

# Alameda Free Library Unveils Solar System and Energy Educational Kiosk

On October 6, 2011 City of Alameda Mayor Marie Gilmore, accompanied by members of the City Council, Public Utilities Board, Public Works, Alameda Municipal Power (AMP) staff and Library Board, unveiled and dedicated a new roof-top solar energy system and an accompanying energy education kiosk at the Alameda Free Library, located at 1550 Oak Street.

“The initial design for the Main Branch of the Alameda Free Library included the substructure for a solar energy system, but the budget at that time just did



Mayor and Library Board accept \$149,699 solar rebate check from Alameda Municipal Power. (Pictured left to right: Public Utilities Board President Gregory Hamm, City of Alameda Mayor Marie Gilmore, Library Board members Mike Hartigan, President Catherine Atkin, Gail Wetzork, Vice Mayor Rob Bonta and Councilmember Lena Tam.)

not allow us to install the system when the library was built,” said Mayor Gilmore. “Now, thanks to the Solar Rebate program at our city-owned Alameda Municipal Power (AMP), and the federal

government emphasis within the Stimulus Bill to fund renewable energy generation projects, we’re able to complete the vision, reduce General Fund operational expenses and our carbon footprint.”

The 66-kilowatt solar photovoltaic system is operational and expected to generate over 90,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity every year, enough to power roughly 20 typical Alameda households, or up to one quarter of the Library’s annual energy use.

*See Kiosk on page 2*

## LED Holiday Light Exchange is Back! Get Yours While They Last!

Ring in the holiday season in an energy efficient fashion with Light Emitting Diode (LED) holiday lights! Take part now in Alameda Municipal Power’s free holiday light exchange at the Customer Service Center (2000 Grand Street, M-F, 9am–5pm). Bring in one old incandescent light strand and we will trade you one new, energy efficient LED light strand! Limit one per household. AMP will recycle your old incandescent strands. Supplies are limited, and specific conditions apply. Check the AMP web site, [www.alamedamp.com](http://www.alamedamp.com), for more information and read on for details about LED holiday lights!


LED holiday lights are a great way to decorate for the holidays! LED lights have a number of benefits over conventional lighting:

- They’re energy-efficient. LED bulbs draw only 0.08 Watts per bulb. An incandescent mini-light draws 8 times more power, and a standard incandescent bulb takes a whopping 75 times as much!
- They have a long life span. LEDs can last up to 100,000 hours or more if used indoors, about half that outdoors, and some manufacturers provide a limited lifetime warranty.
- They’re safer. There’s little chance of combustion from the lights themselves, as the bulbs stay cool to the touch, regardless of how long they are left on.

*See Light Exchange on page 2*

## EV Charging Station at Civic Center Garage

Alameda Municipal Power (AMP) received a Department of Energy grant for the installation of an electric vehicle charging station. The charging station has been installed in the City’s Civic Center Garage (near the Alameda Theater on Oak Street) to allow for Level 1 and 2 charging of electric vehicles. There is no cost to charge at this time as AMP is piloting the new technology. To access the system, customers can use a contactless credit card, or a Chargepass RFID (Radio Frequency Identification Card)-based smart card that are available at [mychargepoint.net](http://mychargepoint.net). Electric vehicles are a great way to be green and to help reduce your carbon footprint. AMP also offers an electric vehicle charging discount to further help you with your green efforts.

For more information about the Civic Center garage charging station, including information about the charge card, charging levels and AMP’s EV charging discount, visit [www.alamedamp.com](http://www.alamedamp.com). 




# 125 Years of Fun Facts!

On July 11, 2012, Alameda Municipal Power (AMP) will turn 125! As we approach the big day, we will be sharing fun facts from our many years of service.

Did you know... On July 11, 1887, the City of Alameda exercised its option to purchase a privately-built power plant and electric distribution system for \$40,000 and municipal power in Alameda was born.

