THE LEADERS AMONG US

The 1997 Iowa Energy Leadership Awards are presented each year by the Department of Natural Resources to recognize outstanding innovations in energy efficiency and renewables in the state. All of the 1997 winners shared one important characteristic: the belief that using energy wisely is just good business. Two of those winners are from IAMU member utility cities, one is the utility itself! The following excerpts were taken from the Special Issue October 1997 Iowa Energy Bulletin.

School Pride - Atlantic Community School District — Glenn Binfield, Business Manager for the Atlantic Community School District, has spent 25 years overseeing the community’s school buildings. "Using energy wisely has always been important to me. When the district decided to build a new school, it seemed like a great opportunity to look into efficient systems." His goal for the new facility was to integrate energy efficiency in a way that would maximize comfort and cost-effectiveness through the best technologies available.

The cornerstone of his energy efficiency plan was a geothermal heat pump system, which provides both heating and cooling to the school. With the help of Richard Stevens and John Bilsten of Atlantic Municipal Utilities, and through a grant with the Iowa Energy Center, the district spent months researching the complexities of how to adopt geothermal heat pump technology at the school. Based on a feasibility study by Farris Engineering, the school board approved the project. The district opened the doors of the new school in the spring of 1996.

In one year the district has realized substantial cost savings from the new heating system. It used 55-60 percent less energy than traditional heating equipment. Because of their constant energy use, geothermal heat pumps eliminate the need for expensive peak electricity during cold months.

When visiting with Glenn Binfield and others involved with the new high school’s design, the pride in their school is tangible. “Our school and community have always had a commitment to the environment and education. This building represents all their effort to achieve the best.”

Continued on Page 2
DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

Each year all natural gas operators are required to file a distribution system annual report (Form RSPA F 7100.1-1(11-85)) and, if applicable, a transmission pipeline annual report (Form RSPA F 7100.2-1(11-85)) with the Information Resources Manager of the Federal Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS). These reports are due no later than March 15.

Iowa Administrative Code section 199-19.2(5)g requires a natural gas operator to furnish the Utilities Board with a copy of any report sent to OPS.

The original report should be mailed to:
Information Resources Manager
Office of Pipeline Safety, DPS-3.3
Research & Special Projects Admin.
400 7th Street Southwest
Washington, DC 20590

A copy of the report should be sent to:
Guy Johnson
Iowa Utilities Board
Lucas State Office Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

THE LEADERS AMONG US

Field of Dreams - Waverly Light and Power — Waverly Light and Power, the first municipal utility in the Midwest to own a wind generator, first considered the possibility of wind generation nearly a decade ago. "Iowa had a very good natural resource and no one was doing anything about it," said Glenn Cannon, General Manager. "The question was—would it work in Iowa?"

The dream began with a grant to fund a feasibility study, which would determine Waverly’s potential for wind. Amid skeptics that included other power companies and even national organizations, Waverly Light & Power proved that wind was a viable resource in the state. The feasibility study was the first of its kind, the results of which have been the foundation for nearly every other wind project in Iowa.

"We’ve probably mailed out over 1,000 copies of that study," said Cannon. "We felt real strongly that as a power company, we wanted to be the ones to own, operate, understand and be responsible for wind generation," said Cannon. "We have the experience to manage it the way it should be managed."

This motivation led to the construction of Waverly’s 80 kW wind turbine, providing electricity to the community. It was the first wind turbine owned and operated by a utility in the Midwest. Partnering with the University of Northern Iowa, they called their project the Midwest Wind Energy Program.

The power company hosted a meeting for the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities and its members, sharing its experiences about the technology. As a result, last spring a group of municipal utilities announced plans to build wind turbines near Algona.

Waverly Light and Power continues to be a driving force in wind power across the Midwest. Cannon has given over 30 presentations in 14 states about their endeavors, and the power company was asked to participate in the White House conference on Global Climate Change in Washington D.C. They also received a national Department of Energy award for the Midwest Wind Energy program.
CAN WE HELP YOU? -- IAMU ENERGY SERVICES

Now that I’m getting back into “work” mode after a four-month leave, I thought it would be good time to review some of the ways IAMU can help you through our Energy Services program. With the advice of our Energy Efficiency Committee, IAMU maintains an Energy Services division to provide member utilities and others with information and assistance on energy efficiency and renewable energy. Energy Services staff have many resources to help you help your customers, by answering your questions, providing you with information and publications, helping you plan programs, putting you in touch with other services, etc., etc.

