

The Claytonite

October 2015

From the Desk of the Town Chairman

As fall approaches we are moving to finish the road, ditching and maintenance projects we have been working on all summer. It has once again been a busy season and our Public Works Dept. has been doing an outstanding job. I would like to personally thank Mr. Scott Pamenter and his team for their efforts.



I would also like to welcome aboard Mr. Tom Spierowski our new Building Inspector. Tom is a great addition to our staff. He is a seasoned professional with excellent credentials who has been doing our building inspections for years on a pay per inspection basis. It was time we brought him in full time. To help offset costs we will be sharing Tom's services with the Town's of Vinland and Winneconne through inter-governmental agreements signed by the Towns involved.

As of January 2016 the Joint Clayton – Winchester Fire Department will become Clayton Fire Rescue. After struggling for years with the escalating cost to our taxpayers to fund the Joint Department, your tax dollars are now going to be spent on our own Fire Department. As of 2015 Clayton was paying 76.4% of the total expense to fund the current Joint Department. That figure was to rise in 2016 to almost 78% and likely to rise even further to just about 80% in the next couple of years. The Joint Fire Board was made up of 3 Town board members from Clayton and 3 Town board members from Winchester. Meaning, that even though we funded more than three quarters of the cost of the Department we only had a 50% representation and a 3-3 vote would stop any motion from passing. This is not fair to our residents and the money we contribute. We have tried but, had been unable to resolve the representation issue. Along with that, the Winchester residents at their Annual Meeting had voted to fund a study on their own Stand-Alone Fire Dept. It was determined after several meetings that the residents of Clayton tax dollars would be better spent and you better served if we dedicated your tax dollars to our own stand-alone Clayton Fire Department.

Inside this issue:

Chair Geise	1-2
Yard Waste Site	2
Chair Knapinski	3
Fire Dept. and First Responders Nov. 11th Mtg.	4
Energy Savings	5
Property Taxes WPS / Parks	6
Daylight Savings	6
Smoke Alarms	7



From the Desk of the Town Chairman

Continued from Page 1...

Having personally served for almost 8 years on the Joint Fire Board I can assure you these decisions did not come easily without a lot of careful thought and input. It is the right move for our Town and its future. We will take back control of our tax dollars and give us a financial flexibility we did not have before. It will provide the Town of Clayton with a well-funded, well trained, well equipped and Very Professional Fire Department. It will ensure and possibly even expand the Quality Fire protection and First Responder services you have come to expect and deserve. We will also still have in place all of the Automatic Aid and Mutual Aid agreements with the surrounding Towns along with new agreements we are still working out with Winchester.

As mentioned in the last newsletter the Town is now facing incorporation from the Town of Menasha. They will become the new Village of Fox Crossing. We have been meeting with all of the local leaders in the surrounding communities, even including Appleton to gauge the impact this will have and to see if there is some common ground for us to work together on. We have already made certain moves to try and slow any possible future annexation. We have also funded our own study to determine how best to offer to the current east side businesses and future businesses along Clayton Ave and the Hwy 10 corridor the same services that will be offered by the new Village namely, sewer and water. Growth will happen in these areas it is just a matter of who controls that growth. At every level it is in our best interest to make sure it is the Town of Clayton not the new Village that dictates and decides our future.

I encourage every resident to stay involved. Stop in at the Town offices and meet our staff. We are all here working for you, our residents. It is your Town. Please reach out to me or any other board member with your thoughts and concerns. We may not be able to immediately fix every problem that arises yet; we need to hear from you. We do listen and try to make the best decisions we can for our, your Town. The Town of Clayton is more than a "Touch of Country", "We Are The Place to Be!"

I would again like to end by saying thank you, to all of our Town staff and the people who dedicate and volunteer their time to be involved on all of our commissions, committees, departments and everything else we do. You do make a difference, thank you.

Russell D. Geise – Town Board Chair

Yard Waste Drop-Off Site

The Town of Clayton has a yard waste drop-off site located near the corner of Hickory and County Rd II.

This site will **CLOSE** on Sunday, November 29th, 2015.

Thur. 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Sat. 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Sun. 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm

(Closed Thanksgiving)



Plan Commission Chairman

USING MORE OF THE CRAYOLA BOX

By Dick Knapinski, Plan Commission Chairman



In the last town newsletter, I mentioned the commission's first steps toward updating the town's comprehensive plan. While much of the plan consists of text, one illustration of the plan comes within the future land use map that is developed from the plan.

