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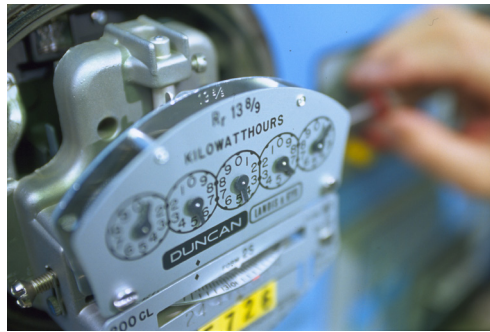
OCTOBER 2024

NEW ELECTRIC RATES INCLUDE SEVERAL CHANGES

Ames Electric Services is making adjustments to electric rates that will affect customer bills for energy usage beginning in October. The changes are minor, and many customers won't notice a difference in their bills. Most residential customers will see about a 1% decrease in their cost. For most users, the customer service cost will increase, but the charge for electricity will decrease.

Electric utilities periodically conduct cost-of-service and rate design studies to help make long-term financial plans, promote efficient use of resources, and provide fair and equitable rates for customers. Ames Electric Services last completed a cost-of-service study in 2012. In June 2023, Utility Financial Solutions (UFS) completed a cost-of-service and rate design study. UFS worked with staff over the past year to analyze the utility's costs to serve its customers.

Based on the results of the study, the Electric Utility Operations Review and Advisory Board (EUORAB) recommended Ames City Council approve rate adjustments that were fair and equitable. These changes were approved at a recent Council meeting and will be reflected on electric bills received after Nov. 1.



Large Customer Interruptible bill credits, and approval of optional time-of-use rates to be offered at a later date.

The Customer Service Charge is a fixed monthly amount charged to each customer, regardless of how much energy is used. The Customer Service Charge covers the cost of customer class-specific infrastructure (like a service drop and meter), a portion of the distribution system needed to serve the customer, meter reading, and billing. The new adopted rates raise the Customer Service Charge for Residential, Small Commercial, Industrial, and Large Customer Time-of-Use customers.

For residential customers, the Customer Service Charge will increase from \$8.32 to \$14.25 per month. The increase in the Customer Service Charge is partially or wholly offset by lowering the per kWh energy rate. During winter billing, the energy cost will go from 10.05 cents per kWh to 8.93 cents per kWh, and from 12.31 cents per kWh to 11.01 cents per kWh during the summer billing period.

The average residential electric customer uses 600 kWh per month. With the proposed changes, customers will see their average monthly electric bill decrease by \$1.15.

Electric Rates in Detail

For more information on electric rates and the Utility Financial Solutions (UFS) cost-of-service and rate design study, go to the Ames Electric Services website: www.CityOfAmes.org/ElectricRates.

The adjustments result in no general revenue increase to the electric utility. Overall, the Residential customer class and the Industrial Time-of-Use class are projected to see revenues decrease by 1%, while the Small Commercial, Commercial, and Industrial classes are projected to have revenues increased by 0.9%, 0.5%, and 0.9% respectively.

Other changes include a rebalancing of the customer service charge and the energy charges, an adjustment of the

CITY NEWS TO USE

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- Parks & Recreation Notes
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TRICK-OR-TREATING

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

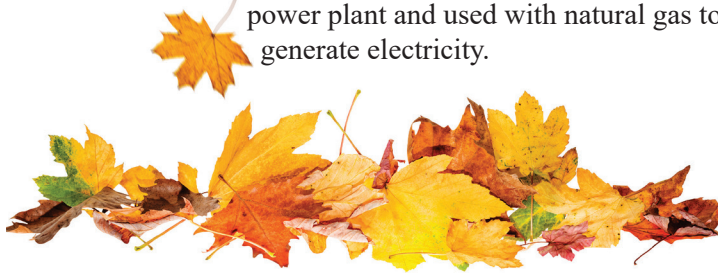


No-CHARGE YARD WASTE DAYS

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. 19, Nov. 9, Nov. 16 (includes brush), and Nov. 23, at Chamness/GreenRU, 400 Freel Drive. Hours are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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. The RRP receives garbage from Ames and the surrounding communities in Story County for processing. Metals are extracted and sold for recycling. The remainder is shredded by machines, and the burnable portion is piped to the City's power plant and used with natural gas to generate electricity.



