

## Conservation— lowering the cost of energy

The less energy you use, the more money you save on your electric bill. And, using less energy keeps rates down for everyone.

Recognizing energy conservation as a solution to high energy costs, Norwich Public Utilities (NPU) worked with state leaders over the past year and began collecting for conservation in January. The NPU conservation program is being developed to help customers reduce energy use and save on electric bills.

**John Bilda, NPU's General Manager, said it best, "The easiest way to cut your electric bill is to lower the amount of energy used."**

### Conservation and deregulation

Conservation isn't new to Connecticut. After electric deregulation in 1999, the State legislature formed the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund to help customers serviced by investor-owned utilities like CL&P and UI use energy more efficiently.

As a municipally owned utility, NPU is exempt from deregulation requirements, which include many costly charges. Since 1999, NPU customers have saved a significant amount of money by not contributing towards the State-run program.

### Why is the NPU program different?

With the State-run program, investor-

owned utilities collect the funds, which are sent to, and managed by, the State. When these utilities want to use funds for conservation, they must apply to the State. The State has also used this money for other things besides energy conservation.

In contrast, NPU is now collecting and managing its own conservation program. The money collected by NPU will be used only for conservation and only in the Norwich community. Period!

### What's the cost?

A small fraction of the Purchased Power Adjustment (PPA) rate—\$.0015 per kWh—is set aside for conservation.

### Here's how you can participate

Start by taking part in the NPU Light Bulb Program!

Replacing light bulbs with compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) can save up to 20% on lighting costs. Bulbs can be purchased at a discount either online at [www.estarlights.com](http://www.estarlights.com) (select the listing for Norwich Public Utilities), or at the NPU Customer Service Center at 173 North Main Street.

NPU is committed to developing conservation plans to help customers reduce energy use and save money.

What do you think would make an effective program? Please send your ideas and comments to [communitymatters@npumail.com](mailto:communitymatters@npumail.com).



### Simple steps to conserve power

#### LIGHTS

- Replace light bulbs with compact fluorescent lights (CFLs).
- Turn off lights when not in use.

#### HEATING & COOLING

- Close shades or draperies on hot days.
- Close windows and doors when using the AC.
- Raise the thermostat just a few degrees during the summer. It will lower your electric bill!

#### ELECTRONICS & APPLIANCES

- Turn off when not in use. It will cut costs and help products last longer.
- Run the dishwasher with full loads, only.
- Whenever possible, hang clothes to dry instead of using the dryer.
- Clean the dryer filter before every use.

#### AT WORK

- Turn off PCs, monitors, printers and copiers nightly and on weekends.
- Laptop computers use 90% less energy than desktop computers.
- Inkjet printers use 90% less energy than laser printers.
- Install dimmers or motion sensors to lower energy use in copier rooms, restrooms, and areas that aren't used often.
- Maintain and service heating and cooling systems for maximum efficiency.

For more information, visit the US Department of Energy website at

[www.eere.energy.gov/consumer](http://www.eere.energy.gov/consumer) or

the Energy Star site at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)

Norwich Safe Communities Coalition would like to remind everyone to practice these **spring safety tips**



**Avoid dehydration with a few simple steps**

As the weather gets warmer, people spend more time on outdoor activities. But, too much outdoor activity added to not drinking enough fluids could lead to dehydration. Dehydration happens when your body does not get as much fluid as it needs.

Large amounts of fluid lost from sweat and lots of physical activity—especially on a hot day—can sometimes make a person feel sick. If fluid isn't replaced, dehydration can set in.

**Signs of dehydration**

- Feeling faint, weak or dizzy every time you stand up (even after a couple of hours).
- Headache and/or nausea during or after a lot of physical exercise.

- Muscle cramps.
  - Very little urine output.
- Drinking fluids is usually enough to combat dehydration. But, if any of these symptoms occur, seek help from a doctor.

**Here's how you can avoid dehydration:**

- Drink lots of fluids, especially on hot, dry and windy days. Water is best.
- Wear the right clothes. Wear loose-fitting clothes and a hat outside on a hot day.
- Drink some fluids before, during and after any strenuous activities.
- Parents should watch their child's fluid intake so outdoor activities are safe and fun.

