

Community matters

NORWICH PUBLIC UTILITIES

SEPT-OCT 2009

Visit the Green Energy Fair:



THERE'S A
LOT TO
GAIN FROM
GOING
GREEN!


Preparing for a Green Career

As demand for sustainable energy efficiency policies, products and services increases, so do employment opportunities. Meet with representatives from Three Rivers Community College to learn out about green courses and degree programs that will prepare you for green careers — careers that are part of preserving our environment and energy resources.

Renewable Energy Opportunities

Reducing dependence on traditional fuel sources is on everyone's mind.

Are you interested in transitioning your home to solar or geothermal energy? Then this is the event for you. Companies like Mystic Solar, Groom Energy Solutions, Waldo Renewables, and Alterus will be on hand to educate you on the many renewable energy choices now available to homeowners.



Energy Services Organizations

Local energy service providers will be offering products and services that can help you green up your household! Learn first-hand about ways to cut costs associated with appliances, lighting, heating and cooling in your home. Greensulators, the Granite Group, and Heat Tech — all serving eastern Connecticut — will be available to separate fact from fiction when it comes to lowering your energy use.

On Saturday, October 17, 2009, join Norwich Public Utilities, Three Rivers Community College, and the Greater Norwich and Eastern Connecticut Chambers of Commerce as we present "Green Living — Green Learning."

This all-day energy event, held at the college campus, is free to the public and will show how going green isn't just about hugging trees — it's about having more to hug in your wallet! Going green means taking advantage of energy efficiency resources, preparing for a green job, or switching to a renewable energy source.

Alternative Fuel Vehicles

NPU has been designated a "Clean City" by the U.S. Department of Energy for its active use of alternative fuel vehicles. Meet representatives from Clean Cities of Eastern Connecticut and learn about the availability of clean vehicles that run on alternative fuel sources.



For more information on "Green Living – Green Learning," contact Norwich Public Utilities energy services team at (860) 823-4514 or energyefficiency@npumail.com

Sound Norwich Update: Making Norwich a Better Place to Live, Work and Do Business



The digester bottom — recently home to 30 years of solid sludge — has been emptied and cleaned.

The Clean Rivers, Clean Harbor, Sound Norwich Sewage System Reconstruction project took a step forward this spring when repairs began on the digester portion of the treatment plant. The digester breaks down solids removed from the sewage treatment process. When it needs repair, it can be the largest contributor to treatment plant odors.

Beginning in the month of May, NPU engineers worked closely with wastewater consultants to empty and clean the large round brick building that is visible

from the Route 82 bridge. NPU odor containment efforts were highly successful even though nearby residents and business owners were advised of potential odor problems.

The next step in the digester reconstruction process is the replacement of the building's cover. This will be the only change to the Sewage Treatment plant that is visible from the road. The old steel cover will be replaced and a new, dome-shaped cover will be installed.

The new dome shape will allow NPU to store the methane gas, which is a natural byproduct of the sewage treatment process that normally would be burned off. The methane will be recycled as a renewable energy source and used to generate electricity for the wastewater treatment plant. The renewable energy portion of

this project qualifies NPU to receive stimulus funds through 2009's American Reinvestment and Recovery Act and Connecticut's Department of Environmental Protection.

Combined Sewer Overflows

On September 11 and 12, NPU will host an open house at the sewage treatment plant. This event will provide information about options being considered for addressing the topic of combined sewer overflows still remaining in Norwich. CSOs, as they are called, are points in the city's infrastructure where sewer mains and storm drains intersect. During periods of very heavy rain, CSOs — containing diluted, but untreated, sewage — run into the Shetucket, Thames and Yantic Rivers. Norwich is presently under a DEP consent order that mandates the elimination of CSOs.

For more information, visit www.norwichpublicutilities.com or contact communitymatters@npumail.com



At left, what the sewage treatment plant looks like now before the new dome-shaped cover is added, at right. This is the only change to the plant that will be visible from the road. The new cover will help NPU turn sewage treatment gases into renewable energy.

Spring. Summer. Winter. Fall. The Home Energy Savings Program is Good for All!

