

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact:

Jeremy Cochran, District Forester, IA DNR

Jeremy.cochran@dnr.iowa.gov

712/482-6245

Pottawattamie County Conservation Board to Oversee Shade Tree Distribution

COUNCIL BLUFFS, Iowa – March 16, 2009 – Trees help protect us from wind and sun, helping to reduce our needs for indoor heat and air-conditioning. Iowa residential customers of MidAmerican Energy Company can reduce future energy use and at the same time landscape their homes through *Plant some shade*[®].

Plant some shade is a partnership initiative to aid long-term energy and natural resource conservation. The program is funded by MidAmerican Energy and administered by the Pottawattamie County Conservation Board, City of Council Bluffs Parks and Recreation, Council Bluffs Trees Forever and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources – Bureau of Forestry.

Plant some shade enables MidAmerican's Iowa residential customers to purchase up to two, three- to eight-foot tall landscaping trees for just \$25 each. Approximately 600 high-quality trees are available on a first-come, first-ordered basis. Tree species available include swamp white oak, basswood, blackgum, sugar maple, red bud and Serbian spruce.

Advance orders for *Plant some shade* are required. Order forms will be available in the offices of the Pottawattamie County Conservation Board and Council Bluffs Park & Recreation Department. Homeowners can also go to the Parks and Recreation website <http://www.cbparksandrec.org/forestry.asp> for an application. Orders will be accepted until all trees have been sold.

“Trees add appeal to our homes and neighborhoods. Early spring is an excellent time to plant and establish new trees. The season's warm days and cool nights are great for root growth,” said Jeremy Cochran, District Forester for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources – Forestry Bureau. “MidAmerican Energy customers can buy a reasonably priced quality tree.”

Trees will be available for pickup at the Harrah's parking lot located at One Harrah's Blvd. in Council Bluffs between 9 and 11 a.m. Saturday, April 18. For more information about *Plant some shade*, call the Pottawattamie County Conservation Board at 712-328-5638 or the Council Bluffs Parks and Recreation office at 712-328-4650.