



Santa Clara Sun
NEWSLETTER

March 2023



Calendar of Events March 2023



March 2, 2023

Technical Review Committee

March 8, 2023

City Council Meeting 5PM

March 9, 2023

Technical Review Committee

Planning & Zoning Commission 5:30pm

March 12, 2023

Daylight Savings

March 15, 2023

City Council Work Meeting 5pm

March 16, 2023

Technical Review Committee

March 17, 2023

St. Patrick's Day

March 20, 2023

First Day of Spring

March 22, 2023

City Council Meeting 5pm

March 23, 2023

Technical Review Committee

Planning & Zoning Commission 5:30pm

March 30, 2023

Technical Review Committee



BLUE STAKES OF UTAH: Please call Blue Stakes at least 48 hours before you begin any major digging project. This will allow time for all utility companies to be notified to come locate and mark the utility lines on your property before digging begins. Be safe, call Blue Stakes first at 1-800-662-4111.

2023 CLEAN-UP DUMPSTERS: March clean-up dumpsters will be available March 3-4, 2023. There will be 3 dumpsters at the Little League Parking Lot and one at Town Hall. As always, we request that you do not leave trash on the ground before the dumpsters arrive or after they are removed. These dumpsters are not for disposal of paint, batteries, tires, appliances, furniture, hazardous waste items such as pesticides or other chemicals, and not for construction site waste. For hazardous waste disposal information call 674-7623. There will be a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on Saturday April 15, 2023, at the Washington County Landfill to help with your disposal of hazardous waste materials; please visit wcs.w.org for Hazardous Waste Collection Day details. Call Republic Services at 628-2821 to schedule special pick up of large or bulky items. The St. George Reuse Center, located at 575 E. Brigham Rd, accepts removed vegetation for mulching; their phone is 435-627-4028. Yellow recycling binnies are still available at the Gubler Park to help with disposal of recyclables. 2023 Clean up dumpsters are scheduled for March 3-4, June 2-3, September 8-9, and December 1-2.

SPRING BURN SEASON: The Spring Burn Window dates are March 1-May 30, 2023. Always call Burn Control at 627-4949 the day you plan to burn. There is also a burn control link on the city website at www.sccity.org. Click on the Department drop down bar, then select Fire Dept. Forms & Permits and click on Apply for Burn Permit. Burn days depend on weather conditions & a clearing index above 500 ft. Fires must be attended to until completely extinguished and maintain 25' distance away from buildings & other combustible material. Burning garbage is prohibited. Make sure to have a hose or other extinguishing equipment at the burn site. Burning is only allowed during daylight hours.

SPECIAL CEMETERY CLEAN-UP HISTORIC SECTION ONLY:

A special clean-up has been planned for the old historic section of the city cemetery. The clean-up will take place on Saturday March 25, 2023, at 9:00am. Volunteers will be weeding the grounds and clearing other debris. This is not a regularly scheduled clean-up, so flowers and other decorations do not need to be removed from grave sites. Questions: Contact the City at 435-673-6712 X 201 or 219.

2023-2024 KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION DATES:

Santa Clara Elementary and Arrowhead Elementary Schools Kindergarten Registration is underway. School registration is now done online for all ages and grades at the Washington County School District website, www.washk12.org. Look for information on the website to direct you on how to submit your child's birth certificate and immunization records for kindergarten registration. You will need to bring the birth and immunization records to the schools. For other registration information or questions, contact Santa Clara Elementary at 628-2624 and Arrowhead Elementary at 674-2027.

DOG LICENSES-2023 FINAL REMINDER: 2023 Dog Licenses are available at the Town Hall office. Proof of your dog's current rabies vaccination is required for licensing. License fees are as follows:

1st Dog Fixed: \$10.00 Not Fixed: \$20.00 2nd Dog Fixed: \$12.00 Not Fixed: \$22.00

City ordinance requires that you license your dog(s) annually. The dog license and rabies vaccination tag should be worn on your dog's collar on your dog. If your dog is found at large the city tag makes it easy to identify the owner and return your pet to you. You can call the city office to pay the license fee and have the license and tag mailed to you if we have a current rabies vaccination certificate on hand. Late fees are applicable after Feb 28th.

