



CITYSIDE

APRIL 2021

CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING STARTING SOON

The Ames City Council has made encouraging environmental sustainability a goal, and progress continues on making Ames a greener community. The Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory, a community-wide baseline for carbon emissions, was completed in 2020. The next step is developing an Ames Climate Action Plan (CAP) that includes a robust, inclusive community input process to encourage citizen participation.

The Ames CAP will establish relevant, achievable, and cost-effective strategies to achieve reduction goals within a reasonable timeline, designate milestone reduction achievements along the timeline, and specify metrics to track and measure progress. City staff will be working with experienced consultants and will be seeking feedback from a community task force throughout the estimated 18-month process. Also, there will be opportunities for public comments during the plan development.

“A growing number of citizens have expressed the importance of conserving natural resources, exploring renewable energy, promoting multi-modal transportation, and reducing our reliance on fossil fuels,” said Assistant City Manager Deb Schildroth.



“The CAP process is designed to engage and empower residents, businesses, and institutions toward ownership and responsibility in ensuring a sustainable future. This plan will provide direction as we move forward.”

The GHG Inventory, climate vulnerability report, renewable energy potentials study, and CAP updates are available at www.CityOfAmes.org/Sustainability

POLICE OFFICER TRAINING INCLUDES CHILDBIRTH EMERGENCIES

Being a police officer means being prepared for anything - and that really means anything. Recently, Ames Police officers partnered with medical staff at Mary Greeley Medical Center to get a crash course in obstetrics. Police officers already receive CPR/First Aid training every two years, said Commander Jason Tuttle, and the department started exploring other types of medical intervention that would be helpful in the field.

“The last thing we want to do is show up to a serious medical call and not know what to do or how to help,” Tuttle said.



Ames Police Commander Jason Tuttle gets obstetrics training from clinical resource nurse Amy Patterson with Mary Greeley Medical Center.

All patrol officers have completed the obstetrics training. Birthing bags including medical equipment and an

infant blanket are in each squad car.

Ames dispatchers are already trained on medical protocols, so an officer and a dispatcher would work together in a birthing emergency. That situation can happen when expectant mothers are caught off guard by an early arrival at home or on the way to the hospital.

“Between this training and dispatch with EMT protocols, we are in a position to help a mother deliver. We all prefer that they make it to the hospital for a safe delivery, but we’re ready if that doesn’t happen,” Tuttle said.

CITY NEWS TO USE

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Parks & Recreation Notes
- Sustainability Events in April
- Stash the Trash on April 9 & April 10
- Energy Q&A

EARTH DAY ON APRIL 22:

Last year recognized the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, but many celebratory activities were cancelled due to the pandemic. The City of Ames plans a virtual Earth Day celebration with KHOI community radio. (See page 3.)



REGISTER FOR CLASSES

With spring and summer right around the corner, registration for the following programs are being accepted:

- Adult and Adult/Child Golf Lessons
- Lifeguard Training, Lifeguard Review, and Lifeguard Prep
- Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED
- Ladies After Work Golf League and Couples Golf League at Homewood Golf Course
- Adult Sand Volleyball Leagues (Coed)
- Adult Soccer League (Coed)
- Adult Ultimate Frisbee League (Coed)
- Fitness classes (in-person, virtual, & recorded)

For more information and to register, visit www.amesparkrec.org.

HOMEWOOD GOLF COURSE OPENING SET

Homewood Golf Course plans to open for the season on Thursday, April 1, weather permitting. Golfers may purchase a season pass or punch card before opening day at the Community Center, 515 Clark Ave., or by calling 515.239.5350.

The new Homewood Clubhouse is anticipated to open in early April and will be a year-round facility that features a large room available to rent for meetings, birthday parties, graduations, and more. This new facility provides the perfect place for group outings.

For more information or to book your outing, please contact Nate Pietz at 515.239.5350 or nate.pietz@cityofames.org.

ADOPT-A-FLOWER GARDEN PROGRAM



Did you know volunteer gardeners plant and maintain approximately 50 flower gardens throughout Ames with flowers donated by Holub Garden & Greenhouses?

novice gardeners. Look for the volunteer gardener's name near each garden sign.

Volunteers are responsible for spring planting and maintenance throughout the growing season. City staff provide guidance on plant selection and maintenance and assist with watering during the growing season. The program includes both experienced and

A huge thank you goes to Holub Garden & Greenhouses, which has donated thousands of dollars in flowers and materials through the years. For more information or to inquire about gardening opportunities, please contact Joe Newman at 515.239.5341 or joe.newman@cityofames.org.

'VIRTUALLY ANYWHERE' LIVE FROM AMES CITY AUDITORIUM

In January, the Parks and Recreation Department launched its "Virtually Anywhere" Live from the Ames City Auditorium

concert series. These concerts feature local artists playing on stage at the beautiful Ames City Auditorium while connecting to a virtual audience.



