



**To:** Mayor and City Council  
**From:** Nolan Sagan, Sustainability Coordinator  
**Date:** July 22, 2025  
**Subject:** FY 2024/25 Climate Action Plan Update

Since the Climate Action Plan was accepted by City Council in June 2023, staff has worked diligently towards the goals set out in the plan. This includes major greenhouse gas reductions in six focus areas, or big moves. **Milestones leading to this point include:**

- July 2010 - The City contracts with Iowa State University for 25% of ISU's Director of Sustainability's time. (This contract was terminated once the City hired the first full-time Sustainability Coordinator)
- August 2020 - The City completes its first community-wide greenhouse gas inventory
- June 2023 - The Climate Action Plan is accepted by City Council
- January 2024 - Staff issued a report outlining seven initial action steps from the Climate Action Plan
- July 2024 - The City adds a new full-time Sustainability Coordinator position.

**The attached presentation, to be delivered on July 22, will focus on the Climate Action Plan and Six Big Moves, including progress made to date and goals for the next year.**

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

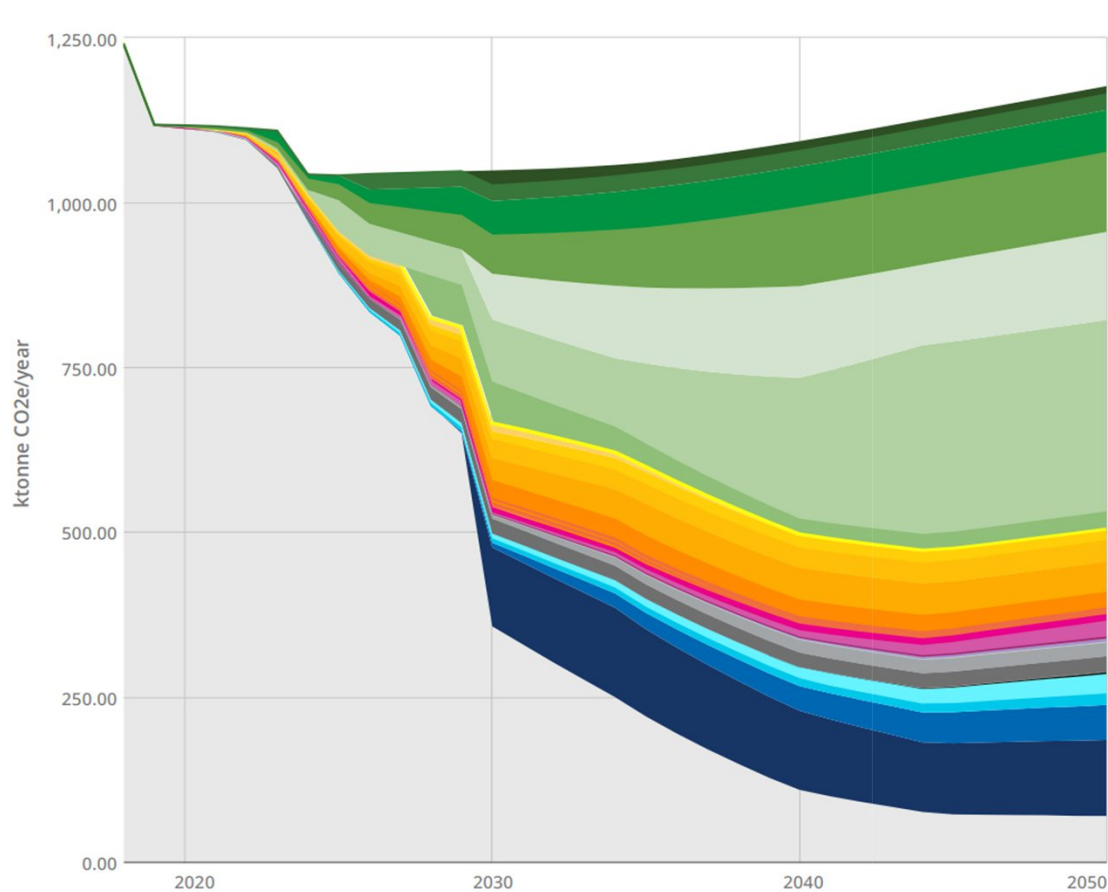
[FY 2024-25 Climate Action Plan Update.pptx](#)