The land use map helps landowners, developers and others see at a glance where the town is encouraging development and what kind of development is encouraged there. That helps prevent, for instance, a 24-hour industrial use placed next to a residential subdivision. It also shows where the town seeks to protect uses, such as agricultural and conservation.

When you look at the town's current land use map – shown here in very small scale but available in full size in the “Development/Comprehensive Plan” area of the town's website or at the town office – there are relatively few colors used. You'll see mostly yellow (residential), red (business/commercial), and green (conservation, recreation and DNR lands).

While the new land use map won't use the entire contents of the Crayola 64 box, you'll see some new colors in the coming version. It will be part of the comprehensive plan's public information session later this fall. Some of these additional colors will represent more specific areas while others indicate opportunities available because of the town taking control of our own zoning a couple of years ago.

For instance, there will be subtle differences in areas within the Appleton International Airport overlay district in the town's northeast corner. That will highlight the special regulations put in place there by Outagamie County. There will also be more distinct differences in the business and commercial areas that will show types of businesses encouraged there, from commercial to industrial.

Another opportunity made possible by the town's control of its own zoning is the Planned Unit Development. That's a fancy name for an area where very specific parameters can be put in place for a particular purpose and outcome. Think, for instance, of a commercial development in an area that can be designed to protect or serve as a transition to a residential or mixed-use area.

It's tough to explain it all in a short article, so we again welcome and encourage you to attend the public information session and keep up to date as the plan and land use map evolves over the next few months.



Clayton Winchester Fire Department and First Responders

Winter Weather Preparedness

We have come to the time of year where we fall back and the long days of summer are coming to an end. As we move into this season and you change your clocks please remember that this is a great opportunity to change the batteries in all of your smoke detectors. Now is also a great time to prepare for the point in the year where we fire up our chimneys and our furnaces. Make sure that you have your chimneys and furnaces inspected in an effort to avoid unnecessary CO risks and fires. In addition to making sure your home is winter ready you may also want to put together a winter safety kit for your car. Having things like blankets, gloves and heating packs can be a lifesaver if you become stranded as the cooler temperatures move in. If you need further information on getting you and your family ready for winter contact us today and we can assist in making sure you are prepared for the upcoming cold weather season.

First Responder Update

Our First Responder group has been very busy these past few months. We recently were able to provide medical coverage at the Fox Cities Marathon and a local Fun Run for Clayton Elementary School. Our squad as a whole has been working hard to acquire new skills to further our level of Service and patient care. We are now able to include the use of aspirin, tourniquets, and Naracyn into our skills list. For those of you who may not know, Naracyn is a drug that counteracts the effects of a Heroin Overdose. Overdose issues are becoming more and more prominent in our area so this is a wonderful resource and skill for us to have.

Fire Department Update

Lately, our department has had the amazing opportunity to train at the new Fox Valley Tech Public Safety building. This is a place where we can get the most realistic form of training available in a safe yet very hands on environment. We will also be having the opportunity to participate in a live training event in the form of a house burn. Live house burns are beneficial because it provides a real time training scenario without someone's life and property being at risk. Recently, some of our Firemen were able to participate in the 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb at Lambeau Field. It is said that on September 11th the brave firemen never made it beyond the 78th floor of the towers. The stair climb is a chance to honor those brave firemen by helping them finish the job. This year Captain Nick Seelow, Lieutenant Tony Seelow, Firefighter Lisa Mathison, Firefighter Sarah Zeinert, and Firefighter Jamie Zeinert participated in the stair climb and as a team they were able to complete the 110 story climb in memorial to those who sacrificed it all.

Driveway Access

Have you stopped to check whether or not a fire truck would fit down your driveway? We have been noticing many driveways within our townships that are not wide enough for us to easily gain access to your home in the event of an emergency. If you have questions regarding your driveway access please don't hesitate to contact Chief Scott Rieckmann for an assessment today.

Your input wanted on Wednesday, Nov. 11th, 2015!

The foundation work for the town's comprehensive plan and land-use map updates has been completed, and now we're looking for your input! On Wednesday, Nov. 11th all town residents are welcome to the town meeting room in Larsen to see the draft maps and provide their suggestions for this important town work.