FIRE DEPARTMENT HOSTS OPEN HOUSE

The Ames Fire Department will host its annual Fire Station Open House from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Oct. 12, at Fire Station No. 1, 1300 Burnett Ave. Individuals with autism, modified needs, or disabilities, along with their families, are invited to attend a modified open house from 8 to 9 a.m.

Participants can explore fire trucks, see Sparky the Fire Dog and Freddie the Fire Truck, tour the fire station, and learn more about fire safety.



STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT TACKLES EROSION PROBLEM

New improvements to the Bloomington Waterway were completed this summer to repair and stabilize the stream channel and banks. This capital improvement project repaired the 1,000-foot creek that runs from Hyde Avenue to Harrison Drive and borders Ada Hayden Heritage Park, Bloomington Townhomes, and the future Auburn Trail development.

Because the stream channel and unvegetated, vertical stream banks were eroding, the stream was migrating closer to residential decks and porches. The project uses natural



methods for stream restoration with a main feature being the relocation of 200 feet of the stream to the north away from the homes. The channel was raised, the stream banks were flattened, and rock step pools were installed to allow for the channel to

be flattened, reducing erosivity of the waterway. Native vegetation was then planted along the stream banks.

The contributing watershed to the creek extends west and north and includes part of Northridge Heights and the future Auburn Trail subdivision. Downstream the creek discharges into wetlands of Ada Hayden Lake. The improvements will reduce the amount of sediment and improve the quality of the water entering the wetlands.

Tree planting and final lawn seeding will be completed in the fall.

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.

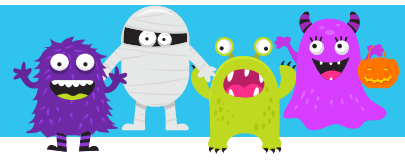
6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 8

6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 15 (Workshop)

6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 22

TRICK-OR-TREAT NIGHT IN AMES

Thursday, Oct. 31, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.



YOUTH & ADULT SPORTS

- Mini Dribblers (Grades K-2):** This program introduces the basic skills of basketball. Offered Tuesday/Thursday nights, Oct. 15-Nov. 21.
- Little Dunkers (Grades K-2):** This class builds from the skills taught in Mini Dribblers and introduces advancing skills. Offered Tuesday/Thursday nights, Oct. 15-Nov. 21.
- Big Shooters (Grades K-2):** This program prepares youth for the 3-4 grade basketball league. Offered Tuesday/Thursday nights, Oct. 15-Nov. 21.
- 3rd-4th Grade Basketball League:** Register by Oct. 14. Skills Assessment, Nov. 6. Practices begin the week of Nov. 18. Games begin Dec. 7.
- 5th-6th Grade Basketball League:** Register by Oct. 7. Skills Assessment, Oct. 9. Practices begin the week of Oct. 21. Games begin Nov. 2.
- Swim Lessons at ISU State Pool:** Parent/Child, Youth, Teen, and Adult group lessons, along with Private lessons. Session 1 is Sept. 29-Nov. 17; Session 2 is Jan. 19-March 9; Session 3 is March 30-May 25. View classes and register at www.AmesParkRec.org.
- Tae Kwon Do (all levels):** New session begins Oct. 15-Dec. 15 with classes throughout the week.

- 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. 15-Nov. 12.
- Youth & Adult Tennis Lessons:** Learn tennis from the professionals at the Ames Fitness Center South tennis bubble. Classes are available for youth (grades 1-6) and adult (16+) participants of all skill levels on Saturday mornings, Oct. 12-Nov. 9.
- Youth Dance (Ages 2-7+):** Varying levels of ballet, hip hop, and tap. Session begins Oct. 2-Dec. 7.
- Youth Tumbling (Ages 2-5):** Varying levels to develop skills and learn the fundamentals of tumbling. Session begins Oct. 21-Dec. 7.
- Gymnastics I & II (Ages 5+):** Learn the fundamentals in Gymnastics I and build upon skills in gymnastics II (M/W). Session begins Oct. 21-Dec. 5.
- Adult 5v5 Basketball League (Ages 17+):** A, B, C levels offered. Registration and roster deadline Oct. 6. Season begins Oct. 27, games on Sunday/Wednesday evenings.

HOMWOOD GOLF COURSE

- Homewood Golf Course:** The final scheduled day for Homewood Golf Course is Oct. 31. Book your final tee times for the 2024 season today online at AmesParkRec.org or by calling 515.239.5363.
- Card Leagues at Homewood:** Cribbage League, Wednesday mornings, 10-11:30 a.m. and evenings 6-7:30 p.m. Euchre, Monday evenings, 6-7:30 p.m. Euchre will begin on Nov. 4 and Cribbage on Nov. 6. Contact Nate Pietz at nate.pietz@cityofames.org, or at 515.239.5363 for more information.

