



# OUR EARTH

Our Town, Our Future

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## Sustainable Building

### Energy Efficient Building Construction Bring Savings and Rapid Payback

Buildings are responsible for about half of U.S. energy consumption and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions annually and are growing faster than any other sector<sup>1</sup>, including transportation. Forty-nine percent of total annual U.S. GHG emissions and 72 percent of U.S. electricity consumption happen in buildings.<sup>2</sup> Residential and commercial structures account for one-third of all natural gas consumption and the majority of electricity use in the U.S.<sup>3</sup>

The U.S. Department of Energy projects U.S. energy demand to grow by 11% by 2030, based on extrapolation of current trends.<sup>4</sup> While we will not likely see an end to traditional energy resources by that date, supply and demand will most likely drive the cost of energy up. Most buildings have a life span of about 75 years.<sup>5</sup> Assuming that buildings built today will be around for about 75 years, it is important to plan for the future of energy and increased energy costs. This creates an opportunity to significantly reduce energy usage at the time a building is designed and constructed. Data gathered on energy efficient buildings suggest that a 15-30% reduction in energy usage (that is a 15-30% increase in savings, which stays in a utility payer's pocket every month) for new construction can be achieved for 0-2% of additional upfront costs and the payback (measured by how much money is saved on energy bills) is less than 4 years.

<sup>1</sup>U.S. Green Building Council.

<sup>2</sup>American Planning Association, "Planning for a New Energy and Climate Future," Planning Advisory Report 558, 2010.

<sup>3</sup>American Planning Association, "Planning for a New Energy and Climate Future," Planning Advisory Report 558, 2010.

<sup>4</sup>U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) Annual Energy Outlook 2009.

<sup>5</sup>2008 Buildings Energy Data Book, Buildings Technologies Program, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, U.S. DOE, page 3-12.

### Sustainable Building Fact:

**Intermountain Gas** has reported that the typical Idaho home consumes 3.2 therms/day on average, while homes in the Wood River valley consume 16 therms/day on average.

## Hailey Public Library

### Energy Efficiency Kits Available

Energy efficiency kits are available in Idaho's public libraries for checkout to cardholders. Kits include a kill-a-watt energy meter, instructions and efficiency tips. Kits are available for a one-week checkout. The kits are provided through a partnership between Idaho Power, Rocky Mountain Power, Avista Utilities and the Idaho Commission for Public Libraries.

For more information please call the library at 788-2036 or visit the library online at [www.haileypubliclibrary.org](http://www.haileypubliclibrary.org).

## Conservation

### Just Bag It! Hits Mid-Year Stride

The *Just Bag It!* project is just about midway through its one-year schedule. Activities still to come:

- YouTube video contest (now accepting entries!) <http://www.haileycityhall.org/HELP/JustBagIt.asp>
- Temporary public art display (July!)
- Bag Free Day Proclamation (July!)
- School logo contest and bags (September/October!)
- Updated *Just Bag It!* web page (June!)
- Display ads recognizing partners and participants (October and December!)

Contact project manager Elizabeth Jeffrey at [makeitgreen@att.net](mailto:makeitgreen@att.net) for more information.

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Wood River Land Trust and Trout Friendly Lawns help Curtis Park stay pesticide free! Over 17 cities are now participating in a national movement to create pesticide-free parks.

[www.troutfriendly.org](http://www.troutfriendly.org) for more information