WATER CONSERVATION: The Washington County Water Conservancy District is a great source for water conservation tips and information. Visit their website at wcwcd.org for free landscape workshops, rebate programs and recommendations on how and when to water your lawns and landscapes. You can also find water conservation information on the homepage of the city website at www.sccity.org. Highlighted this month, you will find information regarding the Increase in Excess Water Surcharge.



H.E.A.T. PROGRAM: Accepts applications to assist eligible households in need of help paying their home heating bills. This federally funded program is administered by the State of Utah. Payment amounts are based on income, energy use, and at-risk groups in the household. Residents who wish to apply for assistance call 435-652-9643 to schedule an appointment. H.E.A.T. office location: 1664 S Dixie Dr. Unit L-104 St. Geo. UT 84770, in Dixie Commons.

Gary Hall
Power Director
Santa Clara City Power
2603 Santa Clara Drive
Santa Clara UT, 84765



435-656-4690 Ext. 224
ghall@sccity.org

Power Cost Adjustment (PCA)

What is the Power Cost Adjustment? On your utility bill, you will now notice a separate line item- "Power Cost Adjustment". The City Council recently approved the PCA as a tool that has been implemented to protect both the customer and the city from fluctuating power supply costs. If power supply costs increase or decrease, the customer's bill will be adjusted accordingly. This adjustment is listed as a separate line item on each City of Santa Clara utility bill. The adjustment will be based on a rolling six-month average and implemented monthly. Why do we need the Power Cost Adjustment? In recent years, power supply costs have fluctuated very rapidly and unpredictably. Because of this, it is critical that the city makes sure costs are recovered. The city does not make any revenue from the PCA, it is a pass-through cost. It is important to realize that the PCA changes from month to month, and this is not due to a change in our electric rates, but due to the changing costs of the power supply. Without implementation of the PCA, rates would need to be changed constantly to reflect the actual cost of power. How is the Power Cost Adjustment calculated? The PCA is calculated using the most recent six months of actual power costs and applied to each customers following utility billed energy (kWh) or a two-month delay from when the cost occurred to when billed. The PCA will apply to all Santa Clara electric rate schedules, except non-metered and special contract rates. The PCA was implemented in March of 2022 due to the rising cost of electricity. The City has absorbed this cost increase in previous years but is no longer able to. In 2020 the City funded \$187,115.00 out of its reserve account to pay the difference from what we charged our customers and the actual costs of electricity. In 2021, that amount was \$817,449.00. So, in just two years, the City has lost just over a million dollars in power sales.

In order for me to better explain why the city has a PCA, I will explain where we get our electricity from and how we purchase it. Santa Clara purchases power from UAMPS, Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems, from several different projects. These sources vary in production method as well as cost per megawatt. The cheapest source we purchase is Veyo Heat Recovery plant at around \$4.33/MW. Next is wind at around \$25/MW, hydro is around \$29.50/MW, San Juan coal was around \$33/MW, Hunter coal is around \$65/MW, and the Nebo natural gas plant is around \$104/MW (depending on gas prices). Santa Clara City purchases power in hourly blocks by the megawatt (MW), 1 megawatt is equal to 1000 KW. Customers are billed by the kilowatts (KW), so if we are buying power for \$65/MW, that is \$0.065 per KW. We purchase enough power to cover most of our winter load, which makes us short in the summer. We cover this shortfall by running our natural gas generators and buying on the open market. Just as a comparison, Santa Clara's load in the winter averages around 5-6 MWs per hour, and our summer load averages around 17-18 MWs per hour. (Cont.)

We purchase power on the open market when our pre-purchased power is not enough to cover our load. This market price has increased dramatically the past couple of years. We used to purchase power on the market for around \$30-40/MW during the winter, lately that price has been between \$100-200/MW. Summer prices used to be around \$50-70/MW, lately they have been up to \$1100/MW. These market prices are higher than we have ever seen, and it does not appear that they will be going down with the push for everything to go electric.

Santa Clara has taken steps to help mitigate how much electricity we purchase on the market by purchasing natural gas generators that we run during the summer months. In 2006 we built a generation facility at the City yard and purchased 2 natural gas generators that generate 4 MW of electricity. In 2022, we purchased 2 more generators that can produce an additional 5 MW of electricity, for a total of 9 MW of generation. This was a sizable expense for the city at around \$8.6M. These generators have helped us save about \$464,000 this past summer vs buying power on the market, which helped reduced the PCA charged to our customers. Supply and Demand is the major factor in the rising cost of electricity. Supply is down and demand for electricity is increasing dramatically. Below are some major influences on the electric market in the west. Some of the cheapest and most reliable resources for base electrical power needs are being affected.