Here is a brief overview of the Energy Services Division. If you see anything that interests you, give me a call at 800/810-4268. It’s great to be back!

**Energy Efficiency Committee**
IAMU’s Energy Efficiency Committee advises on training needs, efficiency programs, grants, and workshops. The following are the members:

- John Bilsten, Chair, Atlantic
- Harold Schiebout, Sioux Center
- Steve Bernard, Cedar Falls
- Jeff Ishmael, Story City
- Jay Jebe, Waverly
- Aaron Rosha, Muscatine

**Energy Efficiency Plan Filing**
Since 1992 Iowa’s utilities have been required to write and file biennial energy efficiency plans with the Iowa Utilities Board. IAMU offers services to help municipal utilities prepare their plans. The last filing was July 1996, and the next plans will be due in July 1998. Information about how to use IAMU’s services will be coming out soon in a separate mailing. The services are “pay as you go,” and fees are based on the utility’s size.

**Iowa Energizer**
The *Iowa Energizer* is a quarterly utility bill stuffer that helps you communicate with your customers. The inside page is standard across the state, with information about energy efficiency, renewable energy, the environment, the advantages of municipal utilities, etc. The cover page is customized for your utility. To subscribe, call Pam Mercer at IAMU.

**Energy Services Tool Kit on the Internet**
Municipal utilities can find many of the tools they need to explore, create, and refine their energy efficiency programs on the IAMU Internet Home Page (address: www.iamu.org). Some of the items you’ll find in the tool kit include:

- How to get to know your customers
- Information and materials on residential energy efficiency, appliances, and lighting
- Models for creating community energy management and financing programs
- Links to other resources, such as state and federal programs
- Information about legislative and regulatory issues affecting efficiency
- A calendar of events
- Success stories on energy efficiency programs and efforts
- Information sheets on many different efficiency topics you can provide to your customers.

Many of the materials were designed to serve dual purposes -- to be viewed on-line or printed in hard copies. If you’re not on-line, but are interested in any of the above information or materials, give me a call at 800/810-4268 and I’d be happy to mail or fax it to you.

continued on next page
Customer Research

If you’re interested in learning more about your customers, IAMU’s Energy Services Division can help you formulate research questions, design a research methodology, carry out surveys or focus groups, and analyze the results. The cost for this service will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis.

Customer Education and Promotion

As a utility, you have a lot of information to share with your customers, whether it’s about safety, energy efficiency, economic development, the role of the municipal utility, or the great job you’re doing in your community. IAMU’s Energy Services Division can help you devise strategies for promotion, education, or marketing. We can design and produce materials, including:

- Brochures
- Newsletters
- Promotional videos
- Radio or TV ads or public service announcements
- Print advertising
- Annual reports, and
- Web pages.

The cost for these services will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis.

Program Planning

With several successful community energy efficiency projects under our belt, we have the experience to help you create energy efficiency programs, including community energy management projects, rebates and load control programs, and audit and assessment programs. We offer several models that utilities can customize for their own communities. These include the Options 2000 program, Efficiency-Wise in Harlan, EfficiencyPlus in Osage, and Rebuild Webster City.

Renewable Energy Information

If we can’t answer your questions about renewable energy, we probably know someone who can. We have information about loan programs, wind farm projects, industry trends, state and federal legislation, etc.

Water and Wastewater Energy Efficiency

IAMU currently has a grant from the Iowa Energy Center to explore energy efficiency opportunities in water and wastewater facilities. We’re looking for communities that are interested in installing energy efficiency technologies and participating in a demonstration. If you’re considering upgrades to your facility, we may be able to assist you with the energy efficiency portion. In addition, in the next year we’ll be providing training sessions and materials on saving energy and increasing productivity.

What Else?

Are there other services we should be providing? We are always interested in your input. Tell us what’s working for you in your programs. Let us know what you need and how we might be able to help you!
If your carbon monoxide (CO) detector doesn’t have a battery backup, don’t worry if your heat source is a gas or oil furnace.

If there’s a power outage, your furnace will also shut off—removing a major source of CO.

