

Sheila Sto



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From: Todd [todd@gemmarketingpearls.com]  
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2009 11:30 AM  
To: Mayes-WebEmail  
Subject: From Flagstaff- my apologies

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Dear Chairperson/ Commissioner Mayes, (I hope I got it right, this time)

I hope you do remember me for talking at the Flagstaff public forum for some good ideas that may have come through, even after I made a fool of myself when I stopped my prattle to address you and referred to you as "honorable Kristen"...You graciously responded without a hitch and asked if it was OK if you called me by my first name? Please accept my apologies.

So, with that embarrassment out of the way- during the forum, you asked me to re-approach the podium and tell the commission what my family and business does to save on our utilities. Being caught off guard and a bit embarrassed, I stumbled to find even the simplest things we do. So, to honor your kindness and interest, I have detailed as best as possible all that I/we do to lessen our utility footprint. I agree with you that so much new utility growth can be stifled if every Arizonian was encouraged- and shown by example and govt. support/subsidies- to make simple steps towards reducing a part of their everyday lives. Ideas for the utilities becoming examples can be gathered at:  
<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2009/03/energy-conservation/miller-text/1>

Here are the "things" we do: (I'm sure I'll think of more as soon as I send this to you...) Too bad water and gasoline conservation, and all forms of reducing/recycling are not part of your focus, too. Many more ideas, there.

At home:

Electricity:

- All lights are shut off in rooms unattended or if natural lighting is sufficient. Many southern exposed windows were a design of the house for natural lighting.
- Computers are shut off or put in standby between use. All are shut off at night
- Ceiling fans provide air circulation in larger rooms and thus, feel cooler, in place of AC. Free-standing fans are used for other rooms not equipped w/ ceiling fans- only when needed.
- Heating is set to 68 degrees in the winter, reducing the "fans" use. We use a setback for evenings and during the day when we will not be here. A 5 degree setback works as well as 10?
- Entire house has been completely winterized/summer-ized. Caulk, sealing ghost leaks and insulating to the max.
- having "on" only the components being used in the entertainment center, usually just the TV most of the time. Radios are shut off to enjoy quiet much of the day.
- All ghost draws are shut down until needed. Printers, chargers, lighting when natural light will suffice, clock radios in guest rooms, etc. After use, we shut them off until needed, again.
- All lighting is replaced w/ fluorescent bulbs, when incandescents burn out. Can't wait for the diode bulbs to come down in price- or are subsidized by the utilities!! Huge energy savings.
- Outdoor lighting is kept to a minimum(just along the front door entry, on a timer only during hours we are awake). This is also in recognition of Flagstaff being the first International "dark sky" city.
- The garage door is ONLY used to move the car or large item in and out of the garage. The front door is used for ALL other exits and returns. (I think this is a huge one)
- The coffee maker is shut off as soon as the coffee has been served.

- all appliances are replaced with high-efficiency ones when they go, and only used when they are "at capacity". No "short" loads, as an example. Convenience comes second. Subsidies- especially AC units? By the way, it was Austin Texas that was able to forego building another plant because of the rebates and energy-saving appliances program. All kinds of great info and data at:  
<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2009/03/energy-conservation/miller-text/1>

- hair dryer use is kept to a minimum.
- a clothes line is used in place of the dryer, most months. Only the "warm" setting on the dryer is used, otherwise. Clothes are periodically checked during drying to assure they are not "over dried".
- the "dryer" feature on the dishwasher is turned "off".
- "extra" cycles/time for dishwasher, washing machine and clothes dryer are not used

Gas:(heater, hot water heater(dishwasher), dryer, and stove)

- turn the thermostat to 68 degrees in the winter. Entire house has been completely winterized/summer-ized. Caulk, sealing ghost leaks and insulating to the max.
- the water heater is set to "just hot". Enough for a good hot shower in the winter, and no more- not enough to scald.
- everyone is encouraged to "think" if hot water is needed for hand washing and other "water" uses. Cold water is used for almost all clothes washing. So many other things can be cleaned just as well with cold water.
- a hot water re-circulating pump is used. This should be another subsidized component for residents AND builders. The amount of gas/electricity this alone would save could be huge. On-demand units still have their issues.

- A insulating blanket is used on the water heater
- high efficiency appliances are bought when old units are replaced.

Subsidies? Fancy, energy inefficient options are never employed on any appliance.

- A clothes line is used in place of the dryer, most months. Only the "warm" setting on the dryer is used, otherwise. Clothes are periodically checked during cycle to assure they are not "over dried".

At the office:

Electricity:

- All lights are shut off in rooms unattended or if natural lighting is sufficient
- Computers are shut off or put into standby between use. All are shut off at night
- fans are used ONLY for the brief days we need cooling. Employees are asked to "suffer" through those worst days(for Flagstaff).
- Mention and encourage the landlord to consider turning the thermostats to 68 degrees in the winter, and 75+ in the summer.(5 story office building. Not sure if it's gas, electric or oil heat)
- All ghost draws are shut down until needed. Printers, chargers, lighting when natural light will suffice, shredders, etc. After use, we encourage them to be shut off until needed, again.
- All lighting is replaced w/ fluorescent bulbs, when incandescents burn out
- Encourage employees to bring water, in their own reusable containers, to negate a water coolers' need.
- Use the "draft" print/copy setting on personal printers for most jobs, instead of utilizing a large business copier, when applicable.
- Email is being heavily emphasized for all aspects of our business communications, in place of all the energy printing, paper production and USPS facilities use for the simple production and delivery of a business "mailing" or letter.

Gas:

- Mention and encourage the landlord to consider turning the thermostats to 68 degrees in the winter, and 75+ in the summer.(5 story office building.

Not sure if it's gas, electric or oil heat)

- everyone is encouraged to "think" if hot water is needed for hand washing and other "water" uses.

I hope this begins to make up for the lack of professionalism and respect shown during the commissions public forum. It has been quite a while since I spoke in such a way and found myself wandering a bit off message. My apologies, again, to you and to all the Commissioners.

Sincerely,

Todd Cislo

President

Gem Marketing Pearls, Inc.

121 E. Birch Ave., Suite #408

Flagstaff, AZ 86001

1(888) 385-4259 (US only)

todd@gemmarketingpearls.com

www.gemmarketingpearls.com

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