



CITYSIDE

MARCH 2023

NEW SMART ENERGY REBATES INCENTIVIZE GOING ELECTRIC!

The new year brings additional opportunities for City of Ames Electric Services customers to save money on electric costs. Since 2007, the utility has provided rebates on energy-saving upgrades through its Smart Energy program.

These new changes take into account customer requests and exciting advances in electric-powered options. Now customers can receive incentives for Energy Star-certified freezers, induction stoves, and battery-electric lawn mowers. Ames Electric Services has also increased the rebates for air-source heat

Smart Energy Rebates Update for 2023

Air Source Heat Pumps – min. 16 SEER	\$500 for 16 SEER, plus \$50 for every additional 0.5 SEER (max \$500)
Mini split systems	Max rebate: \$500
Geothermal Systems	\$400 per ton
Energy Star® Rated Systems	\$500 per ton
Induction Ranges/Cooktop	\$50
Freezers – Energy Star® Rated	17.5 cubic ft. or smaller \$25 17.6 cubic ft. or larger \$75
Residential Level 2 EV Charger	Up to \$500 (50% cost cap)
Commercial Level 2 or 3 EV Charger	Up to \$2,500 per plug (50% cost cap)

pumps, geothermal heating systems, and electric vehicle charging.

These Smart Energy rebate enhancements will help customers save money while helping the utility reduce its peak energy

needs. These efforts contribute to the Ames Climate Action Plan goal of reducing community-wide greenhouse gases. Learn more about new Smart Energy rebates and apply online at www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartEnergy.

SPRING HYDRANT FLUSHING BEGINS IN MARCH

The Ames Public Works Department plans to begin flushing rust from water mains beginning Wednesday, March 22, weather permitting, and continuing for approximately two weeks. Each year, this program provides Ames residents with the safest and highest quality water possible.



rust in the water, even when crews are not working in the immediate area.

To avoid rust, follow these tips:

- Turn on cold water first to check for rust. This avoids drawing it into your hot water heater.
- If the water looks rusty, run the tap for one to two minutes until it clears.

Flushing serves the following purposes:

- Dislodges and removes mineral deposits and sediments from the water mains
- Verifies the proper operation of fire hydrants and valves
- Helps identify weaknesses in the water system
- Checks for closed valves and weak flows in the water system

During the flushing process, Ames residents may experience

If rust discolors clothing in a washing machine, rust remover is available at the City Hall information desk, 515 Clark Ave.; Ames fire stations; the Water Treatment Plant, 1800 E. 13th St.; or by calling 515.239.5550. Specific information about the times, dates, and locations of the crews will be posted at www.CityOfAmes.org.

CITY NEWS TO USE

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Project Share Helps Those in Need
- Ames Parks and Recreation Notes
- Energy Q&A

AMES PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOK SALE

Find great deals on thousands of used items, including books, movies, music, and more at the Ames Public Library Book Sale. The spring event will be held from Thursday, March 9, to Sunday, March 12. More details at www.AmesPublicLibrary.org



PROJECT SHARE USES DONATIONS TO HELP THOSE IN NEED

The Ames Electric Services Project Share program continues to be a success because of the compassion and generosity of utility customers. This winter season, through December 31, 2022, the program has been able to provide \$4,562 in assistance to 35 households. A simple way to share the warmth with those in need is to make a monthly pledge or a one-time contribution to Project Share.

The purpose of the Ames Electric Services Project Share program is to solicit and accept contributions

which are used to assist our low-income customers. A committee



appointed by the Ames City Council determines the permissible uses of the funds donated to the Project Share program. The committee has adopted guidelines to ensure that every dollar contributed is used to assist low-income customers.

All expenses incurred administering the program are covered by Ames Electric Services as a donation in-kind. Mid-Iowa Community Action (MICA) assists the City of Ames in the administration of the program by determining eligibility of applicants for Project Share funds.

Please Consider a Contribution to Project Share

I wish to make a monthly contribution to Project Share. I understand this amount will be listed on my monthly utility bill and that I can cancel my pledge at any time by contacting the City of Ames Utility Customer Service office.

\$1/month \$2/month \$5/month \$10/month other ___/month

I wish to make a one-time contribution to Project Share rather than making a monthly pledge. I have enclosed a \$_____ donation to Project Share.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please return this form with your utility bill payment or mail to:
Ames Electric Services, Attn: Project Share Committee,
P.O. Box 811, Ames, IA 50010-0811

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

City Council meetings are held in the City Hall Council Chambers, 515 Clark Ave., and streamed via the City website, Facebook, and YouTube.

Meetings: 6 p.m. March 14
 6 p.m. March 21
 6 p.m. March 28

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG/CCMEETINGS

YOUTH & ADULT SPORTS

YOUTH CO-ED SPRING SOCCER LEAGUES (GRADES 1-6)

Skills assessment is the week of March 6. Practices begin March 27. Register by March 6.

KIDDIE KICKERS (AGES 5-6)

Fundamentals of soccer taught through instructor-led drills and games. Sessions Mondays & Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m., April 3-May 10. Register by March 24.

START SMART SOCCER - PARENT/CHILD (AGES 3-5)

Learn the basics of soccer through fun drills and games. Classes Saturday mornings beginning April 4. Register by March 27.

ADULT SUMMER SOFTBALL LEAGUES (MEN'S & CO-ED)

Season begins the week of April 25. Register by March 31.

TENNIS LESSONS (GRADES 1-6 & ADULT)

Saturday mornings, March 25-April 22. Register by March 17. Open to all levels.

SPRING BREAK TENNIS CAMP (GRADES 1-6)

Spend your break learning the game of tennis, March 13-16. Register by March 6.

