



Energy Matters

April 4, 2013

April Edition

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Special points of interest:

- We will be hosting two **"Soup & Sustainability"** seminars at City Hall for employees. See the inside story for details!
- We are creating a "Virtual Suggestion Box". See the inside story for details!
- Learn more about ways the City has been saving energy in the "What's New" section...

Happy Earth Day!

Earth Day, April 22, is a great day to celebrate our planet and look for simple ways to reduce energy and our impact locally and globally.

Activities that you do every day such as using your computer, heating your lunch, and lighting your workspace all consume energy. Production of energy for these activities causes air pollution and significantly affects our climate, ecosystems, and public health.

Did you know that most electricity is produced by burning fossil fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas? These nonrenewable resources take

millions of years to form in the crust of the earth by natural processes. Once burned to produce electricity or to fuel your vehicle, they are gone forever.

Doing little things every day to become more energy efficient is the fastest, cleanest and least expensive way to reduce our energy use. Ready to make a difference? Consider these quick tips for saving energy and saying Happy Earth Day to Mother Earth:

- **Share the Road** – Carpool, bus or walk to work - all of these save energy. If you drive, make it an event by sharing a ride with others.

• **Lighten Up** – By using natural sunlight instead of flipping the switch. This is the perfect time of year to open the shades and let the sun shine in.

• **Take a Break from the Heat** - Eat a lunch that doesn't require an oven or a microwave. Consider munching on sandwiches or fresh fruits and vegetables.

• **Go Old School** – By turning off your cell phone, TV, video games and other electronics. Try having fun the energy-saving old fashioned way – cards, anyone?

Energy Savings Progress Update

As of April 2012, our organization has reduced our energy use (electricity, natural gas, and oil) by 6%. The environmental impact of our energy saving

success is a reduction in greenhouse gases equal to: 97.7 metric tons of Carbon Dioxide. This is the equivalent of the annual greenhouse gas emis-

sions from 18.5 passenger vehicles, or, the CO₂ emissions from the *electricity* use of 13.3 homes for one year. Let's keep up the good work!

City of White Bear Lake celebrates Earth Month

Our organization will be celebrating Earth Day in the following ways:

Soup and Sustainability! This month, we will host two, half-hour long seminars for employees over the lunch hour. Seminars will share ways to save energy in our everyday lives. *Both seminars will be held in the Expansion Room in City Hall. The seminars will be given at 12pm, and again at 12:30pm to accommodate everyone's schedules. There will be soup and bread provided. RSVP to Laura, at Greenlivingwbl@whitebear-lake.org.*



Signs! Look out for signs popping up in your work spaces, lunch rooms and bathrooms. Big, bold, and created to inspire change, these ten posters remind us of easy ways to save energy, every day.

Bulletin board! A community poster board will be hung in your lunch room, where you can bring in anything related to sustainability that you would like to share with your co-workers! Remember, sharing is caring!

Progress Posters! These eye-catching posters display our energy saving progress! They will be updated quarterly.

Stickers! These habit-changing stickers bear a simple reminder to “Shut It Off” and can be used on any piece of equipment from computer monitors to light switches. They were created specifically with non-aggressive adhesive making them easy to apply, and remove. It is amazing how effective this simple daily reminder can be and even more amazing how effective these small changes in habit can affect our energy-saving bottom line.

Virtual suggestion box! Do you have an idea of how we can save energy? Send your fabulous ideas to the Energy Efficiency Coordinator, Laura. Laura will share the ideas that were submitted with everyone in her energy emails.

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Thursday, April 11th

Yvonne Pfeifer from Xcel Energy presents “Saving Energy at Home” – How to do a home energy audit, ways to save energy at home, and rebates available through Xcel Energy

Thursday, April 25th

Karen Mann from Class 5 Energy Karen Mann from CLASS 5 Energy will present a detailed explanation of the many line items and charges found on typical utility bills. Feel free to bring copies of your own bills along so that she can explain them and also answer any specific questions you may have.

What's New?

The City is committed to sustainability. In this section, updates will be given as to what the City has done to save energy in the past month. This is what we have been up to.

The city installed a variable frequency drive on one of the several pumps at the Water Treatment Plant. Variable-frequency drives are enjoying rapidly increasing popularity at water and waste-water facilities, where the greatest energy draw comes from pumping and aeration—two applications particularly suited to variable-frequency drives. A variable-frequency drive can

reduce a pump's energy use by as much as 50%. Xcel Energy supported this energy-saving measure by providing financial incentives to the City for installing the variable-frequency drive.



This month, we will have a lighting engineer from the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) walk through the public safety building and sports center to recommend areas where motion sensors will save us energy. CEE offers several financial incentives to the City for installing energy

saving technology, like motion sensors. Most common areas of our building already have motion sensors, but we are continuing to find places where these sensors are applicable.

An energy policy. With the support of the Safety Committee, we are drafting an energy policy that will provide the City with long-term guidance in saving energy in our daily operations. Look for more information about the policy in the coming months.

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City of White Bear Lake Rain Barrel and Compost Bin Sale

Each spring, the Recycling Association of Minnesota works with local businesses and governments to bring area residents inexpensive compost bins and rain barrels through convenient distribution events. Products are available to pre-purchase online and then pick up in person at the new Public Works Facility.

COMPOST BINS \$55:

Composting is a great way to inexpensively create nutrient rich fertilizer for gardens or landscaping by recycling much of your kitchen

and yard waste.

RAIN BARRELS

\$69: With many cities enforcing watering bans, rain water can be applied anytime and is naturally soft, devoid of minerals, chlorine, fluoride and other chemicals making it great for plants, lawns and gardens.

White Bear Pick-Up Location:

White Bear Lake Public Works Facility
3950 Hoffman Rd
White Bear Lake, MN
55110

For more info & to order visit:

[www. RecycleMinnesota.org](http://www.RecycleMinnesota.org)



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We're on the web!
www.whitebearlake.org

The City of White Bear Lake is committed to sustainability.

An excerpt from our 2030 Comprehensive Plan:

"There are several dimensions to sustainability. It is generally a response to a range of indicators that suggest there is a growing gap between human consumption of resources and the Earth's capacity to supply those resources and reabsorb resulting wastes. This concept of sustainability guides our comprehensive plan. Sustainable practices are those that accommodate the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. As outlined in the American Planning Association, sustainable planning practices include:

- Developing a future-oriented vision which looks beyond current needs and recognizes environmental limits to human development.
- Fostering projects/activities that promote economic development by: efficiently and equitably distributing resources and goods; minimizing, reusing and recycling waste; and protecting natural ecosystems.
- Upholding a widely held ethic of stewardship that strongly encourages economic, environmental, and social consequences of their actions, balancing individual needs and wants with nature and the public good.
- Taking leadership in the drafting and implementation of local, regional and state policies that support sustainability."