



# PSC Water Currents

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

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## In This Issue

[Get Ready for Fix a Leak Week](#)

[DNR Releases Water Withdrawal Report](#)

[Are You a WaterSense Superstar? Submit a WaterSense Award Application.](#)

[Madison Won Last Year - Is Your Community Next?](#)

[Safe Drinking Water Loan Update](#)

## Get Ready for Fix a Leak Week

Even if your utility or community is not planning a major Fix a Leak Week event this year, there's still time to remind residents to "check, twist, and replace" their water-wasting fixtures. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has declared March 18 through 24, 2013 the fifth annual Fix a Leak Week. This week is a time for Americans to find and fix the leaks that contribute to the more than 200 gallons of water an average American family wastes each year week due to running toilets, dripping faucets and other household leaks. Helping your customers with their conservation and efficiency efforts can be as simple as posting information on your utility or municipal website. [DNR's Fix a Leak](#) webpage contains a toolkit that allows you to post the Fix a Leak Week banner to a webpage and link to the agency's page containing helpful how-to videos and practical tips. The [WaterSense Fix a Leak](#) webpage also has information your customers may find useful. Take these small steps today, so your customers can Take The Pledge and start planning their repairs.



## **DNR Releases Water Withdrawal Report**

Water withdrawers registered with DNR's Water Use Reporting Program are required to measure or estimate the volume of water they withdraw every month and report that information annually. This requirement applies to properties that withdraw 100,000 gallons per day or more in any thirty day period, all properties with high capacity wells, surface water withdrawals permitted under Wis. Stats. Chapter 30, and Great Lakes basin properties holding a water use permit. DNR's recently released [Wisconsin Water Use 2011 Expanded Withdrawal Summary](#) is based on data collected in this program. The report presents withdrawal data by sector, source type and location for over 12,500 groundwater and surface water withdrawals. This data is designed to help communities plan water supply needs, inform water conservation and efficiency program decisions, determine the impacts of high capacity wells, and develop and maintain a statewide water resources inventory.

In total, reported withdrawals exceeded 2.156 trillion gallons of water in 2011, with surface water withdrawals accounting for 1.942 trillion gallons from 826 sources, and groundwater withdrawals totaling 213 billion gallons from 11,754 wells. Those figures translate to 90% of statewide withdrawals by volume made from surface water and 10% made from groundwater. Power generation (76%), municipal water supply (9%), paper production (6%), and agricultural irrigation (4%) accounted for the highest percentages of total water withdrawals. The report contains maps of withdrawal points, withdrawals by county, information on seasonal variation, and reporting methods used by the reporting entities.

## **Are You a WaterSense Superstar? Submit a WaterSense Award Application.**

If your organization has helped advance the overall mission of WaterSense, increased awareness of the WaterSense brand in a measurable way, or increased the adoption of water efficient practices among constituents or community members, you should apply for a WaterSense Partner of the Year award. Utilities, manufacturers, retailers and distributors, promotional partners, contractors, builders, professional certifying organizations, and landscape irrigation professionals may apply, so long as they submitted their 2012 WaterSense annual reporting form. Applications are due April 1, so the time to compile your supporting materials is now. Consult the [WaterSense Award](#) webpage to learn more about past winners, award categories, evaluation criteria, tips for success, and benefits of being selected as a Partner of the Year.

## **Madison Won Last Year - Is Your Community Next?**

Last year, thousands of people from all 50 states participated in the Wyland Foundation's friendly competition between cities across the United States to see who can be the most "water-wise." In Wyland's National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation, residents made online pledges to save water, and the City of Madison was determined to be one of the cities with the highest percentage of residents in their zip code to make a water-saving pledge. Participants in this year's competition, held April 1-30, are eligible to win prizes, including a Toyota Prius. For more information, visit the [Wyland Foundation National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation](#) website.

## Safe Drinking Water Loan Update

The State Senate and Assembly both passed legislation enabling the DNR to award principal forgiveness funds for the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP). It is anticipated that the governor will sign the legislation into law soon. Senate Bill 10, passed with bipartisan support, also includes the ability for the DNR to conduct Clean Water Fund Program pilot projects. DNR will have more information on pilot projects this summer. The following dates and deadlines apply to utilities hoping to benefit from this program:

**March 22:** Anticipated date for new SDWLP application available

**March 31:** Anticipated date for State Fiscal Year 2013 supplemental applications

**March 31:** Anticipated date for draft SDWLP project priority list available

**June 30:** Deadline for State Fiscal Year SDWLP 2014 applications

**June 30:** Deadline for State Fiscal Year Clean Water Fund hardship applications

**June 30:** Deadline for closing SDWLP projects

One of the requirements for loan closing is that a utility has water rates that are adequate to repay the loan. For large construction projects, this normally means that the utility needs to increase water rates. Hopefully, any utility that needs a rate increase in order to close on a loan by June 30, 2013 has already received or is close to receiving approval from the PSC. It typically takes five to six months for the PSC to process a rate increase application. Any utility that plans to submit a request for funding in the 2014 fiscal year should request a rate increase application from the PSC this summer and plan to file it by the end of 2013. For more information, contact PSC auditor Kathy Butzlaff at [Kathy.Butzlaff@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Kathy.Butzlaff@wisconsin.gov) or 608-267-9817.

### 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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