



OUR EARTH

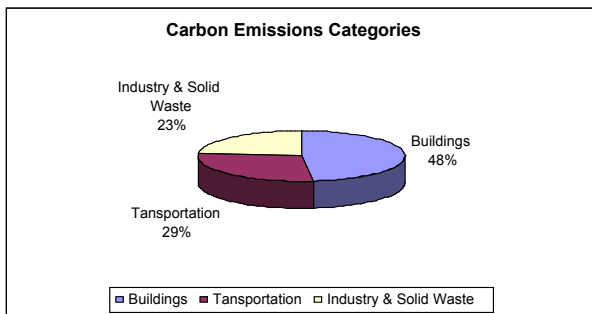
Our Town, Our Future

November
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Reducing Emissions

How Helpful Are Efficiency Efforts?

As individuals and businesses take steps to implement efficiencies, cost savings are an immediate benefit. Reducing carbon emissions can be accomplished also, as buildings create 48% of carbon emissions, transportation 29%, and industry and solid waste the remaining 23%. Implementing efficiencies in these areas can have a significant and immediate effect in reducing emissions.



Below are some specific tips for creating winter efficiencies in heated buildings.

Energy Conservation

Heat Your Home Smartly

When your heating system is working at top performance and your heating ducts are effectively delivering heated air to your rooms, you will be more comfortable and save money too. Here are a few tips on how to make your system work for you.

1. Before spending the big bucks on a new furnace, make sure your home is well insulated and all openings and gaps are sealed. The cost of sealing and insulating will be paid back long before the high cost of a new furnace. Also, keeping your drapes and blinds closed helps add an extra layer of insulation.

2. Clean or replace your furnace air filters monthly. A dirty filter will reduce airflow, making your system work harder to deliver air to the registers.
3. If your furnace or boiler is more than 15 years old, consider replacing it with one that has an ENERGY STAR rating to help save on energy bills. The most efficient system and one that is sized properly for your home will deliver the greatest savings.
4. If you can see the duct seams where the metal sections come together (usually in the basement or attic), seal these joints with shiny foil tape with a UL-181 label or duct mastic (also called duct sealant).
5. You can also take off the duct registers in your rooms (back out 2 screws) and check the connection between the duct and the drywall - you may see a gap. This gap allows heated air to escape into the walls. Cover this gap with foil tape or fill it with duct mastic. While the register is off, check for any other gaps that would allow the heated air to flow behind the walls. If there is a gap or hole, seal it up and keep heating vents unobstructed!
6. Insulate all ducts that run through your attic, a cold basement or crawl space. Most home improvement stores sell insulation designed to insulate ducts to at least R-6. Seal any leaks in the ducts first, then wrap the duct in insulation. If you have flexible duct tubes, be sure there are no rips and the ducts are as straight as possible.
7. Adjust your thermostat when you're asleep or away or buy an ENERGY STAR qualified programmable thermostat and save potentially hundreds of dollars on energy costs. For best results, keep your thermostat set between 65 and 68 degrees when in the room and 58-60 when unoccupied.
8. Call a heating contractor to service your system. Fall is a good time to have a service technician look at your heating system to make sure that it is running properly to keep you warm this winter without adding unnecessary costs. Ask your contractor to also check your duct system.



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Community News

Local Thanksgiving

For an easy way to make this year's Thanksgiving unique, try cooking with locally grown ingredients. Locally grown ingredients are fresher, more nutritious, and are typically grown without the harmful chemicals and additives used in large corporate farms. They are fresher and more nutritious because they avoid the 1500 mile, seven day long trip taken by the food you buy at an average commercial grocery. Avoiding this trip has the added benefit of reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with food transport. In addition, supporting local farmers and ranchers strengthens Idaho's small and mid-sized farms, ensuring a diverse and safe food supply for the future.