## AMP Wants to Make Your Life Easier! Sign up for Easy Pay Automatic Payment Service

Alameda Municipal Power (AMP) wants paying your bill to be stress and worry free. We offer Easy Pay; our automated bill payment service to help you save time, money and the environment. Easy Pay automatically withdraws funds from your bank or financial institution on the due date shown on your bill. This convenient and secure service is free to AMP customers! Additionally, AMP offers a paperless solution to billing with our eBill notification. Instead of receiving a paper bill in the mail, each month, you will receive an email alerting you that your new bill is ready for online review and payment. To sign up today, simply visit [www.alamedamp.com](http://www.alamedamp.com) and click on Customer Service-Payment Options. 

### Kiosk from page 1


AMP provided the project with a Solar Rebate of \$149,699; while an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Stimulus Bill) grant, administered by the Department of Energy, allotted \$414,000 toward the project. Under a competitive bid process, developed and managed by the City of Alameda Public Works Department, Sun Light & Power of Berkeley, CA was awarded the contract to design and construct the system. Sun Light & Power CEO, Gary Gerber, attended the dedication ceremony and is also President of the California Solar Industry Association.

To allow residents an opportunity to monitor the solar system on a "real-time" basis, and to learn more about renewable power and energy efficiency, AMP used a Demonstration of Energy Efficient Developments (DEED) grant from the American Public Power Association to purchase and develop content for a free-standing kiosk. The kiosk is located in the main library lobby. It also provides AMP-developed video and web-based information on energy efficiency tips and the many programs the utility has to help its customers save money and be green.

"One of the many benefits of public power is the commitment to providing customers with more information about how the utility works and placing the kiosk

in the library, whose purpose is imparting knowledge, allows for a very valuable collaboration between departments," commented Public Utilities Board President Greg Hamm. "This kiosk is a prime example of that philosophy," added Hamm, "and we hope that Alamedans, young and old, will use it to learn more about renewable energy and energy efficiency. This is another example of how the City and AMP are leveraging stimulus and grant funds to provide value to the community."

Michael Hartigan, Alameda Free Library Board Member and former member of the Library Building Team, expressed his appreciation for the solar system and kiosk. He highlighted the high quality of the work by the contractor, Sun Light & Power, and construction management by the Public Works Department. Hartigan said, "I am impressed with the project design and the dedication of the installation workers, both in terms of their professional approach and their willingness to work with Library staff to minimize impact on our users and operations schedule. Public Works and Sun Light & Power worked around library and community needs to add this great new solar system onto what was already one of the greenest library buildings in the state."


For more information, please visit our website at [www.alamedamp.com](http://www.alamedamp.com). 

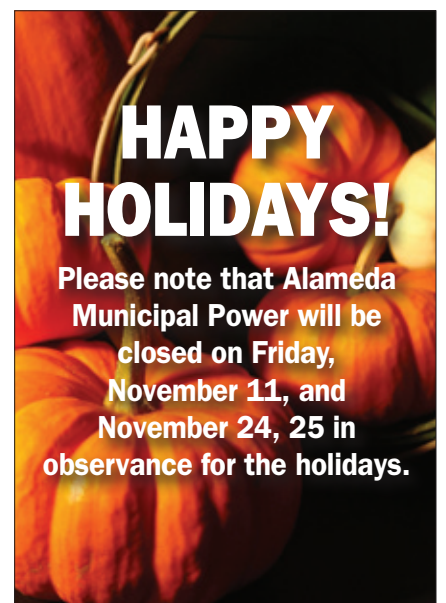
### Light Exchange from page 1

- They're sturdy. The bulbs' epoxy lenses are virtually indestructible.

Despite a higher initial cost, LEDs are a clear winner over incandescent lights when you compare the cost to buy and operate them.

LED lights offer beautiful and affordable, energy-efficient, and clean holiday decorating! As you decorate for the holidays, please keep these safety tips in mind:

- Use only Underwriters Laboratories (UL) approved lights. Lights with a green UL label are for indoor use only. Lights with a red UL label may be used both indoors and outdoors.
- Check light packages for the maximum number of light strings that can be joined safely.
- Never string holiday lights on a dry tree. Select one that appears fresh, i.e., it doesn't easily shower the ground with needles. Once home, cut an inch from the base, insert the trunk into a tree stand which holds water, and don't forget to add water daily! 



### 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)

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