IBM and Dubuque Partner on Smarter City Initiative

On Sept. 17, IBM Corporation and the City of Dubuque announced a new collaboration aimed at making Dubuque one of the first “smarter” sustainable cities in the U.S.

IBM has identified “building a smarter planet” as its top priority and has partnered with Dubuque to create a “smarter,” more sustainable city that can serve as a model for communities under 200,000, where over 40 percent of the US population resides. The objective is to create an innovative model for energy and environmental sustainability, energy-efficient buildings, water management, and optimization of city-wide transportation and parking.

This model will focus on measuring, managing, and optimizing the utilization of energy and resources within the community in order to reduce costs, increase competitiveness, create jobs, and improve community sustainability. In the first phase of the project, approximately 250 Dubuque homes and businesses will be sought for voluntary participation related to energy and water use. Eventually, the pilot group will be expanded to 1,000, and more as it evolves and is expanded to transportation-related issues.

Plans include the development of new “smarter” technologies and implementation strategies to create an international model of sustainability for communities of 200,000 and under.

Dubuque and IBM Research, a different division of IBM than the service delivery center in the Roshek Building, will work together to address the ever-increasing demands of cities to deliver vital services such as energy and water management, and transportation, all while reducing the community’s impact on the environment.

“The goal of this collaboration is to develop and pilot a systematic mechanism to give consumers and businesses the information they need to make informed decisions about how they consume resources like electricity, water, natural gas, and oil,” said Robert Morris, vice president, IBM Research. “To create such a mechanism, a partnership is needed between a community with a track record of successful public-private partnerships, citizens and businesses that believe in sustainability, and enterprises like IBM that have the information technology and knowledge to apply to this transformative partnership.”

“Our goal is a replicable model of viability, livability and equity for other communities and to create a sustainable legacy for generations to come,” said Mayor Roy D. Buol. “It will also save residents and businesses money and create an international brand for Dubuque, helping to recruit businesses and workforce, serve as a major recruitment tool for area colleges, and it will accelerate local business growth.”

In addition to IBM and the City of Dubuque, the partnership is planned to include local and regional private businesses, non-profit organizations, local and state government agencies, and several federal agencies. This initial phase will cost $850,000, available from the City water fund. Future phases are anticipated to be funded by external grant sources. Additional revenue from the more accurate metering capability and extending the debt on the water meter replacement project resulted in the Mayor and City Council voting to reduce the water rate by two percent.

The City is currently implementing a city-wide water meter replacement project and is integrating a device, called an Unmeasured Flow Reducer (UFR) and manufactured locally by A.Y. McDonald, designed to augment the water meter in providing the most accurate measurement possible during low-flow use. The new system will allow consumers to identify waste and consider corrective measures.

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By the new system. The City will budget associated with repairing leaks identified also creating a rebate program for costs meter replacement project, the City is (faucet, toilet, etc.). As part of the water utilization and energy savings. which will translate into better water consumption. IBM Research plans to staff real-time visibility into the overall city water consumption data and give City interface with the City’s system to process management system, IBM’s technology will and chemicals in treating and delivering use will also reduce use of both energy and savings. Reduction in water consumption which will translate into better water use.

According to national research, 30 percent of households have water leaks (faucet, toilet, etc.). As part of the water meter replacement project, the City is also creating a rebate program for costs associated with repairing leaks identified by the new system. The City will budget $10,000 annually in matching funds to fix leaks and reduce costs for water customers.

The Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce and Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque, with funding support from the Mystique Casino, have partnered to create Dubuque², the city’s newest community engagement process aimed at making our city a national leader in sustainability efforts. Dubuque² will be much like Envision 2010, a process that encouraged public/private partnerships to shape our community’s future. The process is meant to increase awareness of sustainability efforts, opportunities and outcomes in our community.

Additional information will be made available as details for the project are finalized. For more background, visit www.sustainabledubuque.org, www.dubuque2.org, or www.ibm.com/smartercities.

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which will translate into better water use and energy savings. Reduction in water use will also reduce use of both energy and chemicals in treating and delivering water. As the City enhances its water management system, IBM’s technology will interface with the City’s system to process water consumption data and give City staff real-time visibility into the overall city water consumption. IBM Research plans to also build new service systems integration, data management, and analytic technologies that will create new insights for consumers which will translate into better water utilization and energy savings.

