City of Wayne Newsletter

City of Wayne Utilities

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Energy-Wise Tip - Outside Lighting

As we slowly progress towards our winter solstice, daytime becomes shorter, nighttime becomes longer and exterior lighting becomes more important. According to the Department of Energy, 22 percent of all energy generated in the U.S. is used for lighting.

Even with that, the last thing home owners typically consider is how efficient their yard or area lights are. In fact, if you still are using one of those 175-watt mercury vapor yard lights from dusk until dawn, it is costing you around $100 a year.

Although many incandescent, fluorescent and mercury vapor outdoor lighting systems have been replaced with metal halide or high-pressure sodium systems, new light-emitting diode (LED) technology provides even greater savings. A comparable 65-watt LED fixture provides superior quality to that old 175-watt mercury vapor light and uses less than a third of the energy.

LED lighting provides several potential advantages over metal halide and high-pressure sodium sources. Well designed LED outdoor luminaires provide the required surface illumination using less energy and with improved uniformity. LED luminaires usually have significantly longer life (50,000 hours or more, compared to 15,000 to 35,000 hours for metal halide and high-pressure sodium lights) and maintain their lighting level output better over the course of their life.

Another LED advantage is that they contain no mercury, lead, or other known disposal hazards. And unlike mercury vapor, metal halide and high-pressure sodium lights, LEDs come on instantly without a warm up time or relighting delay.

When shopping for a new LED light, note that product quality can vary significantly among manufacturers, so due diligence is required in their selection and use. Here are a few things to consider:

Durability

Outdoor lights often become perches for birds and the debris that comes with them. The luminaire should not collect and retain dirt or water on its top side, and the optical chamber should remain clean. Ask about the long-term reliability of gaskets and seals relative to the expected useful life of the LED. Many manufacturers will warrant their fixtures if it fails in fewer than five years.

Color

The most efficient white LEDs at this time emit a cool white light, which makes them bright white to bluish-white in appearance. This also corresponds to the type of light that the human eye sees with more visually acuity. Also, LEDs are better than high pressure sodium and standard metal halide lights in making the color of things appear as they would in natural daylight.

Life and lumen maintenance

Most LED manufacturers define useful life based on the estimated time at which LED light output will depreciate to 80 percent of its initial rating, and they often target 50,000 hours of useful life. However, some outdoor luminaires are designed for much longer useful lives of 100,000 to 150,000 hours.

Inside this issue:

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

September 2nd

September 16th

HOURS AT CAC

(September 1st—May 31st)

Mon-Thu—5:30 am-10 pm

Fri—5:30 am—9 pm

Sat—8 am-8 pm

Sun—1 pm - 8 pm

Department News ~

Free Payment Option now Available Online ~

We hear it in social media, on the phones and in email: You don't want to pay a fee to pay your bill. We want to make sure your customer experience is top notch, so we are now offering online payments with no fee. Just log on to the City of Wayne website and go to the "Online Bill Pay" option located on the left hand side of the screen.

Backflow Prevention ~

Caution! Your garden water hose may be hazardous to your health.

Do you know the dangers of backflow?

A man sprays commercial weed killer containing an arsenic compound on the lawn using a garden hose attachment. After finishing, he disconnects the applicator. Since it is a hot day, he takes a drink of water from the hose. A short time later, he dies from arsenic poisoning.

How could this happen?

While the man was spraying weed killer, the water pressure dropped, which resulted in the chemical being sucked back into the hose. Later, when he drank from the hose, the poison was in the water. He unknowingly poisoned himself.

When water flows backward through the water supply system, it is called "back siphonage" or "backflow." The danger comes when any hose, including a garden hose, is connected to a harmful substance. If the pressure in a water main drops while the hose is submerged in polluted or contaminated water, then the water (and whatever is in it) could be sucked back into the water pipes inside your home and into the drinking water supply. Water pressure drops are not uncommon. It can happen when firefighters battle a nearby blaze or before an authority crew repairs a broken water main on a nearby street.

Some harmful substances to be wary of are chemicals used to kill weeds, insects or lawn fertilizers. The cleanser used around the kitchen sink could be hazardous if ingested, as could the bacteria in the water from a wading pool or waterbed.

Keeping your water safe from contaminants is easy. The following steps will help protect your drinking water:

- Never submerge hoses in buckets, pools, tubs or sinks. Keep the end of the hose clear of possible contaminants.
- Don't use spray attachments without a backflow prevention device.

Purchase and install inexpensive backflow prevention devices for all threaded faucets around your home. They are available at hardware stores and home-improvement centers

Green Notes ~ Electronics Recycling Coming this Fall!!

The City of Wayne has been awarded a grant from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality to host an electronics recycling collection event. We are working on details now, but save your electronics for an event this October so you can properly dispose of your e-waste. Old TVs and computers contain harmful substances that are hazardous to our soil and groundwater when dumped in landfills. As soon as we have the details for this event confirmed, we'll get the word out!

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

WISE WORDS

"If you want to make enemies, try to change something."

~Woodrow Wilson

DID YOU KNOW...

That household leaks can waste more than 1 trillion gallons of water annually nationwide. That's equal to the annual household water use of more than 11 millions homes!

REMINDER TO PET OWNERS:

Remember to pick up your dog's waste — don't leave it in parks where kids play or other private and public areas!!