AMES/ISU ICE ARENA

- Halloween Skate at the Ames/ISU Ice Arena:** Saturday, Oct. 26, 2-4 p.m. Costumes, candy, fun, and more! \$5.50 Youth/\$6.50 Adult admission, \$3.50 skate rental.
- Ice Resurfacers Experience (Ages 18+):** Drive on the ice and learn more about ice maintenance at the Ames/ISU Ice Arena, Friday, Oct. 18, 7-9 p.m. Registration required in advance.

FITNESS & WELLNESS

- Fitness Classes:** Upcoming session dates, Sept. 30-Nov. 10 and Nov. 11-Dec. 22. Go to www.AmesParkRec.org to view the schedule!
- West Coast Swing:** Open style dance with no experience necessary. Monday evenings Oct. 28-Dec. 9.
- Line Dance:** Learn the basics or take the intermediate course! Class offered Oct. 28-Dec. 2.
- Dynamic Aging:** Class geared to those 50+ to regain balance, increase mobility, and more! Join us at the 60 Forward Center Oct. 8-Nov. 26. Registration required in advance.

AMES CITY AUDITORIUM

- Ames City Auditorium Fall Concert Series:** Check out the line up on Friday nights, 7-9 p.m., online at www.AmesParkRec.org or contact Craig Kaufman at craig.kaufman@cityofames.org or 515.239.5365.

PARK WINTERIZING & RESERVATIONS

WINTERIZING AND WATER SHUT-OFFS THROUGHOUT THE PARK SYSTEM WILL BEGIN ON OCT. 15. THIS IS ALSO THE LAST DAY FOR PARK SHELTER AND BASEBALL/SOFTBALL DIAMOND RESERVATIONS. CALL 515.239.5350 TO SCHEDULE YOUR RESERVATION!

ENERGY Q&A

Q: What's the best way to get rid of cardboard? Should I throw it away with the rest of my trash to be turned into energy or is there a way to recycle it?

A. Whether you've recently moved or been ordering a lot of items online, this is the time of year when cardboard seems to collect. While cardboard may be used to produce fuel for the Ames Power Plant as part of the waste-to-energy system, cardboard can also be recycled five to seven times before it needs to be discarded. Recycling provides an opportunity to reduce waste and extend the life of this material.

There are plenty of cardboard disposal options located around Ames. Please break down boxes so they easily fit in the slots.

- Parks and Recreation Office, 1507 Gateway Hills Park Drive, parking lot
- Ames Public Library, 515 Douglas Ave., near book drop-off in the alley to the west
- Resource Recovery Plant, 420 E. Second St.
- Power Plant loading dock, 200 E. Fifth St.
- East end of Main Street at the intersection with Duff Avenue
- South of Main Street and Tom Evans Park in the Central Business District (CBD) parking lot
- North of Main Street, alley between Burnett and Kellogg avenues

These drop-off bins are open 24/7 year-round and are a great



alternative for those who may not be enrolled in curbside recycling pick-up.

For those who want to recycle other items, remember that the Resource Recovery Plant offers self-service drop-off recycling disposal at 420 E. Second St. In addition to cardboard, residents can recycle mixed paper, metal, plastics with twist-off tops, food waste, glass, and clothing. Please make sure these recyclables are sorted and put into the correctly labeled bins at the facility. While burning waste in resource recovery is preferable to landfilling, reusing and recycling is preferred. The U.S. Environment Protection Agency (EPA) developed a hierarchy of waste that lists reusing and recycling as the best options for waste.

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

RENEWABLE ENERGY NUMBERS

FOR JULY 2024

13 LED STREETLIGHTS INSTALLED FOR A TOTAL OF **6,291**

38,337 MILES OF VEHICLE CHARGING AT PUBLIC ELECTRIC CHARGING STATIONS

320,139 KILOWATT HOURS OF ENERGY PRODUCED BY SUNSMART AMES SOLAR FARM

RESOURCE RECOVERY PLANT RECYCLING:

- GLASS: **22.78 TONS**
- METALS: **165.24 TONS**
- FOOD WASTE DIVERSION: **3.25 TONS**
- REFUSE-DERIVED FUEL: **2,910 TONS**

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	:

CitySide is a publication of the City of Ames, Iowa.
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