

Housing Programs & Services

NEWSLETTER

A Precious Resource

Saving water benefits you and the community. Less water down the drain means less needs to be treated to drinkable quality, pumped to the home, heated and then pumped away and treated as sewage. Water efficiency reduces the burden on our already strained freshwater supplies, saves money by avoiding the need for new water treatment facilities, and saves energy for pumping and heating water. Even if you don't pay much for water and sewer, you probably pay for energy. Water heating accounts for nearly 25 percent of residential energy use in buildings with 5 or more housing units. By reducing the amount of water that needs to be heated, you can significantly lower energy bills.

Toilets account for 31 percent of household water use, the most of any single appliance. The average American flushes 18.5 gallons of water down the toilet every day. In 1992, the Environmental Protection Agency increased water efficiency standards. Replacing pre-1992 toilets can cut overall indoor water consumption by 15 percent. Dual-flush toilets and High Efficiency Toilets can provide even greater water savings.

About half the hot water consumed in a typical household is for bathing, and another 7 to 14 percent is used in the sink. Faucet aerators are inexpensive,



easy to implement, and save a surprising amount of water. By reducing the flow of water coming from the showers and faucets, water efficient showerheads and faucet aerators can generate significant energy savings.

Aerators are small devices that screw on to the faucet to reduce water flow to 2.0, 1.5 or 1.0 gallons per minute at normal pressures. While they reduce the amount of water used, they also

often make the flow more forceful and provide more effective wetting and rinsing.

Choose the lowest flow available for bathroom faucets, used primarily for brushing teeth and washing hands. In the kitchen, 2.0 gpm will save water without forcing cooks to wait too long to fill up pots for cooking.

Efficient clothes washers offer water and energy savings, since there is less water to heat. ENERGY STAR® qualified clothes washers will save \$123/year in water and energy savings compared to new non-qualified models. Water conservation experts recommend a water factor of 7.5 or better.

HUD Ecowise Newsletter, 8/08.

If you have a question or comment about anything written in this newsletter, please contact:
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Notable News

The City of Apache Junction is expected to receive an estimated \$280,000 in FY 2010 federal CDBG funds from the Arizona Department of Housing Regional Account. The City may also apply for up to \$300,000 in FY 2009 and FY2010 CDBG funds from the State Special Projects account. CDBG funds must be used to benefit low-income persons and areas, alleviate slum and blight or address urgent need. Public hearings will be held to gather citizen input on the use of the CDBG funds. Visit www.ajcity.net/cdbg for additional dates, locations and information.

Hearing #1: November 12, 2009 at 6 pm
 City Conference Room
 1001 N. Idaho Rd.

Hearing #2: December 15, 2009 at 7 pm
 City Council Chambers
 300 E. Superstition Blvd.

Calendar

- **11/11** Veterans Day –City offices closed
- **11/26-11/27** Thanksgiving –City offices closed
- **12/25** Christmas Day -City offices closed
- **1/1/10** Happy New Year -City offices closed
- **1/18** MLK Day –City offices closed.

Housing Programs

On October 24, 2009 the City of Apache Junction, in collaboration with Rebuilding Together, received help from over 50 volunteers to paint the exteriors of two homes for local seniors. Groups that participated included Gold Canyon United Methodist Church, Imagine Schools and Pinal County Adult Probation. A special **THANK YOU** to all of our volunteers! This nationwide community event will take place again next year in October. We are always seeking local homeowners who meet the criteria of the program. If you or someone you know could use a paint job, contact the City's Program Coordinator at 480-474-2635 for information and an application.

Applications are being accepted for eligible homeowners to participate in the City's Housing Rehabilitation Program.

This program assists homeowners with the rehabilitation of their home by addressing health and safety issues, correcting code violations and accumulated deferred home maintenance projects. Contact the Program Coordinator for information at (480) 474-2635 or visit the City's website at www.ajcity.net/housing for an application.

New programs by the Arizona Department of Housing can help you purchase a recently foreclosed homes. Visit www.YourWayHomeAZ.com to see if you are eligible, find a participating lender, and contact a housing counselor at 520-446-1112. Available homes are listed on website. Check it out! For additional information on this program and more, visit www.azhousing.gov.

RESOURCES

- For resources and agencies that can offer help statewide check out www.cir.org or by phone at 602-263-8856
- Statewide Foreclosure Hotline: 1-877-448-1211
- United Way and CAAFA offer a special resource guide for human services throughout Northern Pinal County. Check out their website at <http://www.npcresources.org/>
- Subsidized or low rent apartments: socialserve.com
- Section 8 and public housing: 520-866-7201
- Can't afford to spay or neuter your pets? Apache Junction Animal Control has a program to help. Call 480-983-4405.

Housing Funnies

HOUSING PROGRAM PURPOSE AND GOALS:

1. Eliminate health and safety hazards in homes;
2. Benefit low to moderate income residents; and
3. Improve neighborhoods and encourage stability.



Creative solutions for overgrown trees.

Busy Bee Home Maintenance Tips

Water heating is the third largest energy expense in your home. It typically accounts for about 14% of your utility bill. Here are some water heating tips:

- Repair leaky faucets promptly; a leaky faucet wastes gallons of water in a short period.
- Install nonaerating low-flow faucets and showerheads.
- Buy a new water heater. While it may cost more initially than a standard water heater, the energy savings will continue during the lifetime of the appliance. Although most water heaters last 10 - 15 years, it's best to start shopping for a new one if yours is more than seven years old.
- Lower the thermostat on your water heater; water heaters sometimes come from the factory with high temperature settings, but a setting of 115°F provides comfortable hot water for most uses.
- If you heat with electricity, consider installing a solar water heater. The solar units are environmentally friendly and can now be installed on your roof to blend with the architecture of your house. When shopping for a solar water heater, watch for systems certified by the Solar Rating and Certification Corporation.
- Take more showers than baths. Bathing uses the most hot water in the average household. You use 15- to 25 gallons of hot water for a bath, but less than 10 gallons during a 5-minute shower.

According to the Arizona Department of Commerce Energy Office, "phantom" loads can account for up to 10% of your homes energy consumption. Unplug products that are rarely used and use a power strip with a switch to control clusters of products.

Bees Wishes