# FY 2024/25 Climate Action Plan Update

July 22, 2025

# Climate Action Plan



Actions	BIG MOVE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1 Renewable natural gas for district energy</li> <li>1.2 Wind generation</li> <li>1.3 Electric boilers for district energy</li> <li>1.4 Solar PV on roofs</li> <li>1.5 Decarbonisation of the MISO grid</li> <li>1.6 Ground mount solar</li> <li>1.7 Renewable natural gas in buildings</li> </ul>	1. Renewable energy generation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1 Electrification of industrial processes</li> <li>2.2 Retrofit of municipal buildings</li> <li>2.3 High efficiency hot water in retrofit of homes</li> <li>2.4 Enhanced industrial efficiency</li> <li>2.5 Retrofits of homes</li> <li>2.6 Retrofits of non-residential buildings</li> <li>2.7 High efficiency hot water in retrofits of non-residential buildings</li> <li>2.8 Heat pumps in non-residential retrofits</li> <li>2.9 Heat pumps in residential retrofits</li> </ul>	2. Building retrofits program
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.1 Heat pumps in new non-residential buildings</li> <li>3.2 High performance new homes</li> <li>3.3 High performance new non-residential buildings</li> <li>3.4 Hot water heat pumps in new non-residential buildings</li> <li>3.5 High performance new municipal buildings</li> <li>3.6 Heat pumps in new homes</li> </ul>	3. Net zero new construction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4.1 Electrify the municipal fleet</li> <li>4.2 Electrify personal vehicles</li> <li>4.3 Electrify commercial vehicles</li> <li>4.4 Electrify transit</li> <li>4.5 Net zero aviation fuels for local flights</li> </ul>	4. Reduce vehicle emissions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5.1 Increased walking and cycling</li> <li>5.2 Reduced driving</li> </ul>	5. Increase active transportation and transit use
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6.1 Increased waste diversion</li> <li>6.2 New waste to energy facility</li> </ul>	6. Reduce waste emissions

