



Upcoming Events

December 8, 2011
Stormwater Design Training
Register/more information: [Here](#)

January 17 — 19, 2011
Superintendent & Foreman's Workshop

Retransmission consent conference call Nov. 30

◆ IAMU will host a conference call November 30 to discuss the current round of negotiations for retransmission consent agreements between member cable operators and TV stations.



Matt Polka, CEO of the American Cable Association,

will participate. The conference call is designed to help IAMU member telecommunication utilities struggling with rate increases from broadcasters and other demands.

The conference call will begin at 10 a.m. To participate call 877-366-0711 and enter participant code 10340738#.

Questions? Contact Curtis Dean, Telecommunication Services Coordinator at cdean@iamu.org or 800-810-4268.



What's the latest on employee benefits?

The December issue of *Benefit Bytes* is now available from Benefit Resources of Iowa, IAMU's group health and life advisors.

Download it on the IAMU web site [here](#).



Benefit Resources
of Iowa

IAMU LED initiative requires MOU from participants

◆ IAMU continues to actively move forward with its LED Street Lighting Joint Purchase initiative. It's not too late to be part of the joint purchase. In a recent webinar (click [here](#)) IAMU released a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlining the details on how to participate in the effort (to access the MOU, click [here](#)).



To participate, a signed copy of the MOU with indicated quantities of street lights to be ordered in the joint purchase, must be received by Friday, December 16 at 5 p.m. A \$200 deposit will be invoiced to your utility after the signed MOU is received. The deposit will later be credited against a modest participation fee to recover incurred staff and consulting costs and will be assessed based on the number of fixtures ordered.

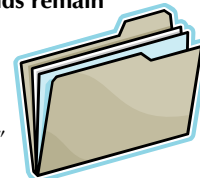
Once final quantities are known as of the December 16 deadline, IAMU will then release the Request for Bids (RFB) to vendors. The announcement will be made in early January and lights orders can be made directly between the qualified vendor and the participating utilities. Questions? Contact Jonathan Roberts, jroberts@iamu.org, or Anne Kimber, akimber@iamu.org, 800-810-4268.

Post-issuance tax compliance is subject of sharp focus



◆ Post-issuance tax compliance policies for municipalities is receiving greater attention from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Governmental issuers of tax-exempt bonds are responsible for ensuring that their financings satisfy applicable federal tax requirements, both at the time of issuance and for so long as the bonds remain outstanding.

The IRS has posted guidance which makes it clear that detailed post-issuance compliance procedures should be an important part of any issuer's bond program and urging issuers of tax-exempt obligations to adopt "written procedures" to help ensure their post-issuance compliance with IRS requirements.



A detailed discussion of the subject, an example of a post-issuance compliance policy and a form resolution to adopt the policy, supplied by the Ahlers & Cooney, P.C. law firm, has been posted on the IAMU web site home page [here](#) (look for the link under "Hot News").

Webinar: Learn about Green Iowa AmeriCorps program



◆ IAMU will present a webinar December 5 at 2 p.m. to introduce the Green Iowa AmeriCorps program and its mission to assist Iowa communities with residential weatherization, energy education and community outreach.

You will learn what Green Iowa can provide for your community, including free residential energy audits by highly trained AmeriCorps members and free labor for community weatherization events; what the utility program costs include; and who to contact for more information.



The Green Iowa AmeriCorps program was established in 2009 and is based at the University of Northern Iowa's Center for Energy and Environmental Education. It is funded by the Corporation for National Community Service, Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service, Iowa Power Fund and local partners.

To participate in the webinar, click [here](#). If you have any questions, or problems registering, please email or call Anne Kimber, akimber@iamu.org, or 800-810-4268.

Many push for extension of wind production credit



◆ Politicians, business and manufacturing leaders and energy advocates have joined forces to push for a four-year extension of the Production Tax Credit (PTC), the key federal tax incentive for wind energy.

The current tax credit is scheduled to expire December 31, 2012. Legislation (H.R. 3307) has been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives that would allow the four-year extension.



