



# CITY SIDE

JUNE 2020

## COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE CONTINUES

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way the City of Ames conducts business, and it will likely take months for our community to establish a “new normal.” City facilities, programs, and services have all been affected by this unprecedented experience. As your local government, we have continued to rely on our past practices of collaborating and working together with our community partners.

In February, the City of Ames began regularly meeting with Iowa State University, Ames Community School District, Mary Greeley Medical Center, Story County, and the Iowa Department of Public Health to

share information to identify and meet the challenges of responding to the virus.

Early meetings focused on analyzing each organization’s preparations for a potential outbreak, as well as affirming the role each organization plays in an emergency situation. This was followed by assessing opportunities to assist one another.

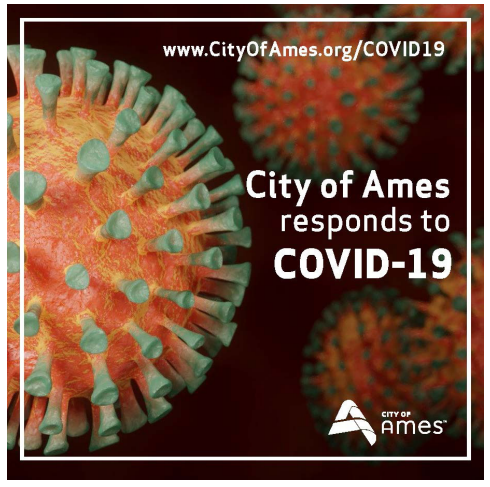
The City of Ames has remained focused on providing critical services and programs that are essential for public health and safety. Continuing to provide utilities like water, sewer, and electricity, along with public

safety remain a priority. In addition to closing City buildings, delaying the opening of City facilities, and holding public meetings via video conferencing, many City-sponsored events were cancelled such as the annual EcoFair, Bike to Work Week Breakfast, and the spring No Charge Yard Waste Day. Opportunities to reschedule cancelled events continue to be explored.

Because the COVID-19 pandemic has made planning

difficult and information changes daily, residents should continue to refer to trusted sources of information, including the City of Ames website:

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



## CENSUS 2020: IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO BE COUNTED!

If you haven’t yet completed your 2020 Census, it’s not too late. The easiest way to respond is by going to the website at: [www.2020Census.gov](http://www.2020Census.gov).

The 2020 Census counts every person living in the United States. 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

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- Ames Named Tree City
- Fee Increases in July
- Consumer Confidence Report
- SunSmart Ames Update
- Food Waste Diversion
- Energy Q&A

### AMES ON THE GO:

Use our mobile reporting app to report concerns or issues quickly and directly to the City of Ames. Users can track requests and submit pictures. The app is available through the iTunes and Google Play stores, as well as the City of Ames website.



## AMES HONORED WITH "TREE CITY" AWARD

The City of Ames has again been recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources as a "Tree City USA" by demonstrating a commitment to caring for and managing public trees. To qualify for the Tree City USA award, a city must have either a city forester or an active city tree board, have a tree ordinance, spend at least \$2 per capita annually for its community forestry program, and have a tree planting and maintenance plan.



**TREE CITY USA®**

1983. The Tree City USA program is a national program that provides the framework for community forestry management for cities and towns across America. Ames has approximately 11,000 right-of-way trees, 3,500 park trees, and 700 to 800 acres of public-owned woodland areas.

The Parks and Recreation Department and city forester perform work necessary to maintain the health of these trees.

"Trees are an important part of Ames and enhance the environment in many ways," said City Forester Paul Tauke.

The City of Ames has been a recognized "Tree City USA" since

## NATIVE TREE REBATE

Spring is a great time to plant trees. People and the environment benefit from the many aspects of trees. Trees in urban environments are particularly important for intercepting rainfall before it becomes stormwater runoff. Tree leaves, branches, stems, and roots catch falling rain, filter out pollutants, and absorb stormwater. The Smart Watershed Program increases awareness of the importance of protecting our local streams and lakes. The program promotes methods to capture, infiltrate, and reduce stormwater runoff in residential areas.

Purchase and plant a native tree and get reimbursed up to \$75. For more information, visit: [www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartWatersheds](http://www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartWatersheds).

## FEE INCREASES TO BEGIN IN JULY

With the completion of the 2020-2021 fiscal year 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](http://www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartWater).

## CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT AVAILABLE

The Consumer Confidence Report, the City's annual water quality report, is now available. This report contains important information about the quality of your drinking water.

At one time, the Consumer Confidence Report was included in your utility bill, but now the report is available to read online. This method of distribution helps promote our sustainability efforts and reduces costs. However, printed copies of the Consumer Confidence Report are still available.

If you would prefer to have a paper copy of the Consumer Confidence Report mailed to your home, call the Ames Water Plant at 515.239.5150. The report can be viewed online at [www.CityOfAmes.org](http://www.CityOfAmes.org).



## CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

6 p.m. Tuesday, June 9  
6 p.m. Tuesday, June 16 (workshop)  
6 p.m. Tuesday, June 23

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



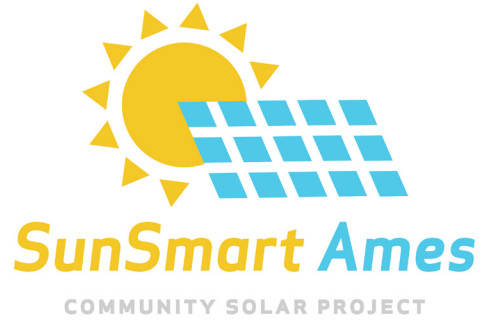
# ELECTRIC

## PROGRESS CONTINUES ON SUNSMART AMES

SunSmart Ames, a community solar farm, is making progress! Although the progress isn't visible to the public yet, construction on the 2-megawatt farm should begin in June.