The Nov. 11 schedule is as follows:

5 p.m. – Doors open, informal review and conversation

6 p.m. – Brief presentation from town staff and planner, and plan commission. Questions and input welcome.

7 p.m. – Regular monthly plan commission meeting (more informal input on comprehensive plan welcome following the regular meeting)

This is the plan and vision for your town for the next few years. Hope to see you there!

10 Easiest Ways to Cut Your Energy Use in Half

1. Turn Off the Lights — Save 2%*

Be mindful about shutting lights off when you leave a room. If you have a forgetful family member or roommate, [paste reminders](#) on the switch plates or consider installing motion-detector switches. **ADVANCED:** Replace your bulbs [with CFLs or LEDs](#).

2. Install Ceiling Fans — Save 19%

Install Energy Star ceiling fans in the rooms you use most often. They'll help keep you cool in the summer while your AC works less or not at all. In the winter, switch them to turn clockwise to circulate the warm air rising up to the ceiling back down into the room. **ADVANCED:** Go with a white roof or install a [greenroof](#), which will prevent heat loss through the roof in winter and cool your home down in the summer.

3. Show Your Fridge Some Love — Save 4%

The refrigerator is one of the biggest energy-users in your home, and if it was built before 1993, it's a huge energy hog. Clean the coils of your fridge every six months to keep it running efficiently, and take up unused space with jugs of water, which hold in the cold. Eliminate a second refrigerator, if you have one.

4. Wash Clothes in Cold, Let Them Air Dry — Save 9%

Washing clothes in cold water gets them just as clean as hot, and cuts your washer's energy use in half. [Drying your clothes on an outdoor line or indoor rack](#) can save around \$100 in energy costs every year. **ADVANCED:** Water and energy use are intertwined: producing energy uses water, and providing clean drinking water requires energy. Take steps to conserve water everywhere in your home.

5. Upgrade Appliances — Save 12+%

Appliances use 20 percent of the energy in the average US home. When it's [time to buy new appliances](#), look for the most efficient Energy Star model you can find. The biggest energy hogs in a home are usually the refrigerator (particularly if it was built before 1993) and clothes dryer.

6. Give Your Water Heater a Blanket - Save 1 - 3%

Adding an insulating cover to your water heater can reduce heat loss by 24-45 percent. Also, turn your water heater down by ten degrees, if possible. If half of US households did so, it would prevent 239 tons of greenhouse gas emissions. **ADVANCED:** Upgrade to a [tankless or solar water heater](#), and save 14% off your energy bill.

7. Plug Air Leaks — Save 12%

Replacing windows is often the least cost-effective step you can take to save energy, so seal air leaks around doors and windows instead with caulk and weatherstripping. [For tips on sealing and refurbishing old wood windows, see our article](#). Also, consider putting up insulating curtains, pasting low-e film to the window glass, and installing storm windows or plastic window films to further cut down on heat loss in winter.

ADVANCED: Get a RESNET or Home Performance with Energy Star audit to pinpoint your biggest energy losses.

8. Use Your Programmable Thermostat — Save 10%

Nearly half of US homes already have a programmable thermostat. Dig out that owner's manual and learn how to use yours to maximize the efficiency of your heating and cooling systems. Program your thermostat to turn itself down or off when you're sleeping or are at work or school.

9. Air Dry Dishes — Save 3%

Using your dishwasher instead of washing dishes by hand can save water, but if you let the drying cycle run, you're wasting energy and money. Skip the drying cycle and let your dishes air dry. Newer, more effective and efficient dishwashers allow you to skip the step of pre-rinsing your dishes before you load them in the dishwasher.

10. "Eliminate Phantom Load" — Save 5%

Many electronics still suck energy even when they're turned off--such as powering that little clock on your microwave when it's not in use. Unplug your electronics or plug them into a power strip and switch it off to save on this "phantom load."

There is also an article with this newsletter and also attached in the October Newsletter section on the Town of Clayton website

Town of Clayton

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A Touch of Country



2015 Property Taxes

The 2015 real estate and personal property tax bills are **tentatively** scheduled to be mailed during the third week of December. Tax

Payments will be accepted in the Town Office (8348 County Road T, Larsen) from **10:00am-4:00pm M-F (except holidays)**. Payments brought in prior to 10:00am will be mailed a receipt. Payments can also be mailed to our office or dropped in the Town's drop box by the office door and a receipt will be sent to you.