6 Big Moves  
31 Strategies

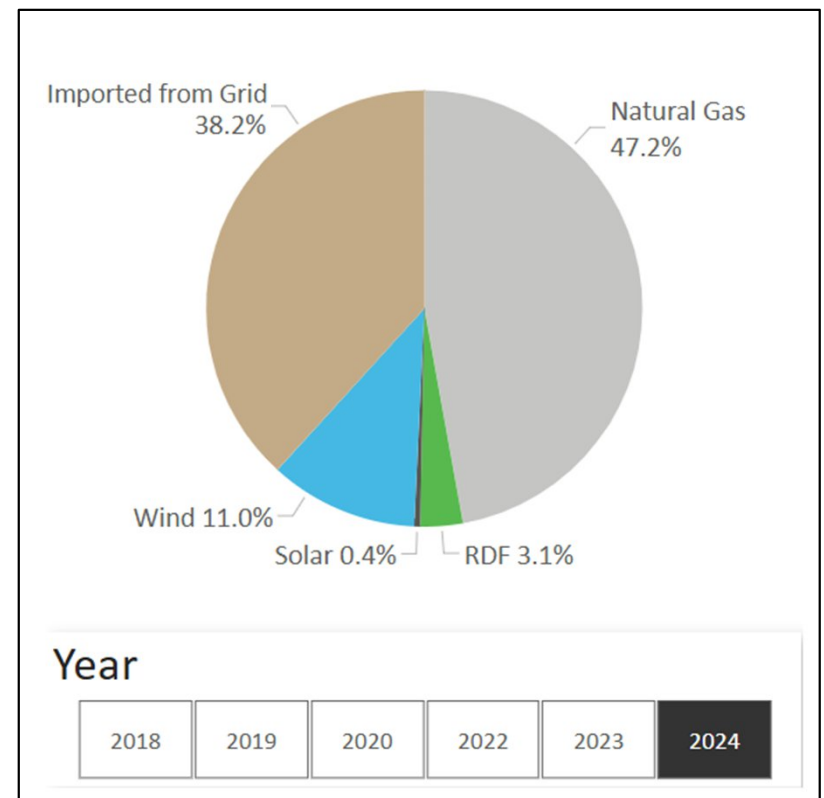


# 1. Renewable Energy Generation

- Progress

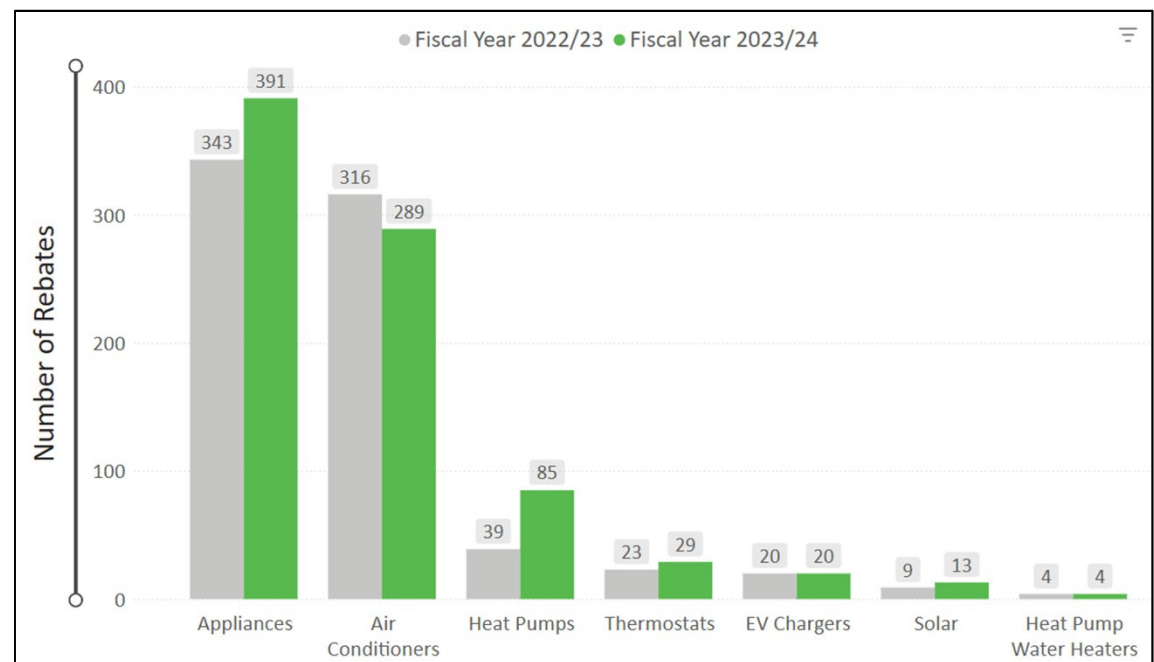
2023	AMES	Iowa	National
% Renewable	15%	60%	16%
% Coal	0%	24%	16%

- Enhanced solar rebates
  - SunSmart community solar
- Looking ahead
  - Investments in new renewable and thermal generation



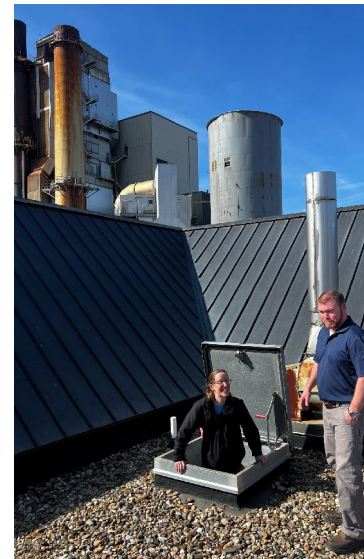
## 2. Building Retrofits

- Progress
  - Smart Energy rebates for Electric customers
- Looking ahead
  - Pay As You Save feasibility study is ongoing
  - Rural Energy Savings Program (RESP) application in July
  - Advanced metering, time-of-use rates
  - Green Iowa AmeriCorps
    - Energy audits & weatherization



# Municipal Buildings

- Progress
  - Facility energy audits project
    - 16 buildings
    - Engineering analysis and energy efficiency recommendations
    - Solar and EV charging feasibility
- Looking ahead
  - Use energy audits to prioritize retrofit projects
  - Evaluate net-zero ready for all new municipal buildings – Fire Station #2 planning includes net-zero construction



### 3. Net Zero Ready New Construction

- Progress
  - Smart Energy Rebate - 9 new homes incentivized in 2024
  - Enhanced tax abatement program and builder incentive
- Looking ahead
  - Pilot project, in partnership with builder
  - Harrison Welbeck development