Each Home Energy Savings

Service Visit Includes:

- ✓ Air leak detection through the use of “blower door” technology
- ✓ Air leak source elimination through weather stripping and caulking
- ✓ Replacement of incandescent bulbs with energy efficient CFLs
- ✓ Installation of water-saving equipment like low-flow showerheads, faucet aerators and pipe insulation (saving hot water saves energy, too!)
- ✓ Rebate offers towards the replacement of inefficient appliances and attic insulation*
- ✓ Customized energy efficiency tips for your residence
- ✓ Education
- ✓ An Energy Savers booklet from the US Department of Energy loaded with energy saving tips
- ✓ An easy-to-use Energy Wheel for calculating the cost of running appliances
- ✓ An introduction to the Energy Depot
- ✓ Activity booklets to teach the youngest in your home about saving energy

* Rebate offers are available to NPU natural gas or electric heat customers only.

Be comfortable at home in all seasons and still manage your energy costs! How? Norwich Public Utilities customers can take advantage of a no-charge home energy analysis through the Home Energy Savings Program.

“This is the best program we’ve offered to Norwich residents because we’re taking a completely holistic approach to saving energy,” said Jeff Brining, NPU’s Energy Services Director. “The effectiveness of any weatherization program depends on solid knowledge of efficiency technology, state-of-the-art equipment and customer education. Our energy service technicians are professionally trained to provide customers with all three!”

What is Weatherization?

Most people think weatherization is something you do when the colder weather approaches. Yes, weatherizing

your property before the cold winter weather comes is always a great idea. But, weatherization is helpful during hot weather, too — as it helps to keep the cold air inside and the hot air outside.

Weatherizing is different from insulating. Insulating your home keeps the heat generated by your heating system from leaking outside. On the other hand, weatherization prevents outside air from leaking in. Outside air can cause your heating or air conditioning system to work harder and less efficiently, thereby costing you more money. So, proper weatherization of your home in any season means outside air stays where it belongs — outside.

To schedule your no-charge Home Energy Savings appointment, please contact NPU’s Energy Services Team at (860) 823-4514 today!

Curbside recycling made easy!

Beginning in July, Norwich made recycling very easy with its new single-stream recycling program. Simply put, single-stream recycling means you can mix all recyclable items together in your recycling container instead of having to separate glass, metal and paper. The recycled items get sorted at the recycling center for you! All we ask is that you rinse out all containers to remove food waste.

Compact Fluorescent Light Bulb (CFL) Recycling

CFLs can be recycled at any of the following drop-off locations:

- NPU Customer Service Center, 173 North Main Street
- Otis Library, Main Street Downtown
- Norwich City Hall, 100 Broadway
- Rose City Senior Center, Mahan Drive
- Norwich Public Works, Clinton Avenue



Did You Know?

From July 2008 through June 2009, Norwich Public Works

Department collected 1298.43 tons of paper, 731.67 tons of bottles and cans, 200.71 tons of scrap metal and 962.82 tons of leaves. That equals the weight of 639 elephants* in total!

Have Questions?

Please contact the Norwich Public Works Department at 860 823-3798 or jcooper@cityofnorwich.org

* Weight equivalents are approximate; based on the average weight of an Indian elephant.



Recycle These Items

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| Newspapers and inserts | Multi 3-ply paper |
| Magazines/brochures | White, green, brown glass |
| Cardboard | Tin cans |
| Paper bags | Aluminum cans |
| Paperboard boxes (cereal, egg cartons) | Aluminum foil |
| Junk mail | Aluminum pots and pans |
| Phone books/catalogs | Juice and milk cartons |
| Hard and soft cover books | Plastic milk jugs |
| White and color paper | Plastic soda bottles |
| Envelopes (window OK) | Detergent bottles |
| File folders | All plastics #1 to #7 |
| School paper | Small metals |
| Shredded paper | Empty aerosol cans |
| | Plastic buckets and crates |



NOT These

- Needles or syringes
- Hazardous or biohazard waste
- Trash or bagged material
- Food waste in any containers
- All other non-recyclable items

Communitycalendar

NORWICH PUBLIC UTILITIES

SEPT-OCT 2009

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

Breast Cancer Remembrance

Honor a woman's battle with breast cancer with her name in pink on the breast cancer memorial Sail of the Valiant. Free. Sponsored by Chelsea Groton Bank, Dime Bank. Call (860) 889-3424 for information or to register. Sail of the Valiant is a Del Function nonprofit breast cancer program.