Ames Electric Services has contracted to purchase all the electricity produced from the privately owned solar farm. Equipment is nearly all purchased and designs are in the final stages. Filing construction permits will be the next step.

The community solar farm will be located on property between Airport Road and U.S. Highway 30, west of Sam's Club. The farm is expected to start producing electricity in October, which is when participants will start to



see credits for their shares in the farm on their utility bills. Three-quarters of the solar farm Power Packs (portion of the energy produced) have been pledged by customers.

It's not too late to get involved. You can still purchase a Power Pack for \$300 each at [www.CityOfAmes.org/solar](http://www.CityOfAmes.org/solar).

## FOOD WASTE DIVERSION UPDATES

The Food Waste Diversion (FWD) pilot 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 was lunched in 2019 by the Resource Recovery Plant, 110 Center Ave. The participation has continued to grow with thousands of pounds of food waste being diverted. Resource Recovery 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.

Guidelines are included at [www.CityOfAmes.org/FWD](http://www.CityOfAmes.org/FWD).

### RENEWABLE ENERGY BY THE NUMBERS

<p><b>20%</b> ELECTRICITY THIS MONTH GENERATED FROM WIND</p> <p><b>3%</b> ELECTRICITY THIS MONTH GENERATED BY REFUSE DERIVED FUEL (RDF) FROM THE RESOURCE RECOVERY PLANT</p>	<p><b>34</b> LED STREET LIGHTS INSTALLED FOR A TOTAL OF 4,094</p> <p><b>75%</b> SUNSMART AMES POWER PACKS PLEDGED FOR THE NEW SOLAR FARM</p>
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**DEGREE DAY INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT [WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG/ELECTRIC](http://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: Other than the Ames Power Plant, what are the other sources of power for Ames customers? Does purchased energy have a smaller carbon footprint than natural gas?**

Ames electric customers are served through a combination of grid-purchased electricity and on-site generation. Purchasing power from other sources means market price fluctuations, and those are monitored on a daily basis. Did you know that electricity prices on the electric grid can change every five minutes?

In our region, the grid price fluctuations are greatest in the summer when electricity is expensive. Even in the summer, the pricing differences show the most variation from the afternoon into evening. (We call this the “peak” period, and the cheaper overnight period is called “off-peak.”)

And it’s not just the prices that change – the percentage of electricity from each generation source also follows daily patterns. Coal’s contribution to grid electricity peaks between 6 and 7 p.m. But between midnight and 1 a.m., wind is the most abundant source of electricity. In the summer of 2019, 53% of the electricity on the grid between midnight and 1a.m. came from wind.

So what does this mean for you? If you can plan more of your electric usage at night or early in the morning on weekdays (and reduce afternoon/early evening consumption), you will use more energy from wind and less from fossil fuels, lower your greenhouse gas emissions, and use our electric infrastructure

more efficiently. That kind of customer cooperation helps us keep rates low.

Some uses are easier to shift than others. Electric vehicle charging is one of the easiest. Just set your charger to start charging at 11 p.m., midnight, or 1a.m. Check out next month’s City Side for more tips on how to shift your electric use to off-peak periods.

Another way to reduce overall electric consumption is to take advantage of Smart Energy rebates on things like high efficiency appliances, lighting, and air conditioners. Making energy-saving investments now can pay off in lower utility bills this summer!

Get more information at [www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartEnergy](http://www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartEnergy).

Hour	Wind	Coal	Other
1am	53%	25%	22%
2am	53%	25%	22%
3am	53%	25%	22%
4am	53%	25%	22%
5am	52%	26%	22%
6am	51%	28%	21%
7am	48%	28%	24%
8am	44%	28%	27%
9am	43%	28%	28%
10am	43%	28%	29%
11am	42%	28%	29%
Noon	41%	28%	31%
1pm	41%	28%	31%
2pm	40%	29%	31%
3pm	39%	30%	31%
4pm	38%	30%	32%
5pm	37%	30%	32%
6pm	36%	31%	33%
7pm	36%	31%	33%
8pm	36%	31%	33%
9pm	37%	31%	32%
10pm	39%	30%	31%
11pm	42%	29%	29%
Midnight	43%	29%	29%

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

## Join the College Creek Clean-up Crew!

**In recognition of National Rivers Month, Iowa State’s Live Green! initiative and Keep Iowa State Beautiful invite Ames residents to assist in giving College Creek a good cleaning on Saturday, June 27.**

**Volunteers can check in starting at 9:30am in the Forker Building Parking Lot (Lot #50A). Volunteers can also arrive at any time between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. to volunteer.**

**Volunteers should dress for the**

**weather and wear closed-toe shoes. Supplies (bug repellent, sunscreen, gloves and bags and trash grabbers) will be provided; however volunteers are welcome to bring their own supplies as well.**

## INFORMATION

### STUCK AT HOME: TRY A SELF-AUDIT

Are you looking for projects around the house? This could be a great time to evaluate the energy efficiency of your home!

Spend some time exploring your home’s interior and exterior. Identify problem areas, and find a free do-it-yourself guide,

along with many other energy-saving resources, at [www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartEnergy](http://www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartEnergy).

### 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.