

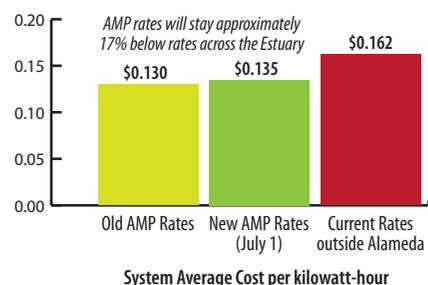
## Electric Rates Adjusted within Board-approved Limits

Last June, at the end of a 6-month comprehensive financial assessment that included an Annual Planning Workshop, the Public Utilities Board conceptually approved a 5-year rate increase plan, as long as proposed increases stayed below 5%. The assessment included the development of a 10-year financial plan, approval of cash and bond-ratio financial targets, the refinancing of two of AMP's bonds, and the analysis of several rate scenarios. Upon completion of the financial recommendations identified in the assessment, the credit agencies upgraded AMP's ratings to A+. As of last year, AMP had not raised residential electric rates in the past 5 years, and rates for the average residential customer had actually decreased since the year 2000.

The financial assessment showed that revenue increases were needed over the next five years due

to higher power and transmission costs not controlled by AMP. In the near term, AMP must replace an existing inexpensive power contract entered into in 2000, with a new contract that is expected to double or triple in cost. Transmission costs throughout the State also are expected to double mostly due to the cost of replacing and constructing facilities to connect to new renewable power sources to meet the recent renewable portfolio standards requirement adopted by the state. Approximately 58% of AMP's forecasted cost increases over the next 10 years are attributable to uncontrollable power and transmission costs. These two factors could have resulted in double-digit spikes; however, staff's recommendations for small but steady rate increases was favored by the Board, and results in rate increases of less than 5% per year, spread over several years.

### AMP RATE PROPOSAL – THE BIG PICTURE



This year, subsequent to updating long-term financial projections and incorporating the impact of lower sales, the Board approved an average rate adjustment of 3.85% effective July 1, 2011. Rate projections for the remaining period of the financial forecast show that rate adjustments in future years are also expected to be less than the 5% limit imposed by the Board. AMP rates will continue to remain significantly below PG&E rates, with residential rates approximately 24% lower

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## AMP Announces 2011 Green Powerstar Winners

Alameda Municipal Power has announced the winners of its 2011 Green Powerstar Awards.

Congratulations to our large commercial craft baker Semifreddi's for its "green baking" initiatives. The company's Alameda headquarters is a model of lighting design, drawing on both natural light, as well as high-efficiency, computer-controlled fluorescent lighting. Semifreddi's has taken a comprehensive approach to both energy and resource savings throughout its operations.

The Small Commercial category winner is Nano Scale Surface Systems, Incorporated, cited for its use of advanced-technology pumping equipment, installation of fluorescent lighting, smart power switching, and its solar installation. Nano Scale Surface Systems now draws a tenth of the electricity typical for this type of account.

The exemplary efforts of Alameda Unified School District Maintenance Operations & Facilities Coordinator Kristi Ojigbo and District HVAC Technician Pete Cervantes are being recognized by AMP's Green



Powerstar in the Schools category. Under the administration of Superintendent of Schools Kirsten Vital, the District has implemented their recommendations on monitoring and controlling space-conditioning equipment and costs, resulting in a safer environment and conditions much more conducive to learning and teaching.

The residential Home award is taken by Bob and Heidi Larsen for solar and efficiency improvements to their South Shore residence. Not only have the Larsens invested in a state-of-the-art clean energy system, they're ensuring that the kilowatt-hours they generate are used in the most-efficient way possible through the installation of compact fluorescent lamps throughout their home, smart power strips for all electronic equipment, and additional home-weatherization measures.

Public Utilities Board President Gregory Hamm congratulated the winners. "Alameda's Green Powerstars are taking the lead in proving innovative energy-saving technologies and strategies. They're certainly to be commended for these exem-

plary energy-efficiency efforts."

Profiles of the winners and their accomplishments are planned for posting on the AMP web site, [www.alamedamp.com](http://www.alamedamp.com).

This is the first year for the presentation of the Green Powerstar awards. 

## It's the Summer (Baseline) Season

This edition of *The FLASH* comes with your bill for the April-to-May period. It signals the end of the winter season. The next bill you receive on a residential account will be at Summer Baseline rates.

About 90% of our customers live in separately metered homes, apartments, and condominiums. These customers are served under Alameda Municipal Power's D-1 or D-2 schedules, which include a "Baseline" Rate. The Baseline Rate is intended to allow enough energy at a minimal price for heating, lighting, and cooking.

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) designed Baseline Rates for investor owned utilities. Although not governed by

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# May is National Electrical Safety Month



Mr. Plug says, "Plug into Electrical Safety!"

May is National Electrical Safety Month, and AMP is joining with the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) to promote a healthy respect for electricity and increase awareness of electrical hazards.

