

Community matters

NORWICH PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOV/DEC 2007

Energy — it's something we need and use every day. We use it to move, lift, heat, cool, cook and light things. Today, energy comes mostly from fossil fuels, such as oil, coal and natural gas. These sources are called non-renewable because there is a limited supply that cannot be replaced. In fact, some experts predict that at the current rate of use, fossil fuel supplies will only last another 170 years!*



Energy **Now's the time to think ahead**

What's the solution? Green energy or renewable energy is energy from sources that will never run out such as the movement of wind and water, the heat and light of the sun, heat in the ground, and the carbohydrates in plants. Renewable energy has many benefits including:

- Less need for imported fuels
- No net increase in greenhouse gas emissions
- Reduced air pollution
- Local job creation
- Economic stimulation

Here's a summary of the major types of green energy and how they can be used:

Solar/Photovoltaic Energy

Solar energy can be used for heating and lighting homes and other buildings, generating electricity, heating hot water, solar cooling, and a variety of commercial and industrial uses. In particular, photovoltaic (PV) is a solar energy technology, which generates electricity

from sunlight. PV produces no air pollution or hazardous waste.

Wind Energy

Wind produces energy that can be captured with wind turbines and turned into electricity. Steady winds of 12 miles per hour or higher are needed for commercial electricity generation. Such conditions occur in many places throughout the United States.

Biomass Energy

Biomass energy comes from organic materials, such as wood and crops, and also from municipal solid waste and industrial waste. Biomass is used to generate electricity, heat and transportation fuels like biodiesel.

Geothermal Energy

Geothermal energy catches the Earth's internal heat and recovers it as steam and hot water. Geothermal energy can be used for electric power production and the heating and cooling of buildings.

Hydropower

Flowing water creates energy that can be captured by turbines and turned into electricity. This is called hydroelectric power or hydropower. This is currently the most used form of renewable energy accounting for 7 percent of total U.S. electricity generation and 73 percent of generation from renewable sources in 2005.

NPU and green energy

Environmental stewardship is important to NPU. This is why we have been so active in constructing and maintaining fish passages at our existing hydro facilities. But NPU's interest in the environment doesn't stop there:

- A municipal photovoltaic project for the Norwich Fire Department is currently underway.
- Norwich's Wastewater Treatment Upgrade Project includes plans to capture the methane gas released during the treatment process and use it to generate electricity that will power the wastewater plant.
- While a portion of Norwich's electric portfolio already includes some green generation, NPU customers will soon be able to select an "all renewable" electric supply option.

You can expect to see more on NPU's Green Energy offerings soon...

Green energy for our future

The more we use renewable energy, the more we help the environment, strengthen our energy security, decrease our dependency on imported fuels, create jobs locally and help improve our economy.

* Source: The Climate Institute (www.climate.org/topics/green)

Norwich Celebrates its 70th year as the “Christmas City of Connecticut”



Throughout the month of November, Norwich will be preparing for its annual transformation into a holiday wonderland throughout the city — a tradition that dates back 70 years!

The Winter Festival — then and now

In 1937, Norwich won a statewide competition to gain the title of “Christmas City of Connecticut.” It was more than just lights and decorations that won Norwich its Christmas City title. It was the spirit of its people as citizens and businesses alike participated.

Since then, the Norwich Winter Festival committee has kept many of the original themes and events, and added new events like the popular Wacky Hat Decorating Contest. Today, the Winter Festival committee, led by Norwich’s own “Christmas Lady” Kathy Relyea, has a dedicated team of volunteers to keep the spirit alive.

Norwich Winter Festival mission statement

Organize the resources of the greater Norwich area for the purpose of sponsoring, developing and implementing a series of family oriented events to coincide with the traditional Christmas-Chanukah-Kwanzaa celebrations for the socioeconomic benefit of the Norwich community and surrounding areas.

Lighting up city hall

The Winter festival celebration kicks off with the Lighting Up City Hall ceremony on Friday, November 23rd at 5:00 P.M. Join in the musical celebration while awaiting the arrival of Santa who will to turn on the festive lights of City Hall.

See page 4 for a complete list of events.

This year, help keep that spirit going

The Winter Festival Committee encourages residents and businesses alike to participate in some way and share in the spirit of the season.

If you would like to participate, please contact Norwich Winter Festival/ City of Norwich, c/o Kathleen Relyea, 7 Stony Ridge Road, Norwich, CT 06360.

Winter energy saving tips

Ceiling fans are not just for summer anymore!



