



CITY SIDE

MAY 2020

WASTE REDUCTION IS KEY TO RESOURCE RECOVERY SYSTEM SUCCESS

Even a small reduction in the amount of trash thrown away each week could have a big impact in keeping local garbage out of the landfill. For decades, Story County has used an innovative system to turn garbage into fuel through the Resource Recovery Plant (RRP). Changes in both the amount of garbage and its chemical make-up are creating challenges for the system's future.

Developed in 1975, the RRP was the first municipally operated waste-to-energy facility in the country. Trash from all over Story County is taken to the RRP. Metals are extracted for recycling, and



the garbage goes through a series of shredders to reduce its size. Burnable refuse derived fuel (RDF) is piped to the Ames Power Plant and co-fired in the boiler with natural gas to produce electricity. The conversion of the Power Plant

from coal to cleaner burning natural gas in 2016 reduced the Power Plant's carbon footprint by 40 percent.

As Ames and Story County continue to grow, so does the amount of solid waste produced. Today's garbage contains far more plastic, electronic, and non-burnable waste when compared to four decades ago. The entire waste-to-energy process will soon be part of a comprehensive study to develop a plan for the future. In the meantime, the continued success of the current system requires residents to make some changes.

Reducing the amount of garbage taken to the RRP by 10 percent is our goal. We need your help to achieve that reduction. These are some steps you can take to help:

- Be a careful consumer and purchase less.
- Swap or sell usable items.
- Donate things no longer needed.
- Bring your glass to glass recycling bins located at grocery stores around Story County.
- Participate in the Food Waste Diversion program (See page 3) or complete a food composting rebate form to compost at home.

CENSUS 2020: IT'S SAFE, EASY, AND IMPORTANT

It's not too late to "Claim Ames" and complete your census form. The 2020 Census counts every person living in the United States. Once you've received an invitation to respond to a short questionnaire, complete your census online, by phone, or by mail.

The census provides critical data that lawmakers, business owners, teachers, and many others use to provide daily services, products, and support for you and our community. Every year, billions of dollars in federal funding is distributed 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.

Remember to "Claim Ames" and complete your census!



CITY NEWS TO USE

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- Mayor's Bike Ride on May 16
- No Charge Yard Waste on May 2
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- New Substation for North Ames
- Energy Q&A

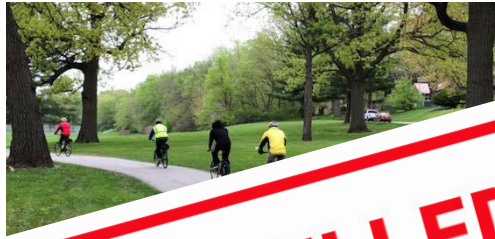
MEMORIAL DAY:

- Plans are underway for a Memorial Day speaker and parade on Monday, May 25. The parade would begin at City Hall and end at the Ames Municipal Cemetery. Check for details closer to the event on the City's website at www.CityOfAmes.org



JOIN THE MAYOR'S BIKE RIDE; BIKE TO WORK BREAKFAST IN MAY

Mayor John Haila and members of the City Council invite the community to participate in a family-friendly bike ride starting at Ames City Hall, 515 Clark Ave. The third annual Mayor's Bike Ride will begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 16. Bikers should gather in the west parking lot.



Bicyclists of all ages and experience levels are welcome to join the ride. There is no pre-registration necessary or cost to participate. Bike helmets are strongly encouraged. Watch the City of Ames website (www.CityOfAmes.org) for more information, a route map, and how to get involved! This year's bike

"With May being National Bike Month, it's a great fit to offer this fun, spring event," said Mayor Haila. "Enjoying a

community bike ride is a terrific way to celebrate the many benefits of bicycling as well as enjoying the sights of our town. We're excited we're able to take the month of May to the Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor. It's a wonderful, new park to explore."

Additionally, Ames City Hall will serve as the kick-off location for the Bike To Work Week breakfast as part of National Bike Month. Join the Ames City Council and City staff members for a free light breakfast from 7 to 9 a.m. on Monday, May 11. Start your day with a bike ride and join the fun!

No Charge Yard Waste Day*
Saturday, May 2 | 8 am to 4 pm
GreenRU, 400 Freel Drive
***Includes BRUSH**

Vouchers are available to use from 8am to noon on May 2.
 Pick up a voucher at the Resource Recovery Plant, 1000 GreenRU Drive.

FEE INCREASES TO BEGIN IN JULY

With the completion of the 2020-2021 fiscal budget, the City has identified a small number of necessary utility fee increases.

Water rates will increase 2 percent on July 1 after an analysis of revenue, expenses, and future projects indicated the need for additional funding. Additionally, sanitary sewer rates will increase by 5 percent to keep up with increasing costs. Residents can mitigate utility increases by looking for ways to conserve water. To learn more water conservation ideas, go to www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartWater.

WATCH FOR PAINTING CREWS

To counter the wear and tear of winter, City of Ames traffic crews will begin re-stripping streets; painting curbs, crosswalks, stop bars, and symbols; and refreshing parking lot lines on Monday, May 4.



