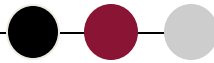




PSC Water Currents

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



September – October 2009
Volume 2, Issue 5

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Water Saving Tip

Clothes washers manufactured before 1999 use more than four times the energy of today's efficient models and waste nearly 30 gallons of water per load of laundry. This is equivalent to enough water for ten and a half years of daily baths over the life of the washer! The U.S. Department of Energy encourages recycling of old washers and replacing them with Energy STAR qualified models. Information about the Make a Clean Change: Recycle Your Old Washer campaign can be found at www.energystar.gov/recycle.

News

PSC issues 2009 water fact sheet

The Public Service Commission (PSC) has released its 2009 Wisconsin Water Fact Sheet, which contains a variety of useful facts about public water utilities and water use. Water sales declined 9.5 percent in 2008 compared to 2007. Water use per residential customer also continued its downward trend, from an average of 60,000 gallons per year in 2004 to 56,000 gallons per year in 2008. System water losses including leaks, breaks, tank overflows, unauthorized usage, and other unaccounted for water totaled 24.5 billion gallons in 2009, or 12.2 percent of the total water pumped and treated by Wisconsin utilities. The fact sheet is compiled from annual report data submitted by water utilities and is available at: <http://psc.wi.gov/utilityinfo/water/newsinfo/document/waterFactSheet09.pdf>.

AWE announces water conservation evaluation tool



The Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE) recently announced the availability of its water conservation tracking tool. The tool is an Excel-based spreadsheet model that evaluates the water savings, costs, and benefits of conservation programs for a specific water utility. It includes a library of pre-defined conservation activities from which users can build their water conservation programs. Water utility managers can use the tool to compare alternative conservation measures in terms of their water savings potential, revenue effects, impact on system costs, and potential benefits to utility customers. The tool can be used to develop long-range conservation plans and to track the implementation of as many as 50 separate conservation program activities. The tool is free to Alliance for Water Efficiency members. For more information, visit: <http://www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org/Tracking-Tool.aspx>.

Wisconsin receives Recovery Act water planning grant

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) received slightly more than \$1.0 million from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to fund water quality management planning activities. The grant supports a broad range of activities such as setting standards, monitoring water quality, developing plans to restore polluted waters and identifying ways to protect healthy waters from becoming polluted. States are also encouraged to use these funds for innovative planning activities like developing plans to adapt to climate change, analyzing trends in water availability and use, and creating low-impact development programs. State agencies may use a portion of these funds for grants to regional and interstate planning organizations. For information about the implementation of the Recovery Act in Wisconsin, visit: <http://www.recovery.wisconsin.gov/>.



AWWA releases updated water loss manual, free software

The American Water Works Association (AWWA) has released new versions of its M-36 guidance manual "Water Audits and Loss Control Programs" and version 4.0 of its free water audit software. The manual provides guidance on how to conduct water audits, leak detection, and water loss control programs for drinking water systems. The new edition contains updated information on water loss accounting, with step-by-step audit procedures, worksheets and sample calculations, techniques to initiate a leakage and pressure management program, planning steps, and considerations for small water systems. The water audit software can be downloaded for free at: <http://www.awwa.org/Resources/WaterLossControl.cfm?ItemNumber=47846&navItemNumber=48155>.

EPA seeks input on commercial, industrial WaterSense program



Significant water savings can be achieved from larger water users such as hotels, universities, golf courses, and car washes. The WaterSense program is looking to expand its efforts beyond residential water savings, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking input from stakeholders on the best way to structure such a program. As a first step, EPA released a white paper that summarizes the resources that could be used for planning a national industrial, commercial, and institutional program and discusses options for the WaterSense program. EPA is seeking broad input, and is particularly interested in stakeholders' responses to the identified research needs and program design options. EPA is accepting comments via e-mail at watersense-ci@erg.com through September 20, 2009. For more information, or to download a copy of the white paper, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/watersense/partners/cipaper.htm>.

WaterSense announces specification for pre-rinse spray valves

In a typical commercial food operation, dishwashing consumes about two-thirds of all the water used—nearly half of which is hot water used by the pre-rinse spray valve to remove food waste from dishes prior to dishwashing. EPA's WaterSense and ENERGY STAR® programs are teaming up to develop a specification for high-efficiency pre-rinse spray valves. EPA wants to capitalize on the tremendous water and energy savings opportunity, improve and promote the use of more efficient pre-rinse spray valves, and help commercial and institutional kitchen, restaurant, and grocery managers make informed purchasing decisions to reduce their water and energy use, without sacrificing performance. For more information, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/watersense/pp/prsv.htm>.

Report rates toilet performance

High-efficiency toilets (HETs) are designed to save water but how well do they really work? This is essential information for anyone buying a new toilet and for water utility managers offering financial incentives for the purchase of HETs. A recently released report from the Maximum Performance (MaP) testing project compares the performance over 1,000 different toilets, including WaterSense-labeled toilets. The testing protocol, cooperatively developed by water-efficiency and plumbing fixture specialists in the U.S. and Canada, incorporates the use of soybean paste as a test media to more closely replicate the "real world demand" on fixtures. The 14th edition of the MaP testing report is available at: <http://www.a4we.org/MaP-main.aspx>.



Upcoming Events

- SEP** Alliance for Water Efficiency Workshop. September 3, 2009. Chicago, IL.
<http://www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org/tracking-tool-chicago-workshop.aspx>
- Water Innovations Alliance Conference. September 9-10, 2009. Chicago, IL.
<http://www.waterinnovations.org/>.
- Pumptec Conference & Expo 2009. September 14-15, 2009. Atlanta, GA.
<http://www.pumpconference.com/index.html>
- 24th Annual WaterReuse Symposium. September 13-16, 2009. Seattle, WA.
<http://www.watereuse.org/conferences/symposium/24>
- Wisconsin Water Association Annual Meeting & Expo. September 23-25, 2009. Wisconsin Dells, WI. <http://www.wiawwa.org/>.
- OCT** WaterSmart Innovations Conference and Expo. October 7-9, 2009. Las Vegas, NV.
<http://www.watersmartinnovations.com/2009/home.php>
- National Ground Water Association Forum. October 14-16, 2009. Tahoe City, CA.
<http://www.ngwa.org/development/conferences/details/0910145009.aspx>.
- Plumbing, Heating, and Cooling Contractors Convention. October 21-23, 2009. New Orleans, LA. <http://www.phccweb.org/>.
- Great Lakes Craft Brewers Water Conservation Conference. October 26-27, 2009. Milwaukee, WI. <http://www.conserve-greatlakes.com/>.

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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