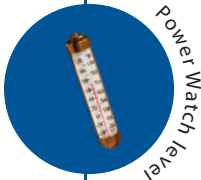




Watch energy use



Take Action



Power Watch

Power Watch is an energy program that raises awareness of electric issues and helps keep electric rates low. It focuses on communication, education, and action steps to help Ames become more *energy smart*.

In addition to normal seasonal energy messages, Power Watch follows the demand for electricity and provides timely and meaningful energy messages.

In spite of steady growth over the past 20 years, Ames residents have experienced few rate increases. Our rates are well below those of neighboring utilities. Keeping electric demand down reduces the need to purchase or produce expensive power, which helps keep rates low and conserves our natural resources and environment.

You can do other things throughout the day to aid in conserving energy such as turning off any unnecessary electric devices, closing the drapes, and using blinds to block out the daytime sun. Or you can avoid or minimize cooking with your oven, close air registers and doors in rooms not being used, and keep your refrigerator door closed.

How it works

Power Watch continuously monitors the weather and demand for electricity. Based on these factors, energy management messages are generated to provide the best information and recommendations needed at all times.

Participate in Power Watch

Power Watch will advise you when to curb electric usage. The program will keep you informed about total electric usage through the following:

www.cityofames.org

Real-time electric usage and the current temperature are available on the City's Web site. Look for the Power Watch link.

City Side

The monthly newsletter mailed with your utility bill includes *Power Lines* for Electric Services news.

TV12

TV shows on the government access channel will feature Power Watch programs during peak conditions.

KASI 1430

Peak alert announcements will be made on this local radio station.

24-hour phone message: 239-5180

Call anytime to get information on current conditions and recommended actions.

Power Watch Benefits:

- Helps keep rates low.
- Provides education on energy conservation and management issues.
- Encourages community involvement.
- Encourages more individual control over electricity usage and ultimate costs.
- Gives real-time information on system demands and reduction impacts.
- Improves communication between Electric Services and Ames citizens.
- Provides early warning information for peak alerts.
- Contributes to a cleaner environment by reducing power plant fuel consumption.

Other Things You Can Do

Sign up for Prime Time Power, the Electric Services residential central air conditioner program. Prime Time Power is a separate program that works in partnership with Power Watch. It is a Residential Load Management System that lowers the demand for electricity, which peaks during hot weather. A few days each summer, when the demand for electricity is at its highest, radio-controlled switches are used to cycle central air conditioners off for 7.5 minutes out of every 30 minutes. Signing up for Prime Time Power will keep the demand for electricity down, and you will receive a \$5 credit on each of the four summer utility bills. Take advantage of other Smart Energy Programs: Commercial Lighting, Energy Audit, AC Rebate, and Weatherization.

FACTS

You can perform your own home energy audit. Call 515-239-5177 for a free audit packet.

Install compact fluorescent bulbs, which use 70% less energy and provide the same amount of light.

All air conditioners have a seasonal energy efficiency rating (SEER). Choose one with a high SEER--it's more efficient.

Seal your home. Windows and doors account for about 15% of home air leakage. Holes into the attic and the top of the foundation are the greatest sources.

Take advantage of floor and ceiling fans, which use only a fraction of the energy used by air conditioners.

You can save 1-2% on your energy bills by using foam gaskets on all exterior outlets and switches.

Keep your oven door closed. Each time you open the oven door when you're cooking can lower the oven's temperature as much as 25 degrees.

Power Watch Levels:

Awareness condition: Power Plant can easily handle this load.

Preparedness: Power Plant is approaching high output. Be prepared to reduce electricity use.

Watch: The demand on the system is high and some reductions are necessary. Start reducing electricity use.

Alert: System load has climbed to a level that requires action to reduce demand. This is a Peak Alert where load control (Prime Time Power) is initiated.

For more information on Power Watch or other *Smart Energy* programs, contact Ames Electric Services at 515-239-5177 or go online at www.cityofames.org



Using Resources, Resourcefully.



City of Ames
Electric Services

Power Watch

Information & Action Program