For more tips and weather-related information visit www.idph.state.ia.us/h1n1. More information can also be found at www.idph.state.ia.us/h1n1 §

Ice and Snow...Take It Slow

Winter is just around the corner, and the Iowa Department of Transportation offers some easy tips to keep yourself, your family, and other drivers safe this winter.

- Always maintain a reasonable speed and safe following distance from the vehicle in front of you. Winter road conditions often result in longer stopping distances and reduced visibility.
- Check the weather forecast and road conditions before embarking on a trip. Dial 511 or visit www.511ia.org.
- Turn on lights to see and be seen. Keep head and tail lights clear of snow.
- Avoid using cruise control in winter driving conditions. You need to be in control of when your car accelerates based on road conditions.
- Don’t drive through “white out” conditions. Be patient, wait it out, and travel safely.
- Be aware that ramps, bridges, and overpasses may occasionally freeze before other roadway segments.

For more tips and weather-related information visit www.iowadot.gov.

Public Works Reminders

Leaf Rake-Outs ($15 minimum fee) can be scheduled for collection Oct. 12 through Nov. 25, weather permitting.

Holiday Collection
Thanksgiving collection: Saturday, Nov. 28
Christmas collection: Saturday, Dec. 26
New Year’s Day collection: Saturday, Jan. 2

Merry Mulch Program
Christmas trees and yard waste will be picked up during the first two full weeks in January on regular collection days. Please attach a City brush tag or yard waste sticker.

Holiday Tag Distribution
City refuse customers may present the bottom half of their Nov. 2009 City Utility Bill to the City Utility Billing Office, Municipal Services Center, Housing & Community Development, or Leisure Services before Dec. 11 to receive one complimentary green “extra garbage” tag.

For more information, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/publicworks, call 589-4250, or email publicworks@cityofdubuque.org.

Tips for Flu Season

Dubuque public health officials are preparing for the coming flu season and urge local residents and organizations to do the same. Locally, public health is working with schools, health care providers, and businesses to keep residents healthy and minimize the impact of the flu, both the seasonal and Novel H1N1 strains.

Simple steps for local residents include:
- Remember the “three C’s”
  - Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your elbow.
  - Clean your hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer.
  - Contain germs by staying home when ill.

- Get the seasonal flu shot now

A statewide toll-free influenza hotline has been established for public questions at 1-800-447-1985. More information can also be found at www.idph.state.ia.us/h1n1.

LEISURE SERVICES

Bunker Hill Golf Course clubhouse is available for party rentals and meetings during the offseason beginning in late November. A full service bar is available with seating in excess of 100. For information or to reserve, contact Leisure Services at 589-4263.

The Uptown Recreation weekend open gym program at Prescott, Audubon, and Lincoln schools begins the weekend of Nov. 6-8.

For additional details and schedules, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/recreation or call Leisure Services at 589-4263.
IBM Corporation has made the strategic decision to partner with Dubuque to create a smarter, more sustainable Dubuque. Project participants will learn more about their use of electricity, natural gas, water and transportation, so they will have better information to make decisions on how they spend their money.

The Project Manager for the public sector components of this partnership will be David Lyons. A graduate of Loras College and the University of Iowa Law School, he most recently served as the Chief Business Development Officer for the Iowa Farm Bureau, before leaving to form a non-profit research institute. Prior to that, David was the Director of the Iowa Department of Economic Development (appointed by Governor Tom Vilsack), State of Iowa Insurance Commissioner (appointed by Governor Terry Branstad) and Legal Counsel to the Iowa Legislature.

Dubuque’s approach to sustainability is also focused on growing new markets, new industries, new jobs and new revenue in the community and David is forming a consortium of local businesses to discuss and pursue these new opportunities.

From local manufacturers of smart utility meters for Dubuque residences to local technology companies providing advanced monitoring systems, the future is being developed here in our community and will be exported to a world challenged to better manage its resources.

The Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce and the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque recently launched a community dialogue on sustainability called Dubuque2, partially funded by Mystique Casino. This IBM partnership is only one part of the City’s sustainability initiative that includes environmental/ecological integrity, economic prosperity, and social/cultural vibrancy.

