



OUR EARTH

Our Town, Our Future

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Conservation

Financial Incentives for Buildings to Help Save Energy and Dollars

Interested in saving money on the energy costs of your home or commercial building? Or maybe reducing your carbon footprint? There are numerous financial incentives available from the federal and Idaho state governments as well as Idaho Power and soon, even the City of Hailey. The incentives include federal tax credits, state tax deductions, rebates, and low interest loans for eligible activities ranging from energy efficiency improvements to renewable technologies, as well as energy efficiency mortgages. Many of the eligible activities can receive multiple incentives, making the cost of the energy improvement close to nothing.

In general, the federal government will provide tax credits for 30% of energy improvements or retrofits, up to \$1,500 and 30% for renewable technologies, with no maximum level. The State of Idaho provides tax deductions for eligible activities similar to the federal government's tax credits. Idaho Office of Energy Resources will provide \$25-300 cash rebate for the purchase of 13 different kinds of ENERGY STAR appliances and \$1,000 - \$100,000 loan for efficiency retrofits and renewables with a 4% interest on a 5 year term. Idaho Power will provide a cash rebate for home attic insulation, ENERGY STAR appliances, \$1,000 for ductless heat pumps for existing homes, and up to \$100,000 for energy efficiency technologies and products in new commercial buildings and retrofits to existing commercial buildings. For more information on these financial incentives and others not listed here, please visit the following websites:

- General Information on incentives - www.dsireusa.org
- Idaho Office of Energy Resources - www.energy.idaho.gov
- Idaho Power - <http://www.idahopower.com/EnergyEfficiency/Programs/default.cfm?tab=Irrigation>
- Energy Efficiency Mortgage - http://www.energysavers.gov/your_home/designing_remodeling/index.cfm/mytopic=10380
- Federal rebates and tax credits - <http://www.energysavers.gov/financial/70010.html>

We strongly recommend you seek advice from your financial adviser as to whether this information is appropriate to your needs and financial situation.

Pollution Source Reduction

Go Bag Free for 40th Anniversary of Earth Day

In celebration of Earth Day's 40th anniversary, the City of Hailey and partners are promoting a BAG FREE DAY! *Just Bag It!* is a pollution source reduction project made possible by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. To kick off this project, join us in the Hailey Public Library Thursday, April 8 at 6 p.m. There will be demonstrations, prizes and information to help promote this program and raise awareness of the environmental issues surrounding plastic bags. Come and get a complimentary souvenir bag!



The main event is Thursday, April 22. Partnering stores are encouraging shoppers to BYOB – bring your own bags! Did you know that annually shoppers in the U.S. use 100 billion plastic bags and that it takes 12 million barrels of oil to make them? It takes 1,000 years for an HDPE plastic bag to photo-degrade; they do not biodegrade. Only 1-3% of single-use plastic bags are recycled.

We welcome you to pass on your surplus (non-plastic) bags; they will be disbursed to local participants and partners for the Bag Free Day. Drop them in the box inside the Main Street entrance to City Hall. Clean plastic bags can be dropped off at King's and Albertsons for recycling.

A big "thank you" to our excellent *Just Bag It!* partners and participants! Partners: Albertsons, Atkinsons', King's, ERC, Hailey Chamber of Commerce and Wood River Farmer's Market. Participants: The Loft, Zaney's, Webb, Blaine County Fitness, The Creative Edge, Spring Mobile AT&T, Curves, Balmoral, The Bead Shop, Big Wood Nutrition and Paula's Dress Shop. (To join as a participant: MakeItGreen@att.net.)

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