



THE WIRE

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CFL Bulbs Save Money & Energy

Saving money and energy this year can be as simple as installing an ENERGY STAR® qualified compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL). From October 1 through December 31, 2009, Algona Municipal Utilities is encouraging Iowa residents to “Change the World” one light, one step at a time by replacing their standard light bulbs with ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs. By changing to energy efficient CFLs, a household can save more than \$60 a year in energy costs, reducing utility bills as well as saving energy and preserving the environment.

Algona Municipal Utilities is helping its Iowa residential electric customers make the simple switch to energy-efficient lighting by

offering a \$2 instant cash-back reward on ENERGY STAR qualified CFL purchases of 12 bulbs or less. With the instant rewards, the bulbs will sell for as little as \$0.99 at participating Bomgaars/Ace Hardware, North Iowa Lumber/Hardware Hank, Ace Hardware, Do it Best, Fareway, Hy-Vee, Menards, Mills Fleet Farm, Shopper’s Supply, Theisen’s, True Value Hardware and United Hardware locations. In addition, Humboldt REC, Interstate Power and Light Co. (IPL), an Alliant Energy company, and Mid-American Energy are sponsoring the rebate for their electric customers at the same store locations. The program is being held in conjunction with the U.S. Environmental Protection

Agency (EPA) and U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) national “ENERGY STAR Change a Light, Change the World” campaign.

“Becoming part of the solution to global climate change takes less time and effort than most people think. We can all start by taking simple steps like changing a light or looking for the ENERGY STAR when we purchase new products,” said Kathleen Hogan, Director of the Climate Protection Partnerships Division at EPA. “Together, we can make a difference and protect our environment through simple everyday actions.”

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CFL Bulbs Save Money & Energy

Fixing Water Leaks To Save Resources

Fixing water leaks in the home can help conserve our water resources and save you money. A toilet that keeps running after being flushed or a water faucet that drips after it’s turned off can waste thousands of gallons of water a year. If the drip is hot water, you’re paying for wasted energy.

Even the smallest toilet leak can waste \$50 dollars a year in water and sewer costs. Most toilet leaks are

easy to fix. To check for a leaky toilet remove the tank lid, add some food coloring or a dye table to turn the water a different color, put the lid back on and wait 30 minutes. If you see colored water, you have leak. Consider fixes such as bending the float back to shape or replacing the toilet flapper and/or the filling mechanism.

Worn or damaged washers, seals, and O-rings can cause faucets



to leak. Shut off the water, disassemble the faucet, and replace the faulty part.

Check the plumbing supply shutoff valve. If it leaks, slowly tighten the packing nut on the valve stem 1/8 of a turn clockwise with groove-joint pliers until it’s snug.

AMU Offers Home Energy Audits and Rebates

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 AMU and Mid-American 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.

AMU and MidAmerican now 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 Specialist will check the home's insulation levels, the efficiency of its heating, and cooling and water heating

equipment, and the condition of the windows. Free improvements that can be made during the assessment include:

- 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 can also 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 make qualify for rebates subject to the following schedule:

Attic: 70% of installed cost

(maximum of \$750.00)

Sidewall: 70% of installed cost (maximum of \$750.00)

Basement: 70% of installed cost (maximum of \$750.00)

Before choosing windows make sure they meet standards of energy efficiency set by AMU and Mid-American 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 the audit. If you're an all electric customer or your primary heating is supplied by LP you can still qualify for the audit directly with AMU by contacting Steve Kajewski 295-3584. If your primary heating fuel is supplied by MidAmerican Energy call 1-800-545-0762 to make an appointment.

AMU Asks Customers to Keep Their Meters Accessible

Winter is approaching, and AMU is asking property owners to take safety measures for the AMU meter reader.

Once a month, an Algona Municipal Utilities meter reader comes to your home to record the reading on the AMU electric and water meters. Sometimes the meter reader encounters difficult situations due to winter weather.

During the winter season, AMU asks customers to clear snow and ice from around the meters for quick and safe access. If the meter is located inside a fenced area, please leave the gate unlocked and opened.

Providing access to your electric and water meters allows Algona Municipal Utilities to ensure reliable service and safe operations.

From Page One CFL Bulbs Save Money & Energy

Not only do ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs use up to 75 percent less energy than typical incandescent light bulbs, CFLs also offer superior performance by lasting up to 10 times longer than their old-fashioned counterparts. Today's CFLs provide bright, warm light and require replacement far less often, saving consumers

and businesses both time and money.



Lighting products that earn the ENERGY STAR offer extra safety and convenience features as well.

CFLs generate approximately 75 percent less heat than standard incandescent lighting, which means they are cooler to the touch while helping

reduce household cooling costs at the same time. With the wide variety of CFL shapes, sizes and styles available, energy-efficient lighting can be used throughout the home all year round.

Choosing ENERGY STAR qualified lighting for the home is a simple action everyone can take to save time, energy and money, and help preserve our environment for future generations.



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