After **January 31, 2016** all payments go to **Winnebago County**.

Our office is closed for the following holidays:

Thursday, December 24th, 2015 (Christmas Eve)

Friday, December 25th, 2015 (Christmas)

Thursday, December 31st, 2015 (New Year's Eve)

Friday, January 1st, 2016 (New Year's Day)



All Larsen-Winchester Sanitary District water bills must be paid in full by November 6, 2015 to avoid being added to your property tax bill.

WPS Tree Pruning and Removal

Included in the newsletter is a letter and diagram from WPS regarding tree pruning and removal of trees along existing overhead lines in the Town of Clayton.

Daylight Savings Time: Sunday, November 1st, 2015

Daylight Savings Time is a day when people of various countries and states across the world set their clocks one hour behind of the standard time. The practice was first introduced in Europe during the First World War. The idea was to take advantage of the longest summer days by gaining an extra hour of daylight and shortening the days in winter. It was not a new concept, back in 1784 American inventor and politician Benjamin Franklin suggested that starting the day earlier in summer will save a considerable number of candles. Those in favor of practicing the same in today's energy consuming society the environmental benefits links to changing a clock on considerable or of a small amount of electricity as save per household added up they can be significant.

Please turn your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Halloween!

Clayton and Trailhead Parks

In July of 2015 the Clayton Park Boy's restroom was vandalized. If you either witness or find damage at either one of the Town of Clayton Parks we are asking that residents contact the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department Non-Emergency number of **920-236-7300**. Thank you for your cooperation.

Hear the Beep Where You Sleep: Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke Alarm

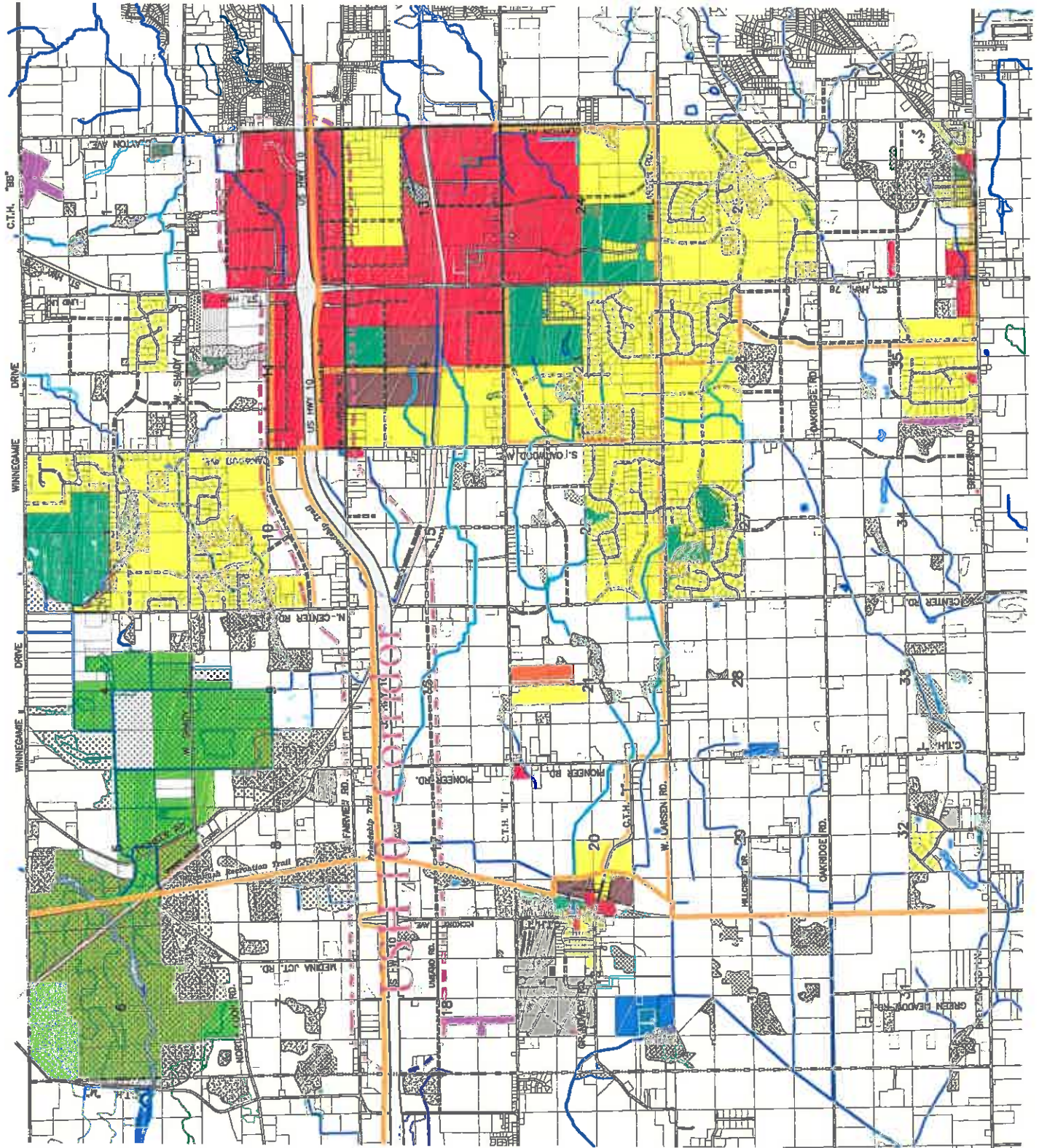
Every bedroom needs a working [smoke alarm](#). If you didn't know that, you're not alone. An online questionnaire distributed by the [National Fire Protection Association](#) (NFPA) showed that less than half (42 percent) of approximately 36,000 respondents did not know that a smoke alarm should be installed in each bedroom of the home.

