

City Side

Caring People Quality Programs Exceptional Service

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Holidays in January

City Hall and most City of Ames departments will be closed on Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2014, for New Year's Day.



Power Plant Prepares for Natural Gas Conversion; Reduced Carbon Footprint

For more than 100 years, the Ames Power Plant has provided the electricity to light lamps, cool homes, and power machinery throughout the city. Now regulatory changes and proposed emissions standards regarding coal are transforming future power production. To be best prepared for anticipated regulations, Ames City Council recently approved moving forward on the conversion of the coal-fired boilers at the Ames Power Plant to natural gas.

While this decision is expensive and will affect Ames Electric Services customers for many years, it charts a course to ensure the Ames Power Plant will be in compliance with federal standards designed to address concerns about climate change and mercury in the environment. New mercury limits go into effect in 2015, and soon the Environmental Protection Agency will introduce limits on carbon emissions for operating power plants. These new standards will make coal a far less appealing fuel source in the future and would require multi-million dollar modifications, as well.

The Electric Utility Operations Review and Advisory Board (EUORAB), a volunteer advisory group to the Mayor and City Council, reviewed staff recommendations before providing options. Converting the Ames Power Plant to natural gas proved to be the most effective solution, while still allowing the City of Ames to process garbage into a supplemental fuel source. The Ames Power Plant has burned coal as its primary fuel source since it was constructed. In 1975, Ames opened the first municipal waste-to-energy facility in the United States. The Resource Recovery Plant processes garbage from Ames and the surrounding Story County communities to create refuse derived fuel (RDF). RDF replaces 10 percent of the coal burned in the power plant boilers.

Converting the boilers to natural gas is estimated to cost \$36 million. An additional consideration is establishing a natural gas connection, and several options are being studied. Converting to natural gas will be an expensive endeavor. The process will take several years to complete, but ultimately conversion will be less costly than current projections for remaining with coal. The end result will be an Ames Power Plant with a smaller carbon footprint.

Resource Recovery Plant Recycles Trash; Produces Fuel

When the City of Ames opened the Resource Recovery Plant in 1975, it was the first municipally owned waste-to-energy facility in the country. Nearly 70 percent of garbage from Ames and other Story County communities is processed into refuse derived fuel (RDF). Metals are separated and recycled. Even with the conversion of the Power Plant to natural gas, the Resource Recovery Plant will continue to provide a supplemental fuel source for the Ames Power Plant, which eliminates the need for a landfill.



Calendar

City Council Meetings

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

7 p.m. January 14

7 p.m. January 28

A Council workshop on capital improvements will be held at 5:15 p.m. January 21. For the most current information, go to: www.cityofames.org.

Christmas Tree Recycling Offered

The City of Ames will provide free disposal of Christmas trees at the Parks & Recreation Maintenance Shop, 700 E. 13th Street. The designated drop-off days are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Jan. 3 and Saturday, Jan. 4. On these days the wood chipper will be running. The Christmas trees will be recycled into chips, which will be used in City of Ames parks. Trees can be dropped off at the Parks & Recreation Maintenance Shop at other times and dates throughout the winter. Specific information will be posted on our website. The driveway will be marked with a sign. The tree stand, tinsel, and all ornaments should be removed from the tree.



Stay Safe this Winter!

Fire Safety Tips For Winter

When the weather turns cold, many residents turn to fireplaces, wood-burning stoves, or space heaters to improve their home's comfort. While these provide a source of warmth, fuel-burning heat sources can also contribute to a residential fire if not used correctly.

The Ames Fire Department recommends residents always make sure portable heaters are in good working condition. Exhaust parts should be inspected for carbon build up, and the heater should have an emergency shut off in case of tipping. Also, never use a fuel-burning appliance without proper room venting. Burning fuels such as coal, kerosene, or propane can produce deadly carbon monoxide fumes.



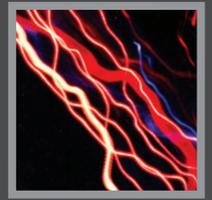
When using an indoor fireplace, residents should have their chimneys inspected annually and cleaned if necessary. Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace opening to prevent embers or sparks from jumping out, unwanted material going in, and to reduce the possibility of injury. Before going to bed, make sure the fireplace fire is out. Never close the damper with hot ashes in the fire. This can cause the fire to reignite and could force carbon monoxide into your home.

Finally, remember to check smoke detectors regularly. For fire safety questions, contact the Ames Fire Department at 515.239.5108.

