



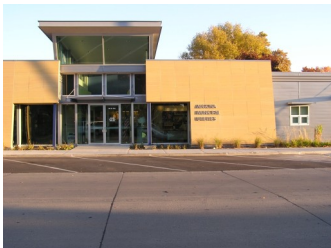
THE WIRE

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AMU Adjusts Electric Rates

On May 6, 2009, the Algona Municipal Utilities Board of Trustees approved an adjustment in electric rates to reflect our current costs of power delivered to Algona customers. The previous electric rate adjustment was in January 2006 and before that in 1984.

AMU electric rates reflect a need to be financially prepared for future improvement projects, maintain adequate reserves, and be prepared for increased costs. In 2008, the cost of replacement power to cover our needs above AMU owned resources increased by nearly \$383,000. AMU is taking steps to help reduce our exposure to a volatile electric energy market by joining forces with 12

other municipal electric utilities to share generation resources and plan for future power supply needs including more wind and the Iowa Stored Energy Park. Working with these other municipal electric utilities will help reduce some of our replacement energy costs and allow us to better plan for future needs and challenges.

The overall rate increases for all classes is 15%. The average residential customer that uses 900 kWh each month will see an increase of approximately \$14.35 per month. The average small commercial customer that uses 1,100 kWh each month will see an increase of approximately \$11.00 per month. The increase for large commercial and

industrial customers will vary based on electric consumption and load factor.

The new rates will be effective with electricity billed around June 10, 2009.

A recent United States Department of Energy study indicates that AMU new electric rates will still be at or below the average in all classes and in the lowest 1/2 of all residential electric rates in Iowa. In comparison, the Department of Energy recently estimated that the nationwide 2009 summer electric rates for customers will be 10.7cents/kWh for commercial, 7.3 cents/kWh for industrial, and 11.9 cents/kWh for residential.

DTV Transition Scheduled For June 12, 2009

The era of analog broadcast television in the United States will end on June 12th when the nation's full power television stations complete their transition to an all digital system.

Algona Municipal Utilities is committed to providing our consumer/owners with the best possible Cable TV services. AMU has been busy getting ready for the digital conversion of local TV signal, scheduled

for June 12th.

Algona Municipal Utilities will convert the digital signals of local TV stations so our cable TV customers can watch their favorite programs without the need of a converter box.

AMU works hard to meet the needs of customers by providing reliable services and will continue to look for new ways to meet customers' demands as technology changes.

Feel free to contact AMU if you have questions about the



digital transition. You may also go on-line to ww.dtv.gov for more information.

Plant Trees or Shrubs? Location is Everything!

Trees in your yard can be home to many types of wildlife. They can also reduce your heating and cooling costs, help clean the air, add beauty and color to your yard, and provide shelter from the wind and sun.

Finding the right location for your tree is everything. Consider these questions before planting a tree: What purpose will the tree serve? Is it appropriate for the area? How

big will it get? What is the average life expectancy of the tree?

When you plant your tree, call Iowa One Call at 811 to locate underground utility services. AMU also asks that you consider what's above where your planting the tree to avoid any overhead power lines and adjacent buildings.

The National Electric Safety Code requires shrubs and structures to

be at least 8 feet from the front and 4 feet from the back and sides of all AMU electric devices. Obstructions that are too close to the equipment may damaged or removed during service restoration or maintenance.

Contact AMU if you have questions about landscaping around AMU electric or communications equipment.

AMU's Channel 4 Gets A Facelift

Many AMU Cable TV customers who tune into Channel 4 for local information in mid-May saw a new version of the channel.

Last year, the equipment providing weather information failed and could not be replaced. AMU recently purchased and install equipment to provide new graphics and weather information for channel 4. The new format appeared on May 18th making it easier to read the information.

AMU's channel 4 will continue to provide information on community events, weather, and AMU products and services. Public access programming covering meetings for the Algona City Council, Algona School Board, Kosuth County Board of Supervisors, along with church services, and community events will still air on channel 4.

AMU's channel 4 broadcasts information for non-profit groups and activities. If you have a notice you would like placed on channel 4, drop off the information at our office at 104 West Call Street. For more information on public access programming contact Bryan Nelson at 295-7207.

ENERGY SAVING TIPS TO LOWER COSTS



Looking for ways to lower your utility bill? Now is the time to inspect your home to see if it's energy efficient.

Improvements may include sealing air leaks, adding insulation, or sealing duct air leaks. Turn down the temperature on your water heater to 120 degrees F. Replace light bulbs with Energy Start CFL bulbs.

Clean the dust from coils under or behind your refrigerator using a lint brush or vacuum attachment every two months to keep the refrigerator running efficiently.



Clogged dryer vents will cause your dryer to work harder. Empty the lint trap after each load and use a lint brush or vacuum to

remove addition lint around the trap. Have a service technician inspect and clean your dryer every one to three years.

Don't forget to change the filter in your furnace to make your furnace and central air run more efficiently. Filters typically need to be changed every one to three months.

For more information on energy efficiency go to www.netamu.com and click on the Energy Efficiency menu or contact Steve Kajewski at AMU.

Major League Baseball Blackouts

If you're an avid major league baseball fan, the term "black out" is not new. It means that sometimes games are not televised to Major League Baseball (MLB) distribution terms for affiliate networks.

Every Saturday, between 12:10 p.m. and 6:05 p.m. all nationally televised games will be blacked out except for the exclusive

game on FOX. This however, does not affect games played on local affiliate networks like Fox Sports Net North, which carries the Minnesota Twins.

On Sundays, ESPN has the rights to night games. Any weekday games broadcast on ESPN networks featuring the Cardinals, Twins, Brewers, Royals, Cubs, or White Sox will be

blacked out on ESPN. Twins games, however, will air on FSN North.

AMU does not make decisions on about which games are televised or shown.

Check out AMU's channel guide on channel 17 to see if your favorite team is playing.



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