



A community newsletter
for the customers of

Norwich Public Utilities

NPU customers could see \$2.56 million in rate relief over next 5 years

At a meeting held on March 5th, the Norwich Public Utilities (NPU) Board of Commissioners voted to approve the reallocation of ownership of micro-generation projects developed by the Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative (CMEEC) after Wallingford Electric exited the project.

Pending approval by the CMEEC Board, NPU's ownership percentage in the project will increase from 21.7% to 30.7%, which will provide NPU with a net benefit of \$672,822 in the next year and a collective benefit of \$2,857,289 over the next five years.

"This vote by the NPU Board is a big step toward years of rate relief for every one of our electric customers," said Chris LaRose, Acting General Manager of NPU. "When NPU assumes a larger ownership role in these successful CMEEC projects, our customers will realize nearly \$3 million in decreased energy costs over the next five years."

CMEEC's MicroGen project consists of twenty 2.5MW diesel generators located throughout its member territories, with six units located within Norwich. The

remaining generators are located in Groton (6), Mohegan Tribal Land (4), Bozrah (2), Jewett City and Fisher's Island.

The micro-generation units provide operational benefits for participants by acting as an emergency generation source capable of supplying electricity to the distribution system during extended power outages. The units also provide financial benefits by operating during periods of peak electric usage demand and reduce capacity and transmission costs that would otherwise be charged to NPU and its customers.

The generators are outfitted with state-of-the-art emissions control systems which greatly reduce nitrogen oxide, carbon monoxide, and particulate matter emissions, among others. Since the project's inception, participants' wholesale electric costs have been reduced by more than \$58 million, including over \$12 million directly to NPU.

According to projections provided by CMEEC, NPU's net benefit over the next five years will be:

2019	\$672,822
2020	\$578,821
2021	\$526,270
2022	\$532,166
2023	\$547,210

TOTAL \$2,857,289



Call before you dig

Do you know what is in the ground where you are planning to install a deck, a tree or shrub, or even a new mailbox post?

Did you know there could be natural gas pipelines, water lines or electrical wires buried under the surface of your yard?

Don't take chances.

Before you start any outdoor project that requires digging, Call Before You Dig.



Contact Call Before You Dig (CBYD) at 8-1-1 to ensure that the area you plan to dig is clear from any underground utility. By making one phone call, your utility company, phone company and cable company will be notified by CBYD and will mark out the locations of any wires or pipelines buried in the area where you plan to work.

For more information about the Call Before You Dig program, visit www.cbyd.com/homeowners-help or call 8-1-1.



10 tips to prevent pesticide poisoning in your home:

Each year thousands of children under the age of six are poisoned by common household pesticide products. These include household cleaning products.

1. Read product labels and follow the directions when using the product.
2. Lock up all pesticides and harmful products in a cabinet, out of a child's reach. Install safety latches on cabinets.
3. Look through your house from a child's viewpoint. Crawl around on your hands and knees to see if you've missed any potential dangers.
4. Use child-resistant packaging correctly and seal the container after every use.
5. Keep pesticides in their original containers. Never put poisonous products in a container that could be mistaken for juice or food.
6. Teach children that "pesticides are poisons" and not to be touched.
7. Pesticides used to control fleas and ticks on pets can be transferred to children. Protect your pets and your children by carefully following the label directions and precautions.
8. Post the Poison Control Center national hotline phone number near every telephone and program it into your cell phone.
9. Visit www.epa.gov/safepestcontrol for more information about pesticides.
10. Share these tips with any caregivers/babysitters responsible for your children.

**Poison Control Hotline:
1-800-222-1222**

Natural Gas Safety

Being Nosey can keep you safe

NPU will be providing all customers with important natural gas safety information in the May utility bills. The Nosey campaign was created by the Northeast Gas Association for its members, like NPU, to provide valuable gas safety information to customers. The information provided in this easy to understand brochure should be shared with all members of your household.



