



CITYSIDE

OCTOBER 2023

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN STRIVES TO REDUCE CARBON FOOTPRINT

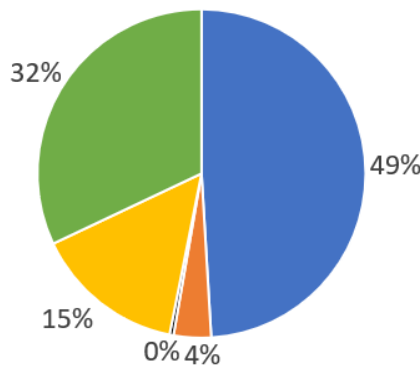
In June, the Ames City Council accepted the City’s first ever Climate Action Plan (CAP). The CAP includes an ambitious target to reduce community greenhouse gas emissions by 85% before 2030 and to reach net-zero emissions by 2050. To achieve these goals, the City of Ames, in partnership with Ames citizens, will explore new technology, review purchases and policies, and change practices to more sustainable choices.

The production of electricity plays a critical role in carbon reduction. Ames Electric Services will continue to assist and incentivize customers to save energy and lower costs through Smart Energy programs as well as increasing the amount of renewable energy in our energy mix.

Many residents are curious about the origins of electricity used in Ames. It’s not uncommon to get questions about how much energy comes from the Ames Power Plant or from the SunSmart solar farm or from other sources of renewable energy. Ames Electric Services has a diverse mix of generation resources including energy produced in Ames and energy purchases from the regional electric grid. Renewable energy is a significant portion of the energy mix.

AMES Energy Mix, 2022

■ AMES Generation from Natural Gas ■ AMES Generation from RDF
■ AMES Solar ■ AMES Wind
■ Imported Energy



The Ames Power Plant, 200 E. Fifth St., has two units that burn a combination of natural gas and refuse derived fuel (RDF) generated from Story County’s municipal solid waste. In 2016, the power plant began using natural gas as a replacement for coal, which reduced the plant’s carbon emissions by 40%.

The power plant operates under a permit from the State of Iowa that allows burning of up to 30% RDF by weight. The rest of the input for combustion comes from natural gas. A lot of natural gas is needed to co-fire with the RDF for electricity production. According to data from the 2018 citywide greenhouse gas inventory, the power plant consumed

45% of all the natural gas used in Ames. The power plant created just over half of the electricity used by the Ames customers in 2022. Wind energy from a project in Story County under a long-term contract supplies about 14% of annual electric sales.

Since 2020, Ames Electric has operated a 2 MW SunSmart community solar program. Ames Electric also buys back energy from about 200 customers who have installed solar at their home or business. These systems provide energy first to their owner’s building, then sell any extra energy produced back to the utility. There is a little over 1.5 MW of distributed solar systems within the Ames utility’s territory – almost as much as there is at the SunSmart solar farm. Combined, these solar resources make up a bit less than half a percent of the overall annual electric usage. The chart shows that in 2022, 18.25% of Ames Electric’s overall generation mix was from renewable sources, including wind, solar, and energy from RDF.

Reducing carbon starts with reducing demand for energy. Conserving natural resources will make achieving our carbon reduction more attainable and makes our community cleaner, greener, and more sustainable.

CITY NEWS TO USE

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Fall No-Charge Yard Waste Days
- EcoFair Set for Sept. 30
- Parks & Recreation Notes
- Energy Q&A

TRICK-OR-TREATING

The official night for trick-or-treating in Ames is Tuesday, Oct. 31. The recommended hours are from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.



No-CHARGE YARD WASTE DAYS SCHEDULED FOR FALL

Story County residents can dispose of yard waste at no charge during Fall No-Charge Yard Waste Days planned in October and November. The scheduled Saturdays are Oct. 21, Oct. 28, Nov. 11 (includes brush), and Nov. 25, at Chamness/GreenRU, 400 Freel Drive. Hours are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A voucher option will again be offered for those unable to take advantage of the Saturday, Nov. 11, drop-off date, which includes brush. A voucher may be picked up in advance



at the Resource Recovery Plant, 110 Center Ave. This voucher may be used from noon to 5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 10, at 400 Freel Drive.

Those participating in Fall No-Charge Yard Waste Days are asked to enter the site from South Dayton Avenue, then west on Southeast Fifth Street, and north on Freel Drive. Drivers should exit the site north on Freel Drive to East Lincoln Way.

Yard waste is not accepted at the Resource Recovery Plant. For more information about yard waste disposal, visit www.CityOfAmes.org/YardWaste

No-Charge Yard Waste Days

Saturday, Oct. 21
(leaves only)

Saturday, Oct. 28
(leaves only)

Saturday, Nov. 11
(leaves and brush)
Voucher available for
Nov. 10

Saturday, Nov. 25
(leaves only)

CITY HALL HOSTS ANNUAL ECOFAIR ON SATURDAY, SEPT. 30

EcoFair returns to City Hall, 515 Clark Ave., from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 30, in the west parking lot. Learn about City rebates, programs, and services that encourage conservation and lower your carbon footprint.

