www.cityofloveland.org



July 2008

Volume 4 Number 7

## City service used 24/7 by everyone

Some Loveland residents use the Loveland Public Library. Some don't. Some use the City's golf courses. Some don't. It's the same with many other City services and facilities such as the recreation center, fire inspections, art workshops, bike lanes, the Rialto Theater and more.

But there's one City service everyone uses—every day, every hour—electrical power. Whether you're at home, at work or 1,000 miles away on vacation, there's electrical service being provided and used.

This month's *City Update* presents an overview of the electrical service provided by the City. Turn the page to learn the basics about its source, distribution, capacity, cost, reliability and what's ahead for the electricity brought to you by the Loveland Water and Power department.

More power info inside

### Don't lose your cool this summer

Summertime temperatures in Loveland can soar into the 90's and sometimes

even crest the 100 degree mark. But just because it's hot outside doesn't mean you and your home have to get all steamed up. Help keep your home cool with these beat-the-heat summer cooling tips:

- Plug the holes—As in winter, keeping the outdoor air out and indoor air in will help maintain a cool, comfortable indoor environment. Check to make sure you have adequate attic insulation, repair or replace old weather stripping and seal leaky ducts.
- Switch out bulbs—Compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) help keep your home cool by generating 70 percent less heat than standard incandescent bulbs. CFLs must be recycled because they have a small amount of mercury. Orchards Ace

Hardware now accepts CFLs for recycling at no cost.



- Close the drapes—Again, just as in winter, drawn drapes can help insulate your home from the heat outside.
- Plant trees—while closing drapes instantly creates shade, a good longterm shade-producing strategy is trees.
   Plant trees where they'll do the best job of shading the house to help keep it cool during the summer.

(continued on page 4)

# Loveland Water & Power's Renewable Energy Prospective - 2008

Renewable energy is energy that's produced from alternative sources such as wind. Loveland Water & Power purchases its renewable energy from Platte River Power Authority (PRPA), Loveland's wholesale energy provider.

"Platte River operates under an organic contract with the municipalities of Estes Park, Fort Collins, Longmont and Loveland on whose behalf Platte River acts as a wholesale electric utility, acquiring, constructing and operating generation capacity and supplying electric energy on a requirements basis."

– Platte River Power Authority website.

Wind and landfill gas are the energy sources for Loveland Water & Power's GreenSwitch program. The table on page 4 lists the content mix for

(continued on page 4)

#### **INSIDE**

City, PRPA are electrical teammate: Page2

Power Cost

Page 2

Energy Efficiency Programs

Page 3

Green, not brown is alert concern

Page 3

Use VanGo or CarGo
Page 2

Airport takes economy to new heights

Page 3

Offer suggestions about City website

Page 3

Recycling pilot study underway

Page 4

Be informed: City information sources

Page 4

## "Money Talks"

# When it comes to your money, it pays to play it safe

The best financial con-artists are charming, knowledgeable and know just the right thing to say to talk you into buying. Learning to spot and avoid them can save tremendous financial hardship.

On August 12 the Loveland Public Library's monthly Money Talks series presents *Play it Safe*. This informative presentation will help attendees protect themselves from financial fraud by being able to recognize it, refuse fraudulent sales pitches and contacting the proper authorities.

The program is presented through the AARP ElderWatch program and meets at noon in the Gertrude B. Scott room of the library. Beverages are provided and sack lunches are welcome. For more information call 962-2402.

### City, PRPA are electrical teammates

Payments for electricity used by Loveland homes, businesses and other utility customers are made to the City of Loveland. But while the City provides the electricity through its distribution system, the City is not the source of the power.

Almost all of Loveland's electricity comes from Platte River Power Authority (PRPA), a publicly-owned, not-for-profit wholesale electric utility. PRPA is jointly owned by the municipalities of Loveland, Fort Collins, Estes Park and Longmont.

The Rawhide Energy Station, about 3 miles west of I-25, 26 miles north of Fort Collins, generates the majority of PRPA's power. One coal-powered turbine and five natural gas-powered turbines generate electricity that flows through PRPA's 700 miles of transmission lines. Ten wind turbines near Medicine Bow, Wyo. and an 18 percent share in the coal-fired Yampa Project near Craig are also generation sources.