Volunteer for a Board or Commission

Here's one way to volunteer in your community and make a difference. Join a City of Ames board or commission. Boards and commissions make recommendations to the Ames City Council and assist the Council in carrying out various functions of local government. The following boards and commissions have vacancies occurring in the first part of 2014. The number following the name of the board or commission indicates the number of pending vacancies. The number in parentheses denotes how many incumbents may be reappointed. Apply online at www.cityofames.org (under Our Government, Boards & Commissions). Applications are also available in the City Clerk's Office. **Deadline to apply is 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 7.**

| Commission/Board | Meeting Days/Times | Vacancies |
|---|---|-----------|
| ASSET | 2nd Thurs./5 p.m. | 1 (1) |
| Building Board of Appeals | As needed | 2 (2) |
| Civil Service Commission | 4th Thurs./8:15 a.m. | 1 (1) |
| Commission On The Arts (COTA) | 1st Mon./5 p.m. | 2 (1) |
| Electric Utility Operations Review & Advisory Board (EUORAB) | As needed | 2 (1) |
| Historic Preservation Commission | 2nd Mon./7 p.m. | 2 (2) |
| Human Relations Commission | 4th Thurs./5:30 p.m. | 2 (2) |
| Human Relations Commission - Hearing Officers (must be educated in law) | As needed | 3 |
| Human Relations Commission - Investigative & Conciliation Officers | As needed | 5 (2) |
| Library Board of Trustees | 3rd Thurs./7 p.m. | 3 (3) |
| Parks and Recreation Commission | 3rd Thurs./4 p.m. | 2 (2) |
| Partner Cities Association | 3rd Thurs./5 p.m. | 2 (1) |
| Planning and Zoning Commission | 1st & 3rd Wed./7 p.m. | 2 (1) |
| Property Maintenance Appeals Board | As needed | 3 (3) |
| Public Art Commission | 1st Wed./Noon | 5 (4) |
| Zoning Board of Adjustment | 2nd & 4th Wed. (Apr.-Oct.); 2nd Wed. (Nov.-Mar.)/7 p.m. | 2 |



‘Smart 150 Challenge’ Celebrates Commitment to Sustainability

The year 2014 marks our city’s sesquicentennial. For the past 150 years, Ames businesses have continued to make smart choices when it comes to sustainability efforts. Now the City of Ames is challenging the business community to heighten its sustainability efforts through the “Smart 150 Challenge.”

Throughout 2014, the City of Ames is seeking 150 businesses to complete energy audits, consider no-cost and low-cost options to save energy, and reduce water consumption. Businesses can participate in rebate programs and implement a business energy plan that saves money while helping the environment. Ames has many examples of our pioneering spirit when it comes to sustainability. The Smart 150 Challenge is an opportunity to recognize that commitment to environmental stewardship in the business community.



As our community celebrates this historic milestone, the business community is encouraged to join the Smart 150 Challenge. Five years ago, with support from the Ames City Council, Mayor Ann Campbell joined mayors from across the country in signing the U.S. Mayors’ Climate Protection Agreement. In the time that has passed, the City of Ames has continued to encourage residential and business sustainability efforts.

Beginning in January 2014, look for more information about how to participate in the Smart 150 Challenge as part of the Ames Sesquicentennial Celebration by going to the City’s website at www.cityofames.org.

Home Improvements Lower Bills Tips for Increasing Efficiency

Iowa can be a very cold place in the winter, and cold temperatures create high heating bills. According to the Department of Energy, many home owners have the potential to save 50 percent of their energy. The top areas are air leakage, insulation, and your furnace.

- ♦ Sealing air leaks can save 40 percent of your heating energy. The largest sources of air leakage are the rim joist area at the top of the basement foundation, and gaps or holes leading into the attic. Don’t forget to caulk windows and doors.
- ♦ Insulation helps reduce the heat transfer in (during summer) and out (during winter) of your home. The attic usually gets the most attention, but don’t forget the walls and basement.
- ♦ Schedule a Smart Energy Residential Audit to receive a customized report on making your home more energy efficient. For Ames Electric Services customers, the audit is free. Go to www.cityofames.org/Smart Energy for more information.

Eco Fair 2014 Reminder

The City of Ames is excited to once again host the annual Eco Fair. In an effort to help Ames residents embrace energy conservation and sustainable practices, the Eco Fair will showcase booths, displays, and vendors featuring energy-saving products. Booths will include information on electric and water conservation, watershed protection, low-impact landscaping, and transportation efficiency.

