

City of Fremont Update

Date: January 29, 2021

To: City Employees/ City Boards/ Mayor & City Council

City Burns Trees/Stumps

The picture on the right is the partially burnt pile of trees that were too large to grind with the City grinder, as



well as the stumps that were too big to split for firewood. The City used the burn permit to get rid of the tree debris that would have sat in a pile and rotted because there was no other recourse to dispose of it. Mike Royuk, City Electrical Distribution Supervisor, said they picked a perfect time to burn the pile of debris, because there was little or no wind over the days the pile took to burn.

Beware of Scams

The City received a call this week from a lady here in Fremont that received what she described as a social security scam over the phone. While she recognized the call as a scam, she was upset that the call identification said the call was from the City of Fremont. She acknowledged that the call was NOT from the City, but it was “supposedly” from one of the City’s phone numbers. It was not. Phone scammers can use computer software to show any number they want, often showing local numbers to make it appear that it is a local call so people will answer their phone.



Scams like this are not new as the news is full of stories about COVID vaccine, Medicare, and social security scams. The best defense to these scams is just say NO to giving any type of personal information, money, or anything that just does not seem right. Scams should be reported to the Federal Trade Commission at: www.ftc.gov/complaint.

Nebraska Ranks Near Bottom as a Drone Friendly State

Unfortunately, Nebraska is tied for the 46th most drone-friendly state in the country. Here is how neighboring states ranked: North Dakota was first, Iowa ranked 48th, South Dakota came in at 45th, Wyoming ranked 13th, and Colorado was 23rd in ranking. The ranking was based on five categories that scored each state on their laws governing airspace, aviation (navigation of aircraft) as well as the number of jobs related to drones. For example, Nebraska has 18 drone-related jobs per 100,000 people, ranking it in the top half of states; however, Nebraska’s laws for drones ranked lower than many other states.

There is no job so important and no service so urgent that we cannot take the time to do the work safely!

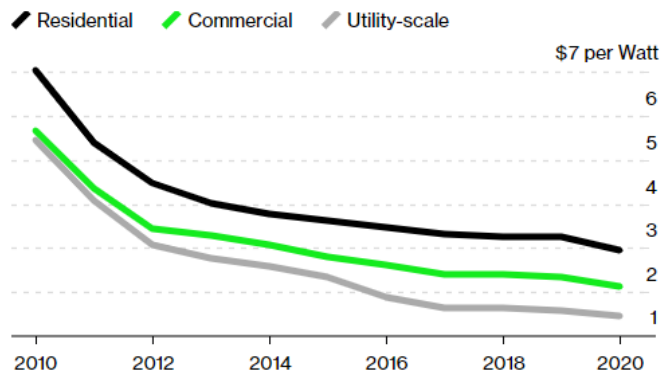
DOE SunShot Initiatives Hit One Out of Three Targets

A decade ago, the U.S. Department of Energy launched the SunShot Initiative. The initiative sought to cut the cost of installing solar systems for residential, commercial, and utilities, and thereby make solar competitive with other forms of electricity. Specifically, the targets were \$1.50/W for residential, \$1.25/W for commercial, and \$1 per Watt for utility-scale solar systems.

The graph on the right shows in real 2020 dollars the cost to install solar systems. Please note that utility-scale solar systems achieved the SunShot target of \$1 per Watt in 2017, around the time Fremont was looking to build our first utility-scale solar system. However, the installation costs for commercial and residential solar systems remain well above the SunShot targets, with residential solar systems costing \$3 per Watt or twice the cost of what SunShot hoped to achieve.

One out of Three Targets Met

U.S. solar installation cost benchmarks (real 2020 dollars)



Source: BloombergNEF

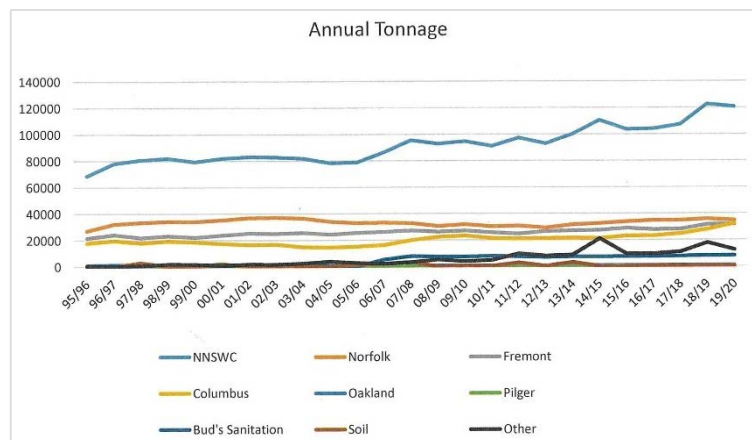
Fremont installed its first utility-scale solar systems in 2017 and the second solar farm in 2018. The first project cost \$1.40/Watt and the second project cost \$1.23/Watt, which coincides with the utility-scale costs in the chart above.

Northeast Nebraska Solid Waste Coalition Info

In its annual material analysis report, the Northeast Nebraska Solid Waste Coalition (the landfill near Clarkson, Nebraska where Fremont takes its solid waste) disclosed the amount of solid waste it took in in 2020 from coalition members. Of the three largest members, Fremont ranked third in total waste hauled to the coalition with 31,887 tons. Norfolk was first with 34,800 tons and Columbus was second with 32,313 tons. The coalition took in a total of 120,615 tons from all of its members during 2020.

The chart below shows the annual tonnage received by the coalition, as well as tonnage from some of its largest members. Fremont has historically ranked second, behind Norfolk, but Columbus passed Fremont in total tonnage this past year. The chart also shows that the total tonnage from Norfolk, Columbus, and Fremont has been very consistent since the landfill starting in 1995.

The analysis also included some financial information on the coalition, including collecting nearly \$3 million in fees from its members' solid waste. The coalition paid Waste Connections nearly \$1 million in fees to operate the landfill for the members. It also paid the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy \$271,000 in license and permit fees in 2020.



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