September 11 & 12, 2009

Sound Norwich Open House

Visit the Norwich Sewage Treatment Plant at 44 Falls Avenue to learn about NPU's the topic of Combined Sewer Overflows in Norwich. Call 823-4101 for more information.

September 12, 2009

Taste of Italy

An annual Italian community event. Includes bocce games, art exhibit and fireworks. Held at Brown Park. Contact Frank Jacaruso Jr. at 889-0864 for details.

September 17, 2009

Wine & Roses

Annual Wine Tasting Benefit for the Tommy Toy Fund under the tent at the Marina at American Wharf. Fine wine, entertainment and hors d'oeuvres from 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Call 887-9211 for more information.

September 19 & 20, 2009

Mysticats Cat Show

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 200+ pure breed and domestic cats with judges from all over the U.S. at Kelly Middle School, 25 Mahan Dr. Helping Paws event to raise money for local rescue and food bank. Call 860-434-4328 for more info.

September 20, 2009

Family Day

Food, fun and games for all, including "Harry O Youth Race." Join the fun from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Mohegan Park. For more information call Sherry Filiatreault at 823-3782.

September 20, 2009

Norwich Auto Show

24th Annual antique and classic car show. Dodd Stadium, Stott Avenue. Auto auction, food vendors and hundreds of antique, classic cars! Contact the Chamber of Commerce at 887-1647 for information.

October 2009

Walktober

35 towns of the Last Green Valley and the QSHC, Inc. sponsor dozens of guided walks around the historical, cultural and natural resources of the National Heritage Corridor. Norwich hosts several interesting walks. Contact (860) 774-3300.

October 3, 2009

NFA Classic Band Competition

Starting at 6:30 p.m., the event features several area marching bands. For more information, call 425-5742.

October 4, 2009

Norwich Fire Department Open House

From 12 noon to 3:00 p.m. at 10 North Thames Street. Call 892-6085 for more information.

October 17, 2009

Green Energy Fair at

Three Rivers Community College

Learn about energy saving opportunities for your home and education. 574 New London Turnpike. Call 823-4514 for more information.

October 18, 2009

Taftville/Occum Volunteer Fire Departments

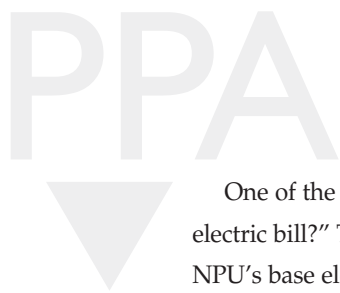
Open House

11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Occum Fire House, 44 Taftville Occum Rd. (Rte 97). Call 822-8285 for more information.

October 24, 2009

Lantern Light Graveyard Walk

One-hour guided walking tour at dusk led by ghost hunter Donna Kent featuring The Old Norwichtown Burial Ground and the Norwichtown Green. Plus, entire day ghost hunting includes brunch at a haunted restaurant. Reservations and lantern/flashlight required. Call 886-4683 for more information. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the CT Graveyard Association.



Good News! Decrease in the Purchased Power Adjustment (PPA)

One of the most common questions we hear from customers is, "What is that purchased power surcharge on my electric bill?" The purchased power adjustment (PPA) reflects actual wholesale power costs that are not included in NPU's base electric rate. The purchased power adjustment multiplies against all kilowatt-hours billed each month and changes every few months — depending on whether electricity prices have increased or decreased.

The good news is the purchased power adjustment has decreased! You will see an approximate 10% decrease in the overall price of electricity on your September statement.

The bill you are receiving this month reflects this decrease, just in time for hotter August temperatures. Check this month's bill message for the exact amount of the new purchased power adjustment.



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.

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