If your main heat source is wood, you need a battery-powered detector or a plug-in detector with a battery backup that will operate during a power outage.

Source: National Safety Council
AFTER OSHA VISITS

I recently received a call from one of our member electric utilities—it seems they had a near miss. It involved an employee getting himself “in series with the neutral.” He received a minor shock. He was taken to the doctor and was released to go back to work.

I traveled to the utility and assisted them with the investigation of the incident. The employee’s wife didn’t like the way the utility handled the incident, so she called OSHA. Keep in mind the incident happened because the employee chose to violate a safety rule and a work procedure. The utility received four proposed violations, one of which is discussed here.

The next step is that I will go with the utility to an OSHA informal conference, to see if we can reduce or eliminate the fines. If you are not using personal protective grounding, please read the rest of this article.

The citation, in part, reads:
Citation 1
Item 4
Type of Violation: SERIOUS

IAC347—Chapter 26
1926.954(f): When work was performed in more than one location in a line section, the conductor to be worked on was not grounded at each location:

(a) 160th Street, ***** IA – employees were required to eliminate one cutout arrestor at the transformer location and bond the new system neutral to the pole ground and the primary phase cutout needed to be refused.

Date By Which Violation Must be Abated: 30 Days
Proposed Penalty: $1,652.00

The code book reads:
1926.954(f): Grounds shall be placed between work location and all sources of energy and as close as practicable to the work location, or grounds shall be placed at the work location. If work is to be performed at more than one location in a line section, the line section must be grounded and short circuited at one location in the line section and the conductor to be worked on shall be grounded at each work location. The minimum distance shown in Table V-1 shall be maintained from ungrounded conductors at the work location. Where the making of a ground is impracticable, or the conditions resulting therefrom would be more hazardous than working on the line or equipment without grounding, the grounds may be omitted and the line or equipment worked as energized.

For a review of your personal protective grounding program, or for assistance setting up your program, please contact Steve Carmichael, Electric Safety Specialist at IAMU. Steve can be reached by phone at the IAMU offices at 800/810-4268 or e-mail at: scarmichael@iamu.org
— HELP WANTED —

WATER PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT
HEAD: Plan, organize, direct, & control activities for efficient water production, pumping/water quality for 8 MGD lime softening surface water treatment plant. Responsibilities include capital improvement projects and maintain existing fixed department assets. Must possess valid Iowa CDL drivers license, 2 yr engineering degree or related field, 10 yrs supervision exp in water production or water quality. Must have or obtain Class IV water operator’s license within 1 yr. Physical/drug screening required. Send resume to:

General Manager
Ottumwa Water & Hydro
P.O. Box 20
Ottumwa, IA  52501
02/98

OPERATIONS FOREMAN: The New Hampton Municipal Light Plant is seeking an Operations Foreman capable of the operation and maintenance of 5 diesel/dual fuel engines with 22MW of electric generation. With the ability to overhaul engines and knowledge of pneumatic and electrical controls. Maintenance of all equipment associated with the production and distribution of electricity. Willing to be on call at night and weekends. EOE. Send resume no later than February 27, 1998 to:

New Hampton Municipal Light Plant
921 North Canty Avenue
New Hampton, IA  50659
02/98

SAFETY DIRECTOR: This position, created through a 28E Agreement, will develop, administer and maintain safety and training programs, policies and procedures for three SE Iowa public entities, 400 + F/T employees. Will identify concerns and hazards and ensure compliance with OSHA, ADA and other regulations pertaining to safety. Must have extensive knowledge of pertinent OSHA and ADA laws. Must be physically able to perform assigned duties and responsibilities. Bachelor’s degree in occupational safety, public administration or a closely related field and OSHA training with 2 yrs experience in similar position preferred or equivalent combination of education (minimum 2 yrs college level course work), experience and training which provides the required knowledge, skills and abilities. Must live in Des Moines County and possess a valid Iowa driver’s license upon employment.

