



City of Wayne Newsletter

City of Wayne
Utilities

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Energy-Wise Tip ~ Go Solar!!

Undoubtedly, you've heard commercials about making your own electricity with solar panels also known as a photovoltaic system. Some TV and radio commercials for solar even tout they have "the secret that power companies don't want you to know about!" Really? When it comes to electricity, you live in Nebraska, the only 100 percent public power state in the nation. That means, contrary to what the advertisers would have you believe, Nebraska's electric utilities are dedicated to delivering reliable, low-cost, sustainable energy to all customers now and in the future. It also means your electric utility company doesn't have any secrets and would enjoy the opportunity to visit with you about going solar!

Before you commit to installing a new photovoltaic (solar) system, here are some points you might want to consider:

Energy Efficiency – While investing in energy efficiency such as upgrading to LED lighting, adding insulation, or weatherizing your home may not be as exciting as adding solar panels, it provides a better return on your investment. By reducing the amount of total electricity needed to run

your home, you also reduce the amount of solar energy needed.

Incentives – Federal tax credits are available for installing solar. In addition, the Nebraska Energy Office offers low interest rate financing on qualifying projects.

Community Solar or Home Rooftop – If your community offers the opportunity, it may be cheaper to buy into a community solar project than to install your own rooftop solar. Often, this is more cost-effective since investment costs are shared with others.

Buy or Lease – Be sure to understand all costs, risks, advantages and disadvantages of buying vs. leasing a photovoltaic system. This includes warranties, ownership transfers of the system or your home, maintenance, etc.

Tracking vs. Fixed – Understand the difference in production levels between tracking and fixed-mounted systems. While tracking systems usually produce more electricity than fixed systems, they also come with a higher price tag.

Maintenance – While there is little maintenance to a photovoltaic system,

note that all should receive an annual inspection and some may need periodic panel washing.

Local Public Power Utility – Make sure you understand your utility company's rates, interconnection policies and how you can still receive power from the traditional electric grid when the sun isn't shining.

Excess Power – In the event your solar system produces more electricity than your home uses, you will need to understand your utility's net metering policies and rates. Compensation for energy put back on the electrical grid is usually at a rate lower than your retail cost since your local public power utility must install and maintain the infrastructure necessary to bring you electricity when your solar system can't meet your energy needs.



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CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

February 2nd
February 16th

REMEMBER RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS!!

**This is the last
or the third
month of water
usage which will
be used to de-
termine what
your sewer aver-
age will be on
3/1/16!!**
**Please continue
to monitor your
usage wisely!!**



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 ~

Wayne Public Library has some great news to share. With a target date of February 15th, we will be unveiling our new web page. The Internet address will remain the same (library.cityofwayne.org), but from this new page, you will have access to our catalog, Overdrive downloadable books, Freegal downloadable music, Pronunciator language learning, and digital copies of past Wayne newspapers.



Feel free to ask us questions about the new interface. We are all excited about the new services!!



The annual Mardi Gras celebration will be on Tuesday, February 9th. Snacks and Mardi Gras beads will be available throughout the day.

The Wayne Public Library is sponsoring a travelogue given by Linda

Christenson and John Brown on their recent trip to Israel on February 16th at 11:30 a.m. Contact the Senior Center at 402-375-1460 by Monday February 15th to sign up for the noon meal. John and Linda will be available after the meal to visit and answer questions.



The Library Book Club started the new year with a bang, discussing the One Book One Nebraska read: *The Meaning of Names* by Nebraska author Karen Shoemaker. Next up is *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park. A review of this *New York Times* bestseller states "There have been several books about the lost boys of Sudan for adults, teens, and even for elementary-school readers. But [this] spare, immediate account, based on a true story, adds a stirring contemporary dimension. . . ." Multiple copies are available at the Library, and the group discussion will be Tuesday, February 23rd at 6:30 p.m.

Kids activities: It may be too early to call, but we think Thursday Story Hour has won! It was a very tight race, but for the rest of the winter, we will have Story Hour on Thursday's at 6:30 p.m. But don't fret, we actually had several events planned on Saturdays this spring, so if that was your day, you are still in

luck! Here are some special events headed your way:

- ◆ Feb 8 - Monkey Monday: Good luck and good health for the new year-it's not too late to start. Enter to win a Beanie Baby, now through February 8th in celebration of the Year of the Monkey—the Chinese New Year. The first 24 children to visit the Library on Monkey-Monday, February 8th will also receive a Chinese Paper yo-yo and a good luck favor. So come "Monkey" around at the Library.
- ◆ Feb 9 - 4-5pm Mardi Gras – Pearler Pancake Tuesday. Design and fuse and play with your own Mardi Gras pancake creation made with Pearler beads! Follow our patterns, or design your own, using our pegboards and beads. Grownups will be on hand for the ironing.
- ◆ Feb 13 – 10:30 am Princes, Princesses and Pinwheels! - *A special Valentine's Event.* Come hear a story and meet with the Disney Princes & Princesses who will be visiting the Library. Create a Valentine Pinwheel to keep or give away. We will also have lots of fixings to make other valentines for someone sweet!

Green Notes ~ Show your love for LED's!!

Love to save money? Then you'll love this incentive from NPPD for a rebate of \$3 per LED bulb purchased for your home (max 15/year). LED's last up to 35 times longer than incandescent lights and often four or more times as long as fluo-

rescents. LED's do not contain mercury, generate almost no heat (which helps reduce air conditioning costs), and light up instantly. A longer lasting bulb means fewer changes, more savings, and less waste. Find rebate details under LED Lighting Incentive

at <http://www.nppd.com/save-energy/for-your-home/>.



WISE WORDS

"The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new."

~Anonymous

LIFEGUARDS WANTED!

The City will be taking applications for full and part-time lifeguards. Please contact the Community Activity Center for more information at 402-375-4803



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

