

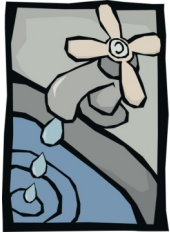


Inside Gardner Utilities

Official Utility News for the City of Gardner

Gardner Changes Winter Sewer Average

The City of Gardner made adjustments to its winter sewer average ordinance on Monday, February 7, 2011, to benefit customers that sometimes use outdoor water in November and March. Previously, the City used the months of December through March to calculate customers' "winter average" sewer charges, but will now only use the water usage from bills issued in January and February. This will benefit customers that may still be watering in the months of November and March.



Sewer usage is not calculated by direct metering of sewer; instead, the City uses water consumption for the winter months to determine sewer charges for the remainder of the year due to the fact that minimal outside watering is typically occurring at that time. Consequently, the water usage during the winter months is a true reflection of how much consumed water is going back into the sewer system for treatment.

The City conducted an analysis of the impact of such a change at the request of several residents that stated they typically are still watering in November and March. The change to a January-February average will not impact most customers' sewer charges. For those that have significant water usage in November and March, there may be a slight decrease in their future bills based on this change.

Utility Bill E-Notification is now available!

- Help the environment! Conserve paper by viewing online copies of your paper statements.
- Receive an email each month alerting you that your statement is available for viewing online.
- Have less mail to sort through and fewer papers to file.

To sign up for paperless billing, please e-mail a written request including your name, address and account number to utilities@gardnerkansas.gov.



Want to save energy? Interested in how to get a free CFL light bulb?

The City of Gardner, in partnership with the Climate and Energy Project and the Kansas Office of Energy, is fired up and is asking you to join the enthusiasm about the Take Charge Challenge to save on energy use in Gardner and the 66030 zip code. This is a friendly challenge between the cities of Gardner, Ottawa, Paola and Baldwin City that will run from



Light Bulb Conversion Chart Incandescent Light Bulbs to CFL's and LED's

Current Incandescent Light Bulbs	Convert To: Compact Fluorescents (CFL's)	Convert to: Light Emitting Diodes (LED's)	Light Output
Watts	Watts	Watts	Lumens
40	9-13	4-5	450
60	13-15	6-8	800
75	18-25	9-13	1,100
100	23-30	16-20	1,600
150	30-55	25-28	2,600

January 1 through October 2011. The City is working on plans to get everyone involved in saving energy money and helping the environment get a little greener! **The City has free CFL light bulbs from the Take Charge Challenge grant and they are**

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available at City Hall. Stop by to pick up your free CFL light bulb today! Then log your light bulb switches at www.takechargekansas.org.

Are you part of a community group that would like to learn more about the Take Charge Challenge? Contact Melissa Mundt, Assistant City Administrator at 913-856-0939 or mmundt@gardnerkansas.gov to schedule a speaker for your community group to help them learn more about the Take Charge Challenge.

Ever considered an energy audit of your home or business? There are reduced costs for the audit through federal funding if you are participating in Gardner's Take Charge Challenge within the 66030 zip code. Visit www.encykansas.com to learn about this great deal on a home energy audit that is a limited time offer. For only \$100, you will receive a thorough audit with action steps prioritizing the biggest savings for your hard earned dollars. Then track your participation, and help Gardner show how it is kicking the energy monster out of town. Visit www.gardnerkansas.gov/gardner_green for links to energy saving websites.

If Gardner wins the contest, it will receive a \$100,000 prize to apply to a large energy saving project for the community from the federal government!!

Gardner Energy Fiscally Fit

At the February 3rd, 2011 EUB meeting, Jennifer Moore, the Director of Finance & Accounting for the Kansas Municipal Energy Agency (KMEA), shared information from a report that is part of KMEA's new Fiscal Fitness Program. This program is designed to assess the financial status of the agency's member organizations including, Gardner Energy, and make recommendations on areas that can be improved.

The analysis assessed many areas, including operating ratios, debt ratios and qualitative items such as operating, maintenance and general funds, using 2009 numbers. She reported that Gardner Energy's results were very strong compared to other KMEA cities participating in the program and American Public Power Association (APPA) guidelines.

Electric Utility Board News

At the Electric Utility Board (EUB) meeting on January 6th, 2011, Board Members, Gardner Energy Staff and residents of Gardner gathered to honor Vern Pickert and wish him well as he retired from the EUB and public service. The Board and Staff are proud and fortunate to have worked with Vern during the creation of the Board and through the first two years.

On January 18th, 2011, Mayor Drovetta and the Council appointed Mark Baldwin to take Vern Pickert's seat on the EUB. Mark is employed by Garmin International in Olathe where he is a test software engineer. Mark holds degrees from DeVry in Computer Engineering and Electronics Engineering Technology. He is a member of Sacred Heart Church in Gardner and is active in the Knights of Columbus. Mark and his wife, Peyton, have lived in Gardner since 2003.



That same evening, the Council re-appointed Ryan Beasley and Eric Schultz to the Electric Utility Board.

Gardner Awaits New Smart Street Lights



The Smart Lights for Smart Cities program, which will bring approximately 4,000 high-efficiency streetlights to 26 smaller communities in the Kansas City Metro Area, has received proposals from a number of streetlight vendors. By the end of February, the program, in which Gardner is a participant, hopes to select the eligible products and technologies and start installation in the region this summer. Also a number of high-efficiency, streetlight tests are taking place in the region. If you would like to look at these lights you can find the location of some of these at www.kcpl.com/community/ledpilot.html.

City to Hold Council Election on April 5, 2011

The City of Gardner will hold elections for three of the five seats on the City Council on **Tuesday, April 5, 2011**. The terms of the new members will begin April 18th, 2011 through April 2015. To find out information on who has filed for the open positions on the City Council, visit the Johnson County Election Website at www.jcoelections.org.