Subject to satisfactory results of a physical exam and background check. Starting salary range: $30,00 to $35,000, plus benefits. EOE/AA/M/F/D/V. Submit resume by February 28, 1998 to:

Joint Safety Committee
c/o Bev Hunter
400 Washington Street
Burlington, IA  52601
319/753-8178
02/98

WATER OPERATOR: Wapello Rural Water Association, Inc., Ottumwa, Iowa is taking applications for a full-time position with benefits. The individual must have a Grade II water distribution license with the objective of acquiring a Grade III upon request. Send resumes to:

Wapello Rural Water Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 538
Ottumwa, IA  52501
02/98

WATER OPERATOR: The Winterset Water Utility is accepting applications for a water/distribution operator. Grade I or II certification in water treatment or distribution required. Excellent wage and benefit package based on qualifications. Applications accepted through March 1, 1998. An EOE employer. Send resume to:

Winterset Water Utility
3301 Cedar Bridge road
Winterset, IA  50273
02/98

MAINTENANCE MECHANIC I - WASTE-WATER PLANT: Salary rage $728.71 to $930.05 semimonthly plus benefits DOQ/E. Requires mechanical and electric repair and maintenance skills. Applications will be accepted through Noon, February 27, 1998. EO/AA, women, minorities and disabled encouraged to apply. For detailed job description or to submit application, contact:

City Manager
City of Chariton
115 South Main
Chariton, IA  50049
02/98

WATER PLANT OPERATOR: The City of Sergeant bluff is currently taking applications for Grade II Water Plant Operator. Applicants should have a least a Grade I and be able to obtain Grade II within reasonable amount of time. Position also requires CDL Type B. Applicant should have experience in repair and maintenance of associated water plant equip-
— HELP WANTED —

ELECTRIC LINE WORKER: High school grad supplemented by OJT or technical training. Duties will include construction, operation and maintenance of municipal electric system with some cross-over into city water system. Requires CDL and pre-employment drug and alcohol screening. Salary negotiable DOQ, position open until filled. EOE. Send resume to: Anita Municipal Utilities 828 Main Street P.O. Box 426 Anita, IA 50020 02/98

GENERAL MANAGER/WATER WORKS PLANT: This position reports to the Board of Trustees and is responsible for the strategic and operational management of an 8 million gallon per day water treatment facility and a 3 megawatt hydro-electric facility. It has a 24 person staff with an operational budget of $3.8 million. Requires 3+ yrs of progressively responsible experience in water plant management. A Bachelors degree in business, public administration or related degree required, in additional to a Class 4 Operator’s certificate (or the ability to obtain a certificate within 1 yr). If you want career advancement and an opportunity to continue to manage a very successful facility, please contact us for confidential consideration: Mr. Loren V. Jacobsen, CPC McGladrey Search Group 400 Locust Street, Suite 640 Des Moines, IA 50309 515/281-9278, FAX: 515/284-1545 e-mail: loren_jacobsen@RSMi.com

UTILITY TECHNICIAN: West Point municipal Utility (WPMU) is accepting applications for a Utility Technician. This is a skilled technical position requiring a basic knowledge of electric and water distribution. Ideal candidate will have a Grade I water distribution permit and be an electric line mechanic apprentice and possess a valid Iowa CDL. Must be a team player, be detail oriented, have a demonstrable ability to work with the public on a cooperative basis and be able to work under adverse conditions. Will be on-call, required to respond to emergencies. WPMU offers a competitive benefits package with salary DOQ plus applicable experience. Requires a post-offer physical exam and drug screening. Submit resume application to: Utility Chairman West Point Municipal Utility P.O. Box 69 West Point, IA 52656 02/98

OPERATOR-IN-CHARGE/WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT: City of New Hampton (pop. 3,660). Applicants must have an Iowa Grade IV Wastewater License or a Grade III License with the ability to advance to Grade IV Operator within 12 months. Experience in trickling filter plant operation preferred. Grade II Water certification is desirable. Salary DOQ. EEO. Applications will be accepted until March 15, 1998. Apply at: City of New Hampton 112 East Spring Street New Hampton, IA 50659 515/394-5906 02/98

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS: Responsible for management of multi-municipal operation, $4.5 million budget. City engaged in public utilities, consisting of electrical distribution, natural gas distribution, water, waste water, street maintenance, telecommunications, and cable TV. Salary DOQ. A pre-employment drug screen and physical may be required. A.D.A. E.E.O. Application deadline: March 31, 1998. Send resume, references and salary history to: City of Hawarden Tim Waddell, City Clerk P.O. Box 231 Hawarden, IA 51023 02/98