PRPA is part of the western U.S. power grid. If PRPA has extra power, it sells it to other entities or purchases power if needed. This way, if unexpected high demand or an interruption of generating service should occur, reliable electricity is available.

#### We deliver

Loveland receives its electricity from PRPA transmission lines at six local substations. Transformers at the substations step down the high voltage transmission to lower levels for local use. The City's 530 miles of distribution lines deliver the power to the City's nearly 32,000 electric customers.

The power is carried from substations to homes and businesses throughout Loveland, primarily by underground cables. About 120 miles of overhead lines still exist and are being phased out wherever feasible. All new developments install underground electric service.

#### Nearly perfect

While nothing is ever perfect, electric reliability in Loveland comes very close. Electric service efficiency exceeds 99.99 percent. Loveland hasn't suffered a major outage in a long time. When an occasional minor outage occurs, service is usually restored in just an hour or two.

If an outage does occur, restoring power quickly is Water and Power's first priority. This includes attention to the department's list of special needs customers such as residents relying on electrical equipment for their health and safety. Loveland's large businesses with major electrical needs are also a high priority.

Squirrels and humans are the most frequent causes of local outages. A squirrel touching a transformer on an electric pole can pay the ultimate price for causing an outage. An errant motorist who hits a pole or one of those

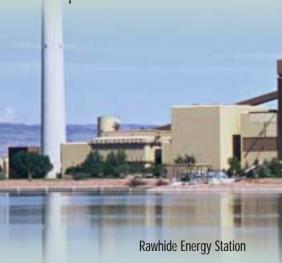
green switchboxes at an intersection can be to blame. In addition, Mother Nature's lightning can light up the sky and darken a neighborhood.

#### Sufficient capacity

Unlike cities on the West Coast and elsewhere, Loveland's electrical capacity is very good. There's enough capacity to serve Loveland, even on very high demand days, usually occurring during the summer due to air conditioner use.

As Loveland grows bringing additional residential and industrial needs, the City will continue to expand its electrical service delivery system. Existing substations are being expanded to serve areas of growth throughout the city, especially the east part of town.

More good news for Loveland electric customers is the bottom line. The cost to residents for electrical power is among the lowest in Colorado. Residents today pay only about 6 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh), less than the 6.5 cents/(kWh) residents paid in 1984.



## Use VanGo or CarGo to save, relax

Loveland residents who work in Denver or Boulder can reduce their commuting costs significantly by using the vanpool and carpool services VanGo and CarGo.

Commuting distances have increased considerably during the past several years and the cost of fuel is increasing daily. Commuting with others helps offset fuel costs, insurance premiums and reduces vehicle wear and tear. Ride-sharing not only saves money but allows passengers to relax, read, work or even catch up on sleep during the commute.

- Vanpooling With a fleet of more than 70 vans, VanGo provides a "company van" to transport employees to work daily. The program seeks six vanpoolers to start a new route to a workplace.
- Carpooling The CarGo program matches employees seeking to share the expense of driving with their own vehicle. SmartTrips offers online matching for employees searching for other commuters traveling from their home city to the area near their workplace.

These ride sharing programs benefit not only the riders, but can be beneficial to employers as well. In addition to the actual vehicle costs, the programs can provide tax benefits for both the commuters and their businesses. Cost savings, tax benefits and even preferred parking for commuters result in employee appreciation and retention for employers who support these programs.

The best place to look for a new carpool or vanpool is at the workplace or an office complex. SmartTrips will gladly help set up a carpool/vanpool formation meeting at a place of employment.

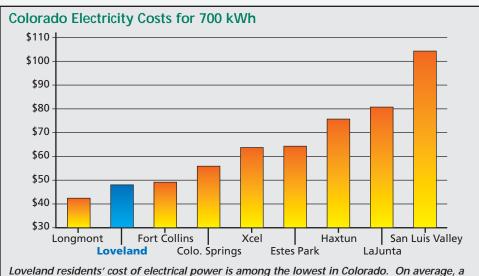
And remember, SmartTrips not only helps arrange ride sharing for Loveland commuters heading south, it also assists in arranging rides for employees traveling to Loveland businesses from the Denver/Boulder area.