In an effort to better educate the public about this “sleepy” smoke alarm requirement, NFPA – the official sponsor of [Fire Prevention Week](#) for more than 90 years – today announced “Hear the Beep Where You Sleep: Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke Alarm” as the theme for this year’s Fire Prevention Week campaign, which was October 4-10, 2015. [NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm Code®](#), requires a smoke alarm in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.

While we’ve long suspected that many people don’t know they need a smoke alarm in each bedroom, the questionnaire we posted last year confirmed those suspicions,” said Lorraine Carli, NFPA’s Vice President of Outreach and Advocacy. “Fire Prevention Week presents the perfect opportunity to better educate the public about this potentially life-saving message.”

According to NFPA statistics, half of all U.S. home fire deaths occur at night between the hours of 11:00 pm and 7:00 am, when people are most likely to be sleeping. Having a working smoke alarm in the home cuts the risk of dying in a fire in half. These facts underscore the extreme importance of having working smoke alarms in all bedrooms.

“Because fires can happen when people are sleeping, having working smoke alarms in bedrooms is a critical element of home fire safety,” said Carli, who notes that three out of every five U.S. home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. “Smoke alarms can make the difference between life and death in a fire by alerting people in time to escape safely, but they need to be installed in all the required locations, including all bedrooms, and they need to be working.”



Town of Clayton

Future Land Use Plan



- Legend**
- Agriculture/Rural Residential
 - Residential - Single and Two Family
 - Multi-Family Residential
 - Manufactured Housing Community
 - Business (See Note)
 - Non-Metallic Mining Sites
 - Utilities and Public Facilities
 - Recreation and Conservation
 - Airport
 - Wisconsin DNR Lands
 - Special Agriculture Area (Tree Farms, Nurseries, Vineyards, etc.)
 - Abandoned Landfill Site
 - Open Water/Pool/Lakes
 - Recreational Trails
 - Future Roads
 - Conservation/Drainage Way
 - Land Coverages
 - Wetlands
 - Woods

NOTE 1: "Business" represents Commercial and Industrial uses identified in the Winnebago County Comprehensive and Industrial Zoning Ordinance, subject to Town Site Plan and County Zoning Regulations.

NOTE 2: In the interest of making sound land use decisions, property owners in the USH 10 Corridor west of Chabond Avenue are advised that at some point in the future, the demand for commercial development may expand west from the area shown as Business on this Future Land Use Plan. Property owners in the Corridor are advised that the Town of Clayton will be responsible for the provision of commercial development in the USH 10 Corridor west of Chabond Avenue when the infrastructure needed to support the commercial development can be provided in a cost effective and efficient manner. Property owners in the Corridor are advised that, in planning for the sale and/or development of their property, they should consider the potential impact of future commercial development on their property.

