



City of Wayne Newsletter

City of Wayne
Utilities

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ENERGYWISE TIP ~ Incredible Energy Claims

The Oxford English Dictionary cites the phrase, if it's "too good to be true" was first written in 1580. More than 500 years later, this expression seems to apply to every facet of modern times; powering our daily lives is no exception.

After learning of an incredible energy-saving or producing equipment or gadget, customers have often turned to their local public power utility as a trusted source for an unbiased opinion. Sadly, many manufacturer claims regarding product capabilities or efficiencies are grossly overstated. Furthermore, most customers don't have the personal knowledge or experience to sort through the facts and fallacies by themselves. Below are a few examples utility colleagues have recently seen.

The Black Box

Manufacturers of these small devices claim you simply plug their unit into an electrical outlet to potentially save hundreds to thousands of dollars per year. They often lead their sales pitch by saying "This is the device your power company doesn't want you to know about". They might provide a lengthy explanation about how after a few weeks, their gadget learns how to optimize your appliance's electricity use that will save an extraordinary percentage of energy. While the theory behind their device often yields savings for industrial customers with large motor loads, residential customers seldom see any difference on their electric bill.

Go Solar

With claims like "The International Energy Agency declares solar power is the "cheapest electricity in history," homeowners are thrilled with the prospects of not only eliminating their electric bill but making an income from the extra energy produced. Usually, a company's solar consultant schedules a time to meet with homeowners to individually "right-size" a system while discussing

current incentives and tax credits, potential savings, decreasing equipment costs, and sustainability, as well as future energy costs and increasing property values. At the same time, they may not elaborate on electric utility interconnection, maintenance, unforeseen installation costs, battery storage requirements and more. Though most sales representatives recognize their company's future relies on customers being satisfied with the installation, they also know their personal income is based on the customer saying "Yes". Consequently, some claims have been misrepresented leading to consumer disappointment.

Windows

Common claims made by less-honorable window sales reps may include, "Their window saves up to 50% in energy." Does that mean 50% of your home's total energy costs? No. They are usually referring to a home's heating and cooling losses through windows alone. Several studies have indicated that approximately 10 to 12% of a home's total heating and cooling loss is through windows. When considering all losses, this calculates to an overall energy savings of 5 to 6%. Considering the cost of installing each window can range from several hundred dollars to well over \$1,000, the payback from savings extends out many years.

Space Heaters

Imagine saving "50% or more on home heating costs" using "the most-efficient space heater ever made". Such declarations are used to justify a 1,500-watt space heater that may cost several hundred dollars or more. Regrettably, some customers don't understand the draconian measures they must take to achieve that level of savings such as lowering their whole home thermostat setting by 15°F or more and isolating in one room for the heating season. To add insult to injury, they are further perturbed after

discovering other 1,500-watt space heaters costing as little as \$20 produce the exact amount of heat just as efficiently as their expensive one.

Numerous other claims have been made by manufacturers of insulations/heat barriers, air conditioner refrigerant additives and whole house fans to name a few. While most energy efficiency and energy producing products are fairly represented in the market, some are just "too good to be true".

If you're looking at a significant investment, thoroughly research the promoting company through the Better Business Bureau and the Federal Trade Commission. The Department of Energy through Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory has developed a web-based evaluation tool to help consumers evaluate window energy savings. And the Environmental Protection Agency through the National Renewable Energy Laboratory offers a photovoltaic energy system evaluator to assist with evaluating solar projects.

As always, know your local electric utility will help to provide unbiased, objective information regarding any energy efficiency or energy producing products you are considering. They want to help you make the most of the energy needed in daily life including how energy is used and can be saved. For additional ways you can become more EnergyWiseSM, visit with your local electric utility.

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CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

February 1st
February 15th

CITY HALL OFFICE HOURS

City Hall office
Hours are:
7:30 a.m.
until 4:30 p.m.

REMEMBER RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS!!

This is the last or the third month of water usage which will be used to determine what your sewer average will be on March 1, 2022!!

Please continue to monitor your usage wisely!!



Department News ~



Paying your bill has never been easier and you've never had more options!

- Access real-time account information and consumption history
- Pay via phone, text, website, or mobile app
- Make a one-time payment, schedule a payment, or sign up for auto pay
- Receive payment reminders



Learn More

https://www.municipalonlinepayments.com/waynenc



download our iOS or Android app

MyCivic Utilities



WISE WORDS

“The best way to teach kids about taxes is by eating 30% of their ice cream.”