**Walk safely!**

More and more Norwich citizens are walking to school, to work and for exercise. Here are a few simple safety reminders when walking and crossing streets:

**Safe walking tips**

1. Walking on roads without sidewalks—always walk on the side of the road facing traffic, close to the edge.
2. Do not assume the driver sees you.
3. If walking at dusk, dawn or night, wear light-colored clothing. Better yet, wear reflective tape on the front and back of clothing.
4. Carry a flashlight to help drivers see you better.



**Street crossing tips**

Cross intersections at the signal—only when the signal shows it's safe. Look both ways. Watch for turning vehicles. Walk on the right side of the crosswalk.

No signal available? Use the crosswalk at the nearest corner. Make eye contact with drivers to be sure they see you. Make sure cars come to a stop before crossing. Keep looking both ways until safely across.

Watch for turning vehicles. Walk on the right side of the crosswalk.

No crosswalk available? Stop at the curb. Carefully look around all objects that block your view of traffic. Keep looking both ways until safely across.

*Provided by Norwich Safe Communities Coalition, part of the Uncas Health District. For more information, contact Coordinator Jody Rubino at (860) 823-1189 x113.*

**Spring fire safety tips**

Brush Fires The busiest time of the year for bush fires isn't summer—it's spring. The lack of tree leaves shading the ground from the sun together with windy conditions creates a perfect recipe for brush fires. Here are some prevention tips:

- Do not throw smoking items out of moving vehicles. Use ashtrays.
- Don't idle your car on dry grassy areas along the roadside.
- Do not operate ATVs on dry grassy areas.
- Make sure the spark-arrester works on your lawn mower.
- Never leave outdoor fires unattended. A permit may be required to burn brush. Check with your local fire department.

Smoke Detectors Remember to replace the battery in your smoke detector every year.

Gas Grills Since most gas grills haven't been used since last fall, check for leaks now. Place a few drops of liquid soap in water and spray on the tank, piping and connectors. If you see bubbles forming, you have a leak.

**Wow! NorwichNow!**

Introduced by Mayor Ben Lathrop's office last December, NorwichNow! is an innovative and creative initiative to market and develop Norwich. And it's catching on as it continues to generate contagious enthusiasm for living and working in Norwich.

Many talented people in the community are contributing to the development of Norwich, with the help of City Hall and the Community Outreach Program. All Norwich businesses and residents are invited to be part of the revitalization and rejuvenation of the City!

For more information, contact Mayor Ben Lathrop's office at (860) 823-3743, or visit [www.norwichct.org](http://www.norwichct.org)



# Meet John Bilda, NPU's new General Manager



**“This is an opportunity for NPU to become increasingly efficient while providing superior customer service and competitive rates. Our goal is to make Norwich a better place to live, work and do business. We take great pride in being members of this community.”**

—John Bilda

Although John Bilda became NPU's new General Manager (GM) this January, he has been developing and preparing for this position during his entire 18-year career at NPU. With his education, experience, community involvement and knowledge of Norwich as a lifelong resident, the Board of Utility Commissioners and retired GM Dick DesRoches were confident they chose the right person for the job.

As GM, John oversees all NPU services—electric, gas, water and sewer. Building on NPU's history of adding value to the community, John's immediate focus will be on advocating against rising energy costs, developing cost-saving conservation programs and increasing customer education on energy related issues. He will also be working on expanding hydroelectric power, servicing new sites and coordinating Federal- and State-required upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant.

After graduating Norwich Free Academy, John earned an Associates Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Thames Valley Technical College. He also holds a Bachelors Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Hartford, and a Masters in Business Administration from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

John began his career as a utility engineer and has worked in all areas of NPU's operations bringing well-rounded expertise to his new role.

John welcomes your input and is dedicated to serving your utility needs.