As the City and partner agencies and organizations have worked to fulfill the goal of making the Dubuque area more sustainable, we have found ourselves ahead of the trend for cities, not behind it. This is not an unusual experience for this community as Dubuquers have transformed it time and time again to address challenges. It is our tenacity to tackle new challenges and set new benchmarks that have earned national recognition as an All-America City, as the Most Livable Small City in the U.S., and as one of the Top 100 Places for Young People. It is these strategic risks and grassroots leadership that have created positive change for our community. We now stand on the cusp of an unparalleled opportunity, one that also allows us to be a leader globally, as we become a smarter, sustainable Dubuque.

Snow Route Parking Policy Reminder

When Dubuque’s snow route policy is declared, the program requires “odd/even” parking along the City’s designated snow routes, which are marked by signage. When in effect, parking is prohibited on the “even numbered” side of the streets on the even days of the month and on the “odd numbered” side of the streets on the odd days of the month. The parking restrictions are in effect from noon to 6:00 a.m., depending upon the street.

Enforcement of the snow route parking policy is announced at least six hours in advance through area news media, including CityChannel 8 and the City of Dubuque website, as well as the City’s “CodeRED” emergency notification system. Residents may also sign up for the Odd/Even Snow Route Parking “Notify Me” at www.cityofdubuque.org/notifyme. An email will be sent to subscribers each time the odd/even snow route parking policy goes into effect.

The City of Dubuque’s CodeRED Emergency Notification System is a high-speed telephone communication service to contact all or targeted areas of the city or county in case of an emergency situation that requires immediate action. CodeRED allows individuals and businesses to add their phone numbers directly to the database through the Internet. To add a phone number to the database, visit www.cityofdubuque.org and click on the “CodeRED” logo.

The CodeRED system is not used for severe weather warnings or information. Residents should rely on local media that use the Emergency Alert System (EAS) or NOAA all-hazards radios.

For more information on Dubuque’s odd/even snow route parking policy, visit the Public Works section of the City website or call 589-4250.
You can receive an automatic e-mail notification when City Council Agendas and Minutes are available online by subscribing to the City Council Agendas and Minutes “Notify Me” list. Here’s how: 1) Visit www.cityofdubuque.org/notifyme 2) Enter your email address at the top of the page 3) Check the box labeled “City Council Agendas & Minutes” 4) Scroll to the bottom of the page and click “Subscribe.”

You can also view past City Council and other meetings online at www.cityofdubuque.org/media, or link to the CityChannel8 live feed for live meeting viewing online.

New Faces
The City of Dubuque welcomes these new employees:

- Todd Atkinson: Public Works
- Jonathan Brokens: Police
- Kevin Clemens: Emergency Communications
- Michael Frazier: Fire
- Tina Herrig: Airport
- Kathleen Hoffmann: Airport
- Charles Wehrspann: Parking
- Phyllis Russell: City Manager’s Office
- Ann Kennedy: Police
- Michael Kuhn: Fire
- Ericka Lessears: Housing
- Jonathan Miller: Police
- Todd Irwin: Engineering
- Richard Ross: Airport
- Daryl Wickre: Water Pollution Control
- Thomas Williams: Fire
- Hope Wilson: Airport
- Antonio Mouzon: Recreation

Retirements
Congratulations to the following employees who recently retired from the City of Dubuque:

- Thomas Schmeichel: Police
- John Huekels: Public Works

Mark Your Calendar

FY2011 Budget Public Hearing Meeting - City Manager Michael Van Milligen will hold a public input meeting Monday, Nov. 23, at 5:15 p.m. in the City Council Chambers in the Historic Federal Building. The public is welcome to attend and provide input on City programs and services for the recommended budget the City Council will consider for the 2011 fiscal year, which begins July 1, 2010.

Dr. King Birthday Breakfast - faces & voices will sponsor this event on Monday, Jan. 18, at 7:30 a.m. at the Grand River Center. Pre-registration is required and will be available through the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque in late December. Contact Human Rights at 589-4190 for more information.

Congratulations!

The Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency’s Green Vision Education Program was awarded the 2009 Outstanding Facility/Program Award by the Iowa Society of Solid Waste Operations.

City of Dubuque Trivia

Last issue’s question:
Q: What was the former name of the Five Flags Civic Center?
A: Majestic Theater