



News and Views

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City of Jamestown, NY Board of Public Utilities

"Jamestown Up Close & Wonderful"

November, 2018

Worldwide Recycling Challenges

Recycling changes around the world are challenging the BPU as we work to find cost-effective ways to recycle the materials we collect from our customers.

In the past, one third of all American recyclables were sold to China. Demand there was high and shipping costs were low.

Earlier this year, however, the Chinese government announced that it will not take twenty-four types of recyclables, including plastic and mixed paper. In addition, China will not accept a contamination rate of greater than .5 percent, a level that American companies say is nearly impossible to meet.

These changes in Chinese recycling have caused a worldwide disruption in recycling and its costs.

For instance, the BPU used to be paid for each ton of certain recyclables that we collected from customers — this helped keep recycling costs and rates lower for our customers.

The BPU now must pay to dispose of our paper, cardboard and box board, instead of being paid for the recyclables.

As we continue to recycle plastics and metals, at this time, we are not charged to dispose of them. However, we do not receive any payments for these recyclables. Our glass recyclables are taken to the County Landfill at no charge—the landfill employees crush the glass and use it as aggregate between layers at the Landfill.

For several years, our customers have requested single stream or single sort recycling which would allow residents to discard all types of recyclables together in one bin each week. Solid Waste Division personnel constantly research that possibility.

The most recent estimated charge for single stream recycling, however, was for the BPU to pay \$138 a ton just to dispose of single stream or single sort recyclables. That cost would cause our rates to be too high for our residents.

BPU General Manager David L. Leathers assures customers that the Solid Waste Division consistently searches for alternative entities to buy or accept our recyclables without charge.

"We continue to look for ways to keep our recycling program stable and lower-cost," says Leathers. "Our goal is to provide excellent service at affordable rates."



2019 Recycling Calendar in December Bill



Check your December bill envelope for your 2019 recycling calendar! Keep your calendar handy all year so that you can save money by participating in our recycling rebate program!

Remember, if you recycle at least once during your billing period (dates noted on the back of your bill), you can earn a \$10.50 rebate credit. The monthly rate remains the same for Solid Waste service in 2019.

Holiday Schedule Changes in Solid Waste Collection

Garbage and recycling schedules change for the holidays.

At **Thanksgiving**, our Solid Waste employees will have a holiday on November 22, Thanksgiving Day, and there will be no collection that day. Thursday's collection instead will occur on Friday, November 23. Friday's collection moves to Saturday, November 24.

This year, **Christmas Day** is on Tuesday. As a result, Tuesday's pick-up will be collected on Wednesday; Wednesday collection occurs on Thursday, December 27; Thursday moves to Friday; and Friday collection happens on Saturday, December 29.

New Year's Day, January 1, falls on Tuesday. Collection for that Tuesday moves to Wednesday; Wednesday collection moves to Thursday; Thursday collection takes place on Friday and Friday collection occurs on Saturday, January 5.

Please note that your recycling calendar has some days which are colored blue and filled with a white (H). This marking indicates that the date is a holiday for our Solid Waste employees. Garbage normally collected that day will be picked up on the next day and collection for the rest of that week shifts to the following day, as described above for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.



Redesigned BPU Website Expected by the New Year: Upgraded Features with Our Customers in Mind

The www.jamestownbpu.com website of nearly twenty years is expected to be redesigned by the new year as a more customer-friendly site.

The newly-designed website will include features that are currently missing from the BPU's online presence. The site will be **mobile friendly** and include a **search tool** and a **banner with alerts** concerning electrical outages and discolored water reports. The website **will be compliant** with the American Disabilities Act and meet all Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAP). Multiple-language **translation** through Google will be available. Additional components will be announced.

BPU customers will find easy to read tiles on the home page where they can link to pay a bill, report an outage, look at rates and ask about energy efficiency.

The website reorganization is "phase one" of the project and enhances the site we currently use. The goal for "phase two" is to allow customers to initiate service requests, sign up for service, and complete and submit other forms without having to come to our Customer Service Office.

A timeline for phase two is not yet announced. Information on the release of the new site will be announced on local media, on FACEBOOK and Twitter, in our customer newsletters and on the website itself.



No 2019 Rate Increases for Solid Waste, Wastewater, D. Heating

Board members of the BPU recently voted to accept staff-proposed budgets for three utilities. Budgets for Solid Waste, Wastewater and District Heating were passed in October with no 2019 rate increases for customers. The 2019 Water and Electric Division budgets are expected to be approved in November.

