



City of Wayne Newsletter

City of Wayne
Utilities

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Energy Wise Tip ~ SEER or EER



By looking at this article's title, some may accuse me of a gross misspelling related to visual and auditory senses. Let me set the record straight. These two acronyms could have a lot to do with saving you energy while air conditioning this summer!

Both are a measure of how efficiently you are keeping cool using electricity to beat the heat this summer. The Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER) rating of air-conditioning and air-source heat pump equipment is the total cooling output during a typical cooling-season divided by the total electric energy input. Note that it is the average over an entire cooling season and is calculated using a constant indoor temperature of 80 degrees F and varying outdoor temperatures ranging from the 60's to over 100 degrees.

In contrast, the Energy Efficiency Ratio (EER) of a particular cooling device is the ratio of output cooling energy to input electrical energy. It is a measure of efficiency at one point with very specific conditions. Typically, those conditions for calculating EER include an outdoor temperature of 95°F and inside temperature of 80°F with 50 percent humidity.

EER ratings are more commonly encountered with smaller window-mounted air-conditioners, water and ground-source heat pumps, as

well as commercial HVAC equipment. While regulations require unitary air conditioners and air-source heat pump systems display SEER ratings, many display an EER rating as well. While both ratings can be helpful in evaluating cooling efficiency, you should never compare a SEER against an EER. Ask your HVAC contractor or local utility for guidance when comparing an air-conditioner or air-source heat pump to a water or ground-source heat pump.

Prior to 1975, there was no universal standard of measurement for rating HVAC energy efficiency. With the adoption of the SEER rating, U.S. law regulated by the U.S. Department of Energy started mandating a minimum efficiency level of 10 SEER in 1992. As of January 2015, that minimum SEER threshold was raised to 14. Today, cooling systems above 26 SEER are available.

So what should the average consumer know about these two ratings to make educated decisions? Simple. Start with Energy Star®. In order to receive recognition as an Energy Star® air conditioner or air-source heat pump, systems must achieve a SEER rating equal to or above 15.0 and have an EER rating equal to or above 12.5 for split systems (i.e., those that have both indoor and outdoor components). Packaged systems which have all major assemblies enclosed in a single cabinet must achieve an EER rating equal to or above

12.0.

So what does a higher efficiency unit save? Consider a sample home in central Nebraska that has a three ton air conditioner installed in 2000 that has been well-maintained. The owner pays 12¢ per kilowatt-hour of electricity in the summer. Over the course of the cooling season, they spend \$368 by keeping their thermostat set at 78°F. By installing a new 15 SEER unit, they spend \$245, saving \$123 a year. If they install an 18 SEER system, they will spend \$204 a year to keep things cool and save \$164. Of course, every home is different and actual costs for cooling will vary. Just remember that EER is important too. Suffice to say energy savings are greater for systems with both higher SEER and EER ratings.

Your local utility wants to help you keep cool this summer! This includes helping you make educated decisions about your air-conditioning or heat pump system. For more ideas on how you can make your home or business EnergyWiseSM, as well as financial incentives to help with the cost of your energy-saving upgrades, contact your local utility.

Inside this issue:

<i>Energy-Wise Tip</i>	1
<i>Department News</i>	2
◆ <i>Library</i>	
◆ <i>Grass Clippings</i>	
◆ <i>Green Notes</i>	

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

May 2nd
May 16th

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**CITY OFFICES  
ARE CLOSED  
MAY 29TH FOR  
MEMORIAL DAY**

### May is Pet Registration Month

**City ordinance requires that all dogs over 6 months of age and cats over 16 weeks of age within the City be licensed annually on or before May 31st of each year. Proof of rabies shot is required. Fee is \$6; after May 31st, fee is \$21.**



## Department News ~

### Wayne Public Library ~



Wayne Public Library's Coloring Night is May 9th, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. FREE program sponsored by Pac-N-Sav. All supplies and light refreshments will be provided. Call the Library to let us know you are coming, so we have sufficient supplies. Open to high school grads and older.