For complete information and assistance, call SmartTrips at 224-6148 or visit www.smarttrips.org.





### **Power Cost**



Loveland residents' cost of electrical power is among the lowest in Colorado. On average, a residential customer uses about 725 kilowatts per month. Throughout the state, monthly bills range from about \$45 to \$104 for 700 kWh of power.

(Colorado Association of Municipal Utilities Survey, January 2008)

# **Current Energy Efficiency Programs**

Loveland Water and Power offers programs aimed at improving energy efficiency for residents and business alike. Residential programs include:

#### Partnering with Power

Air conditioner power demand reduction

#### **GreenSwitch**

Renewable energy purchase options

#### **Online Bill Estimator**

Identifying home electrical use sources

#### Lighting With a Twist

**Encouraging use of CFL lighting** 

For information on these programs, or programs for business customers, contact the W&P offices at 962-3000 or visit www.cityofloveland.org.

(Actual Figures for above chart)
Longmont \$42.82
Loveland \$48.71
Fort Collins \$49.20
Colo. Springs \$56.95
Xcel \$63.70
Estes Park \$64.74
Haxtun \$76.95
LaJunta \$80.81
San Luis Valley \$104.35

### Green, not brown, is alert concern

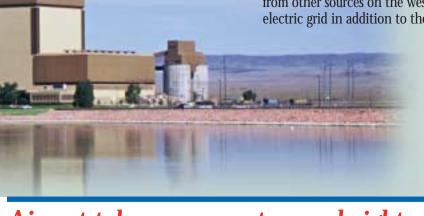
Peak Power Alerts are often misunderstood here in Loveland. An alert is issued to promote reducing electrical usage; not for fear of a brownout but to help keep green in customers' wallets.

When demand exceeds normal levels and hits a peak, extra generating capacity is required and/or power is purchased from other sources on the western electric grid in addition to the power produced by Platte River Power Authority (PRPA). This extra level of power costs more, and those costs eventually get passed along to PRPA owner communities.

Conservation and thinking ahead can reduce the need for this higher-cost electricity. For example, when hot weather is expected, reduce the air conditioner at home during the day when at work and away from home.

Another suggestion is to wait until evening when the alert is lifted before running a dryer or dishwasher. Joining the Partnering with Power air conditioner power demand reduction program is another easy option.

Attention to energy usage helps keep costs down for everyone.



## Airport takes economy to new heights

The Fort Collins-Loveland Municipal Airport (FLMA), one of 14 commercial airports in the state, is definitely doing its part to boost the local and statewide economies. In fact, according to a recent study funded by the Colorado Division of Aviation, economic benefits generated by FLMA have increased from 37 million annually in 2003 to 56 million annually today.

In addition to tourism, business travel and air cargo shipping, FLMA helps generate jobs at and around the airport. Hospitality and retail businesses that help sustain airport passengers and functions benefit economically themselves as a result of their proximity to the airport.

Plus, when those employed at or near the airport use their paychecks to purchase groceries and personal or household items, they are further helping to support other jobs and businesses in the community. The economic benefits that start at the airport multiply exponentially as they spread through the local, regional and the state-wide economies.

Total annual employment, payroll and economic output/activity for the Loveland and Fort Collins areas as a result of FLMA:

Total annual employment payroll and economic output/activity for Colorado's 14 commercial service airports and 60 general aviation airports:

 Jobs:
 340,786

 Annual Payroll:
 \$11,173,886,400

 Annual Economic
 Output:

 Output:
 \$32,204,298,900



## Offer suggestions about City website

The Loveland Communications
Technology Commission (CTC) is
currently reviewing the City of
Loveland website for the purpose of
making recommendations on how the
site can be better utilized and more
user-friendly. Part of this process will
involve conducting focus groups with
Loveland area citizens.

Focus groups will meet several times for a two-hour block (either over lunch or in the evening) to review a variety of websites and provide input to the CTC. Ideal candidates for focus groups should be beginner to intermediate internet users.

Interested residents can visit www.cityofloveland.org and click on the City Website Survey link to fill out an electronic application. Food and beverages will be provided.

The information provided in applications may be subject to disclosure pursuant to the Colorado Open Records Act.

