

Every Day Should Be Earth Day

April 22nd is officially Earth Day. That was the date chosen in 1969 to mark the one day of the year set aside to increase awareness and appreciation of our natural environment.

Gaylord Nelson, a former U.S. Senator from Wisconsin is credited with creating the first Earth Day, April 22, 1970. Senator Nelson was reacting to an oil spill off the coast of California. Inspired by student anti-war protests, he called for an environmental 'teach-in' at every university campus to raise awareness of what was happening to our earth. He was successful - over 20 million people participated that first year!

That first Earth Day marked the start of a worldwide environmental movement. Today, 175 countries and more than a half a billion people mark Earth Day as a day of action to change human behavior with a common goal of protecting our environment and valuable natural resources.

We applaud Senator Nelson and the 20 million people who kicked off the Earth Day movement. But why limit Earth Day to just one day? We only have one planet, with finite resources. It is up to all of us, for our generation and those who come after us, to remember this fact, each and every day.

"One person's trash is another person's treasure"

This common saying is just one way to help protect our environment. When faced with items that are no longer of any use, look for disposal alternatives.

- If it is broken, can it be repaired? If you do not want to repair it, maybe someone you know does?
- If it is usable, give it away! Is there a friend or relative that can use it? Many charities are happy to accept gently used items such as furniture, electronics, household items, clothing, etc. They may even come and pick it up from you!
- Hold a yard sale or list it on an Internet site, like ebay or craigslist.



- Can it be repurposed? If you are even a little crafty, even the most common of items can be repurposed and given new life. Internet sites like Pinterest contain amazing ideas for reusing old items instead of throwing them out in the trash.

If none of the above options work, and the item simply must be thrown away, be sure to dispose or recycle it properly. For more information on what items can and can't be recycled in the City of Norwich, visit the Solid Waste & Recycling guidelines available on the City of Norwich's website: www.norwichct.org. The site contains a comprehensive list of recycleable items, as well as where and when to bring items that need to be brought to the City's Transfer Station.

Reducing waste by reusing and recycling can help the environment by saving money, energy, and natural resources. But the most effective way to reduce waste is to not create it in the first place. When shopping, look for products with environmentally-friendly packaging. Reusable shopping bags are a better alternative to plastic. Avoid buying bottled water -- not only is it not any better for you, but empty water bottles can take up to a 1,000 years to decompose! Fortunately, in recent years there have been significant improvements in the recycle rate of water bottles, but out of the 29 billion bottles purchased each year, only 39% make it into recycling bins. Instead, purchase a refillable container and fill with tap water.

For more information about Earth Day and to learn how you can make a difference, visit <http://www.epa.gov/earthday/>.

Alt Fuel Vehicles = Cleaner Air & Energy Independence

In 1995, the Norwich City Council passed an important Resolution creating the Norwich Clean Cities Coalition. This Coalition, part of the U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Cities Initiative, is tasked with one mission -- advance our nation's economic, environmental and energy security through the use of alternative fuels for transportation.

Since 1995, Norwich Public Utilities has been a leading force in our region in the push towards alternative fuels. From the first compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles we purchased in 1995, our fleet has continued to grow to where we are today -- more than half of our entire fleet operates on some type of alternative fuel. These fuels include CNG, 20% biodiesel, and electricity. In addition, in 1998 we built the only public access CNG fueling station located in eastern Connecticut, and it is located right here in Norwich!

Today this station is used not only by NPU and other City of Norwich fleet vehicles, but also several large private fleets. Since its opening, the amount of CNG dispensed from this station has replaced over

360,000 gallons of petroleum fuel.

In addition to the benefits outlined by the Clean Cities' mission, there is the added benefit of fuel cost savings. Right now, the price of CNG is approximately half the cost of gasoline and diesel fuel. Also, because CNG is a cleaner burning fuel, routine maintenance costs are decreased. This means less downtime for vehicle maintenance.

As a municipality, the City of Norwich, and NPU are eligible for funding from the State of Connecticut's Clean Vehicle Program. The funding covers the added cost of the alternative fueling components of the vehicle. This allows us to purchase the more expensive alternative vehicle at the same price as a gasoline or diesel fueled alternative. Our goal is to incorporate as many AFVs into our fleet as possible.



