

WHAT'S ON

TAP?



NEWS FOR DC WATER CUSTOMERS | VOL. 12 ISSUE 5



General Manager's Message: Greening Blue Plains



Dear Customers,

Recently, DC Water broke ground on a new project here at the Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant – a \$430 million project that will make us the largest generator of renewable electricity in the area.

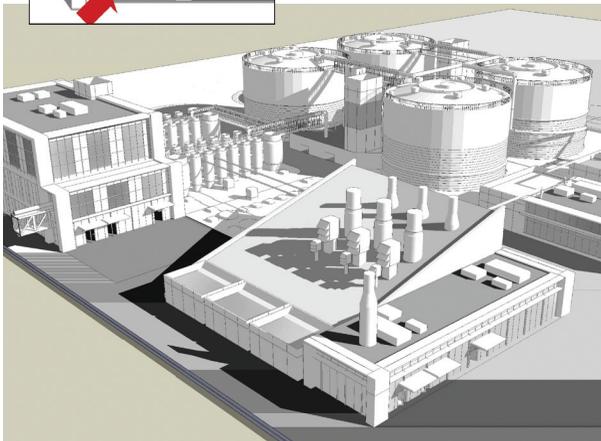
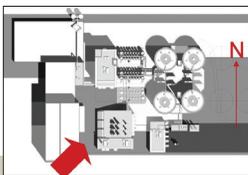
Our engineers figured out how to capture energy from the solids left over at the end of the treatment process. When complete in 2014, our digester project will generate enough clean energy to power 8,000 homes, but we will use it here instead.

The cost is significant, but we will make the digester pay for itself in several years, in two ways. The first is energy. With electricity costs rising, generating our own will save money. The second is hauling. We will reduce the number of solids trucks leaving our plant by half, also shrinking DC Water's carbon footprint.

A greener Blue Plains benefits us all.

George S. Hawkins

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Drinking Water Quality Report

Each year, DC Water publishes a report on the source and quality of the District's drinking water. The *2010 Annual Water Quality Report* provides useful information about the water supply and our efforts to ensure safe and quality drinking water. DC Water is required by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act to mail the report to District residents by June 30.

To request a hard copy,

please contact the Office of Public Affairs at (202) 787-2200.

This publication will also be available at dcwater.com. If you have questions or concerns about your drinking water, please call the Drinking Water Division at (202) 612-3440.



Your Grass Can Be Greener

What do rain barrels have to do with the Anacostia River? Rain barrels are a pollution preventer and money saver wrapped into one easy-to-install device.

Think beautiful gardens and lawns are only possible through extensive watering, fertilization and pesticide application? Eye-catching gardens that save water and prevent pollution from fertilizers are just as easy – and help protect the Anacostia River.

Here's how: Rainwater from rain barrels is ideal for yards and gardens. The District Department of the Environment (DDOE)

RiverSmart Homes program offers rain barrels at reduced prices that include installation. Or buy and install your own from a local hardware

or gardening store, and apply for a rebate here: ddoe.dc.gov/riversmarthomes. For more information, please visit anacostia.net, or contact DDOE at (202) 535-2252.



New Partnership Promotes Drinking Tap Water

DC Water is partnering with TapIt to provide free, public access to drinking water. TapIt is a citywide water bottle refilling network of restaurants and cafés that are choosing to promote tap water and eliminate bottled water waste. When you're on the way to work or school, exercising or simply out and about, you can stop by any TapIt location and refill your water bottle.

We're all aware of the financial and environmental

costs of bottled water. When we choose to drink tap water, we have the opportunity to clean up our neighborhoods, local waterways and keep plastic bottles out of landfills. Drink tap, protect the environment and save your money. Grab a reusable bottle and fill up for free. Find TapIt locations at tapitwater.com or download the iPhone app.



Annual Joint Utility Discount Day

District residents seeking discounts on their utility bills should plan to attend Joint Utility Discount Day (JUDD) on Tuesday, September 27 at the Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place, N.W. From 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., DC Water, Washington Gas, PEPCO, Verizon and Nationsline will assist homeowners and tenants applying for discounts on their water bill and other utilities.

Eligible customers can receive an exemption on the first four hundred cubic feet (4 Ccf) per month of water and sewer usage. To apply, customers must provide proof of total household income, current utility bill, proof of age, and proof of District residency. Representatives from the various utilities, as well as the District Department of the Environment (DDOE),

Office of the People's Counsel and the Public Service Commission will be onsite to help customers apply for discounts on their utility bills.

In addition to JUDD, District residents can apply for utility discounts throughout the year at designated locations. Starting now, qualified customers may call 311 to schedule an appointment. Residents will be directed to one of the following sites depending on where they live:

**1207 Taylor Street, NW
Washington, DC 20011**

**2100 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20020**

The Utility Discount Program is administered by DDOE. For more information, please contact DDOE at (202) 673-6700.

Donate to S.P.L.A.S.H

Through the S.P.L.A.S.H (Serving People by Lending a Supporting Hand) program, DC Water helps individuals and families in the District who are struggling to maintain their water and sewer services. DC Water can always use an extra hand from the community to help more customers pay their utility bills. With your generous contributions, DC Water can offer assistance to more eligible individuals and families experiencing financial hardships.

The S.P.L.A.S.H program is solely funded by contributions from

customers, residents and businesses. Your donation can go a long way to help those on the brink of losing their water service. Every dollar contributed to S.P.L.A.S.H is distributed to eligible customers to help pay their bills.

Donations are accepted throughout the year, and can be made conveniently online by visiting dcwater.com/splash. You can also check the appropriate box on your DC Water bill or contact the Customer Service Department at (202) 354-3600.



Did You Know?

Did you know that tampering with a hydrant is illegal? Unauthorized use of a fire hydrant is against the law and a threat to public safety. Fire hydrants should only be opened by emergency personnel. Improper opening of hydrants can lower water pressure, making it difficult



for firefighters to suppress fires. Additionally, young children can easily be injured from the high water pressure in hydrants. Please call 911 to report open hydrants.



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY
George S. Hawkins, General Manager

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