



Inside Gardner Utilities

Official Utility News for the City of Gardner



Take Charge!
CHALLENGE

WITH



Want a FREE Programmable Thermostat?

Did you know you can save around 10% a year on your heating and cooling bills by simply turning your thermostat back 10° to 15° for eight hours?

By installing a programmable thermostat, you can adjust the times you turn on the heating or air-conditioning according to a pre-set schedule. As a result, you don't operate the equipment as much when you are asleep or when the house is not occupied. Programmable thermostats can store and repeat multiple daily settings (six or more temperature settings a day) that you can manually override without affecting the rest of the daily or weekly program.

During the Take Charge! Challenge, you can pick up your FREE programmable thermostat at Gardner City Hall. In addition, you will receive a gift certificate from Santa Fe Air Conditioning, Heating & Refrigeration to have your new thermostat installed for \$25.

For more information on programmable thermostats or the Take Charge! Challenge, please visit www.takechargekansas.org.



Spring Storm Tips

Spring storm season is upon us. In fact, Gardner Energy customers have already endured a few early spring storms. It's important to be prepared for the storms that generally occur April through July. Here are a few tips we hope you find useful:

- Compile a list of **emergency phone numbers**. Be sure to include **913-856-6802** for reporting electric outages twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Customers' phone calls are a great way for Gardner Energy to know they are without power and allow us to better determine the full extent of damage in your neighborhood.
- Create a **storm kit**. Some of the items to include would be a battery-powered radio or TV, flashlights, blankets and other items you consider important. The use of candles is not recommended. Keep the 'storm kit' centrally located, and make sure all family members know where it is.
- When a storm threatens, keep the **local news** on for weather updates.
- **Stay away from downed power lines**. If power lines are on the ground, they may be 'live'. Contact Gardner Energy immediately to report these downed power lines or a power outage.
- If your power goes out, **disconnect or shut off appliances that will automatically come on when the power is restored** like washers, dryers, televisions, etc. If they all come on at once, it could overload the circuits.
- **Tree Trimming** is an important part of diminishing power outages. Gardner Energy has a tree trimming program in place to keep trees trimmed and remove those growing under power lines.

Be assured that **Gardner Energy works diligently to restore service**, day or night, to our valued customers.

Electronic Recycling & Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event

Second Saturday of each month, April through October, 8:00 to 11:30 a.m.
To make an appointment, please call 913-715-6900

The Johnson County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program will be collecting electronic waste for recycling, in addition to household hazardous waste (HHW). Residents must make an appointment to drop-off their electronic waste and HHW for recycling!

Accepted electronic items include batteries, cameras, CD players, cell phones, all computer equipment, faxes, printers, video games and more. A fee will apply for monitors (\$10) and TVs (\$15); all other items are free.

For more information, contact the Johnson County Environmental Department at 913-715-6900 or www.jcocreycles.org.

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

Healthy Communities Begin with Healthy Yards

Many residents don't realize how simple lawn maintenance habits impact our region's air and water quality. Each time it rains, water washes over our streets, driveways and yards picking up pollutants along the way and flowing into our storm drains. This run-off may contain pollutants such as yard clippings, pet waste, litter, lawn chemicals, motor oils or other toxins, which can pollute our waterways as well as clog culverts, which can lead to flooding.

Making the following simple changes in lawn-care practices can save time, resources and money—and protect the health of residents, communities and environment:

- **Keep grass clippings in your yard**
- **Keep storm drains clear of litter and debris**
- **Pick up after your pet**
- **Correctly dispose of chemicals**
- **Use only phosphorus (P-Free) fertilizers on the lawn**
- **Check vehicles for leaks and fix them**

For more earth-friendly lawn care tips, please visit the following sites:
www.marg.org/Environment/Water/earthfriendlylawns.htm
www.kansasgreenyards.org

