



OUR EARTH

Our Town, Our Future

June 2009
Issue No. 25

Conservation

Use Less and Save More!

The City of Hailey offers several ways to spend less while being a responsible steward of the environment. In today's economy, this is a "win-win" opportunity.

The city's curbside recycling program, in conjunction with the smaller garbage receptacle, offers an annual savings of almost \$140. This pay-as-you-throw system rewards residents who:

- 1) Monitor their purchasing habits by opting for minimal packaging.
- 2) Recycle everything possible with the blue bin supplied by Clear Creek Disposal.
- 3) Compost yard waste or deliver it to Ohio Gulch Transfer Station.
- 4) Seek out other methods to tread lightly on a daily basis.

To change to the smaller trash can, contact Clear Creek Disposal at 726-9600.

Water meters have been installed throughout the City of Hailey and since October 2006 residents and businesses have been paying for actual water consumed, similar to one's gas or electric bill. The water rate is billed per thousand gallons and the rate per thousand gallons increases as usage rises. This is especially evident during irrigation season. Close attention paid to irrigation practices will pay you back quickly. Small changes (watering less and during the cool of night, taking advantage of drip systems, adjusting automatic systems during wet periods, and watering every fourth day rather than every other day) not only help the water pressure citywide, but will flow through to a smaller monthly bill.

Sewer rates are based on water usage during the five months from November through March each year. These months are not irrigation periods so correctly reflect the water flowing through the wastewater system. You may have noticed a sewer rate change with your previous City of Hailey utility bill; this is an annual event in May. The water you use now will not affect your sewer rates but by habitually consuming less in your home or business, you may reap the benefit of a lower sewer bill next year.

Residents Find Success in Reducing Irrigation Levels

October 2006 was the beginning of the city's metered water rates and the resulting user fee for water consumption. Many residents were surprised at the increase in their water bill and began studiously adjusting their water consumption. Last summer water usage was down more than 20% from the summer of 2007 and this paid off in a variety of ways.

- ◆ Lower water bills for conserving residents.
- ◆ Improved water pressure at needed watering times.
- ◆ Decreased need to develop expensive, additional city wells to meet peak summer demands for water.

Blaine County has the highest water demand per capita in the state. Reducing the amount of water used in your yard will help maintain the necessary levels of this limited and vital resource in our area.

WATER USAGE Summer '07 & '08				
	Commercial	Multi-Family	Residential	Total Usage
May-07	7,753,000	15,292,000	72,602,000	95,647,000
May-08	3,796,000	3,584,000	51,564,000	58,944,000
Percentage Reduction in May				38.37%
Jun-07	12,134,000	19,459,000	111,079,000	142,672,000
Jun-08	4,894,000	5,348,000	77,925,000	88,167,000
Percentage Reduction in June				38.20%
Jul-07	14,306,000	16,573,000	129,374,000	160,253,000
Jul-08	8,068,000	8,575,000	130,999,000	147,642,000
Percentage Reduction in July				7.87%
Aug-07	15,181,000	16,842,000	129,378,000	161,401,000
Aug-08	7,107,000	7,798,000	112,029,000	126,934,000
Percentage Reduction in August				21.35%
Sep-07	10,899,000	13,518,000	86,153,000	110,570,000
Sep-08	5,319,000	6,235,000	85,314,000	96,868,000
Percentage Reduction in September				12.39%
City-wide residential, commercial & multi family use 2007				670,543,000
City-wide residential, commercial & multi family use 2008				518,555,000
Percentage Reduction				22.67%