

ITEM #: 14
DATE: 01-27-26
DEPT: ADMIN

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: GREEN IOWA AMERICORPS HOSTING

BACKGROUND:

In [January 2025](#), City Council authorized staff to apply to become a Green Iowa AmeriCorps (GIA) host site. This application was successful, and the City has hosted two GIA positions since October 2025. Staff is seeking authorization to participate in the next program year, including two positions from October 2026 to August 2027, and a summer position from June to August 2026.

Green Iowa AmeriCorps is a state-wide community service program founded in 2009. The program partners with over 20 city and county governments, school districts, non-profits, and conservation organizations in Iowa to support community-specific environmental sustainability efforts. Program partners that choose to participate are known as host sites. The members commit to serving in a three-quarter time position, roughly 26-28 hours per week, for a set 11-month term from October to the following August. Host sites may also receive one or more three-month summer positions at no additional cost. Services host sites may receive through the program can include, but are not limited to:

- Energy efficiency audits and weatherization for homes and businesses.
- Conservation work, including tree planting, prairie maintenance, water quality monitoring, and prescribed burns.
- Reduction in waste through waste auditing.
- Promotion of recycling and composting within the community.
- Greenhouse gas inventoring for climate action planning, and more.

The two members serving with the City are mainly focused on energy services and environmental education. Energy services involve conducting energy audits and directly installing energy-efficient measures such as weather stripping, caulking, pipe insulation, LED lights, and low-flow sink aerators. Energy services are offered at no cost to Ames residents. Examples of completed environmental education activities include elementary school science nights, tabling at community events, and a pollinator-themed story time at the Ames Public Library. The GIA program sets performance goals for each host site, including the number of energy audits and educational programs completed. Detailed metrics for the City of Ames are attached, and the members are on track to meet or exceed each metric.

The host site fee for the 2026-27 program year is \$12,000. Funds are budgeted for this program by the Electric Department Demand Side Management Program, as energy audits and weatherization activities benefit the electric utility through energy efficiency and demand reductions. GIA members work closely with the Electric and Water and Pollution Control Departments to procure weatherization supplies and coordinate educational programs focused on the utility.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Authorize staff to apply for and participate in 2026-27 Green Iowa AmeriCorps hosting for two positions.
2. Do not authorize the City of Ames applying as a host site at this time.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The Green Iowa AmeriCorps program aligns with the City's sustainability goals, and the current positions are a key part of the City's boots on the ground implementation of the Climate Action Plan. The program fee is a cost-effective investment for the City of Ames in peak demand electric and water use reductions and community engagement. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as noted above.

ATTACHMENT(S):

[Ames 25-26 GIA Metrics.pdf](#)