

City Side

Caring People Quality Programs Exceptional Service

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Holiday Closings

City Hall and most City of Ames offices will be closed on Monday, Nov. 11, for Veterans Day, and Thursday, Nov. 28, and Friday, Nov. 29, for Thanksgiving.

New Voucher Program to Offer Flexibility for Yard Waste Days

Mark your calendar for fall Yard Waste Days. To help make disposal easier this season, participants have four Saturdays in November to drop off yard waste at no charge at GreenRU, 400 Freel Drive.

-  **Saturday, Nov. 2** (leaves only)
- Saturday, Nov. 9** (leaves and brush)
-  **Saturday, Nov. 16** (leaves only)
- Saturday, Nov. 30** (leaves only)

This year participants also have the option of picking up a voucher at the Resource Recovery Plant, 110 Center Ave., that is good for a one-time brush disposal. The voucher must be redeemed during GreenRU business hours from noon to 5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 8, Monday, Nov. 11 or Wednesday, Nov. 13.

Those participating in Yard Waste Days are asked to enter the site from South Dayton Avenue to Southeast Fifth Street. When exiting the site, turn north on Freel Drive to Lincoln Way. For questions about the voucher or Yard Waste Days, contact the Resource Recovery Plant at 515.239.5137.

Take the Transportation Survey

The Ames Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO) is updating its regional Forward 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan!

As part of this process, residents are asked to participate in a Community Transportation Assessment Survey. The survey will be used to help the planning organization understand transportation behavior in Ames.



The survey will be available in November at www.cityofames.org/Forward45. Thank you in advance for your time and input!



City Council Meetings

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

6 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 12
6 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 26

For the most current information, go to: www.CityOfAmes.org.

Library Book Sale in November

Find great deals on thousands of used items, including books, movies, music, and more at the sale in the auditorium of the Ames Public Library, 515 Douglas Ave.

Thursday, Nov. 7
5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Admission \$2
Free admission and early entry starting at 5 p.m. for current donors to the Ames Public Library Friends Foundation at the \$20 level and above.

Friday, Nov. 8
9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
FREE Admission

Saturday, Nov. 9
9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
FREE Admission

Sunday, Nov. 10
Noon to 5 p.m.
Admission \$1 and everything in the auditorium is free.

Soil Restoration Rebates Improve Lawns, Reduce Run-Off

Fall is a good time to enhance the health of cool season lawns. The City of Ames Smart Watersheds Program offers a rebate up to \$350 for Soil Quality Restoration (SQR). During construction or home building, topsoil is often completely removed. Topsoil that is respread is often compacted and has reduced organic matter. Compacted soils with low organic matter result in higher runoff during rainfall events and prohibit healthy vegetative growth.



SQR has direct benefits such as improving soil quality and increasing infiltration of rainwater into the ground. This reduces runoff and improves the health of your lawn. SQR also helps create a beautiful lawn that requires less water, fertilizer, and pesticides. Rebates are available for installation of native landscaping and/or native turf, rain gardens, composters, and rain barrels.



Examples of lawns with and without soil quality restoration.

Adding compost improves lawn and landscape health by increasing porosity and organic matter content, by breaking down nutrients and making them available to plants, improving plant hardiness and vigor, and retaining more water in the landscape. When runoff is prevented from moving off the landscape, eroded soil, nutrients, and other pollutants do not enter our surface waters. Ames Utility customers are eligible to apply for up to \$350 in a rebate for soil restoration.

Pay Attention to the Signs!

Many Ames residents like to support a candidate, announce a yard sale, or cheer on the home team with a temporary yard sign. However, there are rules about sign placement. When locating the right spot for your yard signs, please keep in mind:

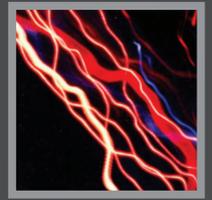
Signs should be placed behind the property line and are prohibited in the public right of way, which is the area located between the curb and the back of the sidewalk. For properties without sidewalks, the right of way width varies, but is usually the first 14.5 feet behind the curb in residential neighborhoods.

Residents may not place signs on public property such as medians, near intersections, in parks, or on utility poles.

Signs should never block the view of oncoming traffic or create a hazard. Signs that affect visibility are subject to removal.

Temporary signs may not be displayed for more than 90 consecutive days without removal or replacement.

The sign ordinance is included in Chapter 21 of the City of Ames Municipal Code and available on the City's website at www.CityOfAmes.org. For questions, contact Sara Van Meeteren with the Inspection Division at svanmeeteren@cityofames.org or 515.239.5255.



Preparing Now Can Reduce Winter Utility Bills Later

Winter may still seem a long way off, but the temperature will cool down before you know it. While many of us are looking forward to warm cocoa and tea, family gatherings, holidays, ugly sweaters, and frozen sports, the change in seasons also means the beginning of home heating costs.