*Personal note: A volunteer firefighter for more than 23 years, John is involved with local civic organizations and lives in Norwich with his wife, Debra, and sons, Daniel and Jody.*



## Norwich Fire Department

### Fire Safety Tips

1. When frying foods keep a cover handy.  
USE NO WATER!
  2. Have an outside meeting place for your family to gather during an emergency.
- You may contact us for any help and all questions by Email: [norwichfire@cityofnorwich.org](mailto:norwichfire@cityofnorwich.org) or [chiefscand@cityofnorwich.org](mailto:chiefscand@cityofnorwich.org)  
Or by telephone and/or mail

### Dicas de Segurança contra Incêndios

1. Quando estiver a fritar comidas, tenha uma tampa à mão. NUNCA USE ÁGUA PARA APAGAR O FOGO!
  2. Em caso de emergência, tenha em mente um lugar seguro para se reunir com a sua família.
- Se tiver qualquer pergunta, contacte-nos por email: [norwichfire@cityofnorwich.org](mailto:norwichfire@cityofnorwich.org) [chiefscand@cityofnorwich.org](mailto:chiefscand@cityofnorwich.org)  
Ou por telefone e/ou por carta

### Kèk Ti Konsèy sou Mezi Sekirite pou Pran lè gen Dife

1. Lè wap fri manje, mete yon kouvèti sou laman. PIGA SÈVI AK DLO!
  2. Planifye defason pou oumenm ak fanmi w gen yon kote andeyò lakay ou pou nou rankontre nan ka dijans.
- Ou ka kontakte nou pa imèl pou kèlkeswa èd ou bezwen ak kèlkeswa kesyon ou genyen: [norwichfire@cityofnorwich.org](mailto:norwichfire@cityofnorwich.org) [chiefscand@cityofnorwich.org](mailto:chiefscand@cityofnorwich.org)  
Oswa pa telefòn oubyen pa lapòs

### Wskazówki dotyczące bezpieczeŃstwa poarowego

1. Podczas smaŃenia ŃywnoŃci miej pod rŃkŃ pokrywŃ – NIE UŻYWAJ WODY!
  2. Ustal miejsce zbiórki dla swojej rodziny, w którym spotkacie siŃ w przypadku zaistnienia nagłnej sytuacji.
- WszelkŃ pomoc i odpowiedzi na wszystkie pytania moŃesz uzyskaŃ kontaktujŃc siŃ z nami poprzez email: [norwichfire@cityofnorwich.org](mailto:norwichfire@cityofnorwich.org) [chiefscand@cityofnorwich.org](mailto:chiefscand@cityofnorwich.org)  
lub telefon i email

### Consejos sobre seguridad contra incendios

1. Cuando fría alimentos tenga a mano con qué cubrirlos, ¡NO USE AGUA!
  2. Disponga un lugar afuera de la casa donde su familia se reúna durante una emergencia.
- Puede comunicarse con nosotros para hacernos cualquier pregunta o pedir ayuda por correo electrónico a: [norwichfire@cityofnorwich.org](mailto:norwichfire@cityofnorwich.org) [chiefscand@cityofnorwich.org](mailto:chiefscand@cityofnorwich.org)  
o por teléfono o correo a:

### 防火安全要訣

1. 油炸食物時，在旁邊放著隨手可取的蓋子——千萬不要用水來滅火！
  2. 最家人決定在發生緊急狀況時，要在外面集合的地點。
- 如需任何協助或有任何問題，歡迎寄電子郵件給我們，電子郵件地址：  
[norwichfire@cityofnorwich.org](mailto:norwichfire@cityofnorwich.org) [chiefscand@cityofnorwich.org](mailto:chiefscand@cityofnorwich.org)  
或致電/郵寄

## Ongoing—1st Friday of each month First Fridays

Downtown Norwich comes alive with arts and entertainment every first Friday of the month! View original art at several galleries or enjoy a musical or theater production in our theaters. Call 886-4683 for more information.

## Week of May 8 Celebrate Water Week

Norwich Public Utilities celebrates "Drinking Water Week," an annual event to raise awareness of the importance of water. As part of Water Week, NPU brings a troupe from The National Theater for Children to all Norwich elementary schools for a performance of "Ocean's 3 1/2," a fun and educational sketch that teaches children to not waste water. The message is simple—"use what you need and need what you use!"

As summer approaches, it is a good time for everyone to realize that water is one of our most precious resources and should never be wasted. For conservation tips, please visit NPU's website at [www.norwichpublicutilities.com](http://www.norwichpublicutilities.com)

## May 12 – May 28 Norwich Art School 116th Annual Exhibition

Featuring paintings, photography, sculpture, jewelry, prints & furniture, held at Slater Memorial Museum, 108 Crescent Street. Call 887-2506 for more information.

