



## From Trash to Treasure!

One person's trash can wind up powering another person's home! With the dedication of the Keller Canyon landfill-gas-to-energy project, Alameda Municipal Power adds another clean, renewable resource to your power supply mix.

Landfill-gas-to-energy plants now provide about 20% of your electricity. They are one component of our 83% carbon-free power portfolio that also includes geothermal, hydroelectric, wind, and solar facilities. We continue to be first in the State in use of renewable resources.

"The landfill-gas-to-energy project at Keller Canyon allows us to offer our customers yet another carbon-free source of power and continue our quarter-century commitment to renewable energy," said Gregory Hamm, Ph.D., P.E., president of



Photo: J. Pepper

Small but powerful, the Keller Canyon plant provides enough power to light 2,200 homes.

the Alameda's Public Utilities Board.

Alameda, as a direct result of AMP's power portfolio, ranks lowest in greenhouse gas emissions in Alameda County and among the lowest in the State. We're also proud that our rates for electric power are 20 to 25% lower than those in surrounding areas.

The 2,600-acre Keller Canyon Landfill is located just outside the city of Pittsburg and takes much of the area's refuse. Drawing on its waste landfill gas to generate electricity is equivalent to taking 30,000 cars off the road. It would take a planting

of more than 36,000 acres of pine or fir trees to produce the same results.

Alameda joined with Palo Alto in contracting for the output of the plant. Each community will take half of the facility's 3.8 megawatts of electricity, enough to power nearly 2,200 homes.

Landfill gas is created when organic material in a landfill decomposes. Typically, the gas consists of about 50% methane, one of the most harmful greenhouse gases. However, the gas can be converted and used to generate electricity, with the byproduct being a cleaner environment!

Keller Canyon is one of four landfill-gas-to-energy resources presently powering our community. In addition to Keller Canyon, these include the Buena Vista landfill facility in Santa Cruz, the Ox Mountain facility in Half Moon Bay, and the West Contra Costa facility in Richmond. 



Alameda Public Utilities Board President Gregory Hamm (third from left) joins State and regional officials and industry representatives in dedicating the Keller Canyon Landfill-Gas-to-Energy plant.

## Keep Your Holidays Merry and Bright

Light Emitting Diode (LED) holiday lights are a relatively new application for a mature technology. Over the past 7 years, manufacturers have improved choices, producing bigger and brighter bulbs and new color options. 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.

- 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 are available in strings from 25 to 150 bulbs with red, green, blue, white, yellow and multi-colored bulbs. There are a wide variety of bulb styles available, including mini-ice, ball, and candle-shaped. Costs may vary by color because, rather than painted bulbs, the color is produced by the chemical make-up of the bulb. New products include icicle-style lamps, strings that change from one color to another, strings with commercial-quality plugs that allow more than 100 strings to be connected, rope lights, and additional holiday

See Holidays on page 2

# DON'T MISS OUT!

Last chance to save \$2 on the purchase of an energy-efficient compact fluorescent bulb. Compact fluorescents use 75% less electricity than regular incandescents and last an amazing 10 times longer.

Save energy. Save money. Save the planet. Just clip the coupon below and take it to one of the retailers listed. It's as easy as changing a light bulb. Don't wait though; this sale ends November 30!

**\$2**  
off one  
compact  
fluorescent

## GREAT WHITE LIGHT SALE

Use this coupon at any of the following local stores, and get \$2 off your next purchase of an ENERGY STAR® qualified compact fluorescent light bulb!

**CVS Drug Store (Longs)**  
314 Santa Clara Avenue

**Pagano's ACE Hardware**  
1100 Lincoln Avenue

**Walgreens Drug Store**  
2245 South Shore Center



**ALAMEDA  
MUNICIPAL POWER**

A Department of the City of Alameda

**Limit one bulb per coupon, three coupons per customer. Coupon expires November 30, 2009. For more information please visit our website at [www.alamedamp.com](http://www.alamedamp.com). The Alameda Public Utilities Board is proud to sponsor this program and to promote energy efficiency. CFLs contain a small amount of mercury and require special recycling. You can recycle your expired CFL bulbs at Paganos or Encinal Hardware.**

### Holidays from page 1

ornaments. One manufacturer offers screw-in LED bulbs for converting your incandescent strings to LED.

LED lights have a unique appearance. They may appear to shimmer with movement as the light passes through the faceted bulbs.

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!

Before you install your holiday lights, check the following:

- The wiring is insulated, and there are no exposed wires.
- Test each string separately.
- Use plastic clips or suction cups for hanging lights instead of nails.
- Use only exterior UL-approved extension cords outside.
- Wrap connections with electrical tape to protect against the weather.
- Combining water and electricity can be lethal, so be careful about installing outdoor holiday lights.
- Outdoor lights should be connected to an outdoor, weatherproof receptacle. There are safety enclosures for receptacles with deep lids and a bottom opening for the electric cord. Make sure it is UL approved.
- The outdoor, weatherproof receptacle or extension cord should be connected to a receptacle or circuit breaker with a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI).
- Connect outdoor holiday lights to exterior receptacles. Generally, interior receptacles do not have GFCIs.

## GENERATOR SAFETY

If you own an electric generator, either portable or permanently installed, you could save someone's life by connecting and using it properly.

If used incorrectly, these generators can be fatal. Downed electrical lines following a storm, earthquake, or other such event, will be "live" and may present a danger to utility people and the general public if your generator is connected or is being used incorrectly.



A generator that is connected to your home or business is also connected to the Alameda Municipal Power electrical system. When the lights go out, our crews go out to restore power. If your generator is connected, it could send electricity into our system, or "backfeed." Our crews won't know of the danger that is present and could be electrocuted.

State Law requires that you notify AMP if you have or use an electrical generator of any type.

AMP can help you get a design review from our Engineering Section and an inspection and approval from a City Inspector. Call 748-3981 for more information or to notify AMP that you use an electric generator.

If you fail to connect your generator properly, it may be severely damaged when normal electric service is restored. You do not need a manual double throw switch or an automatic transfer switch if your generator is connected only to a stand-alone appliance.

### Smoke detectors save lives.

**Now is a good time to replace smoke detector batteries.**

### 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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