“We plan this event to highlight all facets of sustainability,” said Municipal Engineer Tracy Peterson. “We’ve gathered City resources and community agencies together to make it easy to engage.”

The goal of the EcoFair is to share a broad array of conservation



information. In addition to highlighting City of Ames’ EcoSmart programs, which include electricity, water, watershed, and trash, the

event brings local businesses and organizations together that encourage sustainability. Enjoy booths, vendors, activities, and displays, along with live music and food trucks. There will be an electric car expo along Fifth Street and a display of City of Ames vehicles including a fire truck, police hybrid vehicle, biodiesel snowplows, and more. Ames Repair Café will have a table with information about its next event on Oct. 7 at the Ames Public Library.

Activities are planned for all ages. Mark your calendar to join us for this free, fun, educational event!

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 10

6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 24

TRICK-OR-TREAT NIGHT IN AMES TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 5:30-7:30 PM

AMES/ISU ICE ARENA ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS!

VIEW MONTHLY SCHEDULES AT WWW.AMESPARKREC.ORG/PRCALENDARS AND FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM, @AMESISUICEARENA.

HALLOWEEN SKATE AT THE AMES/ISU ICE ARENA: Saturday, Oct. 28, 7 p.m. Costumes, candy, fun, and more! \$5.50 youth/\$6.50 adult admission, \$3.50 skate rental.

ICE RESURFACER EXPERIENCE (AGES 18+): Drive on the ice and learn more about ice maintenance at the Ames/ISU Ice Arena, Saturday, Oct. 14, 7-9 p.m. Registration required in advance.

UPCOMING CLASSES & ACTIVITIES

MINI DRIBBLERS (GRADES K-2): This program introduces the basic skills of basketball. Offered Tuesday/Thursday nights, Oct. 10-Nov. 16.

LITTLE DUNKERS (GRADES K-2): This class builds off the skills taught in Mini Dribblers. Offered Tuesday/Thursday nights, Oct. 10-Nov. 16.

BIG SHOOTERS (GRADES K-2): This program prepares youth for the 3-4 grade basketball league. Offered Tuesday/Thursday nights, Oct. 10-Nov. 16.

3RD-4TH GRADE BASKETBALL LEAGUE: Girls and boys leagues offered. Register by Oct. 17. Skills assessment Nov. 8. Practices begin the week of Nov. 13. Games begin Dec. 2.

5TH-6TH GRADE BASKETBALL LEAGUE: Girls and boys leagues offered. Register by Oct. 8. Skills assessment Oct. 11. Practices begin the week of Oct. 23. Games begin Nov. 4.

YOUTH & ADULT TENNIS LESSONS: Learn tennis from the professionals at the Ames Fitness Center. Classes are available for youth (grades 1-6) and adults (16+) of all skill levels on Saturday mornings, Oct. 14-Nov. 11.

LITTLE TENNIS (AGES 3-5): Parent/child program led by the Ames Fitness Center tennis professionals. Learn the basics of tennis in a fun environment. Sessions are Tuesday evenings, Oct. 17-Nov. 14.

YOUTH DANCE (AGES 2-7+): Varying levels of ballet, hip hop, and tap. Session runs Oct. 24-Dec. 9.

YOUTH TUMBLING (AGES 2-5): Varying levels to develop skills and learn the fundamentals. Session runs Oct. 23-Dec. 9.

GYMNASTICS I & II (AGES 5+): Learn the fundamentals in Gymnastics I (M/W) and build upon skills in Gymnastics II (Tu/Th). Session runs Oct. 23-Dec. 9.

ADULT 5V5 BASKETBALL LEAGUE (AGES 17+): Registration and roster deadline Oct. 8. Season begins Oct. 25. Games on Sunday/Wednesday evenings.

TAE KWON DO (ALL LEVELS): New session runs Oct. 17-Dec. 17. Classes offered throughout the week.

AMES CITY AUDITORIUM FALL CONCERT SERIES: Fridays, Oct. 6, 13, and 20, at 7 p.m. All concerts feature Iowa artists. Admission is \$5. Students receive 2-for-1 admission with current student ID!

HOMWOOD EUCHRE AND CRIBBAGE LEAGUES:

Cribbage is on Wednesdays, 10-11:30 a.m. Euchre is on Mondays, 6-7 p.m. Begins the week of Nov. 6.

HOMWOOD GOLF COURSE

The final scheduled day for Homewood Golf Course is Oct. 31. Book your final tee times for the 2023 season today online at www.AmesParkRec.org or by calling 515.239.5363.

HEALTHY FOOT CLASS: Do you have problems with balance or experience foot, knee, or back pain? This class will provide the tools to help alleviate or prevent these problems. Class is on Tuesdays, Oct. 24-Nov. 14, 9:15-10:15 a.m.