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Martenson & Eisele, Inc.
 1377 Midway Road
 Menasha, WI 54952
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 Surveying
 Engineering
 Architecture
 920.731.0381 1.800.236.0381
 pmac2075591u_a62009.dwg_Amended_12/16/2009



10 Easiest Ways to Cut Your Energy Use in Half

Save 2%

TURN OFF THE LIGHTS

Be mindful about shutting lights off when you leave a room. If you have a forgetful family member or roommate, paste reminders on the light switches or consider installing motion-sensor switches. Download our template at GreenAmerica.org/go/efficiencyfirst.

ADVANCED: Replace your bulbs with CFLs or LEDs.

Save 19%

INSTALL CEILING FANS

Install Energy Star® ceiling fans in the rooms you use most often. They'll help keep you cool in the summer while your AC works less or not at all. In the winter, switch them to turn clockwise to circulate the warm air rising up to the ceiling back down into the room.

ADVANCED: Go with a white roof or install a greenroof, which will prevent heat loss through the roof in winter and cool your home down in the summer. Read our article on greenroofs at GreenAmerica.org/go/efficiencyfirst.

Save 4%

SHOW YOUR FRIDGE SOME LOVE

The refrigerator is one of the biggest energy-users in your home, and if it was built before 1993, it's a huge energy hog. Clean the coils on your fridge every six months to keep it running efficiently, and take up unused space with top of water, which will hold in the cold better. Eliminate a second refrigerator, if you have one.

Save 9%

WASH CLOTHES IN COLD, LET THEM AIR DRY

Washing clothes in cold water gets them just as clean as hot, and cuts your water's energy use in half. Drying your clothes on an outdoor line or indoor rack can save around \$100 in energy costs every year.

ADVANCED: Water and energy use are intertwined: producing energy uses water, and providing clean drinking water requires energy. Take steps to conserve water everywhere in your home.

Save 12+%

UPGRADE APPLIANCES

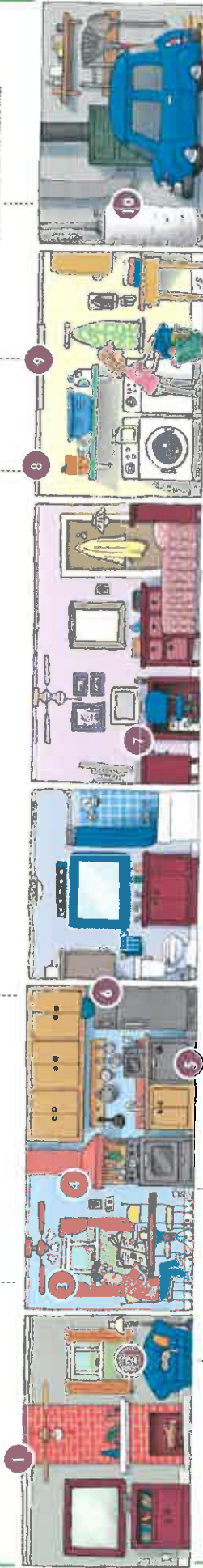
Appliances use 20 percent of the energy in the average US home. When it's time to buy new appliances, look for the most efficient Energy Star model you can find. The biggest energy hogs in a home are usually the refrigerator (particularly if it was built before 1993) and clothes dryer.

Save 3%

GIVE YOUR WATER HEATER A BLANKET

Adding an insulating cover to your water heater can reduce heat loss by 24-45 percent. Also, turn your water heater down by ten degrees, if possible. If half of US households did so, it would prevent 239 tons of greenhouse gas emissions.

ADVANCED: Upgrade to a tankless or solar water heater, and save 14% off your energy bill. And while you're in your garage, consider buying a super-efficient car or, better yet, a bike. Go to GreenAmerica.org/go/RedInTheStreets for more info.



Save 12%

PLUG AIR LEAKS

Replacing windows is often the least cost-effective step you can take to save energy, so seal air leaks around doors and windows instead with caulk and weatherstripping. For tips on sealing and refurbishing old wood windows, see our article on this topic at GreenAmerica.org/go/efficiencyfirst. Also, consider putting up insulating curtains, putting low-e film to the window glass, and installing storm windows or plastic window films to further cut down on heat loss in winter.