NPU bucket trucks fueled by CNG

Challenges

Unfortunately, there are obstacles to obtaining our goal of maximizing AFVs in our fleet. The first is the availability of vehicles. There just are not enough variety of AFVs available. The second is availability of fueling infrastructure outside our area. As NPU is part of a municipal utility mutual aid network, we need trucks that can fuel anywhere we need to travel. As many parts of our country have yet to install CNG fueling infrastructure, we still need to maintain some vehicles that rely on gasoline or diesel.

Advocacy

To overcome these obstacles, NPU works closely with Clean Cities and other AFV industry advocates. We also ensure that important decision makers at the local, state and federal level are aware of the successes and obstacles of this program.

Our work is paying off. Through efforts like ours, as well as those of countless other advocates for cleaner domestic fuel, real changes are taking place. Nationwide we are seeing an unprecedented interest in alternative fuels and build out of infrastructure. We look forward to building our second CNG fueling station to better serve the needs of regional fleets converting to CNG and expand sales of CNG. This new station will be easily accessible to Interstate 395 and Route 2, making it convenient for both local fleets and drivers passing through our area. Additionally, this station will be able to accommodate any size vehicle, including large tractor trailers. The dual dispenser unit will allow for two vehicles to fuel simultaneously, cutting down on wait time.

For more information about Clean Cities and alternative fuels, visit <http://www1.eere.energy.gov/cleancities/index.html>.



Hydro Power - Going Green for over a Half a Century

Hydropower, or the process of generating electricity from water, has been a part of Norwich's history since the Industrial Revolution started in the early 1800s. Many of the mills built on the banks of the Shetucket and Yantic Rivers used hydropower as a cheap energy source to power equipment. In 1927, the Norwich Gas & Electric Department (now called Norwich Public Utilities, or NPU) built the city's first hydroelectric generation facility on Second Street on the Shetucket River and began providing 'green' power to the citizens of Norwich. A second hydro station was built in 1934 at the Occum Dam.

In 1961, additional hydropower was added when Norwich purchased the Greeneville Dam and built a new hydroelectric station. This station was completed and brought online in 1968.

Today, NPU continues to operate these hydro stations, plus a fourth station located on the Quinebaug River, annually generating approximately 5 million megawatt hours (MwH), or 6% of our overall electric load.

As part of licensing requirements by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the agency charged with oversight of hydropower, NPU constructed fish passages on both the Occum and Greeneville dams. Every spring, thousands of fish migrate upstream to spawn. Before the construction of the Fish Lift, the fish could not get past the Greeneville Dam. In 1998,

the Greeneville Fish Lift was placed into operation to allow target species such as American and Gizzard Shad, Alewife, Blueback Herring, and Sea-run Brown Trout to continue their migration path. From mid-April through May, the fish lift is operated multiple times a day. The fish are attracted via the water flow to the hopper collection area. This hopper, or large box, is lifted to a level above the top of the dam. The fish are then released into an exit channel to continue their trip upstream. A window allows for the migrating fish to be seen and counted by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). By counting the fish, the DEEP can monitor the health of the river. An eel lift was also added to assist with eel migration upstream.

In 2005, the Occum Fish Ladder was placed into service at the Occum Dam. Like the fish lift, it is designed to allow fish to get past the dam that is interfering with their migration. Unlike the fish lift, this passage is a flume built at various heights. A series of baffles are placed at an angle to the water flow to allow the fish to swim through the flume. An eel ladder is adjacent to the fish passage.

During the lifting season, we place a link on our website allowing anyone to view the fish passing by the counting window. Tours are occasionally offered as well.

NPU is proud to be an environmental steward of such beautiful waterways.



Turbine located at the 10th Street hydropower station



The NPU Fish Lift at the Greeneville Dam

| MAY 2013 | | | | |
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| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU |
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| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |

The Winter Moratorium ends May 1st. Customers protected by the Moratorium must contact the NPU Customer Service Center at 860-887-2555 during normal business hours.

