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# STERLING NEWS

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## **SMLD to promote automated system**

The Sterling Municipal Light Department will be at the Sterling Fair Sept. 12 and 13 to promote its new Advanced Meter Infrastructure and its efficiency and conservation programs.

AMI (also known as "Smart Grid") is a complete automation of meter reading to billing. It will allow the department's meters, communication modules and a computer to work together over a 900 MHz radio frequency to securely transmit data back to the invoicing system to complete customer billing. AMI will make it easier for the light department to monitor and control system operations parameters, substation loads, and detect tampering and/or theft. Eventually, customers will have real-time access to their usage, allowing them to make energy-efficient choices concerning their energy use.

The SMLD will distribute flyers on renewable energy, energy efficiency, conservation programs plus federal and state incentives for solar and wind projects. Be sure to inquire about the department's upcoming online payments for your electric bills. Call customer service at 978-422-8267 for more information.