ADVANCED: Get a RESNET or Home Performance with Energy Star audit to help pinpoint your biggest energy losses.

Save 10%

USE YOUR PROGRAMMABLE THERMOSTAT

Nearly half of US homes already have a programmable thermostat. Dig out that owner's manual and learn how to use yours to maximize the efficiency of your heating and cooling systems. Program your thermostat to turn itself down or off when you're sleeping or are at work or school.

ADVANCED: Set a winter target of 68°F when you're at home and 55°F when you're away. Set a summer target of 78°F when you're at home and 82°F when you're away.

Save 3%

AIR DRY DISHES

Using your dishwasher instead of washing dishes by hand can save water, but if you let the drying cycle run, you're wasting energy and money. Skip the drying cycle and let your dishes air dry. Newer, more effective and efficient dishwashers allow you to skip the step of pre-rinsing your dishes before you load them in the dishwasher.

ADVANCED: Run your dishwasher (and your clothes washer, for that matter) at night, during off-peak hours. It's our country's peak demand that determines the expansion of dirty coal-fired power plants.

Save 5%

ELIMINATE "PHANTOM LOAD"

Many electronics still suck energy even when they're turned off—such as powering that little clock on your microwave when it's not in use. Unplug your electronics or plug them into a power strip and switch it off to save on this "phantom load."

ADVANCED: Use a Kill-A-Watt meter to measure the energy use of appliances and gadgets, even when they're turned off. You can also keep track of your home's entire energy use with a whole-house energy monitor. For more information, see our article on efficiency projects at GreenAmerica.org/go/efficiencyfirst.

Free Money for Efficiency!

The following incentives can help you save money on efficiency retrofits:

- **FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL INCENTIVES:** Search discreet.org by zip code to find tax incentives and rebates for your renewable and energy efficiency home improvements.
- **FEDERAL ENERGY TAX CREDIT:** Save 30 percent up to \$1,500 on insulation, new windows, duct sealing, and other energy-efficiency improvements until Dec. 31, 2010.
- **FEDERAL RENEWABLE ENERGY TAX CREDIT:** Save 30 percent on renewable energy systems until Dec. 31, 2016. To read about how one Green America family took advantage of this and other incentives and went solar at no cost, visit GreenAmerica.org/go/efficiencyfirst.
- **CASH FOR APPLIANCES:** If you purchase an energy-efficient appliance for your home, you can get cash back through your state. The federal government asked states to design their own cash-for-appliances programs, and funding is available until Feb. 2012.
- **HOME STAR:** Proposed legislation would create a "Home Star" program, providing rebate incentives to the American public to encourage Home Performance with Energy Star audits, energy-efficient retrofits, and the purchase of efficient appliances. As press time, Home Star legislation was included in the July 2010 Clean Energy Jobs and Oil Company Accountability Act. For more information, visit HomeStarCoalition.org.

Approximate energy savings based on the average home using 11,000 kWh electricity and 19,000 cubic feet of natural gas per year.



Wisconsin Public Service Corporation

700 North Adams Street
P.O. Box 19001
Green Bay, WI 54307-9001

www.wisconsinpublicservice.com

September, 2015

Dear Property Owner,

Wisconsin Public Service knows that you depend on safe, reliable electric service. To prevent your electric service from being threatened by growing trees, Public Service has the responsibility to prune or remove those trees to minimize any electrical outages, fire hazards or other dangers.

As part of our regular maintenance program, Public Service hires line clearance crews to prune or remove trees to minimize these outages and hazards. Asplundh Tree Expert Co. will soon be helping Public Service with tree pruning and removal along existing overhead lines that cross properties in the **Township of Vinland, Neenah, and Clayton.**

This letter is to inform you that trees on your property may need pruning. If we identify any trees that pose a reliability or safety risk, or are dead, dying or diseased, we may need to remove them. There is no charge for the required pruning or removal of trees on your property. *If overhead power lines do not cross your property, you may disregard this notice. If you are not the current owner of this property, please let us know or forward this information to the appropriate person.*

Enclosed, you'll find valuable information related to how trees near electrical lines are pruned. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please give Asplundh a call at 715-345-7556 or leave message.

