



Recycling Takes Center Stage This Fall!

City Offers Two Community Recycling Challenges



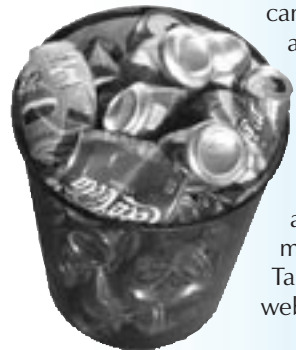
During October and November, local residents can participate in not one, but two community recycling challenges. While one event is completely new, the other will mark its four-year anniversary in 2009.

The "Feed Your SmartCART – Neighborhood Recycling Challenge," sponsored by the City's Solid Waste Services, encourages residents to recycle in big numbers. Between October 19 and November 13, all solid waste customers living in neighborhoods within the city limits will be challenged to set out their SmartCARTS by 6:30 a.m. on their regular day of service. The neighborhood "set out rates" will be compared against each other during this period, with all residents in the top-performing neighborhood receiving a \$5 utility rebate/credit!

And for the fourth consecutive year, the City of Tallahassee will participate in the U.S. Conference of Mayors and Keep America Beautiful, Inc. national "Cans For Cash – CITY RECYCLING CHALLENGE." All Leon County schools will be challenged to collect **only aluminum drink cans** and bring them to the "Recycling Starts With I CAN" Weigh-In Rally on Saturday, November 14 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at The Home Depot, 3200 Capital Circle Northeast.

In return for aluminum drink CANtributions (weighed-in at the rally); CANtributors will be paid \$0.30 per pound. The elementary, middle, high and K-12 private school that has the most **aluminum drink cans** by weight at the 2009 "I CAN" Rally, will receive a \$100 Home Depot gift card. Individuals and organizations may also participate in the CANpaign and be paid for their cans but are not eligible to win a prize. In addition, Leon

County Recycling will accept household electronic items (TVs, computers, monitors, radios, microwaves, toaster ovens, vacuum cleaners, etc) at the Home Depot event. For more information on recycling in Tallahassee, please visit the City's website at Talgov.com/YOU.



Paying Your Utility Bill – Simple as a Click!

Remote Payments Also Easier!



Paying your City utility bill has never been easier! The City's SmartBill can be delivered to your email's inbox. The SmartBill contains an exact copy of the entire bill and provides links to important City information. Most importantly, the SmartBill lets YOU schedule your payment when you want it paid and there are no online fees.

If you prefer paying in person, you also have more options available, with 12 locations located throughout the city. This is similar to paying at the Renaissance Center or the Drive-Through facility, but please remember to bring your utility bill with you.

Remember, starting in November the Drive-Through Facility will be closed on Fridays, with the facility's permanent closure to occur in January 2010. So before then, please visit Talgov.com/YOU and sign up for SmartBill and find out where the new remote payment sites are located.

For more information on your City government,

TALGOV.COM



about City services and related items of interest. For more information, call 891-8533 or visit the City's website at Talgov.com. If you require an accommodation because of a disability in order to participate in a program, service or activity, please contact the appropriate City department. For persons using a TDD, please call 711. Requests should be made at least 72 hours in advance. Sign language interpreters require 10 days advance request.



OCTOBER 2009

INSIGHT

Electric Rates



Decrease Again

Energy efficiency can help you save even more!



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ENERGY TIP

Plan Ahead For Home Heating Improvements

Fall is a good time for major appliance upgrades. If you need to replace a furnace, water heater or heat pump, act now before the cold weather rush! Contractor installations are usually scheduled and completed more quickly in October than in December.