FITNESS & WELLNESS

HEALTHY FOOT CLASS

Participants in bare feet will learn to alleviate and prevent problems by incorporating proper alignment, stretches, and lifestyle changes into their daily routine. Four-week session begins Tuesday, March 24, 9:15-10:15 a.m.

AQUA CLASSES AT ISU FORKER POOL

Session begins March 20. Morning and evening classes offered.

PERSONAL TRAINING/PILATES REFORMER TRAINING

For more information on packages and to discuss your goals, contact Nancy Shaw at 515.239.5353 or nancy.shaw@cityofames.org

NUTRITION SIMPLIFIED

Clear away confusion surrounding nutrition and receive the building blocks to help you navigate a sustainable nutrition plan! Four-week session begins Thursday, March 23, 12:15-1 p.m.

WEST COAST SWING

Open style dance class, no partner is necessary! Beginner and intermediate classes on Monday evenings starting March 27.

TAE KWON DO (AGES 5 & UP)

Eight-week session begins March 7.

AMES CITY AUDITORIUM

UPCOMING CONCERTS AND EVENTS:

Saturday, March 4: "Bliss," A Circus Spectacular
Thursday and Friday, March 23-24: "The Healing Power of Music," lecture and performance by Genevieve Salamone

Friday, March 31: Dang Lee Felton Concert

For performance times and ticket information contact Craig Kaufman at 515.239.5365 or visit www.AmesParkRec.org

FURMAN AQUATIC CENTER

OPENING DAY: Saturday, May 27 (weather permitting).
2023 SEASON PASSES: All passes purchased through May 1 receive a 10 percent discount.

HIRING! Lifeguards, swim instructors, water slide attendants, admission/concessions. No experience required. View www.CityOfAmes.org/Jobs to apply.

AMES/ISU ICE ARENA

LEARN TO CURL

Explanation of rules, instruction, and demonstrations provided. Saturday, March 4, 8:30-9:30 p.m. Register by March 3.

LEARN TO PLAY BROOMBALL

No skates required. Fun activity for the whole family. Saturday, March 4, 7-8 p.m. Register by March 3.

CURLING LEAGUE

Runs March 11-April 8. Open to ages 10+ and all skill levels. Register online at www.AmesParkRec.org or call 515.292.6835.

DRIVE THE ZAMBONI EXPERIENCE

Thursday, March 23, 6-8 p.m. Experience of a lifetime where

you learn about ice-resurfacing and drive on the ice. Open to ages 18+ with a valid driver's license. Register at www.AmesParkRec.org, or contact the Community Center at 515.239.5350 or Ice Arena at 515.292.6835.



HOMWOOD GOLF COURSE

OPENING DAY: Saturday, April 1 (weather permitting). Homewood season passes and punch cards are

available for purchase! Contact the Clubhouse at 515.239.5363 or Community Center at 515.239.5350.

ENERGY Q&A

Q: I heard that Ames Electric is offering a rebate for electric induction stoves. What is an induction stove and why would I want one? Are they more expensive than other ranges?

A: You heard correctly! Ames Electric Services now offers a rebate on induction stoves. An induction range can be comparable in price to mid-range traditional electric models, and those who have purchased or used induction stovetops are quick to sing their praises. Induction burners work through electromagnetic induction, which produces heat in the pan itself instead of on the cooktop. The cooktop detects the pan size and only warms where the pan is placed. The nearby surface stays cool. This is handy if a pot boils over because spills can be wiped away immediately rather than left to harden.

Because the energy goes directly into the pan, induction stove tops can cook quickly. For example, a saucepan of water can come to boil in little more than a minute. The heat settings hold temperatures very consistently, which is helpful for making more delicate recipes at lower temperatures. Induction cooks often mention they have to adjust their typical cooking routines. “Because we could heat pans so fast, we had to be prepared for the next steps in the recipe much more quickly,” said one Ames customer who happily transitioned to induction cooking.



SMARTENERGY
USING RESOURCES RESOURCEFULLY

“Buying an induction range was a great decision. We can’t envision using anything else in the future.”

An important note is that induction stovetops only work with pans made of ferrous metal (iron or steel) or that have ferrous metal cladding. An easy way to test pans is to hold a magnet to them. If the magnet sticks, the pan should work on an induction stovetop. Induction cooking can keep kitchens cooler and safer, and the stovetops are more energy-efficient than traditional electric or gas options. They are growing in popularity, and Ames Electric Services provides an incentive to consider induction for your next stove through a Smart Energy rebate. Find more information on the induction cooktop rebates and other Smart Energy Programs at www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartEnergy.

Joel Zook, Energy Services Coordinator
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AT-A-GLANCE ENERGY NUMBERS FOR DECEMBER 2022

37 LED STREETLIGHTS INSTALLED FOR A TOTAL OF 5,667

27,030 MILES OF VEHICLE CHARGING AT PUBLIC ELECTRIC CHARGING STATIONS

RESOURCE RECOVERY PLANT RECYCLING:

- GLASS: 26.02 TONS
- METALS: 108.82 TONS
- FOOD WASTE DIVERSION: 3.6 TONS

CITY TRUCKS USED MORE THAN 4,970 GALLONS OF PURE BIODIESEL IN DECEMBER, OFFSETTING CARBON BY 40 METRIC TONS.

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

DID YOU KNOW?

- RECYCLING ONE GLASS BOTTLE CAN POWER A 100W LIGHT BULB FOR 4 HOURS.
- IT ONLY TAKES 714 RECYCLED BOTTLES TO CREATE AN ENTIRE ATTIC OF FIBERGLASS INSULATION
- CONTAINER GLASS IS 100% RECYCLABLE, CAN BE RECYCLED ENDLESSLY, AND IS A PRIMARY INGREDIENT IN FIBERGLASS INSULATION AND NEW GLASS CONTAINERS.

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

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