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A minute with the Mayor:

Progress in Norwich continuing this busy spring

Grand list up nearly 7%, community cleanup and Global Cities events ongoing



Mayor Peter Nystrom

Every year spring is a time of renewal, particularly in New England. The ice and snow are finally behind us, the flowers begin to bloom, and people are spending more time outdoors

enjoying the nicer weather.

This year, spring in Norwich is a time of even more optimism with continued progress for our city on many fronts.

First and foremost, following a review of the financial conditions for the City of Norwich over the past year, we know that our Grand List grew by 6.882% in 2018. This is an increase from about 2% in 2017. This substantial growth is a clear

signal that our focus on making Norwich a more attractive place to open or expand a business is achieving positive results.

This significant increase to our Grand List is due to the ongoing efforts by many individuals and organizations and is being seen across the Rose City. In Taftville, progress continues at Ponemah Mills and with the opening of the new Nutmeg Pharmacy. Craftsman Cliff Roasters and the Monocle are bringing more people and activity to our Downtown; Otis Café, which opened on March 18, will only add to this momentum. And the development of the former Hale Mill is an exciting opportunity taking shape in Yantic.

Our efforts to address blight in our city will also continue this spring. Reliance Health and St. Vincent DePaul Place will once again lead these efforts in the months ahead, with regularly scheduled cleanups to be held on April 27, May 25,

and June 29. Additional cleanups will be organized by NCDL on May 11, June 22 and September 28.

The organizers of these events will always welcome additional volunteers. Please consider donating your time and effort to these vitally important community activities.

And finally, our very successful Global City Norwich festivals in Downtown will restart with the Haitian Festival on May 18, followed by the Cape Verdean Festival on May 26, the Juneteenth Festival on June 15, the Polish Festival on June 23 and the Peruvian Festival on July 28. Each of these events celebrate the unique qualities of the wonderful varieties of ethnicities and cultures that make our community special while connecting all of us with the things we all enjoy, - music, food and family fun in our great city.

NPU employees undergo ethics training

Throughout the month of March, all NPU employees were required to participate in ethics training. This was in an effort to regain credibility and transparency following a number of concerns raised by our customers, the NPU Board, and the City Council.

The training involved a thorough review of the City of Norwich Code of Ethics, including each employee receiving a copy. Following the review, a question and answer session was held, where hypothetical situations were presented for discussion. Employees were required to take a quiz before completing the class.



NPU will also be setting up a confidential ethics hotline, allowing people call or email NPU to report a situation they feel may be unethical. This information will be made available on NPU's website and social media channels.

A copy of the City of Norwich Code of Ethics can be found on the City of Norwich's website: <http://www.norwichct.org/documentcenter/view/4223>.

Norwich to participate in BikeWalk SECT

The City of Norwich and the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG) will be conducting a temporary 2-day closure of the parking lane on the west side of Central Avenue (even-number side) between 4th Street and 7th Street on Sunday, April 28 and Monday, April 29.

This temporary closure is being done to create a temporary "pop-up" separated bike lane. During this experiment, the public will be invited to try out the bike lane and provide feedback about walking and biking in Norwich.

This "pop-up" project is being conducted as part of the SCCOG Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, also referred to as BikeWalk SECT. When completed, BikeWalk SECT will provide a comprehensive inventory and plan for the region's bicycle and pedestrian programs and infrastructure. It will also serve as a companion to the



Southeastern Connecticut Metropolitan Transportation Plan, which outlines transportation improvements for the region over the next 40 years.

BikeWalk SECT is designed to ensure that all the municipalities in the SCCOG region have some level of bike and pedestrian planning. Future pop-up bike lanes will be planned for Griswold and Groton.

For more information, visit www.bikewalksect.com



NPU employees, friends and family--plus Clancy, the Irish Wolfhound--participated in Norwich's Annual St. Patrick's Parade and Festival, which took place on Sunday, March 3, 2019.

HERE TO SERVE YOU

Visit our website for more information: norwichpublicutilities.com

Please call, fax or e-mail us your questions, comments and suggestions.

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