



# City of Wayne Newsletter

City of Wayne  
Utilities

Volume 8 —Issue 4

April

## Energy-Wise Tip

### EARTH DAY



Recognized every April 22, Earth Day sprouted in 1970. While some may recognize this 45th birthday party by planting a tree, walking to work, or turning in recyclables, why just celebrate one day each year? Why not every day? When you implement energy efficiency into daily life, you demonstrate your support for making the most of the energy Mother Earth and the sun provide. Here are a few simple items you can do to show your appreciation year round:

#### **Install a Programmable Thermostat**

When you are not home or asleep for the night, why would you need to keep your home heated or cooled to the same temperature as when you are at home and active? If you don't have a programmable thermostat, get one and use it! If you do have one and do not use it, what's your excuse? Programmable thermostats allow you to raise and lower settings according to your regular weekly schedule. If you happen to be home and outside your normal routine, programmable thermostats are easily overridden and revert back to their programmed setpoints when the next program's time comes. Remember, heating and cooling consume half or more of the energy used in your home.

#### **Set the Water Heater Temperature**

Water heating is usually the second-most user of energy in your home. More often than not, the temperature setting is above the recommended 120° Fahrenheit. If so, you're heating and holding the water temperature above the

level that's necessary or safe. Note that most water heaters do not have an accurate thermometer integrated with the thermostat. Rather, you will need to use a thermometer at a water faucet to determine your actual temperature setting.

#### **Install LEDs**

Let go of the old, inefficient incandescent light bulbs and install LED lamps instead. For the same amount of light, LEDs only require 20 percent of the energy. Plus, they'll last up to 50 times longer. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that over 3 billion screw-based light sockets still contain an inefficient incandescent or halogen bulb. Switching to LEDs would yield more than \$7 billion in savings for U.S. households annually.

#### **Replace older Plasma Televisions**

By the late 1990s, plasma television sets were becoming the rage. Unfortunately, this huge leap in picture quality came with a corresponding leap in energy use with larger units consuming as much electricity as some microwave ovens. Though most manufacturers replaced making plasma sets and have moved on to higher quality, energy-efficient LED and LCD units, millions of these energy guzzling sets are still in use.

#### **Check your set-top box**

The set-top box connected to your television to receive cable or satellite signals could be using more energy than your big screen TV alone. If your unit feels hot, it's probably inefficient. Ask your service provider for an ENERGY STAR™ version 3 box, and if you have multiple TVs, request a whole-

home DVR.

#### **When Finished, Unplug the Game**

About half of U.S. households have a video-game console. Though the newest models significantly reduce using power when idle, they could still consume each month as much electricity as your refrigerator. If available, set the menu to power down the unit after one hour of inactivity or less. If your system does not have this feature, unplug it when you are finished.

#### **Naps and Sleep are for Computers Too**

An average desktop computer, monitor, and printer left on continuously will waste \$50 or more a year in electricity. Adjust your control-panel settings for the screen to turn off after 15 minutes of inactivity and for the computer to "power down" after 30 minutes of no use. Remember to set the screen to turn off, rather than continuously running a screen saver. Finally, turn off your computer and all peripherals if you are not going to use them for an extended time.

The City of Wayne wishes you an enjoyable Earth Day this year. For more ideas on how you can make your home or business EnergyWiseSM, along with possible energy efficiency financial incentives, contact Gene Hansen, Electric Production Superintendent, at (402) 375-2866.

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### CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

April 7th  
April 21st

### Backflow Inspection Notice

**The Water Department must insure that all water softeners are property air-gapped with a physical air-gap. Water softeners, by State law, cannot be plumbed directly into the sewer pipe. Water Department Personnel will begin contacting Wayne customers to inspect their water softeners for proper air-gaps. If you have questions regarding this, please contact Jeff Brady, Water/Wastewater Foreman, at (402) 375-5250.**



## Department News ~

### Free Payment Option now Available Online ~



We hear it in social media, on the phones and in email: You don't want to pay a fee to pay your bill. We want to make sure your customer experience is top notch, so we are now offering online payments with no fee. Just log on to the City of

Wayne website and go to the "Online Bill Pay" option located on the left hand side of the screen.

### Library News ~

Beginning May 4 the library will be open from 10 am to 8 pm in the evening Monday through Thursday. Our Friday – Saturday – Sunday hours remain the same until the end of May, when we will be closed on Sundays through the summer.



