

October 2023

# Sustainability and Recycling E-Newsletter

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Since June of 2022, the Lewis and Clark County Landfill has experienced 11 fires from lithium battery related devices. Broken and unusable items such as cell phones, computers, digital cameras and power tools, when disposed of in your community garbage cans, wreak havoc on our solid waste system. At the landfill, when Solid Waste workers are processing waste, batteries can get run over by the heavy equipment, causing them to spark, and ignite the trash around it.

Though these fires are usually minor, they have the potential to cause serious harm to our employees, and the health of our landfill. Due to the swift action taken by our workers, these 11 fires were quickly contained.



Over the last 3 years, Lewis and Clark County has operated a small Lithium battery recycling program. Diverting almost 900 pounds of batteries away from the County landfill.

In the hopes of expanding this program, and reducing our landfill fires to zero, the City of Helena in partnership with Lewis and Clark County will be holding a Lithium Battery Recycling event in conjunction with our annual Latex Paint event, on October 20th, 21st, and 22nd, and the City of Helena Transfer Station.

[Visit the City webpage](#), for more information on this event!

# 2022 City of Helena Sustainability Report Highlights

In 2017, the City Commission adopted Resolution 20347, requiring the preparation of an annual report to document specific activities implemented by the City, to track greenhouse gasses, water, and energy usage, and recommend future sustainability measures for the City of Helena. The information below, highlights some of the data and progress of initiatives, contained in the 2022 City of Helena Sustainability Report.

## Energy Efficiency & Municipal Operations

- Total electricity consumption for all facilities was reduced by 1.24 % from 2021.
  - Water Treatment Plants saw a 9.94% increase in electricity usage from 2021.
  - The WasteWater Treatment Plant saw a 7.29% decrease in electricity usage from 2021.
- Total natural gas consumption increased by 17.50% from 2021.

## Water Supply, Treatment, & Delivery

- The average residential water use per person per day was 81-90 gallons.
  - Due to irrigation in the summer months, residents use 343% more water compared to winter months.

## Transportation, Waste, Recycling, and Public-Private Partnerships

- The City diverted a total of 6,760 tons of recyclables in FY '22.
- The average amount of solid waste produced per person per day in FY22 was 2.49 pounds.

## Energy Use and GreenHouse Gas Assessment

- Since 2001, the City of Helena has reduced its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, produced by natural gas consumption in all buildings and facilities, by 31.14%.
- Since 2001, the City of Helena has reduced its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions produced by electrical consumption in all buildings and facilities, by 43.84%

[Read the full report, here!](#)

## Citizen Conservation Board

The City of Helena has several established advisory boards and committees. The Citizen Conservation Board was created to recommend, report on, and monitor sustainability measures undertaken by the City of Helena. Currently, there are two vacancies, each will serve a three-year term. If you or someone you know is interested in serving on the Citizens Conservation Board, follow the link below to apply! You must be a City resident to participate, and the deadline to apply is Monday October 16th at 4 pm.

[View the City Website for more information, or to Apply!](#)

