

City Side

Become More Sustainable; Join SunSmart Ames!

The City of Ames has a long history of promoting sustainability and pursuing renewable energy. In addition to including wind power in our energy portfolio, Ames is proud to have opened the first municipally owned waste-to-energy facility in the nation more than 40 years ago. The next step – with customer help – is adding solar power.

SunSmart Ames from the City of Ames Electric Services is a partnership with customers and a solar energy production company. In the proposed plan, the City of Ames will purchase all the solar power produced by a privately owned solar farm built on public property just north of the Ames Municipal Airport. Using a private company rather than having Ames Electric Services own the farm is important because a private company can take advantage of federal tax credits. Those incentives are then reflected in a competitive energy contract with Ames Electric Services. The farm is expected to generate 2 megawatts (MW).



Purchasing energy produced by a community solar farm makes sense for customers who can't or don't want to install an individual solar system on their home. Ames customers can purchase "Power Packs" and subscribe to a portion of the energy output from the project. Each Power Pack represents about 3 percent of an average home's energy and will cost less than \$350. Participants will receive a small monthly credit back on their utility bill for the 20-year life span of the solar panels. Ames Electric Services customers interested in getting involved in SunSmart Ames, a community solar project, are asked to return "Intent to Purchase" forms or fill out information on the City's website to ensure the project moves forward. For more information, go to www.CityOfAmes.org/Solar.

Save the Date!

A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Water Treatment Plant, 1800 E. 13th St., was attended this past summer by more than 1,000 guests. During the event, participants learned more about treating and distributing millions of gallons of great-tasting Ames water to more than 20,000 homes and businesses throughout the city. The tours were so popular that not all participants were able to get through the facility.

The Water Treatment Plant will host a second opportunity for public tours. Mark your calendar for the morning of Saturday, March 24. Tour details will be coming in early March. Check our website at www.CityOfAmes.org.

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Rummage RAMPage 2018

We're back for a bigger and better third year! Join us at Rummage RAMPage, a community-wide rummage sale focused on keeping usable items out of the landfill. The event will be held at the end of July and into early August. Watch for details!



Calendar

City Council Meetings

The following meetings will be held in the Council Chambers, 515 Clark Ave.:

6 p.m. March 6

6 p.m. March 27

A Council workshop is scheduled for 6 p.m. on March 20. For the most current information, go to: www.CityOfAmes.org.

Block Party Reservations

The Street 'N' Greet Block Party Trailer makes having a block party convenient and easy. The trailer is available free of charge to Ames residents for use at neighborhood block parties and is a great way to build neighborhood connections. Inside the trailer you'll find street barricades, folding tables and chairs, a karaoke machine, outdoor games for children and adults, and more.

Beginning Monday, March 12, submit a reservation request at www.CityOfAmes.org/trailer.

City staff will contact you regarding the requested date and the event details for your block party. Please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 515.239.5341 with questions.

Fire Hydrant Flushing Set for Spring

The Ames Public Works Department plans to begin flushing rust from city water mains beginning Wednesday, March 28, weather permitting, and continuing for approximately two weeks. Each year, this program provides Ames residents with the safest and highest quality water possible.

Flushing serves the following purposes:



- Dislodges and removes mineral deposits and sediments from the water mains.
- Verifies the proper operation of fire hydrants and valves.
- Helps identify weaknesses in the water system.
- Checks for closed valves and weak flows in the water system.

During the flushing process, Ames residents may experience rust in the water, even when crews are not working in the immediate area. To avoid rust, follow these tips:

- Turn on cold water first to check for rust to avoid drawing it into the hot water heater.
- If the water looks rusty, run the tap for one to two minutes until it clears.
- If rust discolors clothing in a washing machine, rust remover is available at the City Hall information desk, 515 Clark Ave., Ames fire stations, Water Treatment Plant, 1800 E. 13th St., or by calling 515.239.5550.

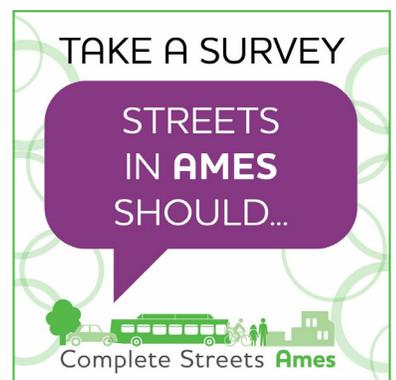
Specific information about the times, dates, and locations of the crews will be released to the local media prior to beginning the flushing, or you may check the City's website at www.CityOfAmes.org.

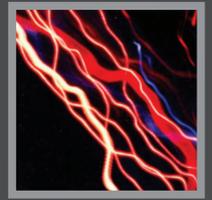
Get Involved in Complete Streets

Complete Streets is a design process of community transportation that provides guidance for cities in developing future plans. Complete Streets considers all users including drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists, mass transit, and others when implementing transportation improvement projects. The Complete Streets philosophy places a high value on safety, connectivity, access, fiscal responsibility, and quality of life.