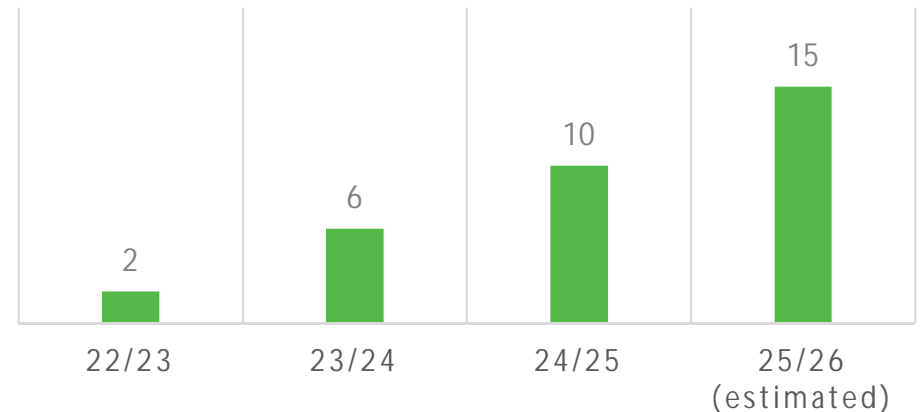


## 4. Reduce Vehicle Emissions

- Fleet
  - 10 fully electric vehicles
  - 19 hybrid electric vehicles
  - B100 program
    - 11 snowplow trucks, 5 CyRide buses
- EV Charging
  - 158 MWh delivered in 2024 by
    - Over half a million EV passenger miles
  - New EV charging stations at City Hall, Water Treatment, and WPC
  - Charging Smart program
    - Initial fleet electrification analysis
    - Multifamily EV charging

