

NPyou!



A community newsletter
for the customers of
**Norwich
Public Utilities**

NPU provides three local organizations with \$148,848 through Neighborhood Assistance Act

During the January meeting of its Board of Commissioners, Norwich Public Utilities (NPU) announced that it has contributed \$148,848 to three local organizations through the State of Connecticut's Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) program.

The NAA is a tax credit program administered by the Department of Revenue Services and is designed to provide funding for municipal and tax-exempt organizations through a tax credit for businesses that make cash contributions to organizations and projects approved by the State.

"Once again, NPU is an enthusiastic participant in the Neighborhood Assistance Act, which allows us to support three great community partners with important projects," said Chris LaRose, General Manager of NPU. "Through the NAA, our resources stay here in Norwich and make an immediate impact in our community."

Through the NAA, the following organizations will receive funding from NPU in 2022:

- Otis Library (\$40,848) to support the second phase of a project to upgrade

the heating, ventilation and air-condition system in a significant portion of the library. This project will improve air quality and air flow in a well-used community space throughout the course of the year.

- Eastern Connecticut Housing Opportunities (ECHO) (\$54,000) to assist with the replacement of 80 older, inefficient windows at the Elizabeth Street Apartments, a 29-unit development that meets the needs of a number of low-income, at-risk individuals and families.
- United Community and Family Services (UCFS) (\$54,000) to support the second phase of a comprehensive efficiency upgrade including 20 new windows at the historic Samuel Huntington Home which houses many of the administrative functions of UCFS.

Each year, NPU pays Gross Revenues Tax to the State of Connecticut from the purchase of natural gas and electricity. The NAA limits participating organizations to \$150,000 per year in tax credits and the statewide program has a cap of \$5 million.

NPU reminder: Call Before You Dig

With Spring finally upon us, it's time to start planning for personal and commercial construction projects. Be sure to notify Call Before You Dig (CBYD) as part of your plans.

C BYD is a free service to anyone excavating near their home or business. This one-call notification system enables excavators, contractors or homeowners to obtain information on the location of underground utility pipes, wires and cables in the area of the proposed work site. This helps protect the person digging from harm and the utilities from damage.

that requires digging with power or mechanized equipment must notify CBYD before they start digging - it's the law. Additionally, anyone using hand tools for their project is encouraged to notify CBYD. Hand tools such as, axes, shovels, post hole diggers, etc. can easily damage underground utility pipes and cables as well as risk personal injury.

Examples of projects that would require notifying CBYD include installing decks, fences, trees, mailbox posts, swing sets, room additions, swimming pools, and patios.



When notifying CBYD, the person doing the digging is required to call with the location information. Always make sure to contact CBYD at least two full working days, excluding weekends and holidays, in advance of when you plan to start digging.

Digging responsibly is very important. The impact of unsafe or careless digging practices is real and often costly in terms of personal injury and damage to underground utility lines, property and the environment.

Anyone planning an outdoor project

Ten Reasons...

to install a heat pump system:

What is a heat pump? It's an all-in-one heating and air conditioning system that works year-round to keep your home or business comfortable. During the winter, it collects heat from outdoor air and transfer it inside. During the summer, it doubles as an air conditioner by extracting heat from inside and transferring it outside.

Why choose a heat pump?

1. Saves money on your energy bills.
2. Saves money on routine maintenance costs.
3. Safer than combustion heating systems.
4. Reduces your carbon footprint.
5. Improves air quality in your home.
6. Never worry about calling for fuel delivery or running out of fuel.
7. Provides heating in the winter and cooling in the summer from a single unit.
8. Allows you to control your home's temperature from your smartphone.
9. Eliminates the need for heavy and inefficient window air conditioning units.
10. No upfront cost for customers who qualify for financing.

CHIPP
Cooling & Heating
Incentive
Pilot Program

NPU's Cooling & Heating Incentive Pilot Program (CHIPP) helps existing electric customers heating primarily with natural gas, oil or propane gas upgrade to a more energy-efficient electric heat pump system.

Participants who install a qualifying heat pump system and submit all required documentation will receive a **\$2,400 per ton rebate** toward the purchase and installation and up to \$2,000 for integrated controls.

Program details and forms are available at norwichpublicutilities.com/residential/chipp or call 860-887-2555 for additional information.

A minute with the Mayor: Time for Spring Cleaning in Norwich



Mayor Peter Nystrom

As the weather starts to turn warmer and with everyone spending more time outdoors, it is the time of year when most of us start to think about Spring Cleaning – both inside and outside of our homes. And as this important work gets under way, the City of Norwich is ready to help with our annual refuse and waste collection services.

