



Older cities reinvest in water and sewer systems

The Golden Gate Bridge, the Hoover Dam and the nation's complex water and sewer infrastructure—what do they all have in common? They are all engineering marvels, and they are also aging. The difference is that, unlike above-ground infrastructure that is clearly visible, water and sewer systems are primarily underground, and unfortunately, out of sight, out of mind. That is, until there's a problem that impacts service or disrupts traffic.

In many older cities, water mains and sewer lines are nearing the end of their useful life. The 1,300 miles of water mains in the District have a median age of 74 years, and 14 percent of them are more than 100 years old. Some areas of the city's 1,800-mile sewer system date back to the late 1800s.

DC WASA's 10-year Capital Improvement Plan includes \$500 million for water system improvements and replacements and \$154 million for sewer upgrades. There are several projects recently completed or underway in the District. Here are just a few:

- Water main upgrades and sewer system separation in the Anacostia area
- Water main replacements in Dupont Circle
- Sewer system upgrades



in Georgetown

- Crosstown Tunnel inspection in NW DC
- Pope Branch Sewer Rehabilitation in SE DC

■ Replacement of approximately 9 miles of 12-inch and smaller water mains in SE DC

As is the case nationwide, the bulk of this investment comes from the ratepayers. Rate increases across the country have been in the double-digits in recent years, with some as high as 27 percent. It is a delicate balancing act for

most utilities—keeping rates affordable while meeting the challenges of aging water and sewer systems.

For more information visit liquidassets.psu.edu.



Think green every day of the year



Practicing "Go Green" principles should be an every day occurrence.

Many of us take for granted the most important natural resource available—water. People can go a month without food, but we'd perish in a few days without water. Water is an essential element in the course of our daily activities, such as cleaning, food preparation and personal hygiene.

As a community, we need

to work collectively to conserve and preserve this precious resource.

Ways to conserve:

- 1) Take shorter showers and install water-saving shower heads
- 2) Turn off tap water while shaving and brushing teeth
- 3) Ensure taps, water pipes and hose connections don't drip
- 4) Water gardens just after sunrise or just after sunset to reduce evaporation
- 5) Install a water displacement device in the toilet tank

Steps to preserve:

- 1) Reduce fertilizer use by fertilizing in colder months and by testing your lawn to determine if it needs fertilizing
- 2) Properly dispose of

chemicals, waste and oil

3) Clean up after pets by disposing of waste in the trash or flushing down the toilet

4) Be responsible with car maintenance by only washing your car on the grass or taking it to a commercial car wash that uses recycled water

5) Make use of stormwater by installing rain barrels to capture water that falls on your property that would otherwise flow into stormwater drains and nearby streams

Remember "Go Green" every day—your water is everybody's water!

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“DC WASA Speaks”—a community program

Are you looking for an expert speaker on the topics of water, wastewater management or conservation?

If so, DC WASA can help.

DC WASA's

Speakers

Bureau has

approximately 22 informative speech topics, ranging from customer service, infrastructure and the environment to wastewater treatment. This is a community service program available to neighborhood associations, business and civic organizations and religious institutions.

There is no charge for this service. Please



DC WASA ambassadors receive training for their roles in the newly re-launched DC WASA Speakers Bureau.

be sure to allow three weeks advance notice to schedule a speaker, and a minimum group size of 10 or more is required.

For more information or to request a speaker, please contact the DC WASA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 787-2200 or via e-mail at publicaffairs@dcwasa.com. Or, visit www.dcwasa.com.

Get water wise and xeriscape

Saving water is easy when you think about it.

As the summer season approaches, many of you will begin a regular watering cycle for your landscapes. Knowing the water-wise principles can help you save money, conserve water and maintain healthy plants and lawn.

The *Waterwise – Landscaping and Watering Guide* describes the seven principles:

- planning and design,
- soil improvement,
- practical turf areas,
- efficient irrigation,
- mulch,
- low water-use



plants; and,

- appropriate maintenance.

By applying these principles, you can save substantially on your next water bill.

To obtain a copy, please contact DC WASA's Office of Public Affairs at (202) 787-2200. Or, visit www.wateruseitwisely.com to learn more.

Save money—fix/replace your leaky faucets and toilets

Do you know that bathroom leaks cost you money?

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), toilets account for 30 percent of water consumption; and leaky ones waste up to 200 gallons of water a day, if left broken. Wasted water costs you money.

There are steps you can take to safeguard your money as well as conserve our water resources. The EPA's



Water Sense program educates consumers about the various conservation fixtures available on the market. All fixtures with the

Water Sense label are endorsed by the EPA and are proven to effectively reduce water consumption without compromising performance. Therefore, the same flush you've become accustomed to with a toilet that uses 3.5 to 7.0 gallons of water has the same impact as a Water Sense toilet that

uses 1.28 gallons per flush.

Other conservation steps include:

- Fixing a leaky faucet or toilet.
- Testing your fixtures for leaks, e.g., for your toilet – drop a little food coloring into the tank. If the color shows in the

bowl without flushing, you have a leak.

- Turning off the bathroom faucet while brushing your teeth can save you up to eight gallons of water a day.

To learn more about the EPA's Water Sense program, visit www.epa.gov/WaterSense.

For more information, visit DC WASA's website at www.dcwasa.com.

Para informar emergencias del aguas residuales, llama (202) 612-3400.

Report Emergencies 24 Hours a Day!

To report improper use of hydrants, clogged catch basins, water main leaks, or suspected sewer backups; call (202) 612-3400.



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