



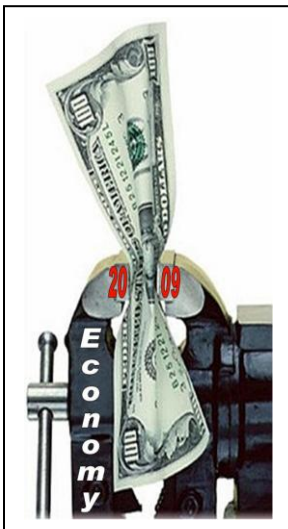
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## News Release

For Immediate Release

For Information, contact John Bilsten, AMU General Manager or Steve Kajewski, AMU Staff Assistant

### **AMU offers Home Energy Audits and Energy Smart Rebates**



Is the economy putting the squeeze on your monthly budget? As the cost of replacement power from a volatile electric market continues to increase and AMU consumer/owners use more generation resources, it is important to find ways to be more energy efficient. AMU can help you take control by making your home more energy efficient with rebates and an energy audit program provided by Algona Municipal Utilities and MidAmerican Energy.

AMU continues to provide rebates on qualifying electric heating and cooling equipment, electric water heaters, horizontal axis washing machines, and commercial and industrial lighting. For information on any of these services contact Steve Kajewski at AMU. Some heating and cooling equipment may qualify for a federal tax credit. Contact your tax professional for more information.



AMU now has teamed up with MidAmerican Energy to provide home energy audits. If your home qualifies, an energy specialist will come to your home to perform a free energy assessment, and where appropriate, install selected energy saving improvements. The energy specialists will check the home's insulation levels, the efficiency of its heating, cooling and water heating equipment, the condition of the windows. Free improvements that can be made during the assessment include:

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- A water heater insulation blanket
- Six feet of water pipe insulation
- Up to two energy-saving faucet aerators
- Up to two energy saving showerheads
- Energy-efficient bulbs

A programmable thermostat also can be installed for \$30 plus tax. The thermostat allows for automated control of temperature settings depending on the time of day and occupancy of the house. During the winter, it will automatically lower the furnace setting, and in the summer it will raise the central air conditioning setting when every one is away or asleep.

If your home’s insulation is below recommended levels you may qualify for rebates subject to the schedule below:

<b>Insulation Type</b>	<b>Rebate Amount</b>
Attic	70% of installed cost (maximum \$750)
Sidewall	70% of installed cost (maximum \$750)
Basement	70% of installed cost (maximum \$750)

Before choosing windows, make sure they meet the standards of energy efficiency set by Algona Municipal Utilities and MidAmerican Energy. Professionally manufactured low-E windows must meet a minimum National Fenestration Rate Council rating of .35 or lower U factor. New windows also qualify for financing and/or rebates depending on your primary heating fuel.

All AMU customers with homes built before December 31, 2008 qualify for an audit. If you are an all electric customer or your primary heating is supplied by LP you can still qualify for an audit directly with AMU by contacting Steve Kajewski at 295-3584. If your primary heating fuel is supplied directly by MidAmerican Energy call **1-800-545-0762** to make an appointment.

If looking for new household products, look for ones that have earned the **Energy Star®**. They meet strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the EPA and US Department of Energy.

According to John Bilsten, AMU General Manager, “with the cost of energy rising AMU is working hard to help our customers become more efficient users of this product. Energy efficiency can help our consumer/owners offset price increases from fuels used to generate electricity and increased costs of new generation and replacement energy.”

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