Residents of Norwich who are served by Willimantic Waste are entitled to two bulky waste collections per calendar year. For multi-family dwellings, each dwelling unit is entitled to two bulky waste collections per calendar year. Call Willimantic Waste Paper at (860) 423-4527 to schedule your bulky waste collection.

Any resident that places bulky waste outside of their home without scheduling an

appointment for pickup will be subject to a possible fine by the City's Bright Enforcement officer.

Bulky waste piles must be placed neatly at curbside with dimensions not exceeding 10 feet long x 6 feet wide x 4 feet high.

The following items are acceptable for a scheduled Bulky Waste pick-up:

- Household Furniture: Sofas, mattresses, chairs, bureaus, carpeting, etc. Carpeting must be folded and/or cut to a maximum length of four feet.
- Appliances: Household appliances such as washers, stoves
- Tires: A maximum of four automobile and/or small pickup truck tires. Tires must be separated from the metal rim to be collected. Large truck tires will not be accepted.
- Metal: Maximum length of eight feet and a maximum weight of fifty pounds, per piece.
- Scrap Wood: Scrap lumber from construction sites, excluding pressure treated and/or creosote treated wood.

The following items will NOT be picked up as part of this program, but they will be accepted at the Rogers Road Transfer Station:

- Electronics: Computer monitors, TVs, microwaves, etc.
- Appliances that contain Freon: Refrigerators, air conditioners, freezers, humidifiers/dehumidifiers
- Empty propane tanks
- Toilets, sinks, tubs and shower stalls
- C & D Waste (Construction and Demolition Debris): shingles, drywall, sheetrock, etc
- Hazardous household waste items are not allowed for bulky waste pick up or for disposal at the Transfer Station.

This program is an important part of keeping our community safe and livable. Please join me in this important initiative in the weeks and months to come. Keeping Norwich clean and safe is everyone's responsibility and reflects the pride in our community that I know so many of our residents share.

NPU commits \$25,319 to United Way for 2022 fundraising campaign

Despite the ongoing challenges of the pandemic, the employees of Norwich Public Utilities (NPU) completed another successful fundraising campaign for the United Way of Southeastern Connecticut, raising \$20,319. When combined with NPU's corporate contribution, a total of \$25,319 will be contributed to the United Way in 2022.

This amount includes individual employee contributions, through one-time gifts or regular payroll deductions throughout the year, and a corporate benefactor contribution from NPU. More than 33% of NPU employees participated in the 2022 United Way campaign.

"Despite the immeasurable impact of the pandemic, the men and women of NPU continue to show their personal support for the community we serve," said Chris LaRose, General Manager of NPU. "In addition to our financial support, our employees lend their time and efforts through a range of volunteer activities every year with the United Way, which remains a pillar in our community."

Over the past five years, NPU and its employees have contributed more than \$175,000 to the United Way of Southeast Connecticut.

In 2022, NPU hopes to add to their overall contribution to the United Way with small, individual fundraising activities held in the workplace (breakfasts, lunches, holiday events) once employees return to their normal work locations as conditions improve in the region.

Organizations that have been designated for support by NPU employees include United Community & Family Services (UCFS), the ARC of New London County, the Martin House, and Madonna Place.

NPU is also a site coordinator for the United Way's monthly Gemma Moran Mobile Food Pantry, partnering with UCFS and the Norwich Public School System.

CULTURAL COALITION

serving southeastern & northeastern CT

The Cultural Coalition is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization headquartered in Norwich, and helps to improve the economy, vitality, and quality of life in Eastern Connecticut by supporting the arts, cultural, and creative community. They are helping manage and administer \$500,000 of Norwich's ARPA funding for arts and culture to support economic recovery and address the impact of the pandemic.

The Cultural Coalition includes representatives from Castle Church, Reliance Health, Norwich Community Development Corporation, Global City Norwich, City of Norwich, NPU, and the Greater Norwich Area Chamber of Commerce. These partners all understand the value of the role public art plays in creating a vibrant city for residents, businesses and visitors. Additionally, a part-time Norwich Arts & Culture Coordinator was hired to support the Coalition and assist with managing the City's share of ARPA funds dedicated for use for local arts and culture.

For more information on Norwich ARPA funding on arts and culture, please visit the Norwich ARPA webpage <<http://culturesect.org/city-of-norwich-arp/>> or email Sarbani Hazra at S.Hazra@CultureSECT.org.

HERE TO SERVE YOU

Visit our website for more information: norwichpublicutilities.com
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