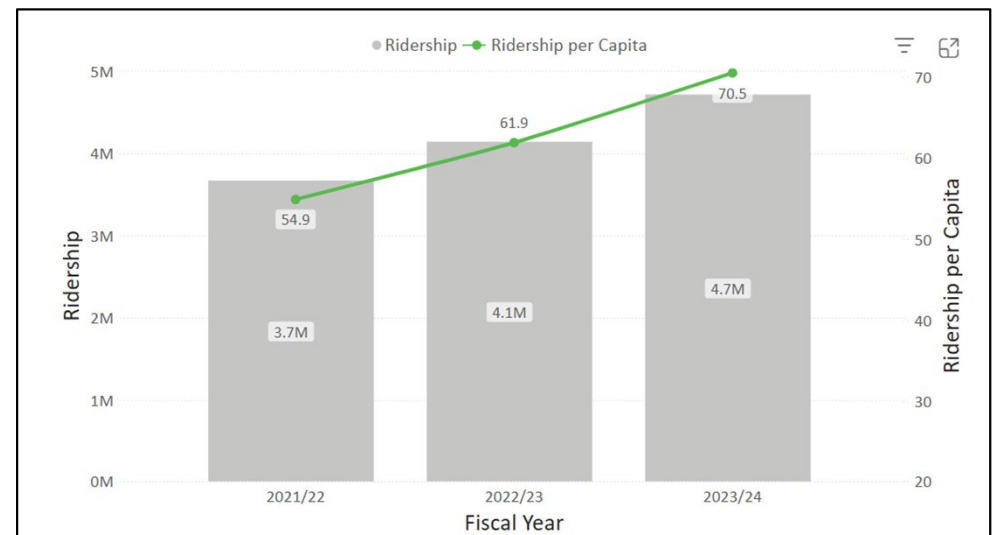


### EVs in Municipal Fleet



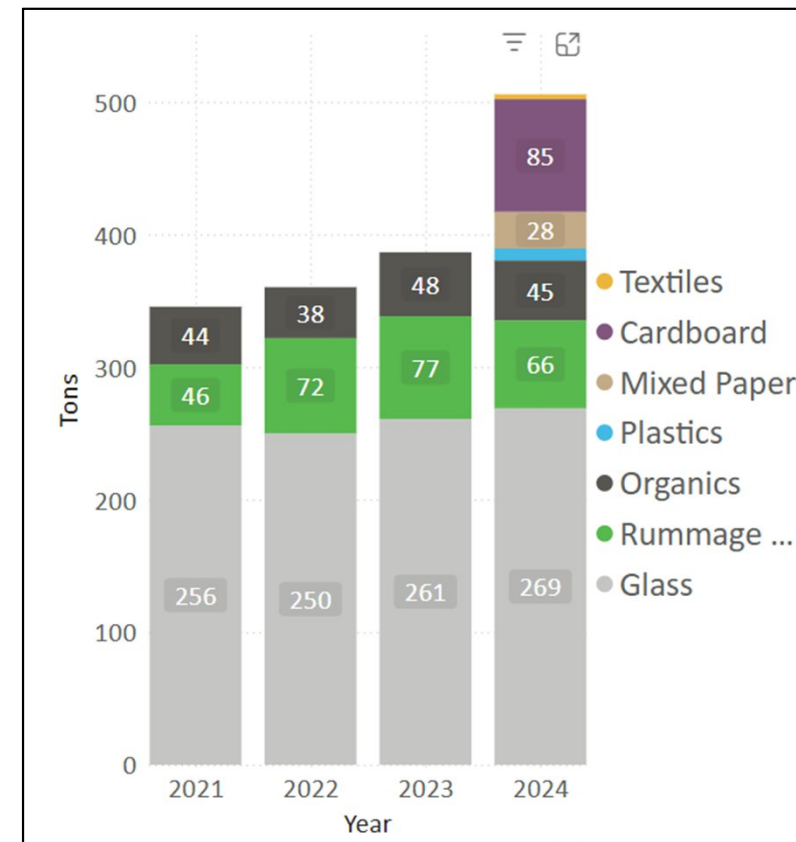
## 5. Active Transportation & Transit

- CyRide ridership continues to increase each year since 2020, and ridership per capita is among the highest in the nation.
- 86 miles of bike and pedestrian infrastructure
  - Over \$3 million planned investment in bike and pedestrian infrastructure over next 2 years
- Bicycle and Personal Transportation Device ordinance in progress
  - 250 responses to recent public survey



## 6. Reduce Waste Emissions

- Progress
  - Rummage Rampage – 433 tons diverted and \$285,000 raised over 8 years
    - Friday, July 25, to Saturday, Aug. 2
  - Drop-off recycling - 100+ tons of new recycling in 2024
- Looking ahead
  - Resource Recovery & Recycling Campus
  - Community curbside recycling
- National Picture
  - Current recycling rate: ~2%
  - US average diversion rate: 32%
  - ~75% of waste is recyclable/compostable



# Grants & Funding Opportunities

## City of Ames Climate Action Grants

- Community Grants - Approximately \$40,000 awarded to five grant projects
- Youth mini-grants - Six \$500 youth mini-grants awarded
  - Education and outreach on the 10-Year Pollinator Plan, single-use plastic waste in scientific labs, gardening, and food security

## Federal Funding Opportunities

- EPA Community Change
- EPA Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR)
- Climate Smart Communities Initiative
- USDA Rural Energy Savings Program (RESP)

## Spring 2025 Community Climate Action Grants

ACTORS	Rooftop solar panels
Green Hills Community	On-site composting
Prairie Flower Children's Center	Composting and garden beds
Seeds of Sustainability	Repair Café tools and bike repair station near downtown
UCC	Heat pump and outreach events



# Education & Outreach


- New and improved web pages
- Heat Pump and Solar Farm open house events
- 25 speaking and tabling events
- Sustainable Ames Newsletter, with over 1,000 subscribers
- Collaboration with the Communications and Outreach team
- Resilient Iowa Communities Recognition award
- Rummage RAMPage



**SUSTAINABLE  
AMES**  
newsletter





## heat pumps OPEN HOUSE



Join heating and cooling experts for an open house at the Ames Public Library. This event will provide participants the opportunity to ask questions and get information about energy-efficient heat pumps.

**WHEN** Tuesday, Nov. 19, 4-6 p.m.

**WHERE** Ames Public Library  
Danfoss Room  
515 Douglas Ave.

 | 

Ames Electric Services, 502 Carroll Ave.  
515.239.5170  
[www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartEnergy](http://www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartEnergy)



## solar farm OPEN HOUSE

**SHEEP MOW, BEES GROW, SOLAR GLOWS**



Come explore the solar field, learn about solar energy, and meet the sheep and bees that thrive on the site's native habitat. Refreshments available. Experts will be there to answer questions about community solar or installing solar on your home.

**WHEN:** 4 to 6 p.m.  
Wednesday, June 18

**WHERE:** 623 Airport Road  
west of Sam's Club

 | 

Ames Electric Services, 502 Carroll Ave. • 515.239.5170 • [www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartEnergy](http://www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartEnergy)



# Looking ahead

## Goals for 2025-2026

- Continue to explore Pay As You Save
- Pilot high-performance, net-zero housing
- Second round of community climate grants in October 2025
- Launch Green Iowa AmeriCorps weatherization program
- Coordinate Smart Business Challenge restructuring
- Leverage municipal energy audits to plan and complete retrofit projects
- Methodically plan and implement fleet EV transition

