# Inside Gardner Utilities

Official Utility News for the City of Gardner


## How to Cut Summer Energy Costs

GARDNER ENERGY

Connecting The Community

GARDNER ENERGY understands that for most customers, during the summer, your home energy bill usually increases by up to 15% as households turn on their cooling systems to ward off the heat. Increased energy consumption is not the only issue. In addition, cooling systems emit 6,600 pounds of carbon dioxide_into the atmosphere. The following summer energy-saving tips will help reduce home energy bill and lessen environmental emissions.

1. **Your Thermostat**: Lamps and televisions exude heat, causing your AC to run overtime. Move the upright standing lamps and television across the room if you can and consider switching to compact fluorescent bulbs, which generate less heat, last longer and use less energy than incandescent bulbs. Also, by raising your thermostat by three degrees, you can save around 20% on your cooling costs. You can save even more if you raise your thermostat by 5-10 degrees. You can do this without compromising your comfort level if you have ceiling fans capable of moving enough air to offset the higher thermostat setting.

2. **Insulate Intelligently**: You know the feeling – somehow, it always seems 10 degrees hotter upstairs than it does in your living room. Reduce the effect of the sun's sizzling rays by insulating your attic. This will prevent the heat that builds up on top from filtering down into the rest of the house.

3. **Get Window Wise**: During those scorching days, or before you leave for work in the morning, close your curtains and blinds to prevent the sun from beating down into the rooms and needlessly warming your home. Bonus: It will reduce fading of upholstery and rugs.

4. **Make Use of Your Microwave**: Prepping dinner? Not only is it quicker and a lot more convenient, but four minutes in the microwave will generate much less heat than a half hour in the oven.

5. **Plant a Tree**: Plant deciduous trees (those that shed their leaves in the winter, like a maple) by the south and west sides of your home to shade windows from heat. In the winter, their bare branches will allow sunlight to stream into your home for added warmth. Also consider planting trees or shrubs near your AC unit. It will use less electricity when operating under the shade.

6. **Use Household Appliances Wisely**: Regardless of the time of the year, turning off everything from lights to computers when not in use is a vital step to reducing home energy bills. Also, unplug electronic gadgets and small appliances such as PCs and chargers as many of them are energy vampires, continuing to use electricity even when turned off.

7. **Use Fans**: Use fans along with AC to circulate air better and make rooms feel cooler. Thermostat can be raised to contain air conditioning costs. Keep fans on high speed except when days are particularly humid. When humidity is high, fans should be on low speed to remove moisture better.

8. **Opt for Energy-efficient Lighting System**: A 23-watt compact fluorescent bulb uses only 25% of electricity needed to produce the same amount of light generated by a 100-watt incandescent bulb. Replace incandescent bulbs at home that are used for more than 2 hours a day with Energy Star compact fluorescent bulbs.

## PROJECT UPDATE–MADISON STREET

As part of the annual maintenance program, the City of Gardner is reconstructing Madison Street between Center Street and White Drive this Summer between June 14 and the end of July. This work was scheduled to begin after the Festival of the Trails and before the Johnson County Fair since Madison Street is heavily traveled during both of these events.

The scope of work for this project includes removal and replacement of the 4-inch base and 8-inch asphalt course from Center Street to Cherry Street, a 2-inch asphalt mill and overlay from Cherry Street to White Street, installation of handicap ramps, and pavement markings. This street will be closed to thru traffic during construction; however, the construction will be phased so that local residents and businesses fronting Madison Street will be able to access their property at all times.

The City is mailing out invitations to local residents and businesses inviting them to attend a neighborhood meeting in early June. The purpose of the meeting is to inform residents and businesses of the project scope and schedule, and answer any questions related to the project.

O'Donnell & Sons Construction is the contractor for this project and was award the project for a total price of $411,936.50. This project is being funded equally by Johnson County CARS and the City of Gardner's Special Highway Fund.

## No Fireworks Allowed within City Limits

Summer is fast approaching and the Public Safety Department would like to inform all residents of the Fireworks Ordinance in effect for the City of Gardner. **City Ordinance 2293 Section 10.30** prohibits the discharge of fireworks and similar devices. Violation of this section is an unclassified misdemeanor.

The Gardner Public Safety Department has a ***NO TOLERANCE*** policy with regards to fireworks. Fireworks will be confiscated and offenders will be given notice to appear in Gardner Municipal Court for any fireworks violations occurring within the City limits of Gardner Kansas. Visit www.gardnerkansas.gov to view the City Code related to fireworks.

**NOTICE:** All City Hall offices will be closed in observance of Independence Day on Monday, July 5th. For all Power and Water emergencies during this time, please call 913-856-6802. All departments will reopen on Tuesday, July 6th.

## 4th of July Celebration and Fireworks Display

Bring your family and friends to the Annual Gardner Independence Day Celebration and fireworks display. Fireworks display will begin at approximately 9:30 p.m. at the Gardner-Edgerton High School.

For those interested in supporting the fireworks display, donations can be dropped off to the Gardner Area Chamber at 109 East Main, P.O. Box 402, Gardner, KS 66030.