

# QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

**Thanks!**

**Winner Listing:**

CRMU appreciates your business! As a token of our appreciation, each quarter we will have small drawings for our communications customers. Please check the newsletter to see if you are a winner and THANK YOU for your business!

**WINNER OF FREE CRMU PILLOW**

Josh Derry

**WINNER OF FREE CRMU Coffee Mug**

Shirley Fox

**WINNER OF FREE CRMU Water Bottle**

Mary Engelson



**Energy Saving Tips**

**Furnace Maintenance Get Ready for Winter!**

You can save money and increase your comfort by properly maintaining your furnace!

- Have a contractor clean and tune your furnace system annually. This will increase operating efficiency and may prevent costly emergency repairs.
- Clean or replace filters on your furnace once a month!

**Carbon Cap & Trade Law Update**

On June 26, 2009, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the American Clean Energy and Security Act (ACES), also known as the carbon cap-and-trade bill.

CRMU feels a responsibility to inform and educate customers about this proposal. We believe that if this bill becomes law, electricity costs will go up dramatically.

The bill places a declining cap on the amount of carbon dioxide (CO2) and other greenhouse gases that can be emitted in the U.S. each year, starting in 2012. By 2050, it would require reducing carbon emissions to 83% below 2005 levels nationwide.

According to the Department of Energy, 85% of the nation's energy comes from burning fossil fuels, including coal, petroleum products and natural gas. Carbon is emitted when these fuels are burned for heating and cooling, transportation, electricity production and other purposes.

Hydroelectric and nuclear plants are the main sources of non-fossil fuel energy, with less than 2% coming from

wind and solar sources. Both wide-scale development of non-fossil fueled energy and sharp reductions in energy use per person would be needed to cut carbon emissions 83% by 2050, as required by ACES.

Foreseeing the potential for carbon legislation and/or a renewable portfolio standard, CRMU has taken important, proactive steps over the past few years to help mitigate electric price increases caused by a cap on CO2.

In efforts to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, CRMU has committed to a long-term power supply agreement with the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) whereby CRMU receives capacity and energy from hydroelectric plants located on the Missouri River.

CRMU also has power supply agreements to purchase capacity and energy from two different wind farms located in northern Iowa.

In 2008, approximately 74% of CRMU's retail energy sales were supplied from these "green" clean energy resources.



In August of 2009, the CRMU Board of Trustees also passed a resolution committing more resources to the implementation of cost effective energy efficiency programs which will begin in January of 2010.

Even with these efforts, CRMU's annual wholesale cost increases could range from \$50,000/year with carbon priced @ \$10/ton to almost \$200,000/year with carbon priced @ \$70/ton.

According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), a non-partisan federal agency, the average U.S. consumer's gross energy costs will go up by \$890 per year in 2020 if ACES becomes law.

The bill is now being considered by the U.S. Senate.

Check us out online at [www.crmu.net](http://www.crmu.net)



**GRAIN BIN SAFETY**

As an electric service provider, CRMU is required to notify electric customers every year about the proper clearance required between grain bin storage and overhead power lines.

This law was put into place to ensure protection from the hazard of contacting overhead electric lines with augers, elevators or other equipment. There must be at least 18 feet between the top of a newly constructed grain bin and any overhead electric lines.

These distance requirements were developed by the American National Standards Institute and can be found in the 2007 National Electrical Safety Code, Rule 234F.

CRMU's Electric Operations personnel will work with customers who are developing a site plan for such a project. For more information call Electric Operations at 999-2225.

## Safety Award



WASHINGTON, D.C., The American Public Gas Association has awarded Coon Rapids Municipal Gas Utility

with its "Outstanding Safety" award for safe practices in 2008.

"Safety doesn't happen by accident," said General Manager Brad Honold. "We work very hard to provide a safe work environment for our employees, and they in turn are very committed to providing safe and reliable service to our customers."

## Natural Gas Leak Survey

"What are all those yellow paint marks for in my yard and on the streets around town?"

