



# City of Wayne Newsletter

City of Wayne  
Utilities

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## Energy-Wise Tip ~ SEERING Summer



Cooling efficiency of air conditioners and air-source heat pumps is often rated by the Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio or “SEER” rating. The SEER rating of a unit is the cooling output during a typical cooling-season divided by total electric energy input during the same period. The higher the unit's SEER rating the more energy efficient it is. Another way to think of it is the lower the unit's SEER rating, the more you will be paying to cool your home.

Typically, older cooling systems will be less efficient than newer models. Much of that has to do with improvements in compressor technologies, variable speed air handlers, and refrigerants. Also, successive federal energy codes have mandated increases in efficiency over recent years. In 1992, central air conditioners and heat pumps were required to have a minimum 10 SEER rating. In 2006, that minimum jumped to 13 SEER. As of January 1, 2015, those requirements went up one more point to 14 SEER.

If you're one of those people who have an air conditioner or heat pump that has outlasted the national

average of 15 years, your system is likely rated at less than 13 SEER. Moreover, the Air Conditioner Contractors of America (ACCA) states that most systems degrade about 5 percent per year due to wear, dust collecting on the coils, unbalanced or leaky ducts, etc. In reality, that old unit is probably performing at 10 SEER or less.

So maybe you are wondering if a new unit would provide some “cool” savings this summer. Assuming your current system's efficiency is 10 SEER, this is the percentage of energy you can expect to save depending on the efficiency of your new system:

- SEER 14 28%
- SEER 15 35%
- SEER 16 42%
- SEER 17 49%
- SEER 18 56%

If your existing system is in worse shape (8 SEER), the savings are even more impressive:

- SEER 14 42%
- SEER 15 49%
- SEER 16 56%
- SEER 17 62%
- SEER 18 69%

Today, new units are available that offer a SEER

rating up to 26! So, does all this mean that you should get the air conditioner with the highest SEER possible? Not necessarily. SEER ratings only represent potential efficiency of the system under perfect conditions. Over half of the system's efficiency depends on correct equipment sizing for your home and proper installation. While looking for a system with the EnergyStar® label is a great way to right start, what you really want and need is the right sized equipment operating at its optimal ratings within varying conditions in order to provide optimal comfort and savings. Your local electric utility wants to help customers keep their homes and businesses comfortable this summer. That help includes providing EnergyWiseSM energy efficiency financial incentives to help with the cost of purchasing and installing a new heat pump system. Contact your local utility to find out more details.

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### CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

June 7th  
June 21st

### WAYNE CITY POOL HOURS (May 30th—Aug 20th )

Open  
Monday—Sunday  
1:00 pm—9:00 pm  
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Open  
Monday—Friday  
6:00 am—7:00 am  
for Lap Swim  
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Closed  
Monday—Friday  
5:00 pm—6:00 pm  
for Lap Swim  
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Closed  
Saturday & Sunday  
5:00 p.m.—6:00 pm



## Department News ~

### Discharging of Fireworks ~

Remember— You can discharge fireworks only on the following dates and times and during the following hours:

- ◆ June 25th through July 3rd—8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.
- ◆ July 4th—8:00 a.m. to midnight.

Please use caution and be safe during this 4th of July holiday!



#### WISE WORDS

*“Do the right thing, even when no one is looking. It’s called integrity.”*

~Anonymous

### City Siren Signals ~

The Wayne sirens are operated by the Police Dispatchers. They are radio controlled with battery power backup so they still work in case the power lines into Wayne go down before a tornado gets here.

Fire alarm sirens: The fire siren will still be the same high/low tone and operate in daytime hours.

Tornado siren: This will still be a single high tone siren for 3 minutes. The police dispatchers set this warning off only when a tornado is sighted within 5 miles of Wayne or if the weather service radar contacts dispatch and reports a radar sighting that close. We **never use** an all clear siren. If the tornado siren is sounded a second time, that means a tornado is still on the way and may hit us.

Tornado Shelter: If you don’t have a basement, plan ahead with a neighbor who has a basement or travel to the city auditorium at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Pearl Street which will be unlocked when the tornado sirens go off. Have a plan for shelter and don’t wait till the sirens sound to decide.



### Green Notes ~



#### Where can I recycle plastic bags?

Plastic bags require a different type of recycling than plastic bottles and containers. That’s why it’s important to bring them to designated locations for recycling instead of placing them in your curbside recycling container. The Wayne Transfer Station does **not** accept plastic bags for recycling. Our local grocery stores in Wayne, Pac N Save and Quality Foods, each have a plastic bag recycling bin at in their store marked **Bag-2-Bag®**.

These bins accept:

- Plastic retail bags
- Produce bags
- Newspaper Bags
- Dry Cleaning Bags
- Cereal Box liners
- Paper towel and toilet paper wrap
- Over wrap on cases of soda or canned vegetables
- Sealed air pouches in mailed packages aka “Air Pillows”
- Ziploc and other zipper style

bags (with zippers removed)

#### How can I reduce my use of plastic bags?

Bring your own reusable bags when you shop. Both Pac N Save and Quality Foods offer a reusable bag credit of 5¢ per bag.

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