



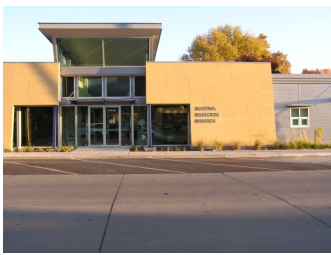
# THE WIRE

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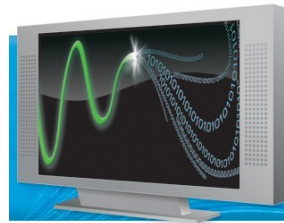
www.netamu.com



## Big Screen TV = Big Energy Costs

Municipal Utilities and their customers should be aware that many of the popular big-screen televisions can be big users of electricity—a fact that is not known or understood by many consumers. In addition to being an unwise energy conservation practice, this can lead to a jump in a customer's energy bill.

A 42-inch plasma television can consume more electricity than a full-size refrigerator, even when the TV is used only a few hours each day. This is about



double the amount of energy consumed by a conventional cathode-ray picture tube TV, which typically uses about 100 watts of electricity. A 42-inch plasma set can use as much as 200-500 watts; and a 60 inch plasma set can use 500-600 watts, according to the Environ-

mental Protection Agency (EPA). When add-ons like set-top boxes, game consoles, speakers, DVD players and digital video recorders are included in the mix, it can result in an increase of nearly \$200 to a family's annual electricity budget.

Among the big-screen TVs, the projection types are considered to be more energy efficient than plasma or LCD-screen units.

**Continued on Page Two**

## Take Steps Now to Beat Higher Energy Costs

In a couple of months temperatures will begin to cool and we'll look for ways to save money with energy costs. It is predicted that increased natural gas prices will have a major impact on utility customers in Iowa. Start saving money now with these easy tips:

- Lower the thermostat 2 degrees or more in the winter
- Change your furnace filter monthly during the heating season. If you have central air conditioning, change

the filter in the summer, too.

- Keep obstructions away from the hot and cold air registers.
- Lower the water heater temperature.
- Replace light bulbs with high efficient fluorescent light bulbs.
- Unplug secondary refrigerators and/or freezers not fully used.
- Wash and dry full loads of laundry. Hang clothes out to dry

when possible.

- Clean dryer lint filter after each load.
- Turn lights off when leaving a room.

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) has been established to help qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for a portion of their primary heating costs for the winter heating season. You may apply at your North Iowa Community Action Organization at 117 East Call Street in Algonia.

## AMU OFFERS BUSINESS TELEPHONE SERVICE

If you're looking for ways to adjust budget costs for your business, then it's time to consider switching AMU Telephone service.

AMU Telephone offers rates that are more affordable and less confusing than most calling plans.

Enhance your AMU Phone service with a calling features, such as Caller ID, Call forwarding, call hunting. There's no fee to



switch, and AMU Telephone customers can keep their 2-9-5 phone numbers.

The money you spend on your phone bill stays in Algona at a local company.

AMU also has local employees to provide quick and efficient services. Switching to AMU Telephone has a positive impact on our community.

AMU will conduct a costs comparison to show how your business can find savings through its telephone plan. To receive more information on how you can save with AMU Telephone, 295-3584.

## CPNI RULES NOW IN EFFECT

The FCC implemented new rules to protect the privacy of information contained in your telephone account with Algona Municipal Utilities.

The new rules allow AMU to discuss account information only with person(s) listed on your AMU account. AMU must be able to authenticate that person and will do that by asking a specific question.

Although AMU has always treated your account information with confidentiality, please help us in our effort to further ensure that we protect this information by stopping at our office at 104 West Call Street to fill out an CPNI form. Our office hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday .

## WATER QUALITY REPORT AVAILABLE

Water Quality is a primary commitment at Algona Municipal Utilities. To assure you that your drinking water is safe and reliable, AMU completes an annual Consumer Confidence Report.

The source of water for the City of Algona is groundwater drawn from 4 wells from the Cretaceous (Dakota Sandstone) aquifer. The Cretaceous (Dakota Sandstone) aquifer was determined to be



susceptible to contamination because the characteristics of the aquifer and overlying materials allow contaminants to move through the aquifer fairly quickly. The City of Algona wells will be susceptible to activities such as leaking underground storage

tanks, industrial sites, and wastewater discharges. A detailed evaluation of your source water was completed by the IDNR, and is available from Algona Municipal Utilities at (515) 295-3584.

The 2007 Consumer Confidence Report is available online at [www.netamu.com](http://www.netamu.com). Copies of the report are also available at the AMU office, the Algona City Hall, and the Algona Public Library.

### Big Screen TV Costs From Page One:

The EPA's Energy Star program, which identifies the most energy efficient appliances in various categories, was not set to begin identifying the best TVs until this year. The program has been rating TVs only when in standby mode, which greatly limits usefulness. The Federal

Trade Commission's (FTC) Energy Guide system for labeling consumer appliances is not currently used with TVs. The agency has reportedly been waiting for the EPA to complete test methods for comparing TVs when turned on before it will make a determination on whether it will apply Energy Guide labeling to TVs.

For now, it is up to entities, such as municipal

utilities, to inform customers about increased energy usage and the increase in energy bills that can come along with the purchase of a big screen TV.

-Thanks to Jerry McKenzie of MAXIMUS Financial Services, Wichita, KS, for the above information.



*Community Owned  
For  
Community Benefit*

*That's Our  
Commitment to You,  
Our Customer  
and Owner*