NUTRITION SIMPLIFIED: Clear away any confusion surrounding nutrition and receive the building blocks to help you navigate a sustainable nutrition plan. Topics include eating for your goals, meal prep, macros, and label reading. The final class will conclude with a grocery shopping tour! Class is on Thursdays, Oct. 6-27, 12:15-1 p.m.

FITNESS CLASSES: New session begins on Oct. 2. Go to www.AmesParkRec.org to view the schedule!

WARM WATER AQUA AT ISU FORKER POOL: Stay fit while keeping the aches and pains away! New session runs Oct. 13-Dec. 15, Monday/Wednesday/Friday mornings and Monday/Wednesday evenings.

SWIM LESSONS AT ISU FORKER POOL: Parent/child, youth, and adult lessons, along with private lessons, will be held at Forker Pool. Session 1 is Oct. 1-26, and Session 2 is Oct. 29-Nov. 30. View classes and register at www.AmesParkRec.org.

WEST COAST SWING: Open style dance with no experience necessary. Monday evenings Oct. 23-Dec. 4.

PARK WINTERIZING & RESERVATIONS

Winterizing and water shut-offs throughout the park system will begin on Sunday, Oct. 15. This is also the last day for park shelter and baseball/softball diamond reservations. Call 515.239.5350 to schedule your reservation!

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER
VISIT WWW.AMESPARKREC.ORG OR
CALL 515.239.5350

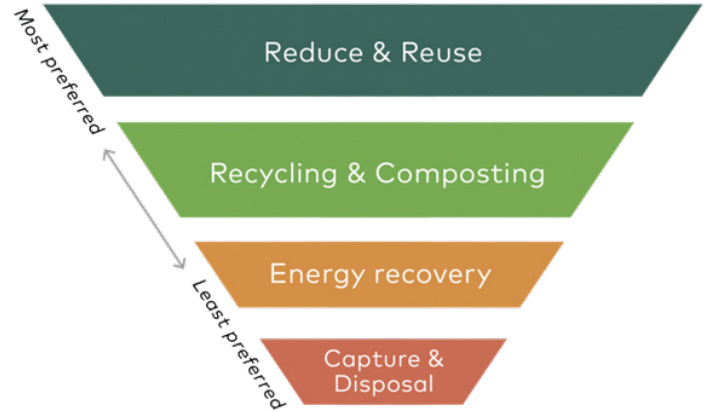
ENERGY Q&A

Q: How does an event like Rummage RAMPage, a community second-hand sale to reduce the amount of material sent to the landfill, help Ames Electric Services?

A. The connection between municipal solid waste and energy production is intricately entwined in Ames in a way that stands out from other cities with a municipal power plant. Ames was a trailblazer in 1975 when the community opened the first municipally owned waste-to-energy facility. The Arnold O. Chantland Resource Recovery System, at 110 Center Ave., is a centralized collection point for Story County garbage.

While burning waste in resource recovery is preferable to landfilling, reusing and recycling is a preferred option. The U.S. Environment Protection Agency (EPA) developed a hierarchy of waste that lists reusing and recycling as the best options for waste. Landfilling is the least preferred method of waste management. One of the ways Rummage RAMPage is helpful is that many items donated and sold at the event are not able to be processed by the Resource Recovery Plant. Large pieces of furniture are among the items that are pulled from the sorting process and redirected to the landfill. Additionally, not all items in the waste stream are easily burnable.

Neither glass or metal have any heat value when burned. Metals that end up at the Resource Recovery Plant are sorted out and recycled. Glass is an especially undesirable item in the waste-



to-energy process, which is why large yellow glass recycling bins are located throughout Story County. Food waste and other organic materials are not usually a beneficial fuel, because they often contain a high percentage of water. The energy it takes to evaporate the water in many food products is greater than the energy it produces when burned. Compost your organic materials or bring your food waste to the Resource Recovery Plant for drop off. A reminder that yard waste is not permitted in your trash can!

For more information on the Resource Recovery Plant, go to www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartTrash.

Joel Zook, Energy Services Coordinator
515.239.5177 | Joel.Zook@cityofames.org

RENEWABLE ENERGY NUMBERS

FOR JULY 2023

- 9** LED STREETLIGHTS INSTALLED FOR A TOTAL OF **5,868**
- 38,901** MILES OF VEHICLE CHARGING AT PUBLIC ELECTRIC CHARGING STATIONS
- 351,688** KILOWATT HOURS OF ENERGY PRODUCED BY SUNSMART AMES SOLAR FARM

RESOURCE RECOVERY PLANT RECYCLING:

- GLASS: **19.87 TONS**
- METALS: **110.90 TONS**
- FOOD WASTE DIVERSION: **3.25 TONS**
- REFUSE-DERIVED FUEL: **1,778 TONS**

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	:
Stormwater Concern	515.239.5160	:
Rusty Water.....	515.239.5551	:

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Editor: Susan Gwiasda, Public Relations Officer
 515 Clark Ave. | Ames, IA 50010
 515.239.5204
www.CityOfAmes.org