Natural Gas is a vital component of the world's supply of energy. It is one of the cleanest, safest, and most useful of all energy sources. However, in itself, natural gas might be considered a very uninteresting gas because it is colorless, shapeless, and odorless in its pure form.

CRMU maintains very high safety standards to ensure that preventable accidents are avoided, and problems with the distribution system are remedied in a timely fashion. One proactive measure that CRMU takes is to conduct annual leak surveys over our distribution network.

CRMU has very sophisticated leak detection equipment designed to pick up on leaks of natural gas at very minute levels. Prior to conducting the leak survey, CRMU paints yellow marks indicating the location of the pipe below ground so that the leak survey is as accurate as possible.



## PROJECT SHARE

**"Add a PS To Help A Neighbor"**

**Project Share** is a plan, created by your municipal utility, to assist needy households in paying their wintertime energy bills.

You can help by adding a regular **PS** contribution to your monthly utility payment, or by making a direct donation to **Project Share**. These funds will then be distributed to neighbors in need for wintertime energy costs.

Those qualifying for help will be carefully identified by an area social service agency. A local committee will oversee **Project Share** to guarantee all contributions will be handled equitably and efficiently.

So please, add a **PS - Project Share** to your utility payment each month. It's a simple way to share some warmth with those who need it.

## Project Share - "PS"

I'd like to help a neighbor in need with a tax-deductible contribution to Project Share.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City / State \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

- I will contribute \$\_\_\_\_\_ per month to Project Share. I understand this amount will be billed to me monthly.
- I have enclosed a \$\_\_\_\_\_ donation to Project Share.

Please cut this section out and mail it to:

Coon Rapids Municipal Utilities  
Attention: Project Share  
P.O. Box 207  
Coon Rapids, IA 50058



## 2009 CRMU Phone Books Have Arrived!

If you did not receive one in the mail or need additional copies, please stop by our office!

## 2009-2010 IOWA HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

ATTENTION: RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS  
NEED HELP WITH YOUR HEATING BILL?

The 2009-2010 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) has been established to help qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for a portion of their primary heating costs for the winter heating season.

The assistance is based on household income, household size, type of fuel, and type of housing.

If you are not sure where to apply, please write to:

**LIHEAP**  
Iowa Department of Human Rights  
Capitol Complex  
Des Moines, IA 50319

or, call your local community action agency at **712.792.2832**.

Household Size	INCOME MAXIMUMS	
	Three Month Gross Income	Annual Gross Income
1	\$ 4,061	\$ 16,245
2	\$ 5,464	\$ 21,855
3	\$ 6,866	\$ 27,465
4	\$ 8,269	\$ 33,075
5	\$ 9,671	\$ 38,685
6	\$ 11,074	\$ 44,295

For households with more than six members, add \$1,403 per three months, or \$5,610 annually for each additional member.

### WHEN TO APPLY:

- **Elderly (60 & over) and/or disabled:**  
October 1, 2009 to April 30, 2010
- **All other households:**  
November 2, 2009 to April 30, 2010

### WHAT TO TAKE:

- **Proof of Income** (for all household members age 19, and over)  
Most recent 3 months' check stubs, award letter from Social Security or 2008 tax return
- **Social Security numbers of household members**
- **Recent heat bill**
- **Recent electric bill**
- **Recent telephone bill**

### WAGE EARNERS:

Please bring copies of your check stubs for the three-month period preceding the date of application, or a copy of your federal income tax return.

### FIXED INCOME:

This income may include: Social Security Benefits, Supplemental Security Income, Family Investment Program, Veteran's Assistance, Unemployment Insurance, and pensions. Please bring copies of your most recent 3 months' check stubs.

### SELF-EMPLOYED/FARMERS:

Please bring a copy of your most recent federal income tax return.

### FIP AND SSI RECIPIENTS:

Your Medicaid number is on your Medicaid card. The numbers needed are immediately following your name and number in the aid type box.

If you receive alimony or child support, it will also need to be verified.