



City of Wayne Newsletter

City of Wayne
Utilities

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August

Energy-Wise Tip—Summer Peaks



Why does your electric bill seem to shoot up during the summer? Most people blame air-conditioning as the culprit. While it is true for average homeowner that cooling consumes the largest portion of energy during hot months, there is another reason why you have to reach deeper into your pocket to pay summer electric bills.

To support extra-high electricity usage on very hot days, your electric utility often requires supplemental electricity from additional generating facilities known as “peaker plants.” These plants, which usually do not operate 97 percent to 99 percent of the year, can be switched on quickly to satisfy peak power demand, experienced when homes and businesses are using air conditioning in addition to their regular electrical use. For most utilities in the U.S., these peak periods occur weekdays, between 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Unfortunately, electricity from peaker plants is more expensive than from traditional generation resources. Estimates show that 10 percent to 20 percent of the overall annual cost of providing electricity comes from supplying electrical demand during the 100 most-expensive hours of the year. In Nebraska these “peaks” usually occur during the summer; therefore, most Nebraska utilities bill their customers using a summer rate (June through September) and a winter rate (October through May). Summer rates are often designed 25 percent to 35 percent high-

er than winter rates to cover additional peaking power costs.

Is there anything you can do to reduce the impact of summer electrical use on your wallet?

Absolutely, there is! The wholesale purchase price your utility must pay for the electricity you use is significantly impacted by what time of day you are using it. If it is during the peak period, your utility will pay more for additional energy resources needed. But if you can reduce your usage during these peaks or shift your usage to another time of day, your utility will pay less

Here are easy ways for you to help your electric utility and reduce your “peak” energy use:

- ◆ Your microwave uses about two-thirds less energy than your stove. Better yet, grill outside.
- ◆ Your dishwasher uses less water and energy than washing dishes by hand. Use the air-dry setting on your dishwasher to save even more.
- ◆ Fill your refrigerator. Filling your fridge with lots of food and beverages will keep it from warming up quickly when the door is open – causing it to run for a long time after the door is closed.
- ◆ Set your thermostat to 78°F when you are home and 85°F or off when you are away. Using ceiling or room fans allows you to set the thermostat higher because

air movement will make the room feel cooler.

- ◆ Do your laundry by using the cold water setting on your washer. Line-dry clothes whenever you can.
 - ◆ When you need to use the clothes dryer, run full loads, use the moisture-sensing setting, and clean the lint trap after each use.
 - ◆ Unplug electronic devices and chargers when they are not in use. Turn computers and printers off at the power strip.
 - ◆ Unplug and recycle that spare refrigerator in the garage if you do not really need it.
 - ◆ Replace air conditioner filters. Dirty filters restrict airflow and can cause the system to run longer.
 - ◆ Install and use window shading to reduce heat gain inside.
 - ◆ Install patio covers, awnings, and solar window screens to shade your home.
- Your local utility wants to help you make the most of your energy dollar this summer while keeping you cool. 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 Supt., at 375-2866.

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**CITY COUNCIL
MEETINGS**

August 4th
August 18th

**THE WAYNE
CITY POOL**

**will close on
Sunday,
August 9th
at 8:30 p.m.**





Department News ~

Dusk Dog Dive ~



Mark your calendar for the 4th Annual Dusk Dog Dive!!!! It will be Monday, August 10th, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at the Wayne City Pool, 1220

Lincoln Street. The cost is \$5 per dog. Everyone is welcome to come watch your pooch paddle in the pool!! Wayne Bark Park t-

shirts will also be sold at a discounted price of \$10!! For more information, you may contact Jessi Hansen at 375-2240.



WISE WORDS

“Knowledge is knowing a tomato is fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.”

~Brian Gerald O’Driscoll

Library News ~



The children's summer reading program has come to a close at Wayne Public Library. With just under 400 children and young adults signed up, it was 8 weeks of fun and activities. Those participating read thousands of books and logged about 3,000 hours of reading. The Library appreciates all the donations of time, money, and prizes offered by local individuals, businesses, and organizations.

The adult summer reading challenge has also ended. However, the fun continues throughout August with “Out of the Ordinary Tuesdays” at the Senior Center each week. If you have something that you think is out of the ordinary and would like to share that with others, please contact Rita at the Library (375-3135) to sign up for a 5-minute slot on August 4, 11, 18, or 25. Some of the items scheduled include a firearm used to hunt buffalo to feed the railroad em-

ployees building the Union Pacific across Kansas and a hand-woven Persian rug that belonged to survivors of the ZamZam, a civilian ship sunk by the Nazis in 1941. The Senior Center meal is at noon, and the program will follow at 12:45 p.m. Meal reservations need to be in by noon the Monday before and can be made by calling the Senior Center at 375-1460.

This is a great time of year to check the performance of your various appliances, large and small. The Library has several Kill-a-Watts available for check-out. This little device can be plugged in with an appliance to see how much electricity it draws. Instructions come with each unit.

The next community-wide garage sale is August 29th, and once again the Library parking lot will be available for “Junk in the Trunk” vendors. There is no charge to use the space. Set up should be done



by 8:45 a.m., and the sale ends at noon. The parking lot will be closed to vehicle traffic during the sale for the safety of vendors and shoppers alike. The Library will advertise this event on Facebook and the radio, and with flyers around town. Contact the Library at 375-3135 for more information or to sign up.

The Library is open Monday-Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. All programs are free and open to the public.

Did you know:

- ◆ If everyone in the US flushed the toilet just one less time per day, we could save a lake full of water about one mile long, one mile wide and four feet deep.
- ◆ If everyone in the US used just one less gallon of water per shower every day, we could save some 85 billion gallons of water per year.



Green Notes ~ Grow an Extra Row!!



Is your garden starting to overflow? Then now is the perfect time to help our local food pantry in Wayne by donating fresh produce from your garden. While picking your produce, set aside fresh herbs, a bag of beans, a few tomatoes, a bag of lettuce or spinach, cucumbers,

squash, anything fresh from the garden. Bring your garden produce to the Wayne Food Pantry at the First Presbyterian Church, 216 W. 3rd Street, Tuesday—Friday, 9:00 a.m. to noon. It doesn't have to be a lot, but if everyone contributes, it will add up fast to help line the pantry shelves and make a difference

for a kitchen in need. Thanks for growing that extra garden row!

For more tips on the Green Path to the Good Life, like the Wayne Green Team on Facebook or visit: www.cityofwayne.org/greenteam.

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

