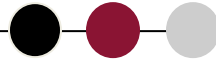




PSC Water Currents

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



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Water Saving Tip



July is *Smart Irrigation Month*. The Irrigation Association campaign is designed to increase public awareness of the value of water-use efficiency, minimize peak water use, and highlight water-saving products, practices and services. For more information, visit: www.irrigation.org/SIM.

Have a good idea to share? Email your tip to water.currents@wisconsin.gov.

News

Kaukauna expands water conservation efforts



On June 11, 2010, the Public Service Commission (PSC) of Wisconsin approved Kaukauna Utilities' request to expand its water conservation and efficiency programs. The utility intends to offer rebates to customers who purchase water-saving dishwashers and clothes washers or who install WaterSense labeled products, including toilets, showerheads, and faucets. Kaukauna is also the first in Wisconsin to offer a \$500 incentive to builders who construct homes that meet the WaterSense New Home standard. Commercial and industrial customers who install water-saving measures may also be eligible for customized incentives of up to \$1,000. The PSC authorized funding for these programs in the utility's last rate case. For more information about Kaukauna Utilities' water and energy conservation programs, visit: www.kaukaunautilities.com.

PSC proposes water conservation rules

The PSC recently opened a rulemaking docket to develop water conservation rules for Wisconsin water utilities. Docket 1-AC-232 proposes updates to Wis. Admin. Code chs. PSC 184 and 185 that will codify past Commission decisions and current best practices related to water conservation and efficiency programs. The PSC expects that the rules will establish criteria for evaluating the cost-effectiveness of voluntary water conservation programs, modernize the reporting and tracking of water loss and non-revenue water, and simplify the construction approval process. The proposed rules will also ensure consistency with water conservation rules being proposed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to implement the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact. More information about the proposed rules is available on the PSC's Electronic Regulatory Filing (ERF) system at psc.wi.gov.

DNR water conservation rule update



The DNR is proposing several administrative rules to implement the Great Lakes Compact and related State legislation. The new laws and rules are the foundation for achieving Wisconsin's goal of sustainable water use. DNR released three proposed rules for public comment in May 2010, including: Water Conservation and Water Use Efficiency, Water Use Registration and Reporting, and Water Use Fees. Four additional rules are being drafted and are expected to be available for public comment in the fall of 2010, including: Water Supply Service Area Plans, Water Use Public Participation, Water Use Permitting, and Water Loss and Consumptive Use. Public comments on the first three rules are being accepted until July 7, 2010. For more information about these rules, visit: dnr.wi.gov/org/water/dwg/greatlakes/rules.html.

Alliance to hold water conservation workshop in Wisconsin

Don't miss a great opportunity to learn how to plan effective water conservation programs! The Alliance for Water Efficiency, a stakeholder-based non-profit organization dedicated to the efficient and sustainable use of water, has scheduled a half-day workshop in Madison on September 15, 2010, to introduce its new water conservation tracking tool. The tool is an Excel-based model that evaluates the water savings, costs, and benefits of water conservation programs for any water utility. It provides standardized methods for tracking water savings, analyzes benefit and costs, and includes a library of pre-defined conservation activities. The workshop will be held as part of the Wisconsin Water Association's annual conference being held in Madison, Wisconsin, from September 15-17, 2010. For more information about the Alliance for Water Efficiency, visit: www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org. To register for the workshop, visit: www.wiawwa.org.



New water efficiency finance option for Wisconsin municipalities

Wisconsin counties and municipalities have a new tool for implementing water conservation programs in their communities. 2009 Wisconsin Act 272, which was signed by the Governor in May 2010, authorizes local units of governments to make loans to fund water efficiency improvements. While existing law already authorized municipalities to make loans to residents for energy efficiency improvements, Act 272 extended this program to include water efficiency measures. In addition, Act 272 extended these loans to commercial and industrial property owners. Local governments can collect loan repayments in installments as a special charge or on the recipient's property tax bill. For more information, visit www.legis.state.wi.us/2009/data/acts/09Act272.pdf.

EPA hosts WaterSense webinars



Is your utility or organization interested in learning more about WaterSense? EPA is holding informational webcasts about the program on July 15, August 12, and September 9, 2010. The webinars are intended for prospective partners and interested organizations to discuss water-efficiency issues, explain the WaterSense label, outline the benefits of joining the program, and answer questions. The program's mission is to protect the future of the nation's water supply by promoting water efficiency and enhancing the market for water-efficient products, programs, and practices. To register for a webinar, visit: www2.gotomeeting.com/register/845419138.

Upcoming Events

JULY Wisconsin Groundwater Association Luncheon Seminar. July 14, 2010. Milwaukee, Wisconsin. www.wgwa.org.

Milwaukee Water Council Water Summit IV. July 19, 2010. Milwaukee, Wisconsin. www.milwaukee7-watercouncil.com.

AUG Wisconsin Water Association Management Conference. August 5, 2010. Richfield, Wisconsin. www.wiawwa.org.

Wisconsin Rural Water Association Outdoor Expo. August 26, 2010. Plover, Wisconsin. www.wrwa.org.

SEP Alliance for Water Efficiency Tracking Tool Workshop. Sept. 15, 2010. Madison, Wisconsin. www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org

Wisconsin Water Association Annual Conference. Sept. 15-17, 2010. Madison, Wisconsin www.wiawwa.org.

Focus on Wisconsin Water

Abbotsford adopts water curtailment tariff

In May 2010, the PSC approved Wisconsin's first-ever water curtailment tariff for the City of Abbotsford Municipal Water Utility. Under the procedures approved by the Commission, Abbotsford can limit the amount of water that high-volume customers are entitled to take during a declared water shortage emergency. The criteria for declaring a water emergency are based on physical measurements at the utility's wells. Water emergencies proceed through stages that require increasingly more rigorous water conservation efforts, starting with voluntary reductions.



Abbotsford's water supply problems stem from a combination of a lack of available groundwater and increasing demand for water. The city recognized that it needed to take drastic steps to protect its wells in order to continue providing safe and adequate service to the city's residents. Abbotsford implemented a number of water conservation measures, including placing restrictions on outdoor water use and working with its industrial customers to reduce water needs. But these measures were insufficient to meet its water supply needs. As a result, Abbotsford requested that the PSC approve a water curtailment tariff that would allow the utility to better manage demand during periods of critical water shortages.

Fortunately, most Wisconsin communities have adequate water supplies and curtailment tariffs are unnecessary. Nevertheless, communities with enough water today may find themselves lacking an adequate water supply without careful water supply management and planning. For more information about Abbotsford's curtailment tariff, contact Jeffrey.Ripp@Wisconsin.Gov.

Highlight your community's water conservation and efficiency efforts in a future issue of Water Currents. Send a summary of your program or water-saving idea to water.currents@wisconsin.gov. Include your contact information, a link for more information, and an estimate of the amount of water saved or expected to be saved. Please limit your submittal to 250 words.

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@wisconsin.gov. Include your name, organization, and contact information in the body of the message.

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