



# OUR EARTH

Our Town, Our Future

February 2009  
Issue No. 21

## Program Reports

### Small Changes, Big Improvements

If you need proof that little things can make a big difference, talk with the four finalist families from Hailey's energy reduction competition, HELP Hailey 2008.

While the city has been working to establish an effective framework for developing best environmental practices in all city systems and programs, it has also worked to help residents and local businesses reduce the other 90% of the resources used within the city. The HELP Hailey 2008 competition was one of these outreach efforts with an eleven month competition modeled on the television show *The Biggest Loser*. Each participating family worked throughout the year to reduce their resource use in five primary categories. Although some families made physical changes in their homes – adding insulation, changing to CFL bulbs or alterations to their irrigation systems – almost all of the reductions were made by small (and free) changes in the way the family thought about and used their energy. See the table below for the best suggestions from the winning families in each competition area. Try these successful changes in your own home or business and see how small changes can help you begin to reduce your bills and your carbon footprint this year and in the years to come.

### Compact Florescent Recycling

HELP's compact florescent bulb recycling program is going strong, as evidenced by the bucket full of bulbs in the photo below.



- Energy Star qualified CFL bulbs use about 75% less energy than standard incandescent bulbs and last 10 times longer.
- Save about \$30 in electrical costs over each bulb's lifetime.
- Produce 75% less heat.
- Fit in almost any fixture indoors and outdoors.
- Contain a small amount of mercury; to dispose, seal in double zip-lock bags and bring to City Hall for recycling when burned out.

For more information, go to:

[http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=cfls.pr\\_cfls](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=cfls.pr_cfls)

HELP Hailey 2008 Competition Results			
Category	Winners!!	Savings	Best Changes
Heating	Eloina and Javier Zamora	-22.8%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turned water heater down to 120 degrees</li> <li>• Turned off heat in rooms not being used</li> <li>• Insulated floor over crawl space</li> <li>• Ran only full loads in washer</li> </ul>
Electricity	Molly! Goodyear and Mike Wolters	-31%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changed to all CFLs throughout the house</li> <li>• Turned water feature pump on only during daylight hours</li> </ul>
Transportation	Amy Boyer and Dean Hernandez		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Got a good bike basket and ran errands on a bike</li> <li>• Consolidated other errands into one, rather than multiple, car trips</li> </ul>
Water	Mari Wania	-17%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced watering of grass</li> <li>• Added low water plants to yard</li> <li>• Switched to low water washing machine</li> </ul>
Solid Waste (reduce, reuse, recycle)	Amy Boyer and Dean Hernandez		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set up convenient recycling area</li> <li>• Bought second hand and recycled materials for home and work</li> <li>• Composted kitchen and yard waste</li> </ul>