



# CITY SIDE

FEBRUARY 2020

## AMES WATER PLANT RECOGNIZED FOR ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE

The City of Ames, FOX Engineering Associates Inc., HDR, and Barr Engineering are the recipients of the 2020 American Council of Engineering Companies – Iowa chapter (ACEC-IA) Grand Conceptor award in addition to winning the grand prize in the Water and Wastewater Category for the Ames Water Treatment Plant. The Grand Conceptor Award is given to the one project that stands above all other entries.

The Ames Water Treatment Plant is a 15 million gallon per day (MGD) facility located on ground previously

owned by the federal government. The facility was built to be sustainable, have lower operating costs, provide increased redundancy and resiliency, and achieve LEED certification.

The ACEC-IA award recognizes the engineering design team’s work to improve the new facility through comprehensive planning, design, and construction of the new water plant. City staff, including administration, engineering, operators, and maintenance personnel, were an important part of the design team.

The team collaboratively addressed technical factors involved with treating the water, as well as development of the site, costs, funding, and long-term objectives. The project demonstrated a breakthrough approach to designing a water treatment plant to achieve LEED certification. Design included use of wood selected from renewable forests, a heating and cooling system that reduces energy consumption



by 30%, and using recycled white roofing materials and bright white concrete to reduce the buildings’ heat island effects. The \$70 million facility was completed in 2018. The collaborative design process has created a facility in which the entire design team and City staff are proud.

## CENSUS 2020: IT’S SAFE, EASY AND IMPORTANT

The 2020 Census counts every person living in the 50 states, District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories. The count is

mandated by the Constitution and conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, a nonpartisan government agency. In

mid-March, each home will receive an invitation to respond to a short questionnaire - online, by phone, or by mail. This will

mark the first time that census participation will take place online.

The census provides critical data that lawmakers, business owners, teachers, and many others use to provide daily services, products, and support for you and your community. Every year,

billions of dollars in federal funding go to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads, and other resources based on census data. The results of the census also determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives and are used to draw congressional and state legislative districts.



## CITY NEWS TO USE

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- City Budget Process Continues
- Help Keep Fire Hydrants Clear
- EcoChats Scheduled
- Carbon Monoxide Dangers
- Energy Q&A

### CITY OFFICES CLOSED:

City Hall and most City of Ames departments will be closed on Monday, Feb. 17, in recognition of Presidents’ Day. For more information about the City of Ames, go to:  
[www.CityOfAmes.org](http://www.CityOfAmes.org)



## GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY UNDERWAY

A cross-departmental team of City employees is moving forward on a community-wide Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory with the help of a Minnesota-based consulting company.

from the Global Covenant of Mayors, STAR Community Rating System, and City Inventory Reporting and Information System CIRIS). These represent the recognized standards in GHG Inventory data collection.

improve existing projects; build and maintain support for programs; compare results with other programs; or facilitate decision-making about future policies or goals.

Once the data collection is complete, PaleBLUEDot will forecast projections if no community changes are made and identify opportunities for emissions reduction in the future. The results of the inventory are expected to be completed and presented to City Council in the spring.

PaleBLUEDot was hired to assist in developing an inventory following established protocol

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, developing GHG inventories can help communities understand ongoing activities and major sources of emissions; identify areas to focus activities; establish and track progress toward goals; refine or



## PUBLIC BUDGET MEETINGS SCHEDULED

The City of Ames began preparing for the Fiscal Year 2020-21 budget last fall with a series of internal staff meetings. Work continues throughout the winter months as each department's budget is reviewed internally prior to presentation to the Ames City Council. There are still plenty of opportunities to get involved.