PUBLIC WORKS FOREMAN: City of Norwalk (pop. 6850) seeks proactive person for the direct supervision of public works operation to organize, direct and inspect daily operations. Strong skills in water, sewer, roads, and building inspection. Minimum 5 yrs supervisory experience. Grade III Iowa sewer plant operators license/other related certifications a plus. Pay range 29K - 37K DOQ. EEO. Position open until filled. Submit resume to: Director of Public Works 705 North Avenue Norwalk, IA 50211 515/981-0228 02/98

— HELP WANTED —
— FOR SALE —

FOR SALVAGE: The Maquoketa Municipal Electric Utility has retired a 1943 Busch-Sulzer 7 cylinder diesel. S/N 1201. This unit has a 20-1/2 inch bore and a 27-1/2 inch stroke. Generator is an electric machinery 1665 KW output. This unit is being dismantled and sold at scrap value. Anyone that could use anything from this, can come to Maquoketa and removed for the same scrap value. If interested, contact:

Francis Beller
Power Plant Superintendent
Maquoketa Municipal Electric Utility
201 East Pleasant Street
Maquoketa, IA 52060
319/652-2341
between 7:30 am & 4:00 pm 02/98

WATER TOWER: 50,000 gallon sphere shaped water tower. Originally constructed and put on line in 1958. The tower is in good shape and all maintenance has been performed as needed. Tower was painted inside and out in 1987. The tower from ground to high level is 70 feet (approximately 30 psi pressure at the base). The City of Buffalo has made water improvements and this tower was taken off line in September 1997. This city will give the tower away to anyone who will remove it from the site at their own expense. For more information, contact:

Dwain G. Bollman
Public Works Director
City of Buffalo
409 3rd Street
P.O. Box 557
Buffalo, IA 52728
319/381-3530, 7:30 to 3:30 02/98

STREET SWEEPER: 1983 FMC street sweeper model 4AH. New elevator drive belts, new main and gutter broom. 3500 hours. $7500. Contact:

Gary W. Tucker, City Administrator
City of Akron
220 Reed Street
Akron, IA 51001
712/568-2041 02/98

WATER METER TEST BENCH: Ford Standard Test Bench 2STB-RL complete with calibrated 10 and 100 gallon tanks. $750. Also (2) DARLING 3-WAY FIRE HYDRANTS: 5-1/4” x 6’ deep with 6” flat flange and (2) each 6” x 5-1/4” and 12” x 5-1/4” extensions. Contact:

Bruce Vande Stouwe
Rock Rapids Utilities
712/472-2511 02/98

IAMU Classified Ads are provided at no charge to IAMU utility members and supporters on a space available basis. Ads will be run on a one month basis, unless notified. Mail or fax (515/289-2499) ad copy to IAMU offices, attention Newsletter Editor.

OFFENSIVE DRIVING

My drive behind this motorist, I wouldn’t call relaxing—in one hand was his phone and with the other he was faxing.

—Wall Street Journal

Sources: Hope Health Letter, December 1997
CALENDAR

March 10-11  
CPO Course  
Des Moines  
Contact: Chris Gibson, 800/548-2226

March 16-19  
1998 APPA Engineering & Operations Workshop  
Adam’s Mark San Antonio Riverwalk Hotel  
San Antonio, Texas  
Contact: Joy Arthurs, APPA, 202/467-2907

March 17  
Water Operators' Safety & Training Workshop  
Spencer  
Contact: JT & S Department, 800/810-4268

March 18  
Water Operators' Safety & Training Workshop  
Readlyn  
Contact: JT & S Department, 800/810-4268

March 19  
Water Operators' Safety & Training Workshop  
Ottumwa  
Contact: JT & S Department, 800/810-4268

March 19-20  
CPO Course  
Waterloo  
Contact: Chris Gibson, 800/548-2226

March 20  
Water Operators' Safety & Training Workshop  
Atlantic  
Contact: JT & S Department, 800/810-4268

April 21-22  
CPO Course  
Des Moines  
Contact: Chris Gibson, 800/548-2226

April 30 - May 1  
CPO Course  
Ottumwa  
Contact: Chris Gibson, 800/548-2226

May 12-13  
CPO Course  
Sioux City  
Contact: Chris Gibson, 800/548-2226