

# 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 TRAVEL MUG**

**Helen Reis**

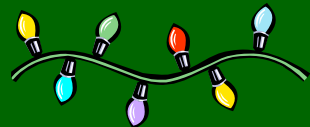
**WINNER OF FREE CRMU WATER BOTTLE**

**Trevor Hilgenberg**

**WINNER OF FREE CRMU BLANKET**

**Dan Swalla**

**Energy Saving Tip**



**LED Christmas Lights**

Energy efficient technology makes LED Christmas lights bright, energy efficient and safe.

LEDs offer more intense light and longer life, use significantly less electricity and produce less heat than traditional incandescent bulbs. LEDs use up to 80% less energy than incandescent holiday lights!

## ENERGY & CLIMATE CHANGE EXPECT TO RANK HIGH WITH PRESIDENT ELECT—OBAMA

**“Cap and Trade Plan to Cut Carbon Emissions is a Top Priority”**



“A clean energy economy can be the engine that drives us into the future in the same way the computer was the engine for economic growth over the last couple of decades,” Obama said shortly before the election. Obama’s New Energy for America plan features a cap-and-trade program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050 and government investment of \$150 billion over 10 years “to catalyze private efforts to build a clean energy future” and create five million new jobs. The plan also calls for ensuring that 10% of the nation’s electricity comes from renewables by 2012, and 25% by 2025; putting one million plug-in hybrid cars on the road by 2015; permanently extending tax credits for renewables;

and closing loopholes in the CFTC’s regulations to end excessive energy speculation.

Under Obama’s proposed cap-and-trade plan, all emission allowances would be auctioned. A small portion of the proceeds of \$15 billion per year would be used to support development of clean energy, energy efficiency and clean energy vehicles. The remaining receipts would be used for rebates and other transition relief for families and communities, the plan said.

Coal became an issue very late in the presidential campaign when Obama was quoted in a San Francisco Chronicle story saying,

**“So if somebody wants to build a coal-powered plant they can; it’s just that it will bankrupt them because they’re going to be charged a huge sum for all the greenhouse gas that’s being emitted.”**

### SO WHAT DOES ALL OF THIS MEAN FOR ELECTRIC CONSUMERS?

Stopping climate change won’t be easy — it won’t happen overnight — and it won’t be cheap.

The Electric Industry is grappling with this dilemma of trying to make prudent investments necessary to meet future load growth within the context of the present climate change uncertainty.

CRMU is currently deliberating this issue as a joint-owner of the Neal 4 coal-fired power plant in Sioux City, IA. If greenhouse gas emission standards are implemented, the requirements to reduce SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, suspended particles, and mercury would cost CRMU well over \$1M in capital costs in turn resulting in wholesale cost increases from about 1.6 cents to around 2.6 cents per kWh—which effectively would double CRMU’s Neal 4 wholesale costs.

## CRMU Holiday Special

**Save Over \$100!!**

**Sign-Up for High Speed Internet  
Receive a Free Modem &  
Free Installation!**

*Great Gift Idea!!*

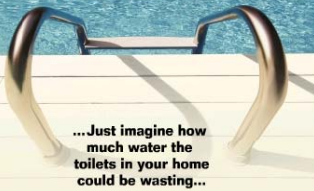


## LINEUP CHANGE



As of December 31st, the G4 Network will no longer be carried on CRMU's cable system.

## IF ONE LEAKY TOILET COULD FILL A SWIMMING POOL IN ONE YEAR



...Just imagine how much water the toilets in your home could be wasting...

### Toilet Troubles???

When compared to all the other uses of water in the home, a leaky toilet is the main culprit, wasting hundreds of gallons of water a day if not properly maintained. These leaks can add up, affecting both the environment as well as the homeowner's utility bill. Surprisingly, the water waste from one leaky toilet can fill a backyard swimming pool within a year.

### Is my toilet leaking?

Usually, the signs that your toilet needs repair are audible, clear and, well, wet. A toilet that turns on and off without being flushed or the sound of running water inside the tank when it is not being used are both signs of a toilet that is leaking water.

### How can I check for a toilet leak?

1. Take off the tank lid and flush the toilet.
2. After the flapper closes and as the tank starts to fill with water, add several drops of food coloring and wait. **If you do not have food coloring, simply stop by the CRMU office and pick up free "toilet tank leak detector tablets."**
3. Wait 3–10 minutes. If there is any leaks, the water in the toilet bowl will turn the color of the food coloring or tablet.

## HIGH VISIBILITY APPAREL REQUIRED



All utility and city employees who work within the right-of-way of a federal-aid highway and are exposed to traffic or construction or maintenance equipment within a work area are required to wear either Class 2 or Class 3 ANSI/ISEA 107-2004 high visibility apparel.

All Iowa Interstate and primary (state route designation) highways, as well as many county roads and city streets, are federal-aid highways for the purposes of compliance with this regulation.

## CRMU PURCHASES NEW CABLE MODEM TERMINATION SYSTEM



CRMU recently purchased a new cable modem termination system—"CMTS." The purchase was necessary to keep up with load grow and to be able to offer even more advanced high speed internet services and offerings in the near future.

## CABLE PROGRAMMING COSTS INCREASE AS OFF-AIR BROADCASTERS DEMAND COMPENSATION FOR CARRIAGE

- COSTS COULD INCREASE BY OVER \$2/SUB/MONTH



Pursuant to Section 76.56 of the Rules and Regulations of the Federal Communications Commission "FCC," off-air broadcasters are required to notify cable systems of their election status for carriage of their networks by October 1, 2008. All of the stations above—ABC, CBS, NBC & FOX have elected "Retransmission Consent" status and are demanding monetary compensation for CRMU to "rebroadcast" or "retransmit" their networks to you—even though you could receive these networks for free through an external antenna.

These networks had the choice to elect a "Must Carry" status, whereby CRMU would be required to carry their networks—but this option would not allow them any compensation.

One network cited that retransmission fees were essential to offset costs incurred by converting to digital as mandated by the Federal Government.

CRMU is currently in negotiations with these networks in efforts to reach mutually acceptable terms.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO REDUCE YOUR ENERGY CONSUMPTION

- ◆ Set thermostat at 68 degrees during winter heating, 78 degrees during summer cooling.
- ◆ Use a programmable thermostat or manually set back the temperature setting when you are gone or asleep. A rule of thumb—you can save up to 5% on your heating bill by setting your temperature 5 degrees lower for 8 hours.
- ◆ Regularly change your furnace filter.
- ◆ Keep drapes closed to retain heat, unless you benefit by sunlight and solar heat.
- ◆ Consider the SAFE use of portable space heaters. Portable heat can be effective in lowering energy cost, if you can lower the temperature setting for your whole home.
- ◆ Consider adding insulation to your attic. Unless you already have 10 inches or more of insulation, you can probably benefit by adding more.
- ◆ Consider installation of an energy efficient heating system, either a more efficient furnace or a geothermal or air-source heat pump.
- ◆ Don't use your wood-burning fire place unless it is very efficient and designed for heating. Many fireplaces waste energy and rob the room of already heated air.
- ◆ Check and repair all caulking and weather stripping.
- ◆ Operate your water heater at 125 degrees water temperature. A higher water temperature will waste energy.