## Registration begins May 15 Norwich Recreational Department Summer Programs

Summer Camp • High School Basketball League • Skateboarding Camp • Lacrosse Camp • Clowns & Magic Show • Golf Camp • Archery • Teen Program • Robotics • C.S.I. Workshop • Field Trips • Fun Runs • Kayak Lessons • C.I.T. Program

Programs begin in June. Financial assistance or scholarships available. Please call 823-3791 or visit [www.norwichct.org](http://www.norwichct.org) for information.

## May 29, 2006 Memorial Day Parade

Starts at 10:30 am from Little Plain to Chelsea Parade. Call 334-1855 for more information.

## May 31 Annual "Number-One Dog" Contest

Win the #1 dog tag from the City of Norwich. To be eligible, pick up your dog license application or renewal at the Town Clerk's office. Mail or drop it off to the Town Clerk's office by noon, Wednesday, May 31. Drawing will be held that afternoon. The winner will be notified shortly thereafter.

## June 17 Come Together for Juneteenth!

Juneteenth, the oldest national celebration of the end of slavery in the United States, commemorates the day in June 1865 when Galveston, Texas received

# Happy Birthday William P. Greene!

On Saturday, May 13th, join the birthday celebration of Greenville's founder, William Greene, a leading industrialist and Norwich mayor from 1842-43.

Greene, a Harvard graduate, came to Norwich in 1814 and, along with industrialist William Gilman, opened the Thames Manufacturing Company, a cotton mill, on the Yantic River.

After acquiring the land rights, Greene founded the Norwich Water Power Company on the lower Shetucket River. He built a dam and power canal to divert the river directly to the mills. By 1832, two cotton mills, a paper mill, an iron factory, a foundry and rolling mill were all operating and prospering.

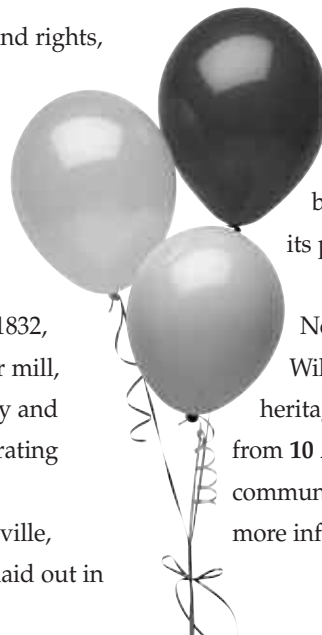
The village of Greenville, established in 1828 and laid out in

1833, was a planned industrial community created to support the development of water-powered industry. As with many industrial villages, work and home were within a few blocks of one another.

Residents lived, worked and shopped within the village, with a well-defined 'downtown' business district by 1857.

Today, Greenville is working to redefine itself. Designated as a neighborhood revitalization zone, Greenville, with an active group of volunteers, is looking to both preserve its history and regain its place as an economic center.

Residents throughout the City of Norwich are invited to celebrate William Greene's birthday and the heritage of Greenville at a block party from 10 AM until 3 PM with local community groups, food and music. For more information call 889-1974.



the news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free. Today, Juneteenth celebrates African American freedom while encouraging respect for all cultures.

This year's event will take place at Howard Brown Park and is open to the public. Music, vendors and good food highlight the day with a spotlight on local talent. It starts with a community walk from Union Square to Howard Brown Park. The walk symbolizes a coming together to build coalitions that will enhance the Norwich community.

Jackie Owens, president of the Norwich NAACP, points out that Juneteenth is a day of reflection and renewal and a time to appreciate the African American experience. The Norwich NAACP invites

the community to come and enjoy the day's activities. For more information contact the Norwich NAACP at 860-886-1686.

## All Summer Musical Concerts

Held at Howard Brown Park Gazebo and Norwichtown Green unless noted otherwise. Free performances are courtesy of the City of Norwich, The Music Performance Fund and the NAC. Call 886-4683 for details after June 1.



## Here to Serve You

Visit a special link on our web site for more information:  
[www.norwichpublicutilities.com/communitymatters](http://www.norwichpublicutilities.com/communitymatters)

Please call, fax or email us your questions, comments and suggestions.  
Norwich Public Utilities, 173 North Main Street Norwich CT 06360  
Tel: 860-887-2555 | Fax: 860-823-4172 | Email: [communitymatters@npumail.com](mailto:communitymatters@npumail.com)

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