This work typically begins when the weather warms and takes until the end of September to complete. Street and curb painting can have a temporary impact on traffic flow by requiring brief lane closures. Drivers can help by being cautious and proceeding slowly when traveling in areas where crews are working.

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

- 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 12
- 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 19 (workshop)
- 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 26

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG



ELECTRIC

FOOD WASTE DIVERSION UPDATES

The Food Waste Diversion (FWD) program is designed to keep food out of the waste stream and out of the landfill. While consuming all the food we have is the best choice, making compost out of food waste creates a valuable product with beneficial uses. FWD launched as a pilot project of the Resource Recovery Plant this past summer. The participation has continued to grow with thousands of pounds of food waste being diverted. In response to customer input, we've made some changes that make this program even more user-friendly.

The Resource Recovery Plant, 110 Center Ave., will take food waste from Story County residents during regularly scheduled hours at no



charge. Participants can use their own buckets or purchase a FWD bucket with compostable bags. There are some reminders for participants. No bones, grease, cooking oil, plastic, or foil. Other guidelines are included at www.CityOfAmes.org/FWD.

Ames uses a progressive system of turning trash into energy. The Resource Recovery Plant was the first municipally owned and operated waste-to-energy system in the nation in 1975. Garbage from most of Story County is taken to the Resource Recovery Plant for processing into refuse derived fuel (RDF) and sent to the Ames Power Plant. Keeping food waste out helps the system run more efficiently.



NEW SUBSTATION FOR NORTH AMES

More than 3,000 residential and commercial Ames Electric customers are now being served by the new Top-O-Hollow substation along Top-O-Hollow Road in north Ames. The new substation began operating early this year, and provides increased redundancy and reliability for all electric customers.

“The new substation definitely improves the dependability of electricity for our customers,” said Electric Distribution Manager Mike Brown. “That extra protection makes a big difference if we have to reroute power during an outage.”

RENEWABLE ENERGY BY THE NUMBERS

- 17.8%** ELECTRICITY USED THIS MONTH WAS GENERATED FROM WIND
- 31** LED STREET LIGHTS WERE INSTALLED FOR A TOTAL OF 4,094
- 1.28%** ELECTRICITY THIS MONTH WAS GENERATED BY REFUSE DERIVED FUEL (RDF) FROM THE RESOURCE RECOVERY PLANT
- 75%** SUNSMART AMES POWER PACKS HAVE BEEN PLEDGED FOR THE NEW SOLAR FARM

DEGREE DAY INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG/ELECTRIC

IMPORTANT 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 know my utility bill always increases along with the temperatures. As the seasons change, is there something I could do to help lower my costs?

Spring is here and warm weather is surely on the way! Is your air conditioner ready for another season of cooling? Proper maintenance of your air conditioner can increase the reliability of your unit and its efficiency. Here are six things you can do to prepare:

1. If you turned off the breaker that serves your air conditioner in the fall to avoid your unit unintentionally running in the winter, make sure you switch it back on.
2. Uncover and clean off your air conditioner outside. Throughout the fall and winter, leaves, dust, or other debris may have built up on and around your air conditioner. This reduces the efficiency and increases the cost to run your air conditioner.
3. Check your indoor air filter. You should really do this year round because air passes through this filter whether you're heating or cooling.
4. Turn off humidifiers. As the outdoor humidity increases, these are not necessary and can really increase your electric bill! Many will turn off automatically when they sense higher

humidity, but you should check to be sure.

5. Schedule spring maintenance. Checking things like refrigerant charge, motors, etc. is a great way to extend the life of your air conditioner and avoid an unexpected failure on a hot day. If a technician recommends that you replace your air conditioner for any reason, be sure to look at higher efficiency models that qualify for our rebates found at www.CityOfAmes.org/smartenergy!



6. To cut down on summer cooling bills, look for ways to turn our air conditioner down or off. Make sure you're not paying for air conditioning when you're not home. Smart thermostats can help regulate your home's temperature without you noticing. Did you know there's a rebate for those, too? Consider installing a responsive thermostat now so you can enjoy lower bills later!

Kayley Barrios Lain, Energy Services Coordinator
515.239.5177 | KLain@cityofames.org

Tree Voucher Program Scheduled for May 2

On Saturday May 2, the City of Ames Public Works and Ames Trees Forever will be distributing tree vouchers to Ames residents and businesses.

This year the voucher is increased from \$50 to \$75 and can be used to purchase one tree. A free bag of mulch is also provided when the voucher is redeemed. Participants will receive a brief program about proper tree selection, planting and caring for trees are eligible to receive the voucher. The program will be held at Country Club, E. Lincoln Way, and Earl May. Registration begins at 9 a.m. on May 2 at 1100 Allogg Ave. Registration begins at 10 a.m. on May 2 at 1100 Allogg Ave. Vouchers can also be redeemed at Lowe's, 120 Airport Road.



INFORMATION

POWER OFF? START HERE.

Check if the power is off in the whole house or just part of it. Also, check your main electric panel to see if a breaker has tripped or fuse has blown. If the problem is not in your panel, check if your neighbors have been affected. Report your outage by calling the outage reporting system at 515.239.5240. You

will be asked to provide your name, address of the outage, and phone number at the outage address.

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.