The main sources for local ingredients in the Wood River Valley are farmers markets and Idaho's Bounty, a new local grocery cooperative. Although Idaho's Bounty has sold out of locally raised turkeys, you can get all your other necessary accoutrements through them. Go to their website, www.idahosbounty.org to become a member and order all the incredibly tasty locally grown food you need for a unique thanksgiving. They also have a wealth of information on the locally grown food movement. Be sure to order by November 15th for delivery before Thanksgiving. The organic food section of Albertson's or locally owned Atkinson's may also have a selection of local produce; be sure to ask the grocery manager. This year, buy local and make your food a conversation piece, and not just because it's delicious.



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Electronics Recycling

E-Waste Recycling in Blaine County!

What is E-Waste?

E-waste is short for electronic waste. This includes computers and all their components (monitors, keyboards, etc.), cell phones, PDA's, and other broken or obsolete equipment.

Why Recycle E-Waste

In 2005, nearly two million tons of electronic waste ended up in landfills.

- ◇ E-waste can contain hazardous materials such as lead, mercury, chromium, lithium and hexavalent chromium.
- ◇ CRT monitors contain lead – approximately 8 pounds per monitor.
- ◇ While electronics only make up about 1% of the waste stream, they account for approximately 70% of the overall toxic waste in our landfills.
- ◇ Electronics contain valuable metals such as aluminum, steel, gold and other precious metals that can be recycled.

Where Can I Take My E-Waste for Recycling?

Beginning Thursday, November 1, 2007, you can drop off your e-waste for recycling at any of the SISW facilities at NO CHARGE.

Please note: If you are a business, school, or other entity with a large amount of e-waste (more than machines), please call Robin Baumgartner at 208-432-9082 to make arrangements for recycling.

Before Dropping Your Old Computer Off for Recycling:

If your computer contains sensitive information, it is important that you erase or encode your hard



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drive before you drop it off for recycling. While all hard drives are destroyed during the recycling process, the security of your old equipment cannot be guaranteed prior to the contractor hauling it away.

Here are some steps we recommend:

- ◇ If you are a business, remove all company insignia and inventory control tags – this makes the equipment less desirable to thieves.
- ◇ Make sure to remove all floppy disks, CD's and backup tapes from drives.
- ◇ Completely format your hard drive (just erasing files using the "recycle bin" is not enough) using a hard drive formatting program. Several different programs are available for purchase, or you can use a freeware program like the one found at www.killdisk.com.

Beginning Thursday, November 1, 2007, you may recycle at the Ohio Gulch Transfer Station, 110 Ohio Gulch Road. Please contact them for hours of operation at 788-2351.

Community Connections

Idaho Energy & Green Building Conference

As part of Hailey's ongoing efforts to develop the most energy efficient community possible, five members of the Hailey Climate Protection Committee attended the Idaho Energy and Green Building conference last week in Boise. The three day conference presented a forum for sharing information about our energy resources and needs from state and national building associations, private sector specialists, Idaho power companies, Idaho state legislators and a multitude of Idaho city officials and employees.

***Don't Forget to
Ride the Free Hailey Bus Service***

Conference speakers and small group workshops focused on issues facing communities and industries when looking forward to the escalating costs and difficulties in developing sufficient energy for our state's growing energy needs. Increased use of electricity and fossil fuel by all of our citizens, as well as the ongoing growth of our population, will increasingly outstrip our resources into the foreseeable future. Each industry representative at the conference reiterated the message that more than half the solution to this ongoing problem will have to come from dramatically increased efficiencies in both new and old buildings, transformative city planning, and significantly increased awareness and action in residential and commercial energy consumption.

Hailey Climate Protection Committee members returned home with a vividly increased awareness of the universal need for immediate change in how our community, our businesses, and our homes consume our limited energy resources. The speakers and workshop leaders brought together a wide range of tools and methods that offer potential in addressing the specific and significant energy reduction strategies necessary in each of these categories.



In the upcoming months the Climate Protection Committee will be bringing this information and recommendations to residents, businesses and officials in a continued effort to create a community that is sustainable in its energy needs as well as a place that continues to be a pleasure to live and work.