

TOWN OF FAIRVIEW ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Prevent Pollution in Your Own Backyard	1-2
Improve your Water Efficiency	3
It's time to Upgrade your Light Bulbs	4



IMPORTANT NOTICE

As of August 1, 2011 a Stage 2 drought plan is in effect. Please conserve water.

For Fairview Residents this means:

- Wait until the current drought has passed before establishing new landscaping.
- Limit landscape watering with sprinklers or irrigation systems to no more than **two days** per week.
- Restrict landscape and lawn irrigation from **9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.**
- Prohibit outdoor watering during precipitation events.
- Prohibit watering of impervious surfaces.
- Home car washing can be done only when using a water hose with a shut-off nozzle.

Please do all you can to save water!



“Prevent Pollution in Your Own Backyard”

Did you know that air pollution occurs every time you mow your lawn?

According to the EPA, small engines are big polluters. Unlike cars and SUVs, small engines on equipment such as lawn mowers, chain saws, leaf blowers and similar lawn maintenance equipment lack emission controls and standards.

Additionally, power equipment users inadvertently contribute to the pollution by carelessly handling gasoline and by incorrectly maintaining their equipment.



Greener equipment is on its way to the market, but in the mean time, here are a few things you can do to help.

continued on page 2...

... continued from page 1

Avoid Spilling Gasoline

This is one of the easiest things to do in an attempt to prevent pollution in your backyard. Use a gasoline container that is easy to hold and allows for a controlled pouring of gasoline into the lawn equipment. For larger containers, make sure there is a good handle to hold on to. Many gas containers today have a control switch on the spout that allows the user to cut off the flow of fuel without removing the spout from the equipment.

Maintain your equipment

Just like your car, it is important to maintain your lawn equipment and follow the manufacturer's guidelines for maintenance. If you have lost the manual, most companies now provide a digital copy on their website.

In an effort to maintain your equipment:

- Change the oil and air filters as needed.
- Take your equipment in for proper tune-ups each year.
- Keep blades sharp and the underside of any decks clean.
- Winterize the equipment every fall.

Consider cleaner options

When it comes time to purchase new equipment, speak to the dealer about cleaner gasoline equipment. Also, be sure to ask about alternative power sources such as electric, propane, and/or solar options.

Use Manual Tools

When possible, use manual tools for small yards or jobs. Although it may be easier to use the gas powered hedge clipper, the manual clippers will do the same job and are less harmful on the environment. On the plus side, for those of you who enjoy working in the early morning hours to avoid the heat, the manual tools won't wake up the neighbors.



Recycle old equipment

Rather than selling or giving away your old equipment, drop them off at a recycling center where they can be converted to scraps and used in cleaner equipment and other products.

This information was provided by the Environmental Protection Agency

For More Information:

The Office of Mobile Sources is the national center for research and policy on air pollution from highway and off-highway motor vehicles and equipment. You can write to us at the EPA National Vehicle and Fuel Emissions Laboratory, 2565 Plymouth Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105. Our phone number is (313) 668-4333.

Improve your Water Efficiency

Many parts of the United States have seen record temperatures throughout July and forecasters predict this trend will continue for parts of the country, including Texas, through the better part of August. As some of you might now, as temperatures soar, the demand for water increases. North Texas, including Fairview, has seen the demand for water increase substantially when compared to previous years.

According to WaterSense, and EPA Partnership Program, consumers can reduce their outdoor water use this peak season by taking a few easy steps:

- **Step on it:** Grass does not always need water just because it is hot outside. One method is to step on the lawn, and if the grass springs back, it does not need water. Inexpensive soil moisture sensors can also be used.
- **Time is right:** the best time to water is in the early morning and late evening because significant water moisture can evaporate during the heat of the day.
Fairview restricts watering between the hours of 9:00 am and 7:00 pm.
- **Give your hose a break:** Sweep driveways, sidewalks, and steps rather than hosing them off. Also, be sure to check the spigot for leaks and tighten as necessary.
- **Leave it long:** By cutting your lawn at a higher level will

promote deeper root growth, resulting in a more drought resistant lawn, reduce evaporation, and fewer weeds.

Consumers can also help reduce water consumption inside the home by checking for and fixing any leaks on the plumbing fixtures and irrigation systems. The average home wastes



more than 10,000 gallons of water a year due to running toilets, dripping faucets, and other household leaks. Nationwide, more than 1 trillion gallons of water leak from U.S. homes each year.

Save Water, Save Money and Energy

According to WaterSense, the average household spends as much as \$500 per year on its water and sewer. By making a few simple changes and adding water-efficient fixtures, the average home could save about \$170 per year.

Many consumers are not aware of this next fact, but it takes a considerable amount of energy to deliver and treat the water they use every day. Public water supply and treatment facilities consumer approximately 56 billion kilowatt-hours (kWh) per year - enough energy to power 5 million homes for an entire year. For instance, by letting your faucet run for five minutes, you are using about as much energy as a 60-watt light bulb running for 14 hours.

...continued on page 4

...continued from page 3

WaterSense made the point that by reducing household water use, a consumer cannot not only reduce energy consumption, but can also help address climate change.

Take a look at these two shocking fact:

- “If one out of every 100 American homes retrofitted with water-efficient fixtures, we could save about 100 million kWh of electricity per year—avoiding 80,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions. That is equivalent to removing nearly 15,000 automobiles from the road for one year!”
- If 1 percent of American homes replaced their older, inefficient toilets with WaterSense labeled models, the country would save more than 38 million kWh of electricity—enough to supply more than 43,000 households’ electricity for one month.

Serve your community by reducing unnecessary water consumption!

It’s time to Upgrade Your Light Bulbs

Are you still lighting your house with incandescent bulbs? If so, you are using old technology that can cost you more money than bulbs.

Compact florescent light bulbs (CFLs) originally qualified for the ENERGY STAR label back in 1999. Today CFLs meet the current specifications

established in December of 2008. A CFL light bulb can:

- Save more than \$40 in electricity costs over the life of the bulb
- Use approximate 75% less energy than a standard bulb
- Last at least 6 times longer
- Produce about 75% less heat, so it is safer to operate and can cut energy costs associated with home cooling.

A few things to know about CFLs

- CFLs show their wattage equivalent to an incandescent bulb on the packaging. You can increase the equivalent wattage as long as the CFL bulb’s wattage does not exceed the recommended wattage on the fixture. This means you have provide more light and still use less power.
- If you want to use a CFL in a dimmable fixture, look for bulbs that indicate they are compatible with dimmers on their packaging. DO NOT use a non-dimmable CFL in a dimmable fixture.
- If you want to start switching over to CFLs, you do not have to wait for the existing light to burn out. Replace the bulbs right away so you can start saving energy now. CFLs provide the most savings in applications where the light is on for at least two hours a day.

CFL bulbs can be found and recycled at your local hardware store or supercenter.



**"Keepin' it Country
Since 1958"**

We're on the Web!!!

www.fairviewtexas.org

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