



City of Lawrence

The Flame | August 2020

**"We Have
Tomorrow —
Bright Before
Us, Like A
Flame."**

Langston Hughes

City switches to (almost) 100% renewable energy

Agreement with Evergy will see City sourcing 98% of its energy from wind for the next 20 years.

Great news for the future of Lawrence! The City was recently approved to enter into an agreement with Evergy to source about 98% of its energy for City facilities from wind for 20 years, beginning in 2021.

At the Lawrence City Commission meeting on Tuesday, June 9, all five Lawrence City Commissioners approved authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Direct Renewable Participation Service Agreement with Evergy. Through the agreement, the City will purchase 8 megawatts of renewable energy under Evergy's Direct Renewable Participation Service tariff. This will result in the City sourcing about 98% of its energy from wind for the next 20 years.

The decision to enter into the agreement comes on the heels of the Lawrence City Commission setting ambitious, City-wide renewable energy goals. In March 2020,

the Commission adopted ordinance no. 9744, which set the goals for the City's adoption of clean, renewable energy sources.

Through the agreement with Evergy, the City will essentially be meeting the first of the goals in this ordinance, which is to have 100% clean, renewable energy by 2025 for electricity in all municipal operations.

"Achieving our first goal for clean, renewable energy for City operations a full four years ahead of schedule is a huge achievement and will have a dramatic impact on our City's greenhouse gas emissions profile," said Jasmin Moore, Lawrence-Douglas County Sustainability Director.

Beyond the agreement's environmental benefits, entering into this agreement is

projected to save the City approximately \$100,000 per year on energy bills. The agreement would lock the City into a fuel charge rate of no more than \$0.018/kWh, which is less than has been charged on average for the last five years (\$0.0207).

Previously, the City engaged Black & Veatch to conduct a cost-benefit analysis of the Direct Renewable Participation Service Agreement offered by Westar Energy (now Evergy) to the City in 2018. The report found that subscribing to the amount of 8 megawatts would provide optimal savings for the City. Those findings helped inform the current agreement.

"Sustainability is a value of the City of Lawrence, and this partnership [with Evergy] provides a chance for us to put our values into practice and lead by example," said Moore. "We are very excited to move forward with the agreement!"

RESIDENTIAL AND COMMUNITY GOALS IN ORDINANCE NO. 9744

Interested in programs available for residents to take advantage of renewable energy resources? In addition to its goals for clean, renewable energy for municipal operations, ordinance no. 9744 established a goal of 100% clean, renewable energy for electricity community-wide by 2035. Currently, residents interested in renewable energy for their household can also subscribe through Evergy. Through their monthly subscription, you can offset a portion of your annual energy use (up to 100%) with solar energy from their local solar array. For more information: evergy.com/smart-energy/renewable-resources/subscription-programs

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City launches Downtown Ambassadors program

Have you seen the bright orange shirts popping up in Downtown Lawrence? It's the uniform for our new Downtown Ambassadors program!

Downtown Ambassadors are a group of City employees whose job functions were reassigned due to COVID-19. In their new role, the Ambassadors assist visitors and help maintain a clean and safe Downtown Lawrence.

The program was brought to life through a collaboration between the City of Lawrence, Downtown Lawrence, Inc. and eXplore Lawrence.

Ambassadors will be focused on providing assistance to downtown visitors, residents and employees, especially as businesses begin reopening during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The primary goal of the program is to help ensure a clean, safe and welcoming environment for the Downtown Lawrence

community. Ambassadors have been trained to assist in the following activities:

- Provide directions to nearby parking, businesses, etc.
- Provide food and retail recommendations to visitors
- Escort visitors as needed
- Remove litter from sidewalks and streets
- Disinfect public water fountains and other public-facing infrastructure
- Remove stickers, tape and graffiti from parking meters and street lights
- Report nuisance activity and/or property damage issues
- Power-wash sidewalks and concrete planters

If you see an Ambassador downtown, feel free to reach out for any assistance or just to give a wave hello!



Help Keep Lawrence Stormwater Clean

We need your help to keep Lawrence stormwater clean. Most residents and businesses may not realize their everyday practices can pollute our local streams, creeks and rivers, including the Kansas and Wakarusa Rivers.

When rain hits an already saturated ground, it doesn't get soaked up. In this situation, rain can travel across bare earth, driveways, sidewalks and streets into the nearest storm drain inlet. The storm drain then transports the untreated water through pipes that discharge into our local waterways.

Below are some easy tips to follow for both the home and workplace to help us keep our stormwater clean:

- Use pesticides/fertilizers sparingly
- Repair automobile leaks immediately
- Dispose of Household Hazardous Waste, including liquid paint, auto fluids and batteries before they accumulate
- Clean up after your pet
- Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on a lawn or other unpaved surface
- Sweep up (instead of hosing) yard debris and compost it, or set it out for City yard waste collection
- Clean paint brushes in a sink, and not outdoors
- Sweep and properly dispose of construction debris, such as concrete and mortar

Overall, the common pollutants in Lawrence's storm sewer systems include vehicle pollutants (oil, gas, antifreeze, heavy metals, salt and litter), home and business pollutants (fertilizers, detergents, paint, pesticides, pet waste, yard waste, concrete, solvents and trash) and Construction site pollutants (soil sediment, trash and debris).

Please be aware of these pollutants and be sure to dispose of them properly. More information is available on the City website: lawrenceks.org/mso/stormwater



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Committed to providing excellent city services that enhance the quality of life for the Lawrence community