



# Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

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**For Immediate Release – December 22, 2009**

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## **PSC Adjusts Madison Water Utility Rates** *Utility Continues Water Conservation Efforts*

MADISON – The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) approved Madison Water Utility’s request for an additional \$4.7 million in revenue to recover costs of providing service and to implement improvement and conservation programs. The effect on an individual customer’s bill will depend on actual water use. Under the new rates, average residential customers can expect to pay about \$3.30 more per month for water. However, customers who reduce their water use by conserving water and eliminating wasteful water use can mitigate the effect of the rate increase on their bill.

“Madison, like many communities, needs additional revenue to replace aging infrastructure,” said PSC Chairperson Eric Callisto. “But the cost of water remains a relatively small part of the monthly budget for most people. Conservation is one way to reduce water bills while protecting valuable resources.”

The PSC approved changes to the utility’s conservation program, including additional funding for education and expansion of toilet rebates to apartment owners. The utility already offers residential customers \$100 rebates to replace outdated toilets with high-efficiency WaterSense toilets. The utility’s conservation program is intended to delay investment in new wells and to protect groundwater supplies in Dane County.

Reducing water usage saves energy, lowers operations and capital costs, and protects valuable water resources. Utilities implementing effective water conservation programs can delay or avoid the need to raise rates to pay for expensive infrastructure, such as new wells and storage. Wisconsin residents can save water by following these tips:

- Repair leaky faucets and toilets.
- Install WaterSense appliances and fixtures in kitchens and bathrooms.
- Do not overwater lawns and landscaping – use drought tolerant-plants, use weather-based irrigation controllers, or eliminate lawn watering altogether.
- Cover pools and hot tubs to prevent evaporation.
- Take shorter showers and wash only full loads of laundry.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and pavement.

For more information visit the PSC website at: <http://psc.wi.gov/conservation/waterConservation.htm> .

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