What does that mean for Ames? Your input is important to customize the City of Ames Complete Streets Plan. **Fill out the survey at www.CityOfAmes.org/CompleteStreets.**

In addition to promoting healthy lifestyles, Complete Streets seeks to enhance the environment, promote a sense of place, preserve historic resources, and improve the aesthetics of the community. The focus on Complete Streets has evolved out of a national preference for choice when it comes to transportation options. Nearly three-quarters of Americans feel they have no choice but to drive as much as they do, and the majority want options to choose different types of transportation methods.





Project Share Provides Assistance To Residents Who Need Help

The Ames Electric Services Project Share program continues to be a success because of the compassion and generosity of our customers. This winter season, through December 31, 2017, we have been able to provide \$9,250 in assistance to 76 households. A simple way to share the warmth with those in need is to make a monthly pledge or a one-time contribution to Project Share.

The purpose of the Ames Electric Services Project Share program is to solicit and accept contributions which are used to assist our low-income customers. A committee appointed by the Ames City Council determines the permissible uses of the funds donated to the Project Share program. The committee has adopted guidelines to ensure that every \$1 contributed is used to assist low-income customers.



All expenses incurred administering the program are covered by Ames Electric Services as a donation in-kind. Mid-Iowa Community Action (MICA) assists the City of Ames in the Administration of the program by determining eligibility of applicants for Project Share funds.

Please Consider a Contribution to Project Share

I wish to make a monthly contribution to Project Share. I understand this amount will be listed on my monthly utility bill and that I can cancel my pledge at any time by contacting the City of Ames Utility Customer Service office.

\$1/month \$2/month \$5/month \$10/month other ____/month

I wish to make a one time contribution to Project Share rather than making a monthly pledge. I have enclosed a \$ _____ donation to Project Share.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please return this form with your utility bill payment or mail to:
Ames Electric Services, Attn: Project Share Committee, P.O.
Box 811, Ames, IA 50010-0811

Energy Tips

Lower your utility bills and reduce your carbon footprint through simple conservation efforts.

- Clean furnace filters are necessary for efficient furnace operation. Remember to check and change filters regularly.
- Adding insulation to your home can cut your heating costs up to 25%.
- Turn your thermostat down by 5 degrees and save up to 15% of your heating energy.
- Seal ducts so more conditioned air gets where you want it to go.
- Keep your registers free of obstructions to allow your conditioned air to do its job.
- Open your blinds and drapes to allow in the heating rays of the sun.
- Have your furnace checked periodically by a professional service person.
- Participate in Smart Energy programs to save energy. For more information, visit www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartEnergy.



Ask the Energy Guy

Q: Is there anything I can do in advance to be better prepared if my electricity would ever go off?

A: Although we can't guarantee that your power will never go off, we always do our best to restore service as quickly as possible. In fact, one of our greatest strengths as your local

community owned electric utility is our ability to respond quickly in case of a power outage.

Recently, City of Ames Electric Services upgraded its outage management system (OMS). This system is in place to aid in the restoration of power in the event of loss. The OMS pinpoints the outage and provides mapping for line crews saving precious time and reducing to a minimum the duration of the outage. How does it do this? The system identifies your phone number when you call in and associates it with your address. **Remember, the number to call to report a power outage is 515.239.5240.** (This is a great number to have stored in your cell phone or near your land line.)

How can you help? Before an outage occurs is the time to provide two current phone numbers to Utility Customer Service that can be associated with your address. Calling from a system-recognized number means the utility knows your power is out and ensures the quickest restoration. You can provide a land phone and a cell phone number, two cell phone numbers, or other combination.

There are two ways to update your information. You can call Utility Customer Service at 515.239.5120 during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday through Friday), or you can fill out the form online at www.CityOfAmes.org/Outage. One more tip for getting information quickly during an outage. To check on how many people have been affected by an electric outage, go to our real time outage reporting map at www.CityOfAmes.org/ElectricOutage.

Numbers to Know

Power out 515.239.5240

Street light out 515.239.5500

Utility bills 515.239.5120

Energy questions 515.239.5177

Tree growing too close to an electric line 515.239.5500

Going to be digging?
Iowa One Call:811

Storm Water Concern..... 515.239.5160

Renewable Energy

For December 2017

22.1% of electricity used this month was generated from wind.

1.8% of electricity this month was generated by refuse derived fuel (RDF) from the Resource Recovery Plant.

.02% of renewable energy used this month was generated by solar.

132 Ames customers have invested in solar voltaic systems.

78 LED street lights installed for a total of **1,951**.

Steve Wilson
"The Energy Guy"

Energy Services Coordinator
515.239.5177

Prime Time Power

Even though it's winter, customers can still plan ahead for warm weather. Prime Time Power is available to homeowners and small businesses with central air conditioners.

An important note: You do not need to reapply for Prime Time Power if you signed up in a previous year. The \$5 credit during each of the four summer months is automatically applied to your account.

For more information, call Utility Customer Service at 515.239.5120 or Steve Wilson at 515.239.5177.

City Side is a publication of the City of Ames, Iowa

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Questions?
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