After the success of last fall's first "JUNK IN THE TRUNK" event at the library, we are happy to announce this event will be repeated in 2015, matching up with the city-wide garage sale days. The first one is April 18. Each seller at the library will be responsible for their car, junk & treasures, transactions, and clean up! You just drive in, open your trunk, sell your stuff, and drive away! Set-up will begin at 8 am and all the cars must be in place by 8:45 am. The lot will then be blocked off, permitting only foot traffic around the cars. Selection of parking sites is first come, first serve.

All participating cars need to be in our parking lot, saving street-side parking for library patrons. Space is limited, so call the library at 402-375-3135 or email [rmclean@cityofwayne.org](mailto:rmclean@cityofwayne.org) to reserve your spot or for more information.



The Friends of the Library book sale runs April 9-11, with the Members-Only Preview Thursday evening, April 9, at 5 pm (contact the library for information on how to become a Friend). The sale continues Friday from 11 am to 7 pm and Saturday from 9 am to 2 pm for the popular \$5 bag sale.

April sees two big celebrations at the library. National Library Week and National Volunteer Week are both the week of April 12. The library will honor all of our many volunteers on Tuesday, April 14. Stop by anytime throughout the day to enjoy some refresh-

ments and learn about the many ways to volunteer at the library. You can also stop in anytime during the week for an impromptu tour of the library or to enter our drawings. This would also be a great time to take advantage of "Book a Librarian," and set up a time to visit with a library staff member about using Microsoft Office products, setting up email or using the Internet, how to use the library's downloadable book service for your Kindle or Nook, or find out about our new downloadable and streaming music service.

Look for the library table at the summer activities sign-up at the Community Activity Center on April 23 and 24 (4:30-7:30 pm) and April 25 (10 am-Noon). This year's theme is "Every Hero Has a Story!"

To learn more about any of our April events (or for plans down the road), call the library at (402) 375-3135.

#### WISE WORDS

*"I cannot give you the formula for success, but I can give you the formula for failure, which is: Try to please everybody."*

~Herbert Swope

### New Recycling Bins in Downtown Wayne!

Have you noticed the new blue recycling bins on Main Street and in front of the City Auditorium? Thanks to the Wayne Green Team efforts and funding from the Nebraska State Recycling

Association and the Nebraska Environmental Trust, you can now recycle aluminum cans, plastic bottles and paper in this bins while out and about in downtown Wayne. Cans and bottles should

be empty of all liquids and paper should be clean, with no food or food contact.



### Green Notes ~ Just Bag It!

In honor of Earth Day this year, the Wayne State College Green Team and the City of Wayne Green Team are hosting a free screening of the award-winning documentary *Bag It* on Sunday, April 19th, at 7 p.m. at the Majestic Theatre in Wayne. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for exhibits, demos, and discussion on how to recycle in Wayne and reduce plastic bags. Raffle tickets will also be sold for the chance to win reusable bags and quilts made by local artisans.

In this touching and often flat-out-funny film, we follow "everyman" Jeb Berrier, who is admittedly not a tree hugger, as

he embarks on a global tour to unravel the complexities of our plastic world. What starts as a film about plastic bags evolves into a wholesale investigation into plastic and its affect on our waterways, oceans, and even our own bodies. We see how our crazy-for-plastic world has finally caught up to us and what we can do about it today. In Wayne, for example, our local grocery stores Pac N Save and Quality Foods offer a reusable bag credit. You can also recycle all kinds of plastic bags by depositing them into the Bag-2-Bag bins located at both grocery stores.

The average American uses about 500 plastic bags each year, for an average of 12 minutes before they are discarded. Join us in our efforts to reduce plastic bag consumption in Wayne and journey toward Zero Waste by attending this free screening of *Bag It*. Funding is provided in part by WasteCap Nebraska through a grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust.

For more information, like the WSC Green Team and Wayne Green Team on Facebook, visit the Wayne Green Team at [www.cityofwayne.org/greenteam](http://www.cityofwayne.org/greenteam), or email [greenteam@cityofwayne.org](mailto:greenteam@cityofwayne.org).



#### HOURS AT CAC (September 1st— May 31st)

Mon-Thu—5:30 am—  
10 pm  
Fri—5:30 am—9 pm  
Sat—8 am-8 pm  
Sun—1 pm - 8 pm



#### Reminder to Wayne Area Retailers!!

**The City of  
Wayne's sales  
tax rate will  
increase from  
6.5% to 7%  
effective April**

