

TOWN OF FAIRVIEW ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

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Stage 2 Water Restrictions

As of June 1st, the North Texas Municipal Water District reduced area conditions from Stage 3 to Stage 2. While this is welcomed news, residents are still encouraged to take precautions throughout the coming summer months. The following restrictions are listed below in an effort to continue conserving water:

- Limit watering lawns and landscapes to two or less days per week.
- Do not water between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
- Follow the two hour watering restriction each day, especially when using soaker hoses and drip irrigation systems.
- Lawns must be watered during 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m.
- Avoid watering surfaces that are not permeable.

With your help, Fairview can continue to use water responsibly and safeguard against any further increases in water shortages. Please keep in mind the severity of drought conditions across Texas.

For helpful tips on how to conserve water, visit the Texas Water Development Board's "Water IQ" website at www.wateriq.org. Here, you can find suggestions tailored to Texas life, such as installing water-efficient fixtures or adopting native plants and trees in landscapes.

Spotlight on Growing a Healthy Lawn

Surprisingly enough, you can save both time and money by remembering a few facts about Texas grass. Most varieties only need one inch of water per week to look thick and full. Grass also retains more moisture when taller. Consider making adjustments to your

lawn care routine by cutting grass less than one-third of the original length at one time, not overwatering, and leaving leftover trimmings across your yard.



Trash Off, Spring Clean-Up

In collaboration with Allied Waste Services of Plano, the Town of Fairview recently held its annual Trash Off, Spring Clean-Up event with great success! Residents were asked to bring obsolete electronic equipment, hazardous materials, and bulk waste to the old town hall building on Saturday, April 14th. Particular items included: leftover paint, harmful oils, furniture, and even a functioning treadmill. Overall, the event grossed a staggering 6,937lbs of electronics, 9.03 tons of solid waste, and roughly 120 cubic yards of trash and debris.

Last year, Allied Waste Services' collected 2,079 tons of solid waste, 907 tons of recyclable material, and 546 tons of bulk waste. This gathered a total 1,814,000lbs of

material. Lastly, the participation rate peaked at 61 percent.

These efforts remain extremely important. With residents' help, Allied Waste Services was able to redirect 26 percent of materials away from landfill areas in 2011. Please remember that conservation is a daily concern.

Try this at Home

Recycling is not limited to just city sponsored events. Try out a few (or all) of the following tips in your home and daily life:

- Use your favorite decorative baskets, bins, and other containers for easy sorting.
- Try placing these storage containers around the house, especially where traffic occurs most.
- Carry cloth bags with you the next time you run to the grocery store.
- You can also elect to save your used plastic bags and drop them off in bulk wherever accepted. Often these collections will allow: plastic newspaper protectors, clean bread bags, retail bags without string handles, any plastic bag labeled #2 (HDPE) or #4 (LLDPE), inner clear cereal bags, and plastic packaging from various household paper products.



Take a Load Off, Texas

A number of specific programs are currently offered through Oncor's "Take a Load Off, Texas" initiative to better aid consumers in reducing energy use. Adapted to the needs of both residential and commercial customers, each avenue provides countless tips, facts, and additional resources to help Texans.

For residents, there are a handful of programs available. The first, ENERGY STAR® Homes, focuses on bettering new construction through stricter requirements. These models have 15 percent greater energy efficiency when compared to dwellings built to Texas code specifications. ENERGY STAR® Homes possess better insulation, less indoor allergens, and conserve energy. For existing homes, "Take a Load Off, Texas" offers monetary incentives for: updating insulation to the appropriate thickness, caulking seals on various openings, and resealing air conditioning ducts. These steps can significantly reduce your energy consumption (and electricity bill).

Get Your Ducts in a Row!

If you find any of these signs in your home, it may be time to look at your air ducts.

- Rooms do not cool or heat easily.
- Certain areas of your home continually feel warm and unventilated.
- There is visible damage to the ducts in your overall air conditioning system.



Businesses also have substantial opportunities focused on shrinking energy use on a monthly basis as well as through the hot, sweltering Texas summer!

Foremost, the option of a "Commercial Energy Audit" is available to a wide audience including: businesses, educational institutions, faith-based organizations, nonprofit entities, and government agencies. The program allows experts to deduce areas of improvement in these buildings, while also providing a number of eligible incentives for these customers to use. Specifically, the program offers a 50% cost-share option regarding audits for commercial consumers using more than 250kW. These reviews clarify current operations and explain how to better conserve under current conditions.

"Take a Load Off, Texas" also provides incentives for various business and nonprofit facilities based on the use of energy saving LED lighting. This program seeks to adapt various lighting sources to energy efficient models. Monetary allowances may be available for these updates and are usually based on yearly energy savings from the new LED fixtures.



Other eligibility requirements may exist in order to qualify for each individual program. Interested residents can learn more information at www.takealoadofftexas.com. Talk about a bright idea!

Reminder: Dealing with Storm Water

Storm water management may not steal news headlines regularly, but excess water runoff is a very real problem for local cities. The Town of Fairview manages this overflow through a drainage system, which guides this water to better areas like Lake Lavon. This process keeps pollutants from waterways and the town's drinking water. Measures can be taken to ensure that Fairview's drinking water remains free of contaminants. The most important step residents can take is to opt for organic products rather than fertilizers with harsh chemicals.

Pool Covers

During the hot summer days it is crucial to take the proper measures to conserve water. Some common ways to save water are: designating certain hours to water your lawn, reducing the time of your shower, washing fewer loads of laundry, and turning the water off as you brush your teeth. But did you know that pools can lose a substantial amount of water due to evaporation? The amount of water loss depends on a number of factors such as the temperature of the air, the temperature of the water, and wind speed. However, pool covers can help your pool stay in great condition. There are many different types of pool covers, and with a little research, you can find out which model is best for you. Whether it is conserving water or keeping your pool free of leaves, grass clippings, or any other debris, a pool cover can benefit you in many ways.

By Mauro Lopez



Energy Saving Programs

By Paul Westbrook

Summer, and the high electric bills that accompany it, are here. There are many things you can do to reduce your electricity use and there are some programs available that can improve your payback. Saving energy is almost always cheaper than purchasing it.

The first step on the list should be a thorough energy audit. Every house is different and has different areas of weakness. An audit will identify the best issues to address for your particular home. There are two different electric providers in Fairview and depending on which one you have you might be able to get an audit for little to no cost. Your bill will either come from Grayson Collin Electric Coop (GCEC) or someone else. If you are NOT in GCEC, then Oncor maintains the wires to your home and they have several good rebate programs including a low or no cost audit. Go here to view your options: <http://www.takealoadoftexas.co>

[m/index.aspx?id=homes](http://www.takealoadoftexas.co/m/index.aspx?id=homes). The Residential Energy Audit should be the first step. Pending the outcome of that, you might be interested in the Home Energy Efficiency programs.

The cost of solar electricity has dropped drastically in the past few years and Oncor has an excellent rebate program available. Home Owners Associations (HOAs) can no longer prohibit the installation of energy producing devices on your home. Texas HB 362, which passed in 2011, didn't clean the issue up completely, but it opened up many more roofs to the possibility of solar. For details see

http://www.dsireusa.org/incentives/incentive.cfm?Incentive_Code=TX33R&re=1&ee=1

Though the wires are maintained by Oncor, you can contract with a variety of providers for your electric power. Choose your electric provider at <http://powertochoose.org/>. If you haven't reviewed your choices, you are probably missing out on some major savings.



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