

# UPDATES FROM THE PORTLAND WATER DISTRICT

spring 2008

## Reducing Our Carbon Footprint

The Portland Water District recently joined Maine's voluntary Carbon Emission Reduction Program. The first step is to determine our level of carbon emissions then work towards reducing it. This pledge benefits the environment and will reduce energy costs.

## Dig Safe

We remind you, before you dig, call 1-888-Digsafe to have underground utilities located at no cost to you. One call could prevent personal injury and property damage caused by ruptured pipes and cables.

## Remote Read Project

The \$9 million project to replace all water meters with the new Remote Read system is nearly complete. The new system replaces old antiquated meters with devices that use a radio signal to send meter readings to a mobile collection unit. Once the project is finished, estimated reads should be virtually eliminated and the meter reading fleet will be reduced from seven vehicles to one hybrid. If you have not had your meter upgraded, please contact VSI Meter Services, 1-866-847-1101, to make an appointment.



# another way to save a bundle... going green



## DRINK TAP WATER

Crisp, clean, cold water flows from your faucet for less than a penny per gallon. No disposable bottles required.

Before you invest \$1 to \$2 dollars for 16 ounces of bottled water, get started on this healthy habit which is sure to save you a bundle throughout the year.

- Fill reusable containers with tap water and place them in the fridge. That way your tap water is ready to go when you are. And you minimize the amount of plastic you're sending to landfills.



## ANOTHER WAY TO GO GREEN AND PROTECT OUR PLANET



### Pay Your Bill Online

The Portland Water District offers online billing and payment services at [www.pwd.org](http://www.pwd.org).

Getting your monthly statements online keeps you organized and reduces paper waste.

You see all the same information that's on your paper statement and online statements are free.

Enjoy the ease, convenience and added security of online statements—go paperless for all of your accounts today.



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# go blue-green

## Here's How

Going Green has never been easier.

And with prices of just about everything skyrocketing, there has never been more incentive!

A MESSAGE FROM THE  
PORTLAND WATER DISTRICT





## WATER CONSERVATION

Sebago Lake is Greater Portland's water source. It is pure, clean, and plentiful. While we are fortunate to live in a region that is not challenged by a scarce supply and does not require mandated water restrictions, wise use of water is still important to the environment and your pocketbook. Here are **five tips** to help you build water efficient habits for life.



### ► Outside

#### 1) WATER LESS.

Water your lawn in the early morning or evening to avoid evaporation. Make sure your sprinklers water **ONLY** the area intended. Apply mulch on your flowerbeds to trap moisture.

#### 2) USE A RAIN BARREL.

Rain barrels conserve water and reduce pollution! They collect rain water from your roof to be used to water lawns, gardens, and indoor plants. To learn more or to find out where to purchase rain barrels, visit our web site or email [sebagolake@pwd.org](mailto:sebagolake@pwd.org).

### ► Inside



#### 3) FLUSH LESS.

Do not use your toilet as a trashcan. Instead, throw tissues, disposable wipes, gum, and bugs in the trash. Not only does this save water, but it protects sewer pipes, septic systems, and wastewater facilities from clogging. The only thing that should go down the toilet is human waste and toilet paper.

#### 4) REPAIR LEAKS AND DRIPS.

To test for a leak in the toilet, put a dye tablet into the tank. **DO NOT FLUSH.** Wait for about 10 minutes. If the dye appears in the toilet bowl, your toilet has a leak. (Dye tablets are available at the Portland Water District. Food coloring can be used as well).

The Portland Water District helps low-income residents conserve water and save money by repairing, replacing, or installing plumbing fixtures and water saving devices. To learn more, contact PROP, the agency that administers the program.

#### 5) SWITCH TO LOW-FLOW DEVICES.

The Portland Water District offers, at cost, water conservation kits. For more information on these kits which include low-flow showerheads and toilet dams, visit our web site at <http://www.pwd.org/pdf/conserves2007.pdf>.

# UPDATES

CONTINUED:

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### Construction Season Is In Full Swing

The 2008 water main renewal season is now upon us. To see if a project is scheduled in your neighborhood, visit our web site, [www.pwd.org](http://www.pwd.org). Here we list the project map, details, and status. We remind you to slow down going through construction sites for your safety and the safety of the workers.

### Water Mains Get Annual Cleaning

April through October, the Portland Water District cleans its 950 miles of water mains. In an effort to reduce customer inconveniences, crews work from 8:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., Sunday through Thursday. To see if we are in your neighborhood, visit our web site at [www.pwd.org](http://www.pwd.org).

### Discoloration After Water Mains Cleaning -

Customers may notice short periods of water discoloration; however, this program is essential to maintain water quality and public health. If customers experience any change in water quality following maintenance activities or have security concerns regarding Portland Water District employees, please call 761-8310.