The goal of National Electrical Safety Month is to increase public awareness of possible electrical hazards around us at home, work, school, and play. This year's campaign challenges people across the country to evaluate the electrical safety of their own homes, learning more about their electrical systems and electrical devices in the process.

"Recognizing National Electrical Safety Month each May is an opportunity for us to make a differ-

ence in our community by helping others avoid the personal tragedy behind these statistics," said Girish Balachandran, AMP General Manager. "We're serious about our responsibility to raise awareness about potential home electrical hazards and the importance of electrical safety."

Electrical safety awareness and education among consumers, families, employees, and communities will prevent electrical fires, injuries, and fatalities. Making a few easy changes to improve safety can also lead to increased energy efficiency and savings on utility bills.

AMP invites you to visit ESFI's Virtual Home at <http://virtualhome.esfi.org> to learn more about home electrical safety.

**We're proud of AMP's employee safety record!**  
The AMP team has gone well over 2 1/2 years without a lost-time accident.

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and commercial rates 8% to 14% lower. AMP is continuing to take all feasible steps to control costs and has reduced the employee count to 1993 levels.

As a locally-owned utility, a portion of AMP's annual revenues contribute to the community by funding City services. Over \$4 million is transferred to the City's general Fund. AMP is one of Alameda's largest businesses, serves the community with a reliability record within the top quartile of all U.S. utilities, and is the leading renewable utility in all of California. Over 60% of Alameda's power portfolio consists of renewable resources as defined by the State and is 80% carbon-free. Additionally, AMP provides low-income assistance and services to assist customers in managing and controlling their energy costs. AMP encourages customers to take advantage of the wide array of the utility's energy-management programs and services.

All Board materials are available on the AMP web site, [www.alamedamp.com](http://www.alamedamp.com).

## Alameda Free Library Goes Solar

### Stimulus bill and AMP rebate fund project

Thanks to a combination of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act 2009 funding and a significant solar rebate from Alameda Municipal Power, the Alameda Free Library is going solar.



The project reached a major milestone recently when a special crane lifted 286 solar panels to the Main Library roof. When completed, this 67-kilowatt direct current system is expected to generate over 90,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity every year. The installation will offset nearly 110,000 lbs. of greenhouse gas emissions, roughly the same as taking 12 passenger cars

permanently off the road. The solar panels are part of a larger major renovation project that has earned the building the prestigious Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Certification.

In conjunction with the solar installation, AMP proposed and won funding for a public energy-monitoring kiosk from the American Public Power Association. Patrons will be able to see how much energy is being produced and more information through a live touch-screen dashboard in the Library lobby, offering an active learning opportunity about renewable energy and how it can make a significant and positive difference in

Alameda's energy consumption and resultant carbon footprint.

ARRA funds, administered by the U.S. Department of Energy, contributed \$414,000 of the project's costs. An AMP solar rebate provided the balance of approximately \$150,000.

The Library project is Alameda's second largest commercial solar project to date. AMP offers an attractive solar rebate program to encourage businesses and citizens to take advantage of the sun's power. Regular *FLASH* readers know that approximately 80% of our community's electricity comes from clean and renewable sources. For more information on solar rebates or our clean power portfolio, please visit the AMP web site, [www.alamedamp.com](http://www.alamedamp.com).

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the CPUC, Alameda's Public Utilities Board also has adopted a Baseline structure.

The Baseline amount decreases during the summer months to account for seasonal changes in energy needs. The best example of a seasonal change is lighting. Because there are more hours of daylight in the summer, we need to turn on lights for fewer hours.

The average residential customer in Alameda consumes approximately 400 kilowatt hours per month, year round. Nationally, the average residential customer uses well over twice as much!

During the summer months, the bill for this amount of electricity would be approximately \$50. Across

the Estuary, the bill would be over \$60, some 20% more!

If you have permanently installed electric space heating as your primary heat source, you rely more heavily on electricity to provide your basic needs. You therefore are entitled to an increased "Baseline" amount. You may already receive this amount. Check the upper right hand portion of your latest Alameda Municipal Power bill. You will see the words "Rate Code" and the letters "D1B" or "D1H." "D1B" means that you receive basic electric service and are eligible for 259 kilowatt hours at our lowest domestic rate during the summer months. "D1H" means that you have permanently installed electric space heating and receive 317 kilowatt hours at our lowest domestic rate.

If you have any questions about your Baseline amount, please call our Customer Service Representatives at 748-3900.

**CLIP and KEEP!**

Important AMP contact numbers:

Customer Service ..... 748-3900  
 After Hours/Emergency..... 748-3902  
 TDD (hearing impaired) ..... 522-7538  
 E-mail ..... [info@alamedamp.com](mailto:info@alamedamp.com)  
 Internet..... [www.alamedamp.com](http://www.alamedamp.com)

The FLASH is published as a service to the customer-owners of Alameda Municipal Power. Readers are invited to submit ideas, suggestions, comments, or questions by writing to the editor at Alameda Municipal Power, P.O. Box H Alameda, CA, 94501-0263 or by email to [mccabe@alamedamp.com](mailto:mccabe@alamedamp.com).

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