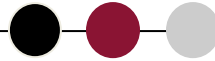




PSC Water Currents

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



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Water Saving Tip



The first-ever WaterSense Fix a Leak Week is scheduled for March 16-20, 2009. The designation is intended to call attention to the need to repair leaky toilets, faucets, and plumbing. For more information, visit:

<http://www.epa.gov/watersense/fixaleak/>

News

Recovery Act includes funding for water projects

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was enacted on February 17, 2009. The Act includes \$6 billion for local water infrastructure improvements, including \$4 billion for the Clean Water Revolving Loan fund and \$2 billion for the Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan fund. The Act requires states to set aside a portion of their allocation for green infrastructure, water and energy efficiency, and environmentally innovative projects. In Wisconsin, these programs are administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). For more information about this and other funding opportunities related to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, visit the Wisconsin Office of Recovery and Reinvestment web site at: <http://www.recovery.wisconsin.gov/>.

Weston adopts water conservation rates

The Weston Water Utility has joined a growing list of Wisconsin utilities in adopting water conservation rates. In January 2009, the PSC approved an overall 7 percent increase in rates for the utility, which included a separate rate structure for residential and non-residential customers. Under the new rates, residential customers will be charged higher rates as their consumption increases. The rates will increase from \$2.00 to \$3.10 per 1,000 gallons for those using over 30,000 gallons per quarter. Weston implemented this rate structure to reduce summer peak usage, save energy, and preserve their existing water supply sources. For more information, visit: <http://www.westonwisconsin.org/utilities/rates.php>.

EPA seeks nominees for 2009 WaterSense awards

EPA is seeking nominations for its 2009 WaterSense Partner of the Year awards. The awards are intended to recognize partners who help to advance the overall mission of WaterSense, increase awareness of the WaterSense brand in a measurable way, or that demonstrate overall excellence in the water-efficiency arena. The 2008 award winners included Wisconsin-based Kohler Company. EPA will formally recognize the 2009 award winners at the Water Smart Innovations Conference and Tradeshow scheduled for October 7-9, 2009 in Las Vegas, Nevada. In addition, EPA will highlight the winners in press releases, media opportunities, and on the WaterSense web site. To be eligible, an organization must have joined WaterSense before January 1, 2009. Nominations are due by April 10, 2009. To nominate an organization (including your own), visit: <http://www.epa.gov/watersense/awards.htm>.



Groups to work together on water efficiency research

Five national organizations have announced that they are joining forces to advance water efficiency research. The organizations include the Alliance for Water Efficiency, the International Code Council, the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials, the Plumbing, Heating, and Cooling Contractors Association, and the Plumbing Manufacturers Institute. These groups will combine their expertise in water efficiency and plumbing to develop research programs to assist in the development and use of water efficient systems, practices, and plumbing. For more information, visit <http://www.a4we.org>.

Milwaukee 7 Water Council promotes region, water industry

The Milwaukee 7 (M7) Water Council is working to promote seven counties in the Milwaukee region as a world water hub. The Council is a membership-driven organization that consists of leaders from business, academia and government working in collaboration on freshwater research, economic development, and education in the Milwaukee area. The Council plans to host the third annual M7 water summit in July, 2009. For more information, visit: <http://www.milwaukee7-watercouncil.org/wiki/show/Main>.



Upcoming Events

- MAR.** EPA National “Fix a Leak Week.” Mar. 16 – 20, 2009. <http://www.epa.gov/watersense/>.
- Municipal Utilities Legislative Day. Mar. 18, 2009. Sponsored by WRWA, WWA, MEG, and MEUW. Inn on the Park, Madison, WI. <http://www.meuw.org/events/>.
- Wisconsin Rural Water Association Annual Technical Conference. Mar. 24-27, 2009. Green Bay, WI. <http://www.wrwa.org/>.
- Optimizing Fans and Pumps Training. March 24 (Eau Claire) and March 25 (La Crosse). Sponsored by the Energy Center of Wisconsin. <http://www.ecw.org/university/>
- WaterEC – The International Water Efficiency Conference. Sponsored by Forester Media and Water Efficiency magazine. Mar. 30 – Apr. 2, 2009. Newport Beach, CA. <http://www.WaterEC.net/>.
- APR.** Water Efficiency Seminar. Sponsored by the Wisconsin Water Association. Apr. 21, 2009. The Radisson Hotel, Pleasant Prairie, WI. <http://www.wiawwa.org/>.
- 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/>.
- National Drinking Water Week. May 3 – 9, 2009. Sponsored by the American Water Works Association. <http://www.awwa.org/>.
- Central States Water Environment Association (CSWEA), Inc., 82nd Annual Meeting. May 18 – 21, 2009. Lincolnshire, Illinois. <http://cswea.org/events/>.
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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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