Iowa Governor Terry Branstad, in his role as vice chairman of the Governors' Wind Energy Coalition, has co-signed a letter addressed to congressional leaders arguing why the PTC needs to be extended. Parts of the letter state:

Wind-related manufacturing is beginning to slow in our states because the credit has not yet been extended. If Congress pursues a last minute approach to the extension, the anticipated interruption of the credit's benefits will result in a significant loss of high-paying jobs in a growing sector of the economy.

The leading wind project developers and manufacturers are slowing their plans for 2013 and beyond due to the current uncertainty. Some developers have no projects scheduled for 2013, and are beginning to lay off employees.



Following the submission of the governors' letter, a broad, nonpartisan coalition of 369 members, including manufacturing, farm and business interests, issued a letter endorsing the four-year extension.

Copies of the letters and more information can be found [here](#).

DNR Source Water Protection Program will offer GIS training

◆ The Iowa Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Iowa Source Water Protection Program will offer Geographic Information System (GIS) training in March of 2012.



This training is designed specifically for water operators to help smaller Iowa communities (1,000 – 15,000 people) collect, create and integrate spatial data into their everyday duties.

The use of GIS has become more prevalent in the everyday sharing of data within the source water network. This demand has spurred DNR to create this free and simple GIS training.



The program will feature Quantum GIS and will present topics such as source water protection; use of GIS software; creating attractive maps; finding, collecting and loading of data; and more. Participants will receive Quantum GIS software, spatial data and training reference manuals.

The trainings will be held in Ft. Dodge March 1, Cedar Falls March 8 and Grinnell March 15. A flyer and registration form have been posted on the IAMU web site, www.iamu.org (links under "Upcoming Events") or at www.iowasourcewater.org.

The trainings are free, but space is limited. The registration deadline is January 1, 2012. For more information contact DNR's Soren Rundquist at Soren.Rundquist@dnr.iowa.gov.

New DNR Small Business Liaison for air quality; duties modified



◆ Christina Iiams is the new Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Small Business Liaison for air quality (previously housed at the Iowa Economic Development Authority as Small Business Environmental Liaison, SBEL). The position is now limited to assistance for air quality program elements only.

Responsibilities of the Small Business Liaison – Air Quality will include providing technical referral assistance to small businesses, facilitating resolution of complaints from small businesses regarding DNR's implementation of the Clean Air Act, and providing assistance to the Air Quality Bureau in developing and coordinating outreach assistance to small businesses for implementation of air quality regulatory requirements and programs. Christina Iiams can be contacted at 515-281-4927 or christina.iiams@dnr.iowa.gov.

Webinars, urban water funding program available for water utilities

◆ Several upcoming opportunities may be of interest to IAMU member water utilities:

▮ The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will present a webcast on reducing water utility energy use December 1 at noon, CST. The webcast will focus on determining how much energy a utility is using in each part of its operation; and conducting an energy audit to identify specific opportunities for greater efficiency and expected cost savings.



Information on various assessment and audit tools will be provided, including those geared specifically to small and medium-sized utilities. For more information, including how to register, click [here](#).



▮ The Iowa Public Health Association and the Pew Children's Dental Campaign are teaming to sponsor a webinar for Iowa public health and community leaders on the importance of community water fluoridation programs.



It will be held December 16, 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Bill Maas, DDS and Bob Russell, DDS, will address the current status of fluoridation in Iowa; recent changes in fluoride standards for drinking water; the impact on dental health; and resources available. Space is limited. Register [here](#).

▮ The Environmental Protection Agency is awarding at least \$1.8 million in funding for projects to help restore urban waters by improving water quality and supporting community revitalization.



The goal is to fund research, studies, training and demonstration projects that will advance the restoration of urban waters. More information, including a Request for Proposal, is available [here](#).

More than 60 online, self-paced training classes, **FREE** to IAMU members. Enrich your expertise. Increase your value! Look for the Training on Demand logo at www.iamu.org



Training on Demand



Index/back issues on the IAMU web site [here](#).