



City of Wayne Newsletter

City of Wayne
Utilities

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November, 2022

ENERGYWISE TIP ~ Energy Lost



The United States Department of Energy (DOE) designated last month as Energy Awareness Month. This recognition comes at the perfect time because, as winter approaches, it's easy to overlook many different areas in our homes and businesses where energy will be lost or consumed without bringing benefit. As the old Greek proverb implies, "Out of sight, out of mind." Only when a high utility bill arrives, do most people become "aware" of the energy waste.

To heighten energy awareness, consider these often ignored home energy efficiency errors:

Lights left on. Especially as the days grow shorter, lighting is needed for longer periods. But when occupants leave a room or area, the simple act of switching the light "off" is frequently forgotten. If this becomes a chronic problem, installing an occupancy sensor switch to automate the process is a simple solution. If exterior lighting regularly operates into the next day, a photosensor switch can deactivate the electrical circuit as dawn arrives.

Windows not tightly closed. Respite from the summer heat is often found after the sun goes down and a cool breeze can be drawn through the house by opening all the windows. While most are shut before the heat of the following day, some may not be closed all way and locked. Others may be missed in spare rooms, basements or other areas not frequently occupied. With differences between indoor and outdoor tem-

peratures often doubling in the winter when compared to summer periods, the undesired air infiltration can significantly impact home heating costs.

Furnace filters unchanged. Dirty furnace filters add resistance to air flow through HVAC systems causing them to operate longer to keep the indoor climate comfortable. While the life of a furnace filter will vary due to a number of factors, it's a good idea to examine filters at least every 60 days until a replacement schedule is established. Placing a bi-monthly reminder on a calendar helps assure it does not get overlooked.

Attic access unsealed. The most common type of attic access style is the attic ladder and hatch system. Others include a simple hatch in the ceiling or a door into the unconditioned attic space. Regardless of type, all should be insulated and sealed with weatherstripping to reduce energy loss.

Fireplace flues left open. Who doesn't like a cozy fire on a chilly evening? Obviously, proper exhausting of smoke and fumes is necessary until the embers have completely burnt out. This usually means leaving the flue open until the next day. But the next day's affairs regularly take priority and the open flue may be forgotten. This allows interior heated air to literally go right up the chimney! Placing reminder notes where they will be seen first thing in the next morning can be great for correcting this oversight.

Water heater set too high. Even though many water heaters are set at 140 degrees Fahrenheit by default, the DOE recommends 120°F for energy efficiency. For every 10 degrees the thermostat is lowered, energy costs for water heating can be reduced by 3 to 5%.

Plug loads drawing energy. Many home electronics, battery chargers and appliances use standby power even when they appear to be off. Any device that uses a remote control, has an external power supply or a continuous display are still consuming power. Connecting multiple electronics to a power strip makes it easier to switch off unused devices all at once to assure unnecessary energy use does not occur.

With space and water heating accounting for about half of annual energy use in the average Nebraska home, these often-overlooked energy losses can add up. Recognizing these losses is the first step to improving energy efficiency. Your local utility can help identify other ways to gain the most value from your energy costs. For more energy-saving ideas for your home, business, or farming operation, contact your local utility.

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CITY COUNCIL
MEETINGS
November 1st
November 15th
November 30th

CITY HALL
OFFICE HOURS
City Hall office
Hours are:
7:30 a.m.
until 4:30 p.m.

NOTICE
City Offices will be closed Friday, November 11th, in observance of Veteran's Day and also Thursday and Friday, November 24th and 25th, for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

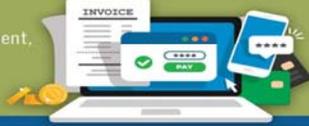

Department News ~



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WISE WORDS

“Everybody has the power to make someone happy. Some do it by entering a room, while some do it by leaving.”

~Anonymous

Library ~

WE WILL BE CLOSED November 23rd-25th in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday

Try all of the best delightful treats Wayne has to offer during **A Sweet Taste of Wayne: A Dessert Tour, Friday, November 4th 6-7:30 p.m. in the Senior Center.** A \$5 entry fee will allow you to taste professional and amateur bite-sized desserts to your heart's content! Entry fees will be divided into prize money for the best dessert of the night in the winners in Amateur and Professional Categories. The remaining funds will go to the Friends of the Library for the Library Addition Project (furnishings). Stop by the Library or give us a call for more information.

Grab one of our Mini Holiday Tree take and makes, available on Monday, November 7th, while supplies last. Decorate a tiny fir tree for the holiday season with the kit provided. When done, bring back to the Library to be displayed in our hallway for the

month of December! Stop by the Library for more information.

Hang out with Kim on Wednesdays or Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. for Toddler Time in the Library for stories, music, dancing, busy bags, and more. Meet other parents and kids in the area, and learn about the various services and reading programs our Library offers.

The Library will be hosting holiday photo shoot sessions on Saturday, November 12th from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in the back of the Library. Stop in and sign up the day of the event to participate. Digital versions of the photos will be sent to email patrons list on the sign-up sheet. Participation is free!

Bring a plant and take a plant at our first Wayne Public Library Plant Swap and Share event on Tuesday, November 15th, from 5:30-7:00 p.m. in the back of the Library. Find and

exchange your house plants for new additions. All plants must be **healthy, pest-free, and labeled.** Plants can be in soil or as rooted cuttings in water (please only bring pots that you are willing to part with!) Bring your own bags and/or containers to bring your new additions home. Cuttings of library plants will be available for the taking as well. No registration is necessary for this free event.

The Youth Winter Reading Challenge will begin Monday, November 21st. Must be 19 or younger to participate. Pick up your paper log book and register for this challenge at the circulation desk to participate. Challenge will only be available in-house on paper (no Beanstack access). Log reading to earn tickets towards fantastic prizes!

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 a.m.—Noon

Or by appointment
Tuesday, Wednesday
and Thursday

Green Notes ~ Over 13,600 Pounds of Electronics Recycled!



Congratulations to our community for recycling 13,650 pounds of electronics and raising over \$3,000 at our collection event in September. We also served 140 cars, nearly the same amount as last year. Funds raised help support our Zero Waste programs, like paying to recycle batteries, light strings, and more. Since 2013, we have now recycled nearly 160,000 pounds of electronics. Your efforts help keep harmful materials out of our landfill. Thank you for making a difference.

We also give special thanks to the many people who helped make this event a success, including 58 volunteers from the Wayne Green Team, Wayne State College Men's Basketball team, and Wayne State College Women's Soccer team; City of Wayne staff and police; our vendor the Retrofit Companies; and the Nebraska Department of

Environment and Energy for financial support. We will host another electronics recycling event next September.

Recycle Strings of Holiday Lights. As you decorate for the holidays, remember you can recycle light strings that no longer work. Collection bins are at the Wayne Recycling & Trash Center during regular hours: Monday and Friday, 9am-1:30pm; Tuesday 11am-2pm; Saturday 8am-noon. The light strings will be recycled for its copper wire by Retrofit. When buying new holiday lights, consider LED ones, which last longer, use less energy, and save you more money in the long run. Now that's a bright idea!

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**

