



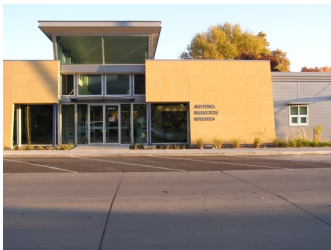
# THE WIRE

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## Energy Efficiency Resolutions For The New Year

It's that time of year again—time to make resolutions for the New Year.

The average household uses about 20% more electricity than it did 20 years ago. That can be attributed to cell phones, video games, iPods, flat screen TV's, and residents living in larger homes. Now is the time to tame the energy beast.

Number one on the list, replace the five most used light bulbs in your home with Energy Star compact fluorescent (CFL) bulbs. You could save an estimated \$60 dollars a year.



Don't forget to replace the incandescent holiday lights with a string of LED lights. The Alliance to Save Energy says you'll save 71 cents for a string that remains lit 10 hours a day for 30 days. That can add up once you have 10 or 12 strings of lights on your house or around a few trees. LED lights also last longer.

Turn down the thermostat when you're not at home. Purchase a programmable thermostat to help adjust the temperature in your home. For

every degree you lower the thermostat, you cut your heating bill by 5 percent.

Standby power can suck up as much as 10 percent of your electricity bill. When not in use, shut off computers, televisions, DVD Players. They still use power to run features such as clocks and remote controls.

Shut off video game consoles when not in use. A Sony PlayStation 3, or Xbox 360 left on 24 hours a day, seven days per week will use as much

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Environmental New Year Resolutions**

## AMU Cable TV To Broadcast Insight & Orange Bowls

Iowa and Iowa State football fans, AMU Cable TV has the games you want to watch.

The Cyclones take on Minnesota in the Insight Bowl on December 31st. AMU Cable TV customers can watch the game on the NFL Network located on channel 30 and in HD on channel 315. The broadcast starts at 5 p.m. The game will also be on WOI located on channel 5 and in HD on channel 305.



Iowa  
 Vs.  
 Georgia Tech  
 Jan. 5th  
 On FOX 17  
 &  
 Fox Mankato

Iowa State  
 Vs.  
 Minnesota  
 Dec. 31st  
 On WOI TV &  
 The  
 NFL Network



The Iowa Hawkeyes play Georgia Tech in the Orange Bowl on January 5th at 7 p.m.

The game will be broadcast on local FOX affiliates. AMU has an agreement with Sinclair Broadcasting to carry FOX 17 in Des Moines, so AMU Cable TV customer can watch the game on Fox 17 on channel 7, on FOX 17 HD on channel 307 or on Fox Mankato on channel 2.

## AMU To Trim Trees This Winter

Each winter AMU conducts an extensive tree trimming program around overhead electric



lines. Over the next few months employees will check main electric feeders and home electric service drops. AMU's primary focus is on problem areas.

Clean up is a priority of

AMU, however, some trimmed branches that are larger may be too big to remove this winter because of deep snow. Cleanup that cannot be accomplished will

be noted and completed when conditions permit. We encourage consumers/owners of AMU to contact our office if you have branches that appear to be in the electric lines. AMU em-

ployees will then come out and check the branches for you.

AMU values trees and trains employees in proper tree trimming techniques that utilize the National Arbor Day Foundation, U.S. Department of Agriculture and ISU Forestry Extension trimming methods to maintain required clearance from overhead electric lines while minimizing impact on trees.

## Get The AMU HD Tier Free For Two Months

It's a High Definition Christmas at Algona Municipal Utilities.

With hectic schedules and budgets tighter than gift bows, New AMU Cable TV HD customers can get the HD tier two months free. Customers will be required to pay for the HD or DVR gateway.

Call today and you can watch 37 networks in HD by Christmas ranging from local TV stations to the Food Network to ESPN.

If you're an Iowa State fan, you can watch the Cyclones play in the Insight on the NFL HD Network on New Year's Eve. Or watch the Iowa Hawkeyes in the Orange Bowl on FOX 17 of Des Moines on channel 307. New AMU HD customers can get the HD Tier free for two months by calling or stop by AMU in downtown Algona and enjoy the ultimate holiday viewing experience.

## INTERNET SAFETY TIPS

There are some important things you need to keep in mind when your children are using a computer at home or at school.

Children should never give out personal information such as their name, home address, school name, or telephone number in a chat room or on bulletin boards. They should never send a picture of themselves to someone they chat with on a computer without the parent's permission.



Kids should never write to someone who has made them feel uncomfortable or scared.

If children use chat or e-mail, talk to them about

never meeting in person with anyone they first met online.

Children should tell their parents right away if they read anything on the Internet that makes them

feel uncomfortable, such as offensive or dangerous email, chat or other communications. Do not delete the email, turn off the monitor, and contact local law enforcement. If you suspect online stalking of a child, report it to law enforcement.

Keep the computer in the family room or an open area of the home. Post clear, simple, easy to read house rules near the monitor.

## Resolve To Make 2010 An Energy Efficient Year

Continued from Page One: Environmental New Year Resolutions

electricity as two new refrigerators,

Cut energy costs by purchasing appliances with Energy Star ratings.

A new clothes washer with the Energy Star rating could save \$50 a year. A new Energy Star dishwasher can save \$40 a year,

Replace older heating and cooling systems. Replacing a central air conditioner that is 12 years old or older can cut cooling costs by 30 percent.

Seal air leaks and add insulation to reduce your home's heat loss during the winter and heat gain in the summer.

Turn off lights and fans when you leave a room. Only about 10%-15% of

the electricity that incandescent lights consume results in light—the rest is turned into heat. Turning the light(s) off will keep a room cooler, an extra benefit in the summer. Therefore, the value of the energy saved by not having the lights on will be far greater than the cost of having to replace the bulb.



*Community Owned For  
Community Benefit!  
That's Our  
Commitment to You,  
Our Customer and  
Owner!*