~Bill Murray

Library ~

- **Hang out with Miss Kim Wednesdays or Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Library** for stories, music, dancing, busy bags, and more. Meet other parents and children in the area, and learn about the various services and reading programs our Library offers.
- **After School coloring will take place on Friday, February 11th, and Friday, February 25th at 3:30 p.m.** Relax and get creative after a busy school week. Adults will be on hand for conversation. Coloring pages, art utensils of all kinds, and a light snack will be provided.
- **Head to the back of the Library on Tuesday, February 8th at 6:00 p.m. for Adult Coloring.** Stop in for a relaxing night and good company. Colors, coloring sheets, and snacks are provided. Adult Coloring Night is sponsored by Pac N Save.
- **Join us at Wayne Public Library for an Anti-Valentine's Day celebration, Monday, February 14th, 6:00-7:30 p.m., for Teens 7-12th Grade.** Activities will include chocolate tasting, chocolate sculpting, heart-breaker lists, and more!
- **Join us for an author reading and book signing in the back of the Library Tuesday, February 15th, 7:00-7:45 p.m. with Daniel Van Deest.** Daniel will be reading

from his murder-mystery thrillers that takes readers on a journey through Sioux Falls with Detective Patricia “Tish” Lindstrom. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing at the event. Visit Daniel on Facebook for more info about his work: @BrandonSDauthor.

- **Work on your creative projects with our Needle Night group, Thursday nights at 6:30 p.m. at the Library.** Enjoy conversation and good company while working on your personal needlework projects. All kinds of decorative sewing and textile arts handi-crafts are welcome.
- **Book Club will be meeting for discussion Tuesday, February 22nd at 6:30 p.m.** in the Library conference room. This month's discussion book will be *All the Ugly and Wonderful Things* by Bryn Greenwood. A beautiful and provocative love story between two unlikely people and the hard-won relationship that elevates them above the Midwestern meth lab backdrop of their lives. As the daughter of a drug dealer, Wavy knows not to trust people, not even her own parents. It's safer to keep her mouth shut and stay out of sight.
- **The 2022 Adult Year Long Ameri-**

can Road Trip Challenge is live! Take a reading road trip with us across the United States and beyond! Earn prize tickets by reading books either set in, about or by an author from each of our 50 states. Log Reading via our Beanstack app or via our paper booklet. Stop by the circulation desk for more information or to get signed up, or log reading online by visiting cityofwayne.beanstack.org

- **Want to show off your artistic talents in our mini-exhibition this March? Stop by the Library to sign up and receive your mini artist kit.** Once you've painted your mini canvas and/or made your sculptures, return them to the Library to become pieces in our community exhibit. Kits will be available for pick up throughout February 2022. Free, first-come, first serve, and all ages are welcome to participate. You can use materials outside of our kits to create as well. Give the Library a call at [402-375-3135](tel:402-375-3135) to get signed up and to pick up your canvas supply kit!

WAYNE RECYCLING & TRASH CENTER (RTC) HOURS

Monday & Friday
9:00 a.m.—1:30 p.m.
Tuesday
11:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
Saturday
8:00 am.—Noon

Or by appointment
Tuesday, Wednesday
and Thursday

Green Notes ~ Vinegar as a Natural Cleaner!



Vinegar is a great natural cleaner for the home that's cheap and widely available. It's also non-toxic, lasts for a long time without losing strength, and is much safer to have under your sink than bleach, ammonia, or other toxic cleaning products. Here are three green cleaning recipes for you to try out in the home.

- (1) **Tile:** mix a paste of baking soda and vinegar then scrub on tile. Rinse with warm water.
- (2) **Garbage disposal:** pour ¼ cup vinegar in disposal and let sit for a couple of minutes, then turn on.
- (3) **Hard water build up:** for stubborn hard water deposits on faucets or shower heads, fill a plastic bag with enough distilled white vinegar to cover the fixture and let it

soak overnight.

Special Green Team Meeting February 8th.

Join us at our monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 8th, 5:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m., for a Community Solar Power 101 talk led by Josh Moening, Mayor of Norfolk, Nebraska. Learn about Norfolk's 8.5-megawatt community solar project, his experiences in the renewable energy field, and how clean energy projects can create economic and environmental benefits in our communities. This special evening meeting will be held in the SNBuilding Gym at 1010 Main Street in Wayne.

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

The Fair Housing Act protects people from discrimination when they are renting, buying, or securing financing for any housing. The prohibitions specifically cover discrimination because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability and the presence of children.

If you believe you may be a victim of housing discrimination, contact HUD 1-800-669-9777 or your local Fair Housing representative:

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**YOUR CHOICE. YOUR RIGHT.
YOUR HOME**