- San Juan coal plant in New Mexico has been shut down.
- Declining water flow has cut the Hoover Dam’s power generation capacity almost in half.
- Glen Canyon Dam is about the same, it is only producing 60% of normal.
- Shortage of coal has forced the Hunter plant near Price, and the IPP plant in Delta, Utah to reduce output.
- Natural gas prices have gone from \$2.50 per Dth to around \$17.00 per Dth.
- The push for everything to go electric including vehicles and appliances has risen demand past the supply.

I hope this explanation has helped you better understand the predicament we are all in with the electricity market. For any questions regarding your PCA, please feel free to contact the city. Below are some rate comparisons in Washington County.

Sincerely,

Gary Hall
Power Director

Power Price Cost Survey 2023

Utah State Average is .13¢ per kWh National Average is .23¢ per kWh

<u>Santa Clara Power</u>		<u>St George Power</u>	
1-500 kWh	.09262¢	1-800 kWh	.075053¢
501-1500 kWh	.09379¢	801 + kWh	.091320 ¢
1501+	.10439¢		
<u>Washington City</u>		<u>Rocky Mountain Power</u>	
		Jun-Sep	1-400 kWh .090279¢
1-800 kWh	.0850¢		401+ kWh .117210¢
801-1500 kWh	.1063¢	Oct-May	1-400 kWh .079893¢
1501+ kWh	.1328¢		401+ kWh .117210¢
<u>Dixie Power</u>		<u>Hurricane Power</u>	
		0-800	0.09149
Per kWh	.0585¢	801+	0.10046



HOARY CRESS (WHITETOP) NOTICE

Washington County Community Members:

Hoary Cress, commonly called Whitetop, is a class III noxious weed in the state of Utah and requires containment. We wanted to bring it to your attention that it has been found in communities throughout Washington County. We are requesting your assistance in controlling this weed. This is a perennial weed that is very invasive as it spreads through seed and creeping rootstocks called rhizomes. Hand pulling, digging, tilling, and mowing/cutting are not suggested as alternative treatments for Hoary Cress due to its spreading characteristics. Below you will find photos to help you identify Hoary Cress as well as chemical options to treat it:

1. Photos (shown in stages of growth):



2. Chemical Management

- a. Herbicide treatment should take place in spring when plants are actively growing, preferably at the full flowering stage of growth.
- b. Herbicide treatments can be made with:
 - i. Glyphosate—Non-selective herbicide (will kill anything actively growing, including grasses).
 - ii. 2,4-D—Selective herbicide. Kills broadleaf plants but not grasses, if used properly.
 - iii. Metsulfuron Methyl (Escort XP or Telar XP)—Selective herbicide. Kills broadleaf plants, but not grasses, if used properly. Washington County Weed Control's preferred choice of herbicide for spraying Hoary Cress and can be combined with 2,4-D.

- iv. There are various other herbicides that can be used to treat Hoary Cress but are not utilized by the Washington County Weeds Department.
- c. Read chosen herbicide label for application rates. Some herbicide labels have specific instructions for Hoary Cress.
- d. A surfactant is recommended to be added to the herbicide spray mixture.
- e. After herbicide application, allow the area treated to sit undisturbed for a minimum of two weeks.
- f. All legal responsibility for herbicide application is the responsibility of the applicator. If you apply an herbicide, make sure you are not violating any laws and/or restriction specified on the label. If you have any questions regarding treatment of noxious weeds, please contact your local county noxious weeds department (contact info is listed on page 2) or The Utah State University Extension office.

3. Additional Information:

Complete control is not expected in one year's time. For control/eradication of an infestation, it may take years of consecutive monitoring and treatments. In general, you should see a decrease of Hoary Cress every year of treatment and over time you might accomplish your goal of removal.

Thank you for your efforts in helping us manage Hoary Cress around Washington County. Additional noxious weeds will be popping up due to the additional moisture we have received this winter. See our website for more information on noxious weeds: <https://www.washco.utah.gov/departments/noxious-weed-control/>

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