



OUR EARTH

Our Town, Our Future

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Recycling

CFL Recycling Now Available!

Many citizens have been purchasing Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs (CFLs) in place of traditional incandescent bulbs. Countries such as Australia and companies such as Philips and Wal-Mart are working to make us incandescent-free in four to eight years.



Ninety percent of the energy consumed by traditional incandescent bulbs becomes heat, not light. A CFL saves roughly 80% of the energy consumed by those traditional bulbs. The Washington-based [Earth Policy Institute](#) estimates that a complete switch to CFLs in the U.S. could eliminate 80 coal-fired generating plants. A worldwide shift would expand that number to 270.

However, CFLs, like all fluorescent lamps, contain a small amount of mercury, which is a persistent poison that can be water- or airborne and cause nerve damage. Though it is a small amount (5 milligrams, about one-hundredth of that contained in an amalgam dental filling), when multiplied by the numbers of CFLs, it is significant.

You are now able to safely dispose of unbroken CFLs. The City of Hailey and the ERC are collection centers for spent CFLs. They will be collected and sent to a recycling facility in Arizona. You may bring your CFLs to the reception desk in City Hall for proper disposal.

If you break a CFL bulb, experts advise not to vacuum the remains as that will put mercury vapor into small spaces in your home. Use sticky tape or some other mechanical means to get rid of the pieces. If you do end up putting your CFL bulb, broken or intact, in the trash, the Environmental Protection Agency recommends double-bagging it in two small plastic bags.

Plastics Recycling

Please remove lids and step on your plastic bottles (numbers 1 and 2 only) when taking advantage of curbside recycling. By compressing them, they take up less space and can be more easily hauled to the Resource Recycling Center. Currently, only food-grade plastic bottles (smaller opening than base) can be recycled. By taking this “step” more plastics will fit into the truck, helping with efficiencies.

Energy Star Ordinance

On May 19, 2008 the City of Hailey adopted Ordinance 1008 allowing the deferral of building permit, plan review, fire review and water and waste water connection fees for *Energy Star* qualified homes until the date of the issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy. The permit fees (approximately \$13,000 on a 1,500 square-foot single-family residence) would be the same, but over \$10,000 would not have to be paid until the end of construction rather than prior to beginning the project. An *Energy Star* qualified home must meet guidelines for energy efficiency set by the US EPA and are at least 15% more energy efficient than homes built to the 2004 International Residential Code. Typically an *Energy Star* home includes features that make them 20-30% more efficient than standard homes. Through *Energy Star*, builders and home-industry professionals can differentiate themselves in the market. Builders in the Treasure Valley have found that in this time of increasing energy costs and an uncertain real estate market, *Energy Star* homes are more desirable than traditionally built homes. The slight increase in construction costs are easily recouped at the time of sale, as home buyers compare options with efficiencies in mind. Check out www.haileycityhall.org for more information on *Energy Star* homes.