In February, three meetings are planned for representatives of each of the City's departments to present an in-depth review of proposed budgets. All budget meetings will be held in the City Hall Council Chambers, 515 Clark Ave.:

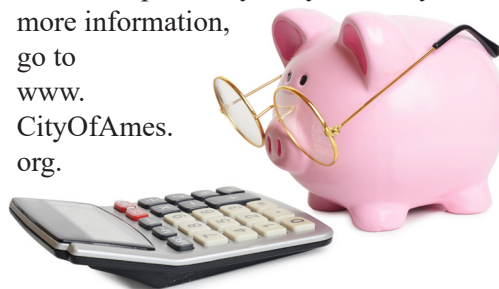
- 5:15 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 4
- 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 5
- 5:15 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 6

A wrap-up of the budget will be held at 5:15 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 11. Setting the maximum levy rate will take place

at the Council meeting beginning at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 25, and the final budget hearing is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 10. It will include an opportunity for public comments. This is also a regularly scheduled City Council meeting.

Like all Iowa communities, the City of Ames must submit its budget to the State of Iowa for certification by the end of March. Budget documents for the current fiscal year are posted on the City's website, and draft documents for 2020-21 will be posted by early February. For more information,

go to [www.CityOfAmes.org](http://www.CityOfAmes.org).



## KEEP HYDRANTS CLEAR FROM SNOW

As snow piles up along the curb, it does more than hamper visibility for drivers. Mounds of snow can obscure locations of fire hydrants. Ames firefighters ask residents to check fire hydrants located near their homes or businesses to ensure they are visible. If the fire hydrant is covered, we need your help! Please clear a three-foot wide area around the hydrant to ensure firefighters can locate it. During a fire emergency, every second counts. If you need assistance clearing the hydrant, call Fire Station No. 1, at 515.239.5109.



### CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

City Council meetings are held in the City Council Chambers, 515 Clark Ave.

Budget hearings:

5:15 p.m. Feb. 4, 5, 6

Meetings: 5:15 p.m. Feb. 11

6 p.m. Feb. 25

Council workshop at 6 p.m. on Feb. 19.

Final budget hearing at 6 p.m. on March 10.

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT [WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG](http://WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG)





# ELECTRIC



## EcoCHATS PLANNED IN 2020; EcoFAIR SET FOR APRIL 25

In celebration of two anniversary milestones this year, EcoFair 2020 will be bigger and better than ever. First, the 50th anniversary of worldwide Earth Day will be recognized on April 22. Second, the 10-year anniversary of the City of Ames EcoFair will be celebrated on Saturday, April 25, in the City Hall Community Center Gym. In recognition of these April milestone anniversaries, several activities, challenges, and educational opportunities are being planned leading up to EcoFair 2020.

One of these educational opportunities will be once-monthly EcoChats scheduled

for January, February and March. Each month's EcoChat will have a different environmental theme and will include a vendor and community organization open house followed by short lectures presented by local experts and City staff. These lectures will touch on four separate topics related to that month's theme. After each session, participants will be able to talk to presenters, as well as browse the open house and enjoy refreshments.

**EcoChats will begin at 6:30 p.m. with the open house, followed by the lectures at 7 p.m. in the auditorium at Ames Public Library, 515 Douglas Ave.**

## ECOCHATS



### Tuesday, Jan. 28: ENERGY

- It's Easy to Install Solar!
- Geothermal? In My Yard?
- New City Rebates for Electric Transportation
- DIY Home Energy Audits

- How to Create a Healthy & Sustainable Lawn
- Agricultural Watershed Conservation Practices

### Wednesday, Feb. 26: WATER

- Conserving Water One Drop at a Time
- Flint, Michigan: Could it Happen in Ames?

### Monday, March 30: REDUCE, REUSE & RECYCLE

- Composting Pilot Program Update
- Apartment & Backyard Composting
- Zero Waste Lifestyle
- How Do I Dispose of This?