Communitycalendar

NORWICH PUBLIC UTILITIES

April 2013

April, 2013

The Friends of Otis Semi-Annual Book Sale

Early Bird Preview - Friday, April 19th:
9 - 10 AM (\$10 Admission)

Free General Admission:

Friday, April 19th: 10 AM - 3 PM

Saturday, April 20th: 10 AM - 3 PM

Sunday, April 21st: Noon - 3 PM

Otis Library's Book Sale offers thousands of books! Come and find gently-used books at affordable prices in the areas of special interest as well as to explore the many other well-defined categories. There is truly something for everyone!

All proceeds from the sale will benefit the Otis Library. The community's support is greatly appreciated. Missed this sale? Don't worry, they have another one in the fall.

Recycling at its best:

The Friends of Otis Library collects clean, gently used books, CDs, and DVDs, two bags or boxes at a time, at the Main Circulation Desk of the Otis Library, 261 Main Street, Norwich, throughout the year. For larger donations, please call 860-889-2365, ext. 125. No textbooks, magazines, or encyclopedias, please.

July-Aug, 2013

Summer Concert Series

The Annual "Rock the Docks" concert series at Howard Brown Park on the Norwich waterfront. Wednesdays, starting July 10th, from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. For more information, contact the Greater Norwich Chamber of Commerce at 860-887-1647 or visit www.norwichchamber.com.

May 5, 2013

Thames River Family Program/ Martin House Annual Luncheon and Auction

The 20th annual luncheon to benefit the programs at Thames River Family Program and Martin House will be held at the Mystic Marriott Hotel from 11:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Events include a luncheon and silent auction. Tickets may be purchased online at www.trfp.org or by calling 860-887-3288.

May 11, 2013

Center for Hospice Care Walk 2013

Fundraising walk (or run!) in Mohegan Park to benefit the Center for Hospice Care (formally Hospice of Southeastern CT). Registration at 9:00 AM, Walk begins at 10:00 AM. Rain or shine. For more information, visit <http://hospicesect.kintera.org>

May 11, 2013

2nd Annual Duck Race

The fun and festivities begin at 11:00 A.M. at the Fireman's Field Yantic Fire Dept. The Yantic River Fire Department will be sponsoring a chicken BBQ. Come on down and enjoy food, music, games and arts and crafts for the kids. Sponsored by the Norwich Sunshine Rotary. Visit www.NorwichRotaryDuckRace.com for more information.

June 1, 2013

Riverfest Dragonboat Races and Business Expo

Enjoy Dragon boat races at the scenic Howard Brown Park in downtown Norwich. For more information, contact the Greater Norwich Chamber of Commerce at 860-887-1647 or visit www.norwichchamber.com.

June 6 - 9, 2013

Butterfly Pavillion

Hart's Greenhouse, 309 Otrobando Avenue. June 6-7 from 11 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.; June 8-9 from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. Tickets are \$6.00 per adult and \$4.00 per child under 12. Last tickets sold at 4:30 p.m. Over 1000 native butterflies-- monarchs, painted ladies, red admirals, and black swallowtails--flutter among hundreds of blooming plants in a huge tent inside one of Hart's greenhouses.

Everyone attending the event can witness the four stages of a butterfly's development. They can also see, close-up, plants that are especially attractive to butterflies, and learn how to plant a butterfly garden. Hart's will have a mini vegetable garden in which children can browse and plant a seedling to take home.

Sponsored by Chelsea Botanical Gardens. For more information, contact chelseagardens@gmail.com or visit www.chelseagardens.org.

June 15, 2013

Juneteenth Celebration

Norwich NAACP Annual Juneteenth Celebration at Howard Brown Park. Entertainment, Food and Fun. Contact Aaron Daniels for more information, 860-710-0199.

June 17, 2013

Connecticut Tigers - Opening Day!

Visit www.cttigers.com for a complete season schedule and more!



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Here to Serve You

Visit our web site for more information:
www.norwichpublicutilities.com

Please call, fax or email us your questions, comments and suggestions.
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