Energy-efficient home heating appliances are eligible for City of Tallahassee rebates as well as 5%-interest financing in the City's Energy Efficiency Loan Program. Here are some upgrades to consider:

- ⦿ Natural gas tank-style water heater: \$675 rebate.** Heats water almost twice as fast as the largest residential electric models, for about 40% less energy cost.
- ⦿ Natural gas tankless water heater: \$675 rebate.** 50% more energy efficient than gas tank-style heater. Provides continuous hot water for up to three showers at once.
- ⦿ Gas combination appliance: \$1,375 rebate.** Often called "hydroheat," this system uses a powerful gas water heater to heat the house as well as the water.
- ⦿ Natural gas furnace: \$700 rebate.** A gas furnace provides fast, warm and efficient heating - \$700 rebate if replacing central electric or propane heating.
- ⦿ Electric heat pump: \$100 and \$350 rebates.** All electric heating and cooling. Higher efficiency heat pumps are eligible for \$100 or \$350 City rebates.
- ⦿ Natural gas fireplace logs: \$50 rebate offered.** Gas fireplace logs start up quick and clean. There's no wood to handle, no flying sparks or no creosote buildup. Choose your comfort level – the closer you get, the warmer you feel!

For more information on appliances and energy-efficiency programs, please call Your Own Utilities at 891-4YOU (4968) or visit us online at Talgov.com/YOU.



Electric Rates Decrease Again

Energy efficiency can help you save even more!

Be on the lookout for lower utility bills starting this month due to the decreased cost of natural gas. City of Tallahassee utility customers who receive electric service can expect a cost reduction of about 8%, resulting in an 18% decrease over the last six months. With this reduction, Tallahassee's electric rates will drop below the state average.

Natural gas is the cleanest-burning fossil fuel, and the City purchases this fuel to produce more than 95% of its electricity. When the price of natural gas declines, the City passes that savings along to its customers. The total 18% reduction will result in a **combined savings of more than \$65 million for our community and \$335 in savings per year for an average household.** The City also has established contracts for lower natural gas prices over the next 24 months to keep costs low.

To lower utility bills even more, Your Own Utilities encourages residents to conserve energy and take advantage of the City's numerous **Energy Smart Plus**



(e+) programs. These include free energy audits, rebates for new natural gas appliances and Energy Star[®] electric appliances, ceiling insulation grants and low-interest energy conservation loans. Presentations and educational materials are also available to schools, homeowners' associations, civic organizations and community groups upon request.

For more information on utility rates, energy audit appointments, energy saving tips, presentations, facility tours and other **e+** programs, visit Talgov.com/YOU or call Your Own Utilities at 891-4YOU (4968).

H1N1 Swine Flu – Basic Precautions

With swine flu continuing to circulate in our area and seasonal flu about to begin, we can protect ourselves by paying attention to the basics: wash your hands often and avoid touching your nose, mouth and eyes; stay home if you're sick and keep your children home from school if they are sick; and cover your coughs and sneezes with your arm, if you don't have a tissue. Get a seasonal flu shot now and an H1N1 swine flu shot when it is available. Although the seasonal flu shot won't prevent swine flu, it's important to avoid becoming sick with either flu. For more information, visit MyFluSafety.com or call the Leon County Health Department at 606-8070. If your organization is interested in having a Health Department representative discuss flu issues in a group setting, please call 606-8190.



CALENDAR

- 10** City Commission regular meeting at 4 pm (meeting on Tuesday due to Veterans Day holiday)
- 11** **Veterans Day holiday;** administrative offices closed (City solid waste collection schedules change during holiday weeks – please visit Talgov.com/YOU for information on schedule changes during Veterans Day week)
- 16** Community Redevelopment Agency Board meeting at noon
- 16** Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency meeting at 1 pm
- 24** City Commission regular meeting at 4 pm (meeting on Tuesday due to Thanksgiving holidays)
- 26-27** **Thanksgiving holidays;** administrative offices closed (City solid waste collection schedules change during holiday weeks – please visit Talgov.com/YOU for information on schedule changes during Thanksgiving week)

All meetings are held in the City Commission Chambers, located on the second floor of City Hall (300 S. Adams St.), unless noted otherwise. Meeting dates, times and locations are subject to change. City Commission meetings are shown live on WCOT, the City's government access channel, Comcast Cable channel 13, and replayed the following Thursday at noon and 7:30 pm, and the following Saturday and Sunday at 2 pm. Call the Department of Communications at 891-8533 for more information or view the current City Commission agenda via the Internet at Talgov.com.