




# Alameda Municipal Power Celebrates Energy Awareness Month and Public Power Week

The month of October ushers in Energy Awareness month and the 25th Anniversary of Public Power Week. Alameda Municipal Power is dedicating this edition of The FLASH to energy saving tips and tools to help you make the most of your energy



dollars. AMP is committed to educating customers about energy efficiency and has many tools and programs available for your use. Read on for more helpful tips to help you save or go to our website at [www.alamedamp.com](http://www.alamedamp.com). 

## Energy Awareness Spotlight on Set-Top Boxes and Gaming Systems

According to the National Resource Defense Council (NRDC), over 80 percent of U.S. households subscribe to some type of pay television service and rely on set-top boxes, installed by the service provider, in order to transform those signals into shows, movies and sports on screen. This amounts to approximately 160 million set-top boxes in the U.S. Additionally, Americans are using more gaming



systems in conjunction with their home entertainment systems and set-top boxes. These set-top boxes and gaming systems can be a major player in electricity consumption.

For example, the average high-definition digital video recorder (HD-DVR) uses more than half the energy of the average new refrigerator. Furthermore, when idle, these devices tend to draw nearly as much power as they do when in use. But, fear not! There are ways to take control of your home entertainment systems and avoid an increase in your electricity costs.

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## Get Your Rebate! Energy Upgrade California Workshop



Alameda Municipal Power (AMP), in partnership with Ecology Action and Stopwaste.org, will be hosting an informational workshop for Energy Upgrade California. Energy Upgrade California in Alameda County is a one stop shop for homeowners to find everything they need to make home improvements that save energy, water, and other natural resources. The program connects you with participating contractors who can help you plan and complete your project—and get you rebates to help pay for it. Increasing your home's energy efficiency isn't just switching out light bulbs or adding low-flow showerheads—it's approaching your home as a complete system,

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## Find Your Hidden Energy Eaters

That old fridge in the garage is well known for its energy-guzzling appetite. But how about the brand new, shiny 50-inch high definition TV inside the house? It can easily consume \$180 dollars worth of electricity a year versus \$35 dollars for the old TV.

AMP has an Appliance Calculator on its website to help customers get their arms around home appliance energy use. More than 50 different electronic devices are covered in the calculator—from TVs and refrigerators to sleep apnea machines and whirlpool tubs.


Go to [www.alamedamp.com](http://www.alamedamp.com), click on Save Energy, then go to Measure It to use AMP's suite of energy calculators for the home, appliances, computers, spas and lighting. These tools also include an interactive cut-away house and a comprehensive energy efficiency reference library to provide you with tons of information about how energy is used in your home.

Just select your type of appliances, enter the number of hours you use them each day and press calculate. Associated electricity costs for each pops up, along with an annual household



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# Do You Know About the New Incandescent Standards?

Beginning this year, the Federal government has released new standards for incandescent light bulbs, beginning with banning the traditional 100 watt bulb. In a move to encourage energy efficiency, traditional incandescent bulbs will be replaced with newly designed, more efficient lower watt bulbs. In the following years, 75, 60 and 40 watt bulbs will also undergo the same treatment and be replaced by lower wattage models. As you phase out your incandescent bulbs, don't forget that you can stop by Alameda Municipal Power's Service Center (2000 Grand Street, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday) and trade in your used, inefficient incandescent bulbs for energy saving compact fluorescent (CFL) bulbs (limit 3 per household), CFL bulbs contain a small amount of mercury and should be recycled properly! See the table below for more information about the new incandescent standards or visit [www.alamedamp.com](http://www.alamedamp.com). 

New California Incandescent Light Bulb Standards			
Traditional Wattage	New Maximum Wattage	Lumens	Implementation Date
100	72	1490-2600	January 2, 2011
75	53	1050-1489	January 1, 2012
60	43	750-1049	January 1, 2013
40	29	310-749	January 1, 2013

## 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...that in 1911, the Bureau of Electricity (now AMP) operated a retail store on Park Street? The store provided Alamedans a place to purchase new electric appliances including toasters, light bulbs, and ranges. From the very beginning, AMP has been dedicated to being part of the community and providing valuable opportunities to help you save money!

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with heating, air-conditioning, water and other systems working together more efficiently to help lower your energy and water use. For example, in cold months the warm air from your furnace can escape through gaps in your attic. If you properly seal and insulate you won't lose that heat and you won't have to run the furnace as much. You may even find that you can purchase a smaller, less expensive system when you replace it. Energy Upgrade California in Alameda County connects you to the experts and resources you need to take a "whole house" approach.

Energy Upgrade California directs you to rebates and incentives for sealing and insulation, energy efficient heating, energy

efficient windows, high efficiency water heaters, permanent energy efficiency improvements, water saving devices such as low flow showerheads and toilets, sustainable landscaping and self-adjusting irrigation controllers. Rebates of up to \$4,000 are available and Energy Upgrade California can help you take advantage of affordable financing options to offset your upfront costs. In addition, AMP has energy efficiency rebates available to you for even more savings! The benefits of the "whole house" approach include reduced energy and water use, greater building comfort, lower utility bills, minimized waste, improved indoor air quality, increased house value and reduced impact on the environment.


The Energy Upgrade California workshop will take place on Thursday, October 13 from 5:30—9:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers (3rd floor, 2263 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda). Contact AMP's Service Center at 510-748-3900 or visit [www.energyupgradeCA.org](http://www.energyupgradeCA.org) for more information! 

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 [acord@alamedamp.com](mailto:acord@alamedamp.com).

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Alameda Municipal Power (AMP) suggests installing Smart Plug Strips to help eliminate the idle or "phantom" current from electronic devices. Smart Plug strips have specific outlets for different devices, depending on whether they need to be on some of the time, all of the time, or just at the time of use. By installing a simple Smart Plug strip, there is great potential for improving the energy efficiency of your home entertainment system and reducing your costs.

Additionally, AMP customers can take advantage of our online Home Energy Audit and Appliance Calculator (see Hidden Energy Eaters article), and our "in person" residential energy audit. To schedule an audit or for more information, contact our customer service center at [www.alamedamp.com](http://www.alamedamp.com). 

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total. Change your selections and see how much you can save.

As high definition TVs continue to make their way into more and more American households, so does higher energy use associated with digital television broadcasting devices. Not only do the newer TV screens use more energy than older models, but homeowners often keep and use the older sets in addition to any new TVs. High definition screens actually use energy while they are turned off.

Many appliances and electronic devices like computer monitors, DVD players, and coffee makers, draw power even when they are switched off, just by being plugged in and can account for 10% of a homes electricity use. Taking action like unplugging your devices when they aren't in use will help you cut back on your electricity bill. Plugging bundled devices, such as TV, DVD, DVR, or computer and printer into the same power strip and then turning off the power strip will do the job. 

### 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)