



NPU Community Solar Project will benefit all customers

Norwich Public Utilities (NPU) is working with the Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative (CMEEC) on two projects that will add more than 8 megawatts of 'green' solar power to NPU's renewable energy portfolio. In 2014 we initiated a project to install a nearly 4 megawatt solar grid on Rogers Road, and just recently announced plans for a second solar grid -- at nearly 5 megawatts -- on Stott Avenue.

Unlike private rooftop panels that are designed to supply power to one residence or business, community solar projects, or more commonly called 'solar gardens' are designed so that

the power produced goes directly into the power grid. This allows more customers to gain the benefits from solar energy. This is especially important for those customers who want the benefit of solar energy but do not have the ability to install rooftop panels on their residence.

NPU's community solar garden projects are part of a larger project proposed by CMEEC. Two additional locations have been proposed in Southeastern Connecticut - one in Groton and one in Bozrah. Together, these locations would bring an additional 7 megawatts of power to our region.



Natural gas to expand into Occum in 2016

In 2016, Norwich Public Utilities' successful natural gas expansion program will target homes and businesses in the Occum section of Norwich.

"Active communication with our customers has been a critical component of our success over the past several years," said Jeff Brining, Division Manager for NPU. "By talking to our customers about the value and benefit of converting to natural gas, we've added more than 1,700 new customers over the past five years," said Brining.

NPU will be extending its natural gas main along Route 97, the Taftville-Occum Road, with construction beginning in the spring of 2016. If there is sufficient interest in the adjacent neighborhoods along Route 97, NPU will extend to those homes as well. Because this road will be paved by the

State of Connecticut next year, NPU customers will have to sign an agreement with NPU before February 1, 2016.

NPU will be reaching out to residential and commercial customers with direct mail and through community meetings, which will be held in November, December and January. Community meetings will allow NPU to provide information on the process of converting to natural gas, construction schedules, incentive and rebates as well as financing options.

NPU continues to work with local lenders partners and contractors who are qualified to facilitate the Smart-E Loan offered through Energize CT, and initiative of the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund, the Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority, and local electric and gas utilities.

5 tips to save money and stay warm this fall

The leaves are falling, and so are the temperatures. By making a few simple adjustments in your home, you can save energy and save money on heating costs.

- Utilize free solar heat during the day by keeping blinds and curtains open. Shut them at night to help insulate your home.
- Heat rises, and if you have an open fireplace that is not being used, that heat is going right up the chimney. When not in use, be sure the damper is closed. If the fireplace is never used, block off the chimney with a piece of rigid insulation that fits tightly in place.
- Keep windows locked when closed. This will ensure a tight seal. If you feel drafts around your windows, be sure to caulk or install weather stripping.
- Have your furnace or boiler cleaned for optimal operating efficiency. Make sure you have working carbon monoxide detectors and smoke detectors in your home.
- Make sure furniture, carpets and drapes are not blocking warm-air registers, baseboard heaters or radiators.

At NPU, we realize that the colder weather can sometimes cause higher utility bills, which can impact your household budget. If you find these larger bills hard to manage, we can help. NPU can work with you to set up a monthly budget payment plan to fit your needs. To learn more, call us at 860.887.2555.



A minute with the Mayor: Norwich is moving ahead - one step at a time



Deb Hinchey
Mayor of Norwich

Throughout my life, and particularly in my time as Mayor of Norwich, a few tried and true ideas have always kept me balanced: change is difficult, progress can sometimes be slow, and most importantly, hard work pays off.

I was under no illusion that the job of mayor was going to be easy, and I have not been disappointed. But I also did not expect this work to be as rewarding and fulfilling as it has been over the past 21 months. When I began my work as mayor, I was very clear in my vision of a cooperative and collaborative approach to address the challenges that face our

city. And while Norwich faces hurdles familiar to urban communities in our state and across our country, given our size, we can be more nimble in creating and responding to opportunities as they arise.

The progress we've made as a city is the result of the collaborative effort among a number of people committed to making our community a better place to live and work. Every day, public and private entities, big companies and small businesses, large groups and ordinary citizens are working together to move our city forward.

Our collective efforts are helping to set the stage for development and redevelopment within our city – from grants of nearly \$1 million to clean up environmentally challenged sites, to \$14 million in funding to help the Ponemah Mills project get off the ground. Norwich Public Utilities has added more than

1,700 new natural gas customers, which adds revenue to our General Fund while helping the environment. Our business park is nearly 100% occupied, which is an enormous accomplishment and a reflection of the business climate we are all trying to improve and sustain. Between our Downtown and the Hills at Riverview, Norwich has nearly 100 units of new housing in a relatively small area – all of which will lead to additional economic development opportunities in our city.

No one person or group can take credit for the momentum we are building. We are headed in the right direction because we have the right people working together toward a common goal. As our important work continues I hope residents of our community will join me in drawing inspiration from the words of Henry Ford: "Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success."

Customer-owned Piping: Know Your Responsibility

Connecticut State Regulations require utilities provide this safety information on an annual basis.

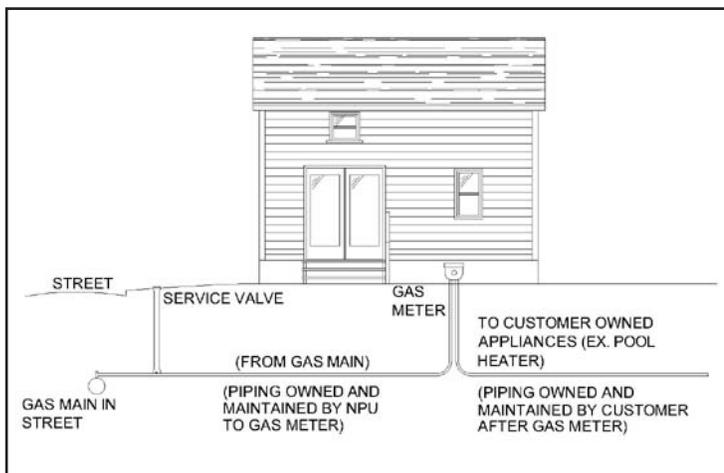
Some of the underground natural gas piping on your property may belong to you. Customer-owned underground piping is defined by any buried gas lines that extend away from your gas meter (see illustration below). Typically, customer-owned gas piping is used to supply heat and hot water to another building like a detached garage, but it can also be used to heat swimming pools and for cooking on a gas grill.

If you have this type of gas line on your property, it is your responsibility to initiate any inspection and necessary repair or replacement by a qualified professional, such as a licensed heating/cooling contractor

or plumber. Buried piping should be inspected periodically for leaks and for corrosion if the piping is metallic. If a gas leak is detected, it may be necessary to interrupt your gas service temporarily until repairs are made.

Remember to call "Call Before You Dig" at 811, a free service. It is important that you know the exact location of all buried utility lines before performing any excavation project. When excavating near buried gas piping, all excavation should be done by hand.

If you suspect a problem with any natural gas lines, please call NPU's Gas Emergency Line at 860.887.7207.



This drawing shows which piping owned by NPU and by the homeowner.

When the United Way of Southeastern Connecticut asked NPU to "fill a bucket" with school supplies, our employees generously donated enough supplies to fill the bucket - and then some!



HERE TO SERVE YOU

Visit our website for more information: norwichpublicutilities.com

Please call, fax or e-mail us your questions, comments and suggestions.

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