Please join us on Saturday, March 29, 2014, at the Community Center Gym, 515 Clark Ave., from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Eco Fair is fun and educational for all ages.

Iowa One Call Phone Number

Always remember to call before you dig. The Iowa One Call number is even easier to remember. Just dial 811!



Ask the Energy Guy

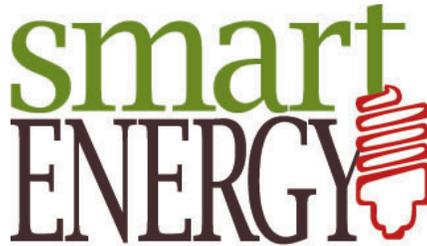
Q: What can you tell me about LED lights?

A: Glad you asked! Light emitting diode (LED) lights are a form of electroluminescence in which a material emits light in response to an electric current being passed through it. Electroluminescence

was discovered in 1907 by H. J. Round at Marconi Labs. The first LED was developed by Nick Holonyak Jr. while working at General Electric in 1962. Considered the father of the light emitting diode, Holonyak's LED was red, and it wasn't until 1972 that another color, yellow, was developed. The Monsanto Company was the first to mass produce LEDs. In 1968, the company began to supply Hewlett Packard with the lights used as indicators in hand held calculators.

Today there are many different LED applications, and replacements for standard incandescent bulbs are becoming more common. It's easy to see why. Light emitting diodes produce more light per watt than incandescent bulbs. Their small size allows them to be used on circuit boards, but they can also be grouped together for applications like household lighting, traffic signals, and street lights. LEDs light up very quickly and will achieve full brightness in milliseconds. They are ideal for applications that require quick on and off cycles and are not adversely affected by frequent switching. LEDs are dimmable and radiate very little heat. Most fail by growing dimmer over time, rather than burning out abruptly. They contain no mercury, are relatively shock resistant, and can last up to 100,000 hours. This makes them ideal for hard to reach applications. Some LEDs produced in the 1970s are still in service today.

Although there are many advantages to using LEDs, a drawback is their price. Due to their extremely low power requirements, LEDs ultimately save money over their life. However, they typically cost more than most other lighting technologies. For instance, an LED replacement for a 60-watt incandescent will only use 7 watts of electricity but can cost \$20. A 100-watt incandescent replacement will use 13 watts and can cost \$30. In Ames, an LED is eligible for a Smart Energy rebate and will pay for itself in energy savings in about a year.



Do you want to be rewarded for purchasing more energy-efficient residential lighting? Get more information about Smart Energy lighting rebates at cityofames.org/SmartEnergy.

Steve Wilson

"The Energy Guy"

Energy Services Coordinator
515.239.5177

Prime Time Power

The Prime Time Power program is available to all homeowners and small businesses with central air conditioners. You do not need to reapply for Prime Time Power if you've signed up before. The \$5 credit during each of the four summer months is automatically applied to your account. To sign up or receive additional information about the program, call Utility Customer Service at 515.239.5120 or Steve Wilson at 515.239.5177.

Call for a Free Energy Conservation Packet

Need to improve your home's energy efficiency? Call 515.239.5177 for a free energy conservation packet. You'll receive booklets from the Iowa Energy Center, a home self audit, and information on Smart Energy.

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

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Questions?

515 Clark Ave.
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www.cityofames.org

Numbers to Know

- Power out515.239.5240
- Street light out515.239.5500
- Utility bill515.239.5120
- Energy questions..515.239.5177
- Tree growing too close to an electric line515.239.5500
- Going to be digging?
- Iowa One Call: 811
- Stormwater Concern:.....515.239.5160

Power Plant Renewable Energy Use For October 2013
Wind purchased: 102,766,001 kWh
Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) Used: 31,023 tons

Heating Degree Days

| October | | | Season to date | | |
|---------|------|-----------------|----------------|-------|-----------------|
| 2013 | 2012 | 31-year Average | 12/13 | 11/12 | 31-year Average |
| 414 | 453 | 395 | 464 | 570 | 505 |

Cooling Degree Days

| October | | | Season to date | | |
|---------|------|-----------------|----------------|------|-----------------|
| 2013 | 2012 | 31-year Average | 2013 | 2012 | 31-year Average |
| 24 | 6 | 15 | 1196 | 1340 | 1041 |

Degree Days are tabulated from hourly temperature data recorded at the Electric Services Power Plant. Monthly and seasonal degree days are averages since 1982. More degree day information is available on our Web site: www.cityofames.org

