

TOWN OF FAIRVIEW ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

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As of November 1, 2011 a Stage 3 drought plan is in effect until March 2012. 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 **ONCE** every **TWO** weeks.
- Restrict landscape and lawn irrigation from **9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.**
- Foundations, new landscaping, new plantings (first year) of shrubs, and trees may be watered for up to two hours on any day by a hand-held hose, a soaker hose, or a dedicated zone using a drip irrigation system.
- Wait until the current drought has passed before establishing

new landscaping and no hydroseeding, hydromulching or sprigging allowed.

- Do not drain and refill swimming pools except to replace normal water loss
- Watering of golf courses using treated water is prohibited except as needed to keep greens and tee boxes alive.
- Halt non-essential city government water use including street cleaning, vehicle washing, operation of ornamental fountains, etc.
- Prohibit watering of impervious surfaces.

Please do all you can to save water!

Are you buying Green Products for the Holidays?

The Christmas holidays are quickly approaching and people are starting to hustle around to find those perfect gifts

for friends and family members. Have you ever thought about buying green products for environmentally conscious friends and family members? If so, Julie Urlaub of the Taiga Company has a few ideas to help you along the way:

- “Research before you buy. For larger more infrequent items, set aside time to research your options. Evaluate products on the full lifecycle. How much energy was used in producing the product? What is the energy consumption of your intended use? How it will be discarded later? Compare products with eco awareness in mind.”
- “Buy local and buy in bulk. Supporting local businesses eliminates the need for products to be transported far distances.”
- “Buy organic. Purchasing merchandise certified with organic labeling is another way to bring eco awareness to your lifestyle. Buying organic means less pesticides in our ground water and better health for your family.”
- “Buy Fair Trade. Buying Fair Trade helps to end abuses such as child and slave labor.”
- “Buy products from sustainable sources like bamboo. Purchase products not tested on animals, made from renewable sources and packaged with recyclable and minimal packaging.”
- “Electronic purchases: Consider buying “Pre-Owned” goods. Purchasing previously owned products is a great way to implement the sustainability concept of recycling. Ebay and Craig’s list are two good

sources. Also ask your electronics store about recycling options for older models.”

With a little effort and planning, you can make eco-friendly purchases for your friends and loved ones, that will not only bring a smile to their face but will also reduce your footprint on the environment and leave a little more money in your pocketbook.

Apple Makes an Effort to Improve Environmental Record

One of the most known technology companies in the world is taking steps to improve its bad rapport with environmentalists after it was ranked the least environmentally sound “big tech” companies earlier this year. According to Suzanne Goldenberg with the Sydney Morning Herald, Apple will be constructing a large solar farm next to its East Coast data center in Maiden, North Carolina, replacing its dirty energy source, coal. “Data centers consume about 3 percent of the US power supply.” By installing solar panels on the 50 hectare site, Apple will reduce environmental pollution, including the vast amounts of smoke that residents claim are billowing into their local residences.

Perhaps Apple will set a precedent with other tech companies and encourage others to move to cleaner energy.

Fracking: Pros and Cons

In early November, the EPA announced a research plan to study the effects of hydraulic fracturing on drinking water and its impact on the environment. According to Jordan Howard of the Huffington Post, "Hydraulic fracturing involves drilling thousands of feet below the earth's surface and pumping millions of gallons of water and chemical additives at high pressure into the well." Due to the cast amount of shall gas, proponents believe this could lead to America's energy independence. However, advocates argue that the potential dangers of fracking have not been fully evaluated and further research is needed to weigh the risks. Although there is great risk to the fracking process, many would argue there are also great benefits. Below you will find the pros and cons outlined by Howard, and you can decide if the risks outweigh the rewards.

PROs

- Potential energy independence
- Burns cleaner than other fossil fuels. "Researchers at MIT found that replacing coal power plants with natural gas plants could work as part of a plan to reduce greenhouse emissions by more than 50 percent."
- Jobs. "The industry currently employs more than 1.2 million people in the U.S., and the Department of Energy estimates that natural gas resources have increased nearly 65 percent due

to fracking, according to a TreeHugger graphic."

- Buys time to develop renewable energy. "Former chief of staff to President Clinton and former head of the Center for American Progress John Podesta says natural gas can serve 'as a bridge fuel to a 21st century energy economy that relies on efficiency, renewable sources, and low-carbon fossil fuels.'"

CONs

- Water Pollution
- Leaks more greenhouse gasses. "Compared to coal, the footprint of shale gas is at least 20 percent greater and perhaps more than twice as great on the 20-year horizon and is comparable when compared over 100 years."
- Hydraulic Fracking has been linked to earthquakes.
- Companies don't have to disclose chemicals used in process. "Fracking is exempt from the Safe Drinking Water Act of 2005, thus allowing companies to conceal the chemicals used in the process."
- Requires large amounts of water. "The process can require around five million gallons of water." In some cases, less than a third of the water used is recovered.

You decide, Is it worth it?

For more information read his article at <http://huff.to/tllBMa>



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