BPU customers will see no electric rate increase in the coming year, but can anticipate an approximate ten percent increase in the fuel adjustment cost (FAC) on their bills.

New York has raised mandated fees that the BPU must pay as a result of the State Energy Plan and the State Clean Energy Standard. In 2017, the FAC increased by 2.33 percent due to these fees. In 2018, the BPU must pay \$1.4 million more due to State-mandated clean-energy programs for zero emission credits, for renewable energy credits and to subsidize nuclear power plants in the State.

Fall Yard Waste Site Hours:
9 a.m.—3 p.m. Saturdays
through November 10

Wednesdays:
Closed until Spring

Located on Monroe
Street, off 8th





Flex Rate Agreements Renewed as BPU Reaches Out to Assist Local Companies

This fall, renewed Flex Rate Agreements were finalized with four companies including Anderson Precision, Hope's Windows, TitanX and Truck-Lite.

Each of the companies qualify under the utility's Service Class 6 customer category.

The BPU's flex-rate agreement program was developed to enhance and preserve the community's economy by offering slightly lower electric rates to large companies in our electric territory. In return, manufacturers commit to retaining a certain number of jobs in our

community and to continue investing in their facilities.

Pictured above, left, are BPU and TitanX leaders. From left to right, front are Mayor Sam Teresi, TitanX Jamestown President Matt Moore, TitanX Director of North American Human Resources Andrew F. Johnson, Jr. and BPU General Manager David L. Leathers. Left to right, back row, are BPU Electrical Engineer Kristofor Sellstrom; TitanX Jamestown Maintenance Manager Dan Kling; TitanX Vice President of Human Resources Lena Nordberg; TitanX Jamestown Plant Manager

Joe Jackson; and TitanX Jamestown Financial Director Paresch Madhya.

Pictured above, right, are BPU officials with Anderson Precision, Inc. representatives. From left to right, front, are BPU Board Chair Greg Rabb, Board President and Mayor Sam Teresi, Anderson Precision Sales Vice President/Owner David Archer and BPU General Manager David Leathers. Left to right, back row, are Trent Lutes, BPU, with Matt Satterfield and Brian Zampogna, Anderson Precision.

Customers in Jamestown Will See Ash Trees Removed Due to Emerald Ash Borer Disease

The invasive emerald ash borer is forcing the City Parks Department to remove almost all of the ash trees in the City that are located in the terrace areas between streets and sidewalks. The number of trees to be taken down is more than 170.



City Arborist Dan Stone explains that he has peeled bark from all of the ash trees and discovered the insect in each ash tree. Stone says that some trees still appear to be "leafed out" and healthy, but it is only a matter of time, usually within a year or two, that they will succumb to the insect.

The emerald ash borer adult bores into the tree and lays its eggs under the bark. The larvae hatch and feed on the inside of the tree for months. Even though the tree looks healthy on the outside, the larvae are slowly killing the tree.

The ash tree is the only type of tree that is affected by this insect. Stone says that the Parks Department will replace the trees, but that the effort will take a long time, as purchasing each new tree is around \$100. Streets hit the hardest will be: Euclid, Falconer, Prendergast, Prospect, Sampson, South Main and West Seventh. For more information, check www.jamestownny.net or call Stone at 483-7554.

Save Time & Make It Easy on Yourself!

Pay your BPU bills from the comfort of home using credit/debit cards or e-checks!

Online:

Go to www.jamestownbpu.com & click on the "Pay Online" icon at the top of the middle column.

By Phone:

Dial 661-1660, ext. 3, & follow the prompts. Spanish & English options.



Customers May Dispose of Four Smaller Items at No Extra Charge on Regular Garbage Collection Day

Customers may throw away up to four smaller household items each week on their regular garbage collection days at no extra charge.



Such items are different from special collection of larger and electronic items. These extra items must weigh less than 40 pounds each and be easily carried by one person.

Examples of objects that qualify for this category: picture frames, upright vacuums, fans, lamps, window blinds, brooms, mops, picture frames and straight back chairs.

If you are unsure if your throw-away qualifies as a free item for collection, check with the Garbage Hotline at 661-1651.

Like our BPU Facebook page or follow us on Twitter! Up-to-the minute information is posted regarding power outages, discolored water and more!