The concerts air at 7 p.m. on Thursday evenings through April 8 on YouTube and Facebook. More information and links to the concerts can be found at www.CityOfAmes.org/CityAuditorium.

FURMAN SEASON PASS UPDATE

Staff is anticipating and preparing to open the Furman Aquatic Center to some degree this summer. Because new rules and restrictions are still being evaluated, summer swim passes are not for sale yet.

As more information becomes available, details regarding swim passes will be announced through CitySide, www.amesparkrec.org, and the Furman Aquatic Center Facebook page.

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

City Council meetings are held on Zoom.

6 p.m. April 13 (Regular meeting)

6 p.m. April 20 (Council workshop)

6 p.m. April 27 (Regular meeting)

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG



ELECTRIC

CELEBRATE SUSTAINABILITY WITH EVENTS THROUGH APRIL AND BEYOND

The month of April signals the return of spring, and it also provides outreach and education opportunities focusing on sustainability initiatives. While the City's annual EcoFair will not be held

this year, there are plenty of other ways to celebrate conserving natural resources

ECOCHATS



and being good to the Earth. Last year, the City of Ames and Ames Public Library partnered to provide EcoChats, a series of in-person lectures focused around sustainability topics. Unfortunately, the pandemic caused several of the EcoChats to be cancelled. The EcoChats are back, but this time on Zoom! The 2021 EcoChats will be held at 7 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month beginning in April.

Connect virtually to the April EcoChat when local experts will talk all about trees. City Forester Paul Tauke and tree expert Zach Burhenn will make presentations discussing last summer's derecho, proper tree trimming and pruning, and why to plant native trees. The presentation will include time for

Virtual Earth Day with KHOI

Through a partnership between the City of Ames and KHOI Community Radio, tune into the second virtual Earth Day event being broadcast on Saturday, April 24.

The radio special will feature City of Ames guest hosts as well as community experts on all aspects of sustainability. KHOI Community Radio can be streamed at www.khoifm.org or on your radio at 89.1!

questions and information about the Smart Watersheds Native Tree Rebate. Attendees will be eligible to receive a native tree seedling and other prizes!

- April 6: Trees
- May 4: Reduce/Reuse/Recycle
- June 1: Water
- July 6: Watersheds
- August 3: Electric



More information is available at www.AmesPublicLibrary.org or www.CityOfAmes.org/Sustainability.

Stash the Trash Scheduled for Spring

The Resource Recovery Plant is again partnering with the Volunteer Center of Story County for the annual Stash the Trash program. This year's event will be held over two days to encourage more participation.

Stash the Trash is a volunteer community clean-

up to improve the appearance of the city and appropriately dispose of waste. It will be held Friday, April 9, and Saturday, April 10.

Call the Volunteer Center of Story County at 515.268.5323 for details and how to participate in this great opportunity to spruce Ames up!

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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SMARTENERGY
 USING RESOURCES RESOURCEFULLY

ENERGY Q&A

Q: What is the status of the SunSmart Ames Community Solar Farm? Is there still the possibility of getting involved in supporting renewable energy?

The SunSmart Ames Community Solar Project has been completed and is now delivering electricity to the grid! I'm excited that we have this new, renewable energy resource in our community. One of the aspects of this project that I love is how so many people came together to make it happen. Getting the farm started was a grassroots efforts of committed Ames Electric customers who wanted to add to our renewable energy portfolio. Now, in addition to wind and refuse derived fuel (RDF), we are proud to offer solar power. Our community solar farm has investments by more than 800 different community participants, and several organizations were involved in its design and construction.



And here's more good news. The Bee and Butterfly Habitat Fund has designed a seed mixture to support local pollinator species that will be planted next fall at the solar farm. The mixture includes dozens of native species with blooming periods from April to October and an overall pollinator value of 4.4/5. Following a three-year establishment period, instead of only mowing with fossil fuel-powered machines, sheep will primarily control vegetation. Surrounding the farm, the Parks and Recreation Department helped to plant native shrubs from the Iowa State Forest Nursery to provide habitat for local wildlife while improving the aesthetics of the solar farm. Public Works worked with contractors to design a biocell to better manage stormwater.

As a result of all these contributions, the City of Ames ended up with a more wholesome project that works collaboratively with the community and ecosystem. If you own Power Packs (shares in the farm), you should have seen credits applied to utility usage billed in February.

If you're not already participating in the community solar farm, you can still purchase, gift, or donate a Power Pack at www.CityOfAmes.org/solar.

Kayley Barrios Lain, Energy Services Coordinator
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RENEWABLE ENERGY NUMBERS

FOR JANUARY 2021

151,000 kWh

ELECTRICITY USED THIS MONTH GENERATED FROM SUNSMART COMMUNITY SOLAR FARM

70

LED STREETLIGHTS INSTALLED FOR A TOTAL OF 5,519

1%

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

357 kWh

HOURS OF VEHICLE CHARGING AT PUBLIC ELECTRIC CHARGING STATIONS

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

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 a 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.