What can you do to keep your heating bill down in the cold weather? Here are some tips to keep you comfortable and save you money this winter:

- Consider setting your thermostat on the cooler side, and pull out your favorite winter sweaters and throw blankets from storage.
- Set your programmable thermostat to 58 degrees F when you're away for the day, and as low as 55 degrees F when you're out of town. If your thermostat is not programmable, consider upgrading; Ames Electric Services offers rebates on wifi-enabled thermostats!
- It's never a bad time to consider upgrades to your home's envelope (what separates the house from the outdoors). Did you know that leakiness can be responsible for up to 30% of your heating bill? Caulk around windows, moldings, outlets, and more.
- If you feel overwhelmed or confused by the task of winterizing your home, take advantage of a free energy audit through Ames Electric Services.
- If you are considering a new furnace in the near future, opt for a high-efficiency model, or even a geothermal system that also provides highly efficient air conditioning and water heating. A geothermal system is the most expensive of these options up-front, but Ames Electric Services offers rebates to help you with the investment, and you can save thousands of dollars a year on operating costs!
- If you have lightly used and hard to insulate rooms of your home - like sun rooms, storage rooms, or guest rooms – consider shutting the vents and closing any doors to those spaces to focus your heating energy in more regularly-used parts of your home.
- Check your furnace filter! A dirty filter reduces the efficiency of your furnace. During the heating season, it's not a bad idea to check your filter every month or two.

SMART ENERGY 
www.cityofames.org

Electric Information Available Online

Check out Electric Services' Smart Energy website for information on programs and incentives available to help you improve your efficiency, conserve energy, and reduce your bills. Smart Energy is good for the environment, good for Ames, and good for you! For current program information, go to www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartEnergy, or call 515.239.5177.

Help Us Read Your Meter

Help the City of Ames read your electric meter by trimming shrubs or other foliage that has grown up in front of it. Please keep at least three feet of clear space in front of your electric meter. This not only helps the meter reader to safely and accurately read your meter, it is required as a condition of service. Thank you!

SunSmart Ames Update

Q: I signed up for SunSmart Ames, and I'm excited to see this project get started. What are the next steps?

A: First, thank you for your commitment to making Ames a more sustainable community. The SunSmart Ames project is a public-private partnership where Ames Electric Services will purchase all the power produced by a 10-acre solar farm along Airport Road, just north of the Ames Municipal Airport. Ames Electric Services customers can participate in the project by purchasing Power Packs, which are a portion of energy produced by a solar panel. Each Power Pack costs \$333 and is expected to generate a monthly utility bill credit of around \$1 to \$2. The lifespan of each Power Pack is 20 years. It's not too late to get involved in SunSmart Ames or increase your commitment.



For customers who have turned in a commitment pledge, Ames Electric Services will soon be distributing contracts with more detailed information about payment. Most participants have provided an email address and this will be the primary source of communication. A paper copy of the contract, payment instructions, and purchase form will be sent via U.S. Mail to customers who do not respond electronically. If you have never received an email update from Ames Electric Services about SunSmart Ames, please contact Energy Services Coordinator Kayley Lain at klain@cityofames.org or by phone at 515.239.5177. We want to make sure we have correct and updated contact information.

There is still design work left to be done, and an additional review of the site by the Federal Aviation Administration is required due to land location near the airport. If all goes as planned, we hope to be purchasing locally produced solar energy by next summer. More information is available at www.CityOfAmes.org/Solar.

Numbers to Know

Power out515.239.5240
Street light out515.239.5500
Utility bills515.239.5120
Energy questions..515.239.5177
Tree growing too close to an
electric line515.239.5500
Going to be digging?
Iowa One Call:811
Storm Water
Concern.....515.239.5160

Renewable Energy

For August 2019

6.67% of electricity used
this month was generated
from wind.

2.9% of electricity this
month was generated by refuse
derived fuel (RDF) from the
Resource Recovery Plant.

140 Ames customers have
invested in solar voltaic
systems.

62 LED street lights installed
for a total of 3,165.

Degree Day information available at
www.CityOfAmes.org/Electric



Kayley Lain

Energy Services Coordinator
515.239.5177

Call Before You Dig!

Be careful and call Iowa One Call before you dig. Have your yard marked free of charge. Now it's even easier to call. You can call 800.292.8989 or just dial 811.

Call for a Free Energy Conservation Packet

Need to improve your home's efficiency? Call 515.239.5177 for a free energy conservation packet. In it, you'll find booklets about insulation and home tightening from the Iowa Energy Center, a home self audit, energy saving tips, and energy conservation information.

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Questions?

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