# Recycling pilot study underway



The City's Solid Waste Division is implementing a pilot study for its recycling services. The study is testing a new, larger wheeled cart for recyclable materials that, if proven

superior, could replace the old two-bin system citywide.

The new one-cart system currently being tested allows residents to place all of their recyclables into one, large container. Solid Waste staff believes customers will find this new system to be more convenient because they won't have to sort materials and will only have to take the single cart to curbside. This new system also simplifies collection.

The pilot program is being conducted at a total of approximately 1,800 households within two Loveland neighborhoods. To learn more about the pilot study go to www.cityofloveland.org, or call the Solid Waste Division, 962-2529.

#### For Your Refrigerator - Clip and Post

#### Be Informed

Some or all of these sources may be utilized during an emergency or special situation. The nature of the situation will dictate what sources will be utilized. Setup and staffing for some resources will not occur immediately.

City of Loveland Info Sources:

www.cityofloveland.org Official City website
1610 AM radio City's AM radio station
Channel 16 cable TV City cable TV channel
Phone 962-2020 Info line/call center
Phone 911 Emergency police/fire

Emergency Phone Notification (EPN)
Recorded phone calls (land lines, not cell)
Emergency Alert System (EAS)
Emergency messages on TV & radio

Linergency messages on iv a rad

Other sources:

www.larimer.orgPhone 211 Area assistance phone info linewww.firstcall211.org211 website



## **Loveland Water & Power's Renewable Energy Prospective** - **2008** (continued from page 1)

Loveland's renewable electricity in 2008. The 'Renewable Mix' in the table contains the product mix that GreenSwitch customers receive. The 'Default Mix' shows the product mix that non-participating customers receive.

The GreenSwitch program enables Loveland power customers to purchase electricity generated from clean, renewable energy. To join GreenSwitch simply go to the Water & Power page at <a href="www.cityofloveland.org">www.cityofloveland.org</a>, click on 'Power' and scroll down to the link for GreenSwitch, or get an application at the City's Utility Billing office at 1st and Washington.

#### Loveland Water & Power 2008 Prospective Product Content Label

GreenSwitch Program	Default Mix
83%	0.0%
17%	0.0%
100%	0.0%
	68%
	19.6%
	2.5%
	9.9%
100%	100%
	Program  83%  17%  100%

- <sup>1</sup> Eligible renewable include wind, solar, small hydro, biomass and geothermal generation facilities in operation on or afte January 1, 1997.
- <sup>2</sup> Other sources include purchases and power sharing agreements from various resources.

For information about this electricity product contact Loveland Water and Power at 962-3000 or go to www.ci.loveland.co.us/WP/power/GreenSwitch/main.htm.

The Green-e Program certifies that Loveland's GreenSwitch Program meets the minimum environmental and consumer protection standards established by the non-profit Center for Resource Solutions. For more information on Green-e certification requirements, call (888) 63-GREEN or log on to www.green-e.org.



## **Don't lose your cool this summer** (continued from page 1)

- Tune-up the air conditioner—Keeping the A/C in good repair will help it run efficiently. Also, change the filter in your HVAC system as recommended for optimum performance.
- Sign up for Partnering with Power—
  Joining PWP helps everyone stay cool
  by taking stress off the electrical system
  during the hottest days of the summer.
  Participating in PWP helps prevent
  brown outs and black outs so everyone
  retains the use of their A/C and PWP
  causes no observable change in indoor
  temperature.
- Skip the oven—Cooking in a conventional oven in the summer can seriously sabotage your 'keep cool' planof-attack. Opt instead for using the microwave or cook on the outdoor grill.
- Turn on the fan—Simply moving air around can help a room feel cooler. Ceiling fans with the Energy Star label are about 50 percent more efficient than other fans (www.energystar.gov).

For more information on keeping cool this summer or to sign up for Partnering with Power call Loveland Water & Power, 962-3000 or go to the Water & Power page at www.cityofloveland.org.

City Update is a monthly publication of the City of Loveland. Residents receive City Update on various dates throughout the month depending on their utility billing cycle. Timeliness of the information may be affected by recipients' bill distribution schedule. Your comments are encouraged and welcomed at 962-2302, hillea@ci.loveland.co.us. Visit the City's website at www.cityofloveland.org.