



# OUR EARTH

*Our Town, Our Future*

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## Your City in Action

### **Try A Home Energy Audit**

An energy audit is often the first step towards making your home or business more efficient. An audit can help you assess how much energy your building presently uses and suggest the measures you can take to improve your efficiency. There are various types of audits that can offer you an introduction to your energy use and give you ideas and inspiration on how to have a more efficient home or office.

Energy Saver Yardstick ([http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?useaction=home\\_energy\\_yardstick.showStep2](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?useaction=home_energy_yardstick.showStep2)) provides a means of charting your past year's energy usage and helps you see how well you're doing right now. It then provides links to ideas of how you might make further savings.

The self audit found at <http://hes.lbl.gov/> is more complete and offers specific changes you could consider for your home. When completed, it will also tell you how much money and carbon emissions each of the changes could save each year.

Idaho Power is presently offering free home and business energy audits for all Idaho Power customers. A professional energy auditor will look at your home's energy systems and give you a variety of ideas of how to reduce energy use. Call 1800-488-6151.

Further help can be found with a professional energy auditor who will focus on your building's heating inefficiencies. The auditor will often do a door blower test or take infrared photos to determine where you have air leaks or too little insulation that contribute to your heating losses. Many of these companies will then remedy the problems and redo their testing to guarantee that they have cut off the points of your hot air loss.

Whichever way you begin, remember that audits alone won't save you energy. You will have to get up

and make the recommended improvements. Then sit back and enjoy a more comfortable and efficient home or business.

## Spring Yard Tips

### **Plan Ahead for Spring Clean-Up**

Most Hailey lawns are buried under two feet of snow and more is falling now, so it seems odd to write about gardening. However, if you are enjoying the seed catalogs and visualizing garden parties, keep the earth in mind.

Your spring clean-up refuse can be turned into compost for later soil, or taken to the Ohio Gulch Waste Transfer Station. Clean, qualified yard waste (no dirt, rock, root balls, construction waste, noxious weeds, trash, food waste, plastic or other inorganic materials) can be disposed of free; loads containing inappropriate materials will be charged at the Transfer Station rate of \$55 per ton. The Transfer Station processes the yard waste then offers it for sale as mulch at \$1 per cubic yard! Mulch adds nutrients to the soil, regulates soil temperatures, slows weed growth and helps retain water. In one trip, you can dispose of the old and prepare for the new! For more information, call the Transfer Station at 788-2351.

When looking ahead for plants and grasses, please try some xeric options. Native plants require much less water to thrive and there are grasses with root systems which grow deep for water (fescues). Organic fertilizers and weed killers – which enhance the soil and don't emit pollutants into the air and water – are available for lawns at costs competitive with the traditional chemical-based options.

The libraries and Internet have vast amounts of information; for an easy reference, check out the City's website – [www.haileycityhall.org](http://www.haileycityhall.org) – click on Hailey Environmental Leadership Program and try to do your part!

## **Hailey Environmental Leadership Program (HELP)**

Helping Ourselves, Our Community, and Our Earth