

WHAT'S ON TAP



NEWS FOR DC WATER CUSTOMERS • SUMMER ISSUE



Solar panels over parking lot—shaded parking and energy capture

Catching some rays: DC Water harnesses the power of the sun

Phase 1 Solar Program

- ▶ **12,343**
solar panels installed
- ▶ **264,016**
square feet of solar
paneling in total
- ▶ **\$4,000,000**
saved in operating costs

On a continual quest for renewable energy sources, DC Water is never short on ideas. The team's latest pursuit began after surveying the very open and flat 153-acre Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant and picturing a vast solar panel installation across the expanse.

After in-depth analