



PSC Water Currents

The water conservation and efficiency newsletter of the
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin



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Celebrate National Drinking Water Week!

May 3rd - 9th is National Drinking Water Week. The United States enjoys one of the best and safest supplies of drinking water in the world, due in large part to the hard work of public water utilities. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has a variety of resources to assist utilities with educating customers about the value of drinking water. For more information, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/waterweek/>.

News

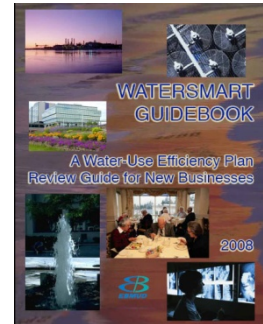
PSC approves toilet rebate program for Kaukauna Utilities



The Public Service Commission has approved a toilet rebate program for the residential customers of Kaukauna Utilities. The water utility is offering a \$50 rebate to customers who purchase new WaterSense labeled high efficiency toilets (HETs). WaterSense labeled toilets are designed to use at least 20 percent less water than existing toilets while meeting performance standards. The U.S. EPA estimates that the average home could save up to 10,000 gallons per year by replacing an outdated toilet, resulting in savings on both the water and the sewer bill. The utility is implementing the rebate programs as part of its long-term groundwater management and water conservation efforts. For more information about Kaukauna's water conservation programs, visit: <http://www.kaukaunautilities.com/>.

Water conservation guide for businesses

The East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) recently published a *WaterSmart Guidebook: A Water Use Efficiency Plan and Review Guide for New Businesses*. The guide contains useful information about water saving technologies applicable in the commercial, industrial, and institutional sectors. It is intended as a resource for existing and new businesses, developers, consultants, and designers, planning agencies, and water utilities. EBMUD supplies water and provides wastewater treatment for 1.2 million customers in the eastern portion of the San Francisco Bay Area. The book is available through the Alliance for Water Efficiency's Resource Library (<http://www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org/resource-library/default.aspx>) or via email request to Dick Bennett, Water Conservation Administrator, EBMUD, dbennett@ebmud.com.



Summer lawn watering tips for utility customers

Outdoor water use is the fastest growing water use sector in many communities. Further, Wisconsin is entering the summer lawn watering season with drier than normal conditions over much of the state. Many utilities will experience supply constraints, as well as difficulties in meeting peak demand, due to excessive lawn watering. Conserving water will help to extend groundwater supplies and maintain base flow to streams and lakes important to fish and other aquatic life. Many



Wisconsin communities have already enacted lawn watering restrictions or bans. Utilities can also take action to educate their customers about proper lawn watering practices through bill stuffers, public announcements, Web sites, and community events. The UW-Extension publishes a free lawn watering guide that utilities can use to help educate their customers. The guide is available at: <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/pdf/GWQ012.pdf>.

Milwaukee named UN Global Compact City

In April 2009, the City of Milwaukee joined 12 other international cities in the UN Global Compact Cities Program. The program seeks to translate the principles of the UN Global Compact into innovative, concrete, and sustainable solutions to intractable economic, social, and environmental urban issues. The City of Milwaukee will focus on improving water quality in Milwaukee and the surrounding region. The project will be led by the Milwaukee 7 Water Council in cooperation with the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's School of Freshwater Science. The Water Council was created to promote the Milwaukee Region as a global hub for freshwater research, education, and economic development. For more information, visit: <http://citiesprogramme.org/index.php/>.

Upcoming Events

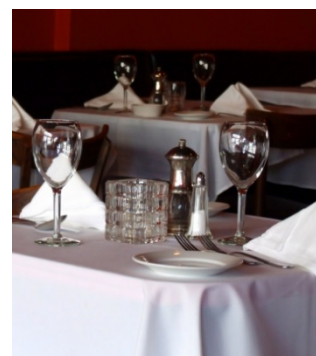
- MAY** Madison Water Utility Water Drinking Open House & Water Conservation Exhibit. May 9, 2009. 119 E. Olin Ave., Madison, WI. <http://www.cityofmadison.com/water/>.
- AWWA WebCast – Setting Rates in a Tough Economy. May 13, 2009. <http://www.awwa.org/Conferences/WebcastsDetail.cfm?ItemNumber=47509>.
- Central States Water Environment Association (CSWEA), Inc., 82nd Annual Meeting. May 18 – 21, 2009. Lincolnshire, IL. <http://cswea.org/events/>.
- JUN** American Water Works Association Annual Conference and Exposition (ACE 09). June 14 -18, 2009. San Diego, CA. <http://www.awwa.org/ace09/>.
- JUL** Milwaukee 7 Water Council Water Summit. July 20, 2009. Discovery World, Milwaukee, WI. <http://www.milwaukee7-watercouncil.com/>.

Focus on Wisconsin Water

Waukesha coalition promotes water conservation at restaurants

Residential water use receives much of the statewide attention related to water conservation and efficiency. But for some communities, reducing commercial and industrial water use may also be an effective strategy for ensuring sustainable water supplies. Because restaurants can be a significant commercial water user, the Waukesha County Water Conservation Coalition has launched an effort to promote water conservation at area restaurants.

The Coalition delivered its water conservation message at the Wisconsin Restaurant Expo by hosting a display and offering short seminars during the three day statewide event, which was held in March in Milwaukee. The Coalition presented information about how restaurants can use energy and water efficient equipment to save water and to reduce their water and electricity bills. In addition, the Coalition provided information about incentives available through the [Focus on Energy](#) program. The Coalition developed and distributed “table tents” that can be used to notify patrons that water for drinking is available only upon request. Serving water upon request reduces waste at the table and eliminates the unnecessary cleaning and washing of glasses. Another benefit is that table tents provide an opportunity to educate patrons about the importance of water conservation.



Waukesha County, one of the Coalition's partners, is helping to get the message out to restaurants during its annual licensing process. Each restaurant will receive a letter from the county that highlights the importance of water conservation and provides links to the Coalition's Web site. Waukesha County Executive Dan Vrakas and City of Waukesha Mayor Larry Nelson formed the Waukesha Water Conservation Coalition in 2006 to increase public awareness of water supply issues. The Coalition includes representatives from local government, water utilities, businesses, environmental groups, and other organizations in Waukesha and Milwaukee Counties. For more information about the Coalition, including a downloadable version of the table tent and additional water conservation resources, visit: <http://www.wisconsinwaterwise.org/>.

Highlight your community's water conservation and efficiency efforts in a future issue of Water Currents. Send a summary of your program or water-saving idea to water.currents@psc.state.wi.us. Include your contact information, a link for more information, and an estimate of the amount of water saved or expected to be saved. Please limit your submittal to 250 words.

About this newsletter

Water Currents is published by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin to provide information about water conservation-related news and events in Wisconsin. The newsletter is compiled and edited by Jeff Ripp, PSC Water Conservation Coordinator, (608) 267-9813.



To submit information for consideration in future newsletters, send an email to water.currents@psc.state.wi.us. Include your name, organization, and contact information in the body of the message.

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