## RENEWABLE ENERGY BY THE NUMBERS

**20.3%** ELECTRICITY USED THIS MONTH WAS GENERATED FROM WIND

**1.1%** ELECTRICITY THIS MONTH WAS GENERATED BY REFUSE DERIVED FUEL (RDF) FROM THE RESOURCE RECOVERY PLANT

**89** LED STREET LIGHTS WERE INSTALLED FOR A TOTAL OF 3,331

**75%** SUNSMART AMES POWER PACKS HAVE BEEN PLEDGED FOR NEW SOLAR FARM

DEGREE DAY INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT [WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG/ELECTRIC](http://WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG/ELECTRIC)

## IMPORTANT ELECTRIC NUMBERS

Power Out .....	515.239.5240
Street Light Out.....	515.239.5500
Utility Bills.....	515.239.5120
Energy Questions.....	515.239.5177
Tree Too Close to Electric Line? .....	515.239.5500
Digging? Contact Iowa One Call.....	811
Storm Water Concern.....	515.239.5160
Rusty Water.....	515.239.5551

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# ENERGY Q&A

**Q: I'm in the market for a new car, and I'm considering going electric. How much would the charging affect my electric bill? How would the cost compare to what I spend on gasoline?**

A: Good question! Let's calculate the cost per mile for each car to compare them. We'll assume the efficiencies of the cars are 30 miles per gallon and 3.57 miles per kWh. If you know the specific values for your car, you can plug in your own numbers.

$$\text{Gasoline: } \frac{\$2.50}{\text{gallon}} * \frac{\text{gallon}}{30 \text{ miles}} = \$0.0833/\text{mile}$$

$$\text{Electric: } \frac{\$0.1074}{\text{kWh}} * \frac{\text{kWh}}{3.57 \text{ miles}} = \$0.0301/\text{mile}$$

By these calculations, the cost to fuel an electric vehicle (EV) is 36% of that needed to operate a gasoline-fueled car. That would be the equivalent of fueling up at \$0.90/gallon or a fuel efficiency of 119 mpg! Here are some more cost implications you should consider:

- Federal tax credits up to \$7,500 are available for many EVs. Check the current rebates for specific cars at: [fueleconomy.gov/feg/taxevb.shtml](http://fueleconomy.gov/feg/taxevb.shtml)
- EVs require almost no maintenance because the mechanical systems are so much simpler than internal combustion

engines. EVs may require only 15-30% of the maintenance dollars that their gasoline-powered counterparts demand.

- Registration fees for EVs will be increased this year to contribute to infrastructure costs. Gasoline vehicles contribute to these funds through taxes at the pump.

Overall, the five-year cost of ownership is now similar between many EVs and their gasoline counterparts, even though you may pay a premium on the original purchase. The US Department of Energy has a tool to help you compare all of the costs of ownership of different vehicles. It is available at [afdc.energy.gov/calc/](http://afdc.energy.gov/calc/).



If you decide to go electric, remember that Ames Electric Services provides two public electric charging stations. For 15 cents per kilowatt, you can park and charge at the west parking lot of City Hall, 515 Clark Ave., or use the on-street parking near the Ames Power Plant, 200 E. Fifth Street. Check out exciting new resources for electric vehicle owners at [www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartEnergy](http://www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartEnergy)

**Kayley Barrios Lain, Energy Services Coordinator**  
**515.239.5177 | [KLain@cityofames.org](mailto:KLain@cityofames.org)**

## Carbon Monoxide Danger

**Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas produced when fuel burns. If a fuel-burning device such as a furnace or kerosene heater is installed, operated, or vented incorrectly, the carbon monoxide it gives off can build up in the air. Should the concentration of carbon monoxide get high enough, you will develop the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning.**

**Symptoms may be hard to recognize because at first they are much like symptoms of the flu: headache, weakness, dizziness, and nausea. Other symptoms can include shortness of breath, chest pain, confusion, loss of consciousness, and heart arrhythmias. If you suspect carbon monoxide in your home or experience symptoms, call the Ames Fire Department at 515.239.5109.**

## INFORMATION

### 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.

### 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.