Sincerely,

Line Clearance Team
Wisconsin Public Service
218

RECEIVED
SEP 18 2015

P.S. Free wood chips, in rough form, may be available as a result of tree pruning. If you are interested, please call Asplundh at the above number.

Wisconsin Public Service continues to be named a Tree Line USA Utility by the National Arbor Day Foundation for effectively balancing the protection of trees while providing reliable electric service. As members of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), we hire qualified tree specialists who carefully trim trees as outlined in the ISA Tree Maintenance Standard.



How Trees Are Pruned Near Electric Lines

For the Safety of Our Public and the Health of Our Trees.

When Wisconsin Public Service needs to prune to maintain our power line corridors, we hire qualified tree specialists. These trimmers are knowledgeable about the proper way to prune trees and they use equipment specially designed for work near electric lines.

How Much Pruning is Necessary?

The extent of tree pruning needed along high voltage primary lines depends on the species of trees adjacent to overhead lines and where the trees are located. All trees are pruned back to existing tree lines. If no tree line exists (yards, parks, etc...) then the trees are classified into one of two categories: slow growing and fast growing. Trees species, which regrow their branches at a slow rate, are pruned in order to provide a clearance of at least 6 feet from conductors. Examples of "slow growing" species would be most of the trees in the conifer family as well as the majority of fruit bearing trees. Tree species, which have been found to regrow their branches at faster rates, are pruned back in order to provide a minimum clearance of 10 feet from conductors. Some of the more commonly known trees of these "fast growing" species are ash, aspen, basswood, birch, elm, maple, oak, willow and white pine. All limbs, which overhang our conductors, are pruned in order to provide 20 feet above.

Open 3 wires secondary and service wires are cleared according to their growth rates as well. Trees in the "fast growing" category are pruned in order to provide 5 feet of clearance and the "slow growing" trees are pruned to 3 feet.

Coated secondary, service and streetlight wires are cleared only if trees or limbs are deflecting the conductors.

When Must Trees Be Removed?

Trees within 10 feet of high voltage primary conductors less than 12" in diameter are to be removed. Diseased, structurally weakened or leaning trees which pose an imminent threat to the conductors regardless of distance away from power lines are also considered for removal. Trees smaller than 4 inches in diameter (commonly referred to as "brush") that are located within the clearing zone and are capable of growing into the electric lines in the future are removed. Stumps and young tall growing species of trees are treated with herbicide.

Trees that have caused repeated safety problems or power outages would need to be removed rather than trimmed.

What About Clean up?

In rural areas, limbs and brush smaller than 4 inches in diameter are piled and left on site. In urban areas, the limbs are chipped and hauled away. Wood larger than 4 inches in diameter is left on site in both urban and rural areas.

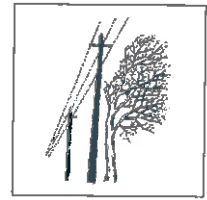
How Are the Trees Pruned?

Our tree-trimming contractors use natural pruning methods. Natural pruning reduces re-sprouting in problem areas and allows the tree to seal itself naturally. This means they maintain the health of the tree as much as possible. WPS does not allow our contractors to use "round over" trimming, which causes a tree to grow in an unnatural way and wounds a tree severely.

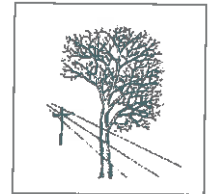
How Can Property Owners Avoid the Need for Tree Pruning?

To prevent the need for tree pruning or removal near power lines, WPS recommends planting trees away from power lines and transplanting young, tall-growing trees that are under or near power lines.

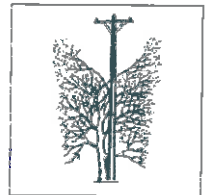
For a copy of "Lines, Limbs and the Landscape," which gives advice on trees that can grow safely near power lines and tips on planting, call 24-Hour Customer Service at 800-450-7260 or e-mail customerservice@wisconsinpublicservice.com.



Side Pruning



Under Pruning



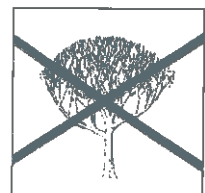
"V" or Through Pruning



Side Pruning



Top Pruning



"Round Over"

