



County Conservation News

The monthly Publication of the Lewis and Clark County Green Team

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Tri-County Small Business Efficiency Program

Lewis and Clark County was awarded a "Climate Showcase Communities" grant from the EPA in the amount of \$305,000 in February of this year. The purpose of the grant is to educate small business owners in Lewis and Clark, Jefferson and Broadwater counties about strategies to reduce their energy and water use and to help them make energy and water efficiency improvements.

measures will be installed free of charge and may include hot water heater blankets, CFL light bulbs, low flow aerators and programmable thermostats.

County Small Business Efficiency program will help the business owners implement these measures by informing them of rebates available to them and reimbursing them up to \$1500.00 for installing the recommended improvements. The business only needs to contribute \$100.00 towards the installations to receive the reimbursement funds.



Energy Saving Measures can reduce energy bills!

Over the next 2 years, through a partnership with Northwestern Energy and KEMA, small businesses will be eligible for free audits of their electrical, natural gas, and water usage. During the audit simple energy saving

After the audit, the businesses will receive an audit report that will have additional energy saving recommendations included, as well as an estimate of the energy/cost savings of implementing each measure. The Tri-

In order to be eligible for the program, the business must have an average peak demand of 300kW or less. We estimate there are over 3,000 small businesses in the tri-county area that will be eligible for this program! To sign up for an audit small business owners can call KEMA at (406) 443.9284



The County Conservation Challenge ran from January to June of this year to encourage people to develop new energy saving habits, reduce energy use and save money on the county's energy bills. Occupants of county buildings were challenged to save a minimum of 10% of their energy usage when compared to the

same time period averaged over the past two years.

Although we didn't reach our goal, we had two buildings that came close! Congratulations to the Cooney Home for decreasing their energy usage by nearly 9 % and the Health Center for decreasing usage by almost 7%.

If you want to know how your building did, contact Susan at 8028.

The County spends over \$500,000 annually on utility bills, but with minor changes in our habits while at work, we can save energy and money!

T.E.D. The Energy Detective

The Energy Detective (TED) is an electricity monitoring device designed for home use. TED monitors your household electricity use on a per second rate by measuring inflow of energy to your house, and transmitting that information to a receiving device located in the house. TED can also be set up to measure individual circuits or appliances.

TED also does net metering if

you produce your own power through solar or wind and send energy back to the grid.

TED is sensitive to 1 watt of power, and is accurate to within 2 %. Studies have shown homes that use a monitoring device such as TED save on average 2%-20% on their energy bills, with TED users coming in at 8%-15%. If you purchase TED you may also be eligible for tax credits.

Optional Software for TED is available that allows you to see your home energy use in real time, as well as side by side energy data comparisons over the course of time. TED can store 10 years of monthly energy usage information.

You can find out more about TED at its website: www.theenergydetective.com

Free Home Energy Audits



Northwestern Energy offers free energy audits to its residential customers. Two types of audits are offered, for certain types of customers there are mail in surveys available, and there are also in-home audits offered.

During the in-home audit, an energy auditor will come on-site and complete the following tasks: an energy usage survey,

an insulation evaluation, air leakage detection, a water heater temperature check, a refrigerator/freezer temperature check, and gas equipment safety check.

During the in-home audit you may also receive free of charge an installed water heater blanket, 10 feet of hot water heater pipe insulation, low flow faucet aerators and showerheads, CFL light bulbs, and free air

sealing materials.

After the audit you will receive a report with additional recommendations for increasing your energy savings. If you install any of the additional measures, you may also be eligible for rebates from Northwestern Energy. For more information on the energy audits call (800) 823.5995 or visit www.northwesternenergy.com

Did You Know? Facts About Energy in Montana



Montana ranks 8th in the nation in renewable energy production

Montana contains 2 of the 100 largest oil fields in the United States

Montana's renewable energy comes from 3 sources, water, wind, and wood waste.

Natural gas and electricity prices are lower than the United States Average

39% of energy demands during the summer is provided by renewable sources

Montana has 800 gas stations

One of those is an ethanol station

6 are alternative fuel stations

Montana produces 4% of the coal used in the United States

Montana is #10 in the nation in total energy consumption per capita (422.4 Btu per person)

What is Renewable Energy?

Renewable energy is replenishable energy that comes from resources in the natural world. Unlike fossil fuels (coal and petroleum) these resources are infinite and can be used without fear of running out. Renewable energy resources were used for centuries before the industrial revolution of the 18th and 19th centuries when fossil fuels became the prominent type of energy used.

There are several types of renewable energy sources: sunlight, wind, water, geothermal and bio-mass. These energy resources can be used as an alternative to fossil fuels and unlike fossil fuels, they in-

produce little to no pollution into the surrounding environment.

These energy resources generally work as follows:

Solar: Photovoltaic cells capture, convert and distribute energy from the sun.

Wind: Wind energy is captured by turbines which in turn convert and distribute the energy (electricity) created.

Bio-Mass: The use of plant materials for energy. The most common form is using wood for heating purposes.

Geo-thermal: Harnesses the heat stored in the earth. Most

commonly used directly as a hot-water source, but can also be converted to electricity.

Water: There are two primary sources of water energy; rivers and oceans.

Dams use the downstream flow of a river to turn a turbine and generate electricity.

Energy from ocean waves

and tides can be harnessed to produce electricity; heat energy that is stored in the world oceans can also be used to produce electricity.

I'd put my money on the sun and solar energy. What a source of power! I hope we don't have to wait till oil and coal run out before we tackle that."

- Thomas Edison

Caught Green Handed



This quarter's winner is:

Eric Spangenberg

Congratulations Eric, you won a T-shirt from S.A.V.E.!

Next quarters prize is 3 months of free curb-side recycling service from Helena Recycling!

Many thanks to S.A.V.E. and Helena Recycling for donating these great prizes!

Upcoming Events:

Helena E-Waste Recycling Event

Saturday, September 24, 9A.M. to 1 P.M.
Kmart Parking lot, 1700 Cedar St.

This is a full fee event (you must pay for some items to be recycled).

This year computer towers and laptops are free for Helena Residents. To view the full price list, visit:

http://www.yellowstoneewaste.com/images/pdfs/Helena_Pricelist_Sept2011.pdf

America Recycles Day

November 15, 2011

Details will be in a future newsletter!

Check out our website!

Want to know more? The Green Team now has a page on the County website. Follow this link, or go to the County website and click on Green Team!

<http://www.co.lewis-clark.mt.us/departments/admin-finance/green-team.html>

Find out about carpooling in your area, check on the latest news and projects, or check out the links!



The Green Team

The Mission of the Lewis and Clark County Green Team is to promote sustainability and stewardship of environmental resources in daily government practices to save money and reduce the environmental impacts of county operations.

The Green Team meets the first Wednesday of each month. If you would like to be involved contact any Green Team member or go to the County website and choose the Green Team link. Fill out the comment form and click the contact me button!

The County Conservation News is published electronically each month by the Green Team. You can make suggestions for topics by filling out the comment and suggestion form on the Green Team website.