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www.algomautilities.com

Phone: 487-5556

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Do you have vampires in your house?

The vampires we are referring to are the gadgets and appliances plugged in wall outlets that continue to use electricity even if they're switched off. These are also known as standby power, phantom load or wall warts. Common vampires are: cordless phones, clock radios, televisions, cable and satellite boxes, audio and video recorder/players, computers and battery chargers for cell phones and other portable electric devices.

You can get rid of your vampires by simply unplugging them or investing in a smart power strip.



Appliance Recycling Program

An old refrigerator or freezer can run up your utility bills by an average of \$150 a year. Focus on Energy's Appliance Recycling Program can help lower your energy use, reduce your energy bills and keep harmful materials out of landfills.

Focus on Energy offers free pick-up and recycling services to residential customers of Algoma Utilities. Customers can receive two \$40 incentives per calendar year for disposing of these old appliance(s).

Refrigerator or freezer must be:

- Between 10 and 30 cubic feet in size.
- Clean and empty on the day of pick up, and in working condition.
- Accessible with a clear and safe path of removal.

Call the Focus on Energy Appliance Recycling Program at 1-855-398-5226 to schedule a pick up today or visit www.algomautilities.com home page and look for the Appliance Recycling icon at the bottom of the page.



Water Main Project Update

Algoma Utilities has been working on several water main projects in the city. Work began mid-July on Fifth Street and should be completed on Navarino Street by mid-August. Road repair work will follow shortly after completion of the water main projects.

Algoma Utilities would like to thank customers for their cooperation and patience.



Remodeling Project?

Do you have plans to build a deck or remodel your basement? Please remember Algoma Utilities needs clear access to the electric & water meters. Therefore please do not enclose or cover up your meters while remodeling. Thank you for planning ahead.

Summer Conservation Tips

- Use ceiling fans or portable fans wisely.
- Window A/C units should be shaded.
- Close your drapes or shades to keep the warm sunlight out.
- Water your garden, flowers or lawn early in the morning or in the evening.
- Use mulch to slow evaporation and discourage weed growth.



Tree Power Incentive

Planting trees can save money and energy in heating and cooling. Shade trees on the south and west sides of your home make hot summers cooler and let in warming sunlight when the leaves are gone in winter.

Algoma Utilities offers cash incentives for planting shade trees to conserve energy. You may be eligible for up to \$50 per qualifying tree if you follow our eligibility guidelines.

Eligibility:

- The Tree Power Incentive Program is available to residential and business customers with a valid Algoma Utilities electric account.
- The purchase of each properly planted qualifying tree is eligible for 50% of the purchase price. Limit three tree incentives per customer account with a maximum of \$50 per tree.
- Shade tree(s) must meet the following criteria:
 - Must be deciduous and nursery grade stock. Evergreens are not eligible.
 - Must be purchased between April 1 and October 1 of 2014. Rebate form must be submitted by November 30, 2014.
 - Must have potential to attain a height of at least 25 feet when mature and have a caliper of at least 1¼ inches at the time of planting.
 - Must be planted in a location that provides significant shading of an air conditioning unit or on the south or west exposure side of a home. Algoma Utilities recommends planting shade tree(s) approximately 25 to 35 feet away from area to be shaded.
 - Must be located away from underground and overhead utility lines.

Applicant must call **Diggers Hotline at 811** prior to planting tree(s). The Digger's Hotline ticket number must be reported on the application.

Electric Rate Review Notice

Algoma Utility Commission has filed an application with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) to adjust electric rates. The adjustment has been requested in order to cover inflationary increases in operational and maintenance expenses and costs associated with maintaining the reliability of the electric distribution system. Several system upgrades and rebuilds are included in this application, including over \$416,000 of projects planned for 2014. The rates were decreased by 2.6% in 2012. The last electric rate increase was approved in 2008. Rate reviews are recommended every two to three years to prevent subsidizing between rate classes.

The utility is requesting an overall revenue increase of 5.83%, or \$268,662. The final impact of the rate increase upon individual customers will not be definitely known until the PSC issues an order; however, under the proposed rate structure, based on an average usage of 581 kilowatt-hours (kWh), the typical residential customer's monthly bill would increase from \$72.62 per month to \$78.24 per month, an increase of \$5.62 or 7.7%.

The PSC will conduct a public hearing at locations in Algoma and Madison. A notice of the hearing will be published after a date has been set. For more information, please contact the PSC at (608) 266-5481 and refer to the Algoma Utility Commission electric rate application under Docket 0050-ER-107.



A/C Tune-up Incentive

A spring inspection and tune-up of your central air conditioner unit can improve its efficiency and increase its life span. Without regular cleaning and maintenance, an air conditioner can lose up to 5% of its original efficiency for each year of operation.

Algoma Utilities offers cash incentives to encourage regular inspection and maintenance of central air conditioners. If you are a homeowner or business owner with a central air conditioner, you may be eligible for up to \$35 toward a professional service inspection and tune-up.

Eligibility:

- The Central Air Tune-up Incentive Program is available to residential and business customers with a valid Algoma Utilities electric account.
- Only central air conditioning units of 5 tons or less that have not had a tune-up within the **last three years** are eligible.
- To receive a \$35 cash incentive, a tune-up of the central air conditioner must be performed by a professional service technician and include a 12-point inspection.
- Qualifying inspections and tune-ups must be completed between May 1 and August 31 of 2014. Rebate form must be submitted by September 30, 2014.

Rebates will be granted on a first-come, first-serve basis, until allocated funds are spent. More information and applications for the Tree Power and A/C Tune-up incentives can be obtained at our office or you can visit:

www.algomautilities.com