLs and a limited energy efficiency assessment.

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Register now for IAMU Annual Conference Oct. 7 — 9



◆ Registration for IAMU's 2009 Annual Conference is now available. Utility members click [here](#). Associate members click [here](#).



Featured speakers include Mark

Crisson, President/CEO, American Public Power Association (APPA), who will present an overview of APPA activities and a look at the national energy policy front; **John Erickson**, Vice President/Operations, American Public Gas Association (APGA) who will speak about DIMP and SHRIMP software in the gas utility industry; and **Gary Higbee**, President, Higbee & Associates presenting a look at leadership, communication and customer service.



Room reservations (special rate of \$89 per night) may be made by calling 515-287-2400. Mention the IAMU Annual Conference when reserving. The reservation deadline for the conference rate is September 15.

More information about the conference can be found with links on the front page of the IAMU web site at www.iamu.org (look for the conference logo under "Hot News").

Look to the future of energy with DEED internships

◆ Every year the American Public Power Association (APPA) DEED program (Demonstration of Energy Efficient Developments) awards up to ten \$4,000 internships for students to work with a DEED member (such as IAMU) on energy-related research. IAMU wants to be a partner in this process.

You can learn more about the DEED program at www.appanet.org. Applications must be submitted by students and are due to APPA October 15 and February 15. IAMU is interested in helping municipal utilities and university students partner through DEED internships. Please call (515-289-1999) or email Joel Logan (jlogan@iamu.org) or Anne Kimber (akimber@iamu.org) at IAMU if you have a project in mind suitable for a student intern, or would like to explore developing a project.

Underground electric workshop pole climbers wanted

◆ The IAMU Underground Electric Distribution Workshop is September 15 — 18, with registrations being accepted now. Click [here](#).

Climbers are reminded that the Beginning Pole Climbing Pre-Workshop will take place September 15. Sign up today for this valuable hands-on training!



Register now for the IAMU Annual Conference!

Take advantage of the early registration discount and discounted room reservations. To register, click [here](#).

For room reservations, call the Holiday Inn Des Moines — Airport/Conference Center at 515-287-2400.



◆ Access back issues of the IAMU Informer and the Informer Story Index on the IAMU website's Informer page. Click [here](#).

It may be necessary to download the latest version of Adobe Reader (Adobe Reader 9) to view the IAMU Informer. Click [here](#).

IAMU grant proposals, continued from Page 1



In this project, smart grid deployment starts by bringing communications intelligence to the largest appliance on the customer's premise, the HVAC system. The utility can remotely adjust the temperature in the customer's premise to achieve load reduction during peak demand periods. Pricing and other information can be sent as text messages to the thermostat's touch-screen display. The software platform provides a customer portal to web-based control of the thermostat and access to other information provided by the utility, such as utility costs and pricing. For the utility, the platform provides the means to evaluate load, implement control strategies, and deliver text messages to the customer. It also provides the utility with an expandable tool for integration of other smart-grid technologies.

Economies of scale that make it possible for many small utilities to achieve cost-effective demand response can be transferred to other utilities by expansion of this project or by replication. Both expansion and replication are facilitated by technical training materials that will be developed as part of the proposal and included as a deliverable to DOE.

By the end of the second year of the project, nearly 32,000 smart thermostats and switches will be installed with capacity to avoid 57.2 MW of new capacity at a savings to consumers of \$31.4 million.

A second proposal to conduct seven whole-town audits was submitted to the Iowa Office of Energy Independence

(a smaller version of this grant was also submitted to the APPA DEED program). The proposal included the following background statement: State legislation enacted in 2008 requires municipal electric and gas utilities to assess the potential for cost-effective energy efficiency programs, to set goals by December 31 2009, and to develop programs to meet those goals. The results of the assessment have been delivered; municipal utilities are working now to review existing programs and develop new programs to meet their goals for energy savings over the next few years.



Most municipal electric and gas utilities in Iowa are small: 75% serve 1200 or fewer meters, and most are residential customers. Small communities face barriers to adopting energy efficiency, such as higher percentages of low- and fixed-income residents, few housing starts, and fewer industries. For example, a review of 2006 MidAmerican program results shows that 33.7% of their total expenditures for residential energy efficiency programs were for their new construction programs. MidAmerican serves some of the most populous and rapidly growing areas in Iowa, such as Des Moines, the Quad Cities, and Iowa City. Nearly 20 percent of all homes in Iowa City were built during the 1990s. Meanwhile, many smaller communities show percentages that are 5% or lower. For example, the Alta Vista municipal electric utility had seven homes, or 5.5% of the entire community's housing stock built in the same ten-year time period, with a decrease of 1.2% in total population from 1990-1999. For Alta Vista, adopting the same programs used by the largest utilities may not be as cost-effective or target the same level of customers.

Other factors that may affect energy efficiency success rates in small communities include distances to trade allies and professionals with advanced energy management training, limited access to retailers with Energy Star-rated appliances, or other energy efficient equipment, size and composition of the customer base, and inadequate staff resources or high staff turnover rates.

For example, IAMU has recommended that member electric utilities join the Change A Light, Change The World campaign, which is offered through participating retailers in many states. In some cases the nearest participating retailer is located over 30 miles away, but there are local, nonparticipating retailers selling compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs). This is just one example of a limiting factor that makes Change A Light harder to adopt in some of Iowa's smallest communities. IAMU believes that an alternative program may prove more effective in this case, such as a community pledge for every customer to install at least one CFL or a campaign weekend where local volunteer organizations install CFLs in nursing homes or the homes of elderly and/or disabled citizens.

IAMU proposes to conduct seven whole-town audits to identify missed opportunities for energy efficiency in these communities. The effort would result in more rapid implementation of energy efficiency programs and greater economic development through better energy linkages between local businesses and their community.

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

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