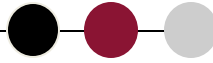




PSC Water Currents

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



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Fix a Leak Week

March 15-21, 2010

EPA estimates that 1 trillion gallons of water are wasted from residential leaks in the United States every year. Wisconsin utilities can help their customers save water and money by fixing leaky faucets and toilets. For more information about how your utility can participate in Fix a Leak Week activities, visit: www.epa.gov/watersense.

News

Fitchburg approves toilet rebate program

Residents of the City of Fitchburg are joining others in Wisconsin who are eligible for rebates to replace older toilets with new high-efficiency WaterSense labeled toilets. Beginning with toilets purchased in 2010, the City of Fitchburg is offering up to \$100 per toilet to residents of single-family homes and apartment owners. Customers will be limited to one rebate per household, or a maximum of five rebates per apartment complex. The City has budgeted \$10,000 from its sanitary sewer budget, which will be available on a first-come, first-served basis until the funds are expended. The toilet rebates are part of Fitchburg's larger water conservation program which includes conservation-based water rates that are designed to encourage efficiency and reduce unnecessary outdoor water use. For more information about the City of Fitchburg's water conservation program, visit: www.city.fitchburg.wi.us/public_works/water_supply.php.

Green plumbing standards announced



The International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) released its first green plumbing and mechanical code supplement on February 1, 2010. The Green Supplement is a separate document from the Uniform Plumbing and Mechanical Codes and establishes requirements for green building and water efficiency applicable to plumbing, mechanical, and solar energy systems. The Green Supplement serves as an adjunct to the Uniform Codes or any of the plumbing and mechanical codes used in the United States. In Wisconsin, plumbing standards are established by the Wisconsin Department of Commerce. For more information about IAPMO's green plumbing standards, visit: www.iapmo.org/Pages/IAPMO_Green.aspx.

DNR forms conservation advisory group

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has formed an advisory committee to assist with developing the State's new water conservation and efficiency rules. The rules are required under Wisconsin 2007 Act 227, which implements the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact. The rules will specify mandatory or voluntary water conservation measures



that are required for new and increased water withdrawals statewide.

Regulated water users include agriculture, industry, commercial, power production, and public water systems. For more information about DNR's water conservation and efficiency program, visit:

www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/dwg/WIGLObjectives.htm.

UW publishes on-site water reuse guide

Water reuse has been called the next great advance in water conservation because of its potential to maximize water use efficiency and reduce the need for potable water consumption. It is becoming increasingly popular as a tool for Wisconsin citizens and communities to achieve their water conservation goals. UW-Extension has published a new guide, *On-site Water Reuse Systems: Using Water to Its Full Potential*, which describes the types of on-site water reuse systems available to homeowners, builders, and developers. The guide contains a checklist of state requirements and a list of resources for further information. Copies of this guide can be downloaded from the Cooperative Extension Learning Store at: <http://learningstore.uwex.edu>.



Illinois regional water supply plan approved

Communities in northern Illinois and southeastern Wisconsin rely on Lake Michigan and shared groundwater resources. In January, 2010, a Regional Water Supply Planning Group for 11 counties in northeastern Illinois approved a landmark plan meant to ensure the availability of clean water for household and commercial use in future decades. The plan was commissioned by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and coordinated by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP). The plan's primary strategy is to manage demand by emphasizing conservation, pricing, and water reuse. For more information, visit www.cmap.illinois.gov.

Upcoming Events

- MAR** Better Buildings: Better Business Conference. March 3 – 5, 2010. Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin. <http://www.ecw.org/university/ecuevent.php?ecuid=64>.
- American Water Resources Association Annual Meeting. March 4 - 5, 2010. Madison, Wisconsin. <http://psc.wi.gov/apps/annlreport/default.aspx>.
- Wisconsin Rural Water Association Annual Conference. March 23 - 26, 2010. Green Bay, Wisconsin. <http://www.wrwa.org/>.
- APR** AWWA Sustainable Water Management Conference & Exposition. April 11 - 14, 2010. Albuquerque, New Mexico. <http://www.awwa.org/index.cfm>.
- MAY** Wisconsin Safe Drinking Water Regulatory Affairs Seminar. May 6, 2010. Madison, Wisconsin. <http://www.wiawwa.org/>.
- Southeast Wisconsin Water and Energy Efficiency Expo. May 7 - 8, 2010. Waukesha, Wisconsin. <http://www.wisconsinwaterwise.org/>.
- Madison Water Utility Open House. May 8, 2010. Madison, Wisconsin. <http://www.cityofmadison.com/water/>.
- Central States Water Environment Association Annual Conference. May 11 – 14, 2010. Madison, Wisconsin. <http://www.cswea.org/>.
- Wisconsin Water Association Water Efficiency Seminar. May 13, 2010. Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin. <http://www.wiawwa.org/>.
- JUN** AWWA Annual Conference & Exposition (ACE 10). June 20 - 24, 2010 Chicago, Illinois. <http://www.awwa.org/ACE10/>.

Reminder: PSC annual reports due April 1

The statutory deadline for Wisconsin water utilities to file their PSC annual reports is April 1. These reports contain a wealth of information about utility operations and finances, including pumping and water sales. The PSC uses these reports for utility benchmarking and other regulatory purposes. Questions about the annual reports should be directed to PSCARHelpMail@Wisconsin.Gov. The reports are available online to the public at <http://psc.wi.gov/apps/annlreport/default.aspx>.



Preview of WaterSmart Innovations 2010

The third annual WaterSmart Innovations Conference and Exposition will be held October 6 – 8, 2010, in Las Vegas, Nevada. WaterSmart Innovations is the world's largest urban water-efficiency conference. Event organizers hope to build upon the success of the first two conferences, which were created to broaden the knowledge of innovations in water conservation including products, programs, and outreach. The 2009 conference drew nearly 1,200 participants from 43 states and 13 nations.



The 2010 conference will feature the 2010 EPA WaterSense partner of the year awards, a vendor exhibit hall, Green Plumbers USA workshops, and presentations and panel discussions from water-efficiency professionals from around the world. Steven Solomon, author of the best-selling book *Water: The Epic Struggle for Wealth, Power and Civilization*, will be the October 7 keynote luncheon speaker. The WaterSmart Innovations Conference and Exposition is presented by the Southern Nevada Water Authority in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense Program, the American Water Works Association, the Alliance for Water Efficiency, and other organizations. For more information, visit: www.WaterSmartInnovations.com.

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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