"Iphone Beyond Basics" class will be held Monday, May 15th, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the Library. Chele Meisenbach will help participants fine-tune their skills on their devices. Call to sign up and be sure to bring your passwords and instructions for your phones.

Community Garage Sale, "Junque in the Trunk," will be held on Saturday, May 20th, 8:00 a.m. to Noon in the Library parking lot. Call the Library to reserve your spot. Just drive in, set out your treasures and drive away. This year we

would like to invite 4-H, Church groups, school clubs and any organization who would like to hold a fundraiser to take part. Call us at 375-3135 for information.

Book Club meets May 30th, 6:00 p.m. for a Book to Movie event. We will read the novel, *The Martian* by Andy Weir and watch the DVD the evening of the 30th. FREE programming open to high school graduates and older.

IT'S HERE!!! Summer Reading kickoff is May 31st at 12:00 noon in the city auditorium. Join us for a visit from Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium visit. Their program, "I animals – Building a Better World!" fits right into our theme. Through encounters with live animals (like frogs, snakes, spiders, etc.) seeing

and touching animal artifacts, and participating in hands-on games and activities, participants learn what it takes to help animals at home and far away, and will leave with a desire to build a better world for both people and animals.

Summer reading program signup has already begun. Stop by the Library, call, or facebook message to sign up for this year's program "Build a Better World!" Weekly sessions begin Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>.

The Library will close for Memorial Day weekend, May 28 and 29<sup>th</sup>. Library summer hours (closed Sundays) begin Tuesday, May 30th.

#### WISE WORDS

*"Leadership is the art of getting someone else to do something you want done because he wants to do it."*

~Dwight D. Eisenhower

#### CITY SIREN SIGNALS

##### Fire Alarm Siren:

**This is a high/low tone and will operate in day-time hours**

##### Tornado Siren:

**This will be a single high tone siren for 3 minutes.**

##### Tornado Shelter:

**City Auditorium at 3rd & Pearl Street**



### Grass Clippings ~

The Wayne Public Works Department wants to remind all residents that blowing lawn mower clippings into the street is prohibited and is a violation of City Code, Section 78-237. These grass clippings and other such debris left on the street will travel to the storm sewer inlet and can block them. The blocking of the inlets can cause local flooding from storm water accumulation.

Because the water from the storm sewers runs into Logan Creek, the grass clippings can negatively affect the creek with the chemical content in the grass from lawns that have been fertilized and treated with weed killer.

When mowing, please mow the first few rounds so that the grass blows in towards the lawn and when finished,

sweep up the grass that has been thrown into the street.

We thank you for your cooperation during this mowing season.



### Green Notes ~ What a difference you make!



Check out the impact our community has made in reducing waste:

- 66,000 pounds of electronics diverted from the landfill over 4 years from our electronics recycling events.
- Nearly 17 tons of glass collected in 8 months and recycled into glass insulation and bottles.
- 5,500 pounds of aluminum cans recycled by our local Boy Scout Troop #174 in 2016, raising \$2,000—enough to send 7 Scouts to a week-long summer camp.
- 377 pounds of holiday strings of lights recycled in one year for the copper wire inside, a 74%

increase from 2015.

- \$25,000 received in grant funds since 2013 to support our zero waste efforts in Wayne.

We also had a great turnout at our **Earth Day Events**, with over 40 people attending our first Chamber Coffee and 70 people at our free screening of the movie, *Just Eat It*. We are thankful for our volunteers, our partnership with Wayne State College, and our community's commitment to sustainability and zero waste. Each of you make a difference in reducing waste in Wayne!

For more tips on the Green Path to the Good Life, like the Wayne Green Team on Facebook, follow us on Twitter or visit [www.cityofwayne.org/greenteam](http://www.cityofwayne.org/greenteam).



#### FAIR HOUSING—IT'S YOUR RIGHT:

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:

Nancy Braden  
306 Pearl Street  
Wayne NE 68787  
(402) 375-1733

nancy@cityofwayne.org

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

