



# IMUA 2022 Scholarship Program

## Student Guidelines & Questions

**Program Purposes:** To promote and recognize scholastic achievement and to demonstrate the advantages of, and the issues faced by, municipally-owned and operated utilities.

**Eligibility and Guidelines:** Only high school seniors whose parents or legal guardians are residential customers of an IMUA member utility may submit written essays to win a \$1,000 scholarship.

(**Note:** IMUA scholarships **are not available** to the employees, staff or immediate family members of the IMUA, IMEA and IPEA, or to the immediate family members of the Board of Directors of these organizations, nor to immediate family members of those individuals who serve on the IMUA Scholarship Judging Panel and Committee.)

1. Students must complete the enclosed application and submit, along with a photocopy of their transcripts, an essay of 500 words or less, typewritten and double-spaced, with the following information included on the cover:
  - Student's first and last name, home address, phone number and e-mail address.
2. Essay should **NOT** mention the student's hometown or hometown utility by name.
3. Sources of information regarding municipal utilities and utility-related issues can be found in the reference section of your library, periodicals, the Internet or individuals employed by your local municipal utility. Search phrases might include: *municipal utility; local ownership; municipalization; public power; public gas system; utility deregulation; Public Utility Holding Company Act (PUHCA); public interest; and, municipal utility rates*. There are many other sources as well. The following websites and sources may also be useful obtaining information helpful in writing your essay:
  - American Public Power Association ([www.publicpower.org](http://www.publicpower.org))
  - American Public Gas Association ([www.apga.org](http://www.apga.org))
  - Illinois Municipal Electric Agency ([www.imea.org](http://www.imea.org))
  - Illinois Municipal Utilities Association ([www.imea.org](http://www.imea.org), then click on the "IMUA link")
  - Illinois Public Energy Agency ([www.imea.org](http://www.imea.org), then click on the "IPEA link")
  - Energy Information Administration ([www.eia.gov](http://www.eia.gov))
  - Your local municipal utility superintendent
  - American Water Works Association (AWWA) ([www.awwa.org](http://www.awwa.org))
  - Illinois Rural Water Association (ILRWA) ([www.ilrwa](http://www.ilrwa))

4. Essays **MUST** address your choice of any one of the following four (4) issues/questions:

**Question 1 – Net Metering – (Electric)**

**Net metering is an electricity-billing concept that is rapidly gaining popularity and acceptance among electric customers, particularly solar-energy enthusiasts. What do you see as the net metering advantages and/or disadvantages for electric-service providers, including municipally-owned and operated utilities? How does net metering benefit homeowners? Are there any disadvantages for homeowners? For utilities? (Please explain and use specific examples to support your argument).**

**Question 2 – Electric Vehicles (EVs)**

**Electric vehicles (EVs) can be fun to drive and offer a number of advantages when compared to gasoline-powered vehicles, including better economy, better efficiency, lower carbon emissions and less maintenance. What do you suggest as possible solutions to address some of the drawbacks cited with EVs, which include a higher purchase price compared to standard vehicles as well as safety and battery concerns?**

**Question 3 – Water**

**Aquifers serve as a stable drinking-water resource for many communities throughout the country. While aquifers do re-charge and/or refill naturally, some of these sources are becoming inadequate to serve the needs of growing communities, particularly those located in high water-demand areas. In addition to the potable drinking water demand, other users are pumping groundwater from aquifers for industrial or agricultural uses, further stressing the aquifers themselves. Do you think current regulations in place in Illinois are adequate to stop the depletion of aquifers? Please explain and describe if there are additional regulations or measures you think should be taken to protect aquifers as a stable drinking-water resource for Illinois communities.**

## **Question 4 – Public Power (Benefits of Public Power)**

**Public power has many distinct characteristics that directly and indirectly benefit consumers and contribute to community progress and economic development. What are some of these many benefits and how do you see them contributing to your community's betterment including its quality of life? Please explain.**

5. The deadline for submitting written essays is **Friday, March 11, 2022**. Please send your essay, transcripts and completed application to the address listed on the bottom of the application.
6. A total of **four (4) finalists** will be chosen by the IMUA Scholarship Committee. Each finalist will receive a finalist certificate and a \$1,000 award from IMUA. **Winners will be announced sometime in April.**

**GOOD LUCK!**

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EXCELLENCE IN UTILITY SERVICES.*

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