It’s a scientific fact — heat rises. And in our home or workplace that means the heat rises up to the ceiling, several feet above us. So why should you pay money to heat space that isn’t occupied?

Use a ceiling fan to move heat where you need it — back down into the space

where you are living or working. Switch the fan direction to reverse so the blades run counterclockwise. This will push the warm air downward. Remember to keep the fan on low to avoid cooling the air!

Here are more tips to save energy — and money:

- Lower the thermostat by a few degrees
- Make sure your heating system is properly maintained
- Regularly clean or replace furnace filters and heat pump filters
- Make sure warm-air registers, baseboard heaters and radiators aren’t blocked by furniture, carpeting, or drapes; clean as needed
- When operating efficiently, a gas flame should be blue. If your gas flame is yellow, it is wasting energy.

Have the appliance serviced by a licensed contractor

- Caulk leaky windows and add weather stripping to windows and doors
- Open draperies and shades on your south-facing windows during the day to allow sunlight in and closed at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows
- Select energy-efficient products when you buy new heating and cooling equipment

Want more energy efficiency tips?

Visit www.norwichpublicutilities.com or contact Norwich Public Utilities by phone at 887-2555 or by email at communitymatters@npumail.com

Update: Clean Rivers, Clean Harbor, Sound Norwich



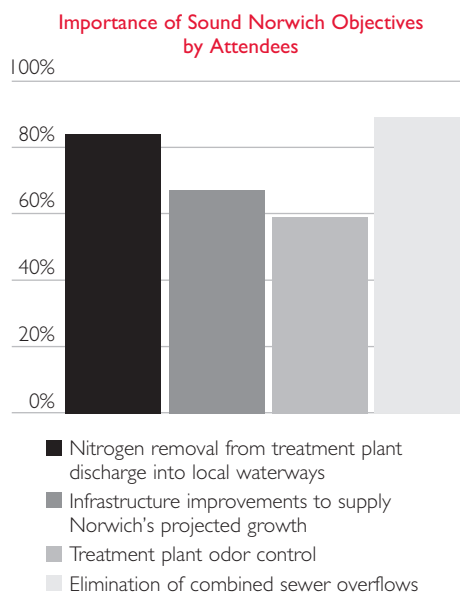
“The meeting was very informative. I didn’t realize how outdated the system was. I think the updates will be extremely helpful to the community, environment and all residents of Norwich.”

In early September, nearly 100 local residents attended an open house at NPU’s wastewater treatment plant. There, attendees received information on a 15-year, \$100+ million project plan to upgrade Norwich’s wastewater treatment facilities and an opportunity to see the plant first hand.

The Sound Norwich Wastewater Upgrade project has four primary objectives:

- Removal of nitrogen from treatment plant discharge. Nitrogen promotes algae growth and oxygen depletion in local waterways, which affect fish and other wildlife
- Upgrade the plant to replace an aging infrastructure and insure that Norwich facilities can support projected population and economic development growth
- Reduce — if not eliminate — treatment plant odors, which affect the reviving harbor area
- Eliminate 15 combined sewer overflows that cause the discharge of diluted, but untreated, waste into the Thames River basin

Attendees were asked to evaluate the importance of these objectives in a follow-up survey. The chart illustrates the results.



Participants also shared these comments:

“The tour was extremely helpful in how the wastewater treatment works and how it needs improvement. Thank you!”

“NPU has a good approach to this project. I would like it to also become more active in encouraging harbor related water recreation activities; canoes, kayaking etc.”

“I believe very strongly that upgrades to our infrastructure are critical to our community’s economic health and applaud NPU for its efforts.”

“I live on the Thames River in Gales Ferry, so I know the value of the project...”

“These infrastructure improvements are critical to continuing the economic growth and urban revitalization we are now experiencing in the Rose City.”

“Thanks for providing millions to our city.”

“We usually only think about the DPU as just another bill to pay, without considering all the services we actually receive. I think you are doing a great job for the present and the future, and you have great personnel!”

“Thank you for an informative tour of the facility. I now have a better understanding of all that involved with providing and ensuring clean water/treating wastewater.”

Learn more

For more information, please visit www.norwichpublicutilities.com

Free Light Bulb Offer



Did you notice the voucher included with your billing statement this month? For a limited time, NPU is offering a **free CFL Starter Pack** to all our electric customers. CFLs — compact

fluorescent lights — are an easy and cost-effective way to **save money on your lighting costs, up to \$55 over the lifetime of each bulb!** CFLs use 75% less electricity than incandescent bulbs and can last up to 10 times longer. It’s easy to switch from incandescent bulbs to CFLs. Just mail the enclosed voucher to the

address shown. Your free starter pack will arrive in about a month.

Want more? Visit www.norwichpublicutilities.com and click the energy efficiency link to learn about NPU’s light bulb program and other available efficiency programs.

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.

Ongoing—Ongoing—Swing-Dance Sunday Norwich Social Dance Club

Sundays from 7-10 pm \$7 pp, Swing, East & West. Lessons 6-7 pm \$10 pp. No partners needed. Wauregan Ballroom, 25 Broadway. Visit www.NorwichSDC.org or call 860-237-5457 for information.

Ongoing—1st Thursday of each month Taftville Lions Pasta Supper

ALL YOU CAN EAT Pasta Supper held on the FIRST Thursday of EVERY month at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Taftville from 4:30-6:30 pm. \$5 per person. Take out available. All profits benefit various Lions Charities and local Taftville projects. Call 889-8300 for more information.

December 10, 2007 to February 2, 2007

Connecticut Women Artists

Slater Memorial Museum, 108 Crescent St. Call 887-2506 for more information.

Norwich Winter Festival 2007 Schedule of Events

"Nutcracker on Ice"

Saturday, November 17, 2007 @ 5:00 PM

Sunday, November 18, 2007 @ 4:00 PM

Location: Norwich Figure Skating Club & Skating School

For more information and tickets, call 892-2555 ext. 0

"Light Up City Hall Ceremony"

Friday, November 24, 2007 @ 5:00 PM

Location: Norwich City Hall

Illumination of City Hall with a visit from Santa and carol singing.

"Santa's Headquarters"

Location: Artspace, 35 Chestnut Street

Hours: 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

"Wacky Hat Contest"

(co-sponsored by Otis Library)

Create a Wacky Hat

(supplies available or bring your own)

Saturday, November 24, 2007 @ 11:00 AM

Location: Artspace, 35 Chestnut Street

Wacky Hat Contest – 1:00 PM

"NFA Band Breakfast with Santa"

Sunday, December 2, 2007

8:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Location: NFA Cafeteria

"Norwich Winter Festival Parade"

Sunday, December 2, 2007 @ 1:00 PM

Viewing locations: Broadway, Broad Street, McKinley Avenue, Franklin and Main Streets

Parade starts at Chelsea Parade Grounds and proceeds through downtown Norwich. Float trophies awarded. For more information or to enter, please call Kathy Relyea at 892-1813.

"Tommy Toy Fund Fun Run"

Friday, December 7

Location: Billy Wilson's Ageing Still

Admission: One or more NEW unwrapped toy(s)

1.5 mile loop starts at 7:00 PM. Visit

www.moheganstriders.org for more information.

"Norwich City Wide House Decorating Contest"

Judging: Thursday, December 13, 2007

(Applications will appear in the *Norwich Bulletin*)

"Holiday on Ice"

Tuesday, December 24, 2007 @ 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Location: Norwich Municipal Ice Rink,

641 New London Turnpike

Admission: Free for the first 200 people

Originating as far back as 1909, these events and displays continue to be a mainstay of today's Norwich's Winter Festival

"Lighting Up Norwich City Hall"

The history of this event dates back to the Victorian era during Norwich's 250th Anniversary in 1909. This year we will see all new lights on City Hall. The new lights will be more energy efficient and will have a longer life span. This grand public/private venture will make history again by being a cornerstone for the grand displays and celebrations for Norwich's 350th Anniversary in 2009.

"Stars"

Star-shaped lights were common in 1937 and a focal point in the canopy of lights. Today, stars shine throughout the city again.

"Canopy of Lights"

Recorded in a 1937 issue of the Norwich Sunday Record, the 'canopy of lights' referred to the strands of lights strung from building to building across the streets of downtown. Today, 25 canopies are draped across the city streets, adding to the festive feeling so many of us enjoy during the holiday season.

Norwich Citywide House Decorating Contest

The Norwich Citywide House Decorating Contest was revived in 1987. These same awards categories were mentioned in the "1937" newspapers and continue to this day, including the grand prize category, which was

and still is named "Most Exquisite Grand Effect." This remains a popular event as many families return to the competition each year and proudly show their spirit.

New lighting projects are also based on Norwich History

- The lighted "Ship" in Howard T. Brown Park is based on the scale drawings of the USS Confederacy, which sailed from Norwich Harbor in the 1800s
- The lighted rose located on Chelsea Parade represents Norwich, the Rose of New England
- This year, look for a new light display to be unveiled downtown!



Here to Serve You

Visit a special link on our web site for more information:

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

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