

Ames Tribune
Thursday, March 20, 2008
By Laura Millsaps, Staff Writer

Ames named one of the greenest cities

Smart, fit, now green.

County Home Magazine has rated Ames as one of the 25 Best Green Cities in America for 2008.

In its April edition, the lifestyle magazine rates Ames No. 19, right behind Iowa City.

Ames rated sixth in the rating for small cities with populations of 150,000 or less.

“Becoming a more sustainable community and decreasing our carbon footprint have been identified as City Council goals, and I am pleased to learn those efforts have helped Ames to be named to the “Top 10 Small Cities” list,” said Ann Campbell, Ames mayor.

“Our efforts, including the City’s EcoSmart programs, are only the beginning of a long-term commitment to making this a greener and healthier community for all our residents and for future generations.”

Puzzlingly, Ames rated ninth in the Top Ten Wind Power list, even though the city currently does not use or purchase wind power electricity. Efforts to contact the author of the ranking, Sperling’s Best Places, were not successful.

The study looked at 24 data points, including air and watershed quality, mass transit, and power sources. According to Sperling’s Best Places Web site, the data was collected from sources including the Census Bureau, the U.S. Green Building Council, Department of Transportation, Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the GreenPeople.org online directory.

Western cities rated best in the rankings, with Corvallis, Ore., first, followed by the Portland, Ore., metro area and Bellingham, Wash.

Other Midwest cities named in the rankings were the Minneapolis, Minn., metro area at No. 8, La Crosse, Wis., at No. 12, and St. Cloud, Minn., at No. 15.

This is the second year Country Home has published a “Greenest Cities” ranking. Last year, Ames was in 39th place.

Visit Country Home’s Web site at countryhome.com for more information on its greenest cities ranking, or visit Sperling’s Best Places at bestplaces.net.

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