



PSC Water Currents

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

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City of Middleton Challenges Its Residents to Conserve Water

The City of Middleton's Sustainability Committee, in partnership with the Middleton Municipal Water Utility, local businesses and the City's Public Lands Department, is sponsoring its first Water Conservation Challenge. Just for signing up by January 15, 2013, participants will have a chance to win monthly prizes through December 2013. Prizes include everything from tree bags that protect trees during periods of drought to cupcakes from a local bake shop. In addition, three grand prize winners will be selected based on who saves the highest percentage of water. Grand prizes include: a dual-flush toilet (\$300 value) for First Place, a Death's Door Spirits gift pack (\$150 value, must be at least 21 years of age to be eligible) for Second Place, and a green housecleaning session (\$100 value) for Third Place. In addition, three water experts will select the participant who submits the most innovative method of reducing water use. That winner will receive a \$50 gift card to the Willy Street Co-Op. For more information about this contest, contact Abby Attoun-Tucker, Assistant Director of Community Development, at aattoun@ci.middleton.wi.us or 821-8343.

It's Not Too Early to Start Planning for Fix a Leak Week

For the last five years, water utilities and their partners from across the country have teamed up with EPA's WaterSense to celebrate Fix a Leak Week. These utilities work to raise awareness of residential water leaks, which, according to EPA estimates, can amount to more than 1 trillion gallons of water lost each year. Fix a Leak Week activities can be as simple as bill inserts or as complex as community-wide events. Successful programs typically involve partnering with local businesses, schools, sustainability groups, universities and community colleges, service learning organizations, and volunteer groups to offer activities tailored to a community's needs. Did your

community implement water use restrictions during this summer's drought? Consider sponsoring a community event that promotes awareness of your water supply source and ways to protect it. Does your utility offer rebates on water saving toilets or showerheads? Hold a workshop at a local plumbing supply store, and offer a chance to win a water-saving fixture to those who attend. Do the schools in your community have an environmental education coordinator? Talk to her about visiting with students to teach them about their water supply and how to be "leak detectives" in their own homes.

Whether or not you've participated in Fix a Leak Week in the past, EPA's WaterSense makes it easy to find activities that can work in your community. Visit [WaterSense Fix a Leak Week](#) for ideas. If you already have great ideas for celebrating Fix a Leak Week, please share them with us: Denise.Schmidt@wisconsin.gov.

Reminder: Prepare to Submit Your PSC Annual Report

The due date for submitting annual reports for the 2012 reporting year is April 1, 2013. Utilities submit their reports to the PSC's Water, Electric, Gas, and Sewer Annual Report System (WEGSARS). By this time in the calendar year, utilities who hire consultants to help with filing should have already contacted those consultants. Please note that it is the utility's responsibility to file these annual reports in a timely fashion. If you have questions regarding the PSC Annual Report, please contact the help desk by phone at (608) 267-2335 or by email at [PSC AR Help Desk](#).

Conservation Accounting

The Public Service Commission recently updated its Uniform System of Accounts which will become effective January 1, 2013. Details of this update can be found on the PSC website under [Docket 5-US-118](#). The purpose of the update was to clarify the accounting requirements for expenditures related to water conservation programs, including toilet rebates, education, outreach, and other voluntary programs. In addition, the revisions establish accounting requirements for multi-family residential and irrigation customer classes. A copy of both the updated Uniform System of Accounts and the Utility Reference Manual can be found on the PSC website at the following links: [Uniform System of Accounts for Municipally Owned Water Utilities](#) and [Water Utility Reference Manual](#).

Any accounting changes should be reflected in a utility's 2013 annual report which needs to be filed with the PSC by April 1, 2014. Utilities may delay reporting revenue and sales for multi-family residential separately until the 2014 reporting year. If you have any questions regarding the Uniform System of Accounts, please contact Bridgot Gysbers by phone at (608) 267-0637 or by email at Bridgot.Gysbers@wisconsin.gov.

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 Denise Schmidt, PSC Water Conservation Coordinator, (608) 266-1282.



To submit information for consideration in future newsletters, send an email to [Denise Schmidt](mailto:Denise.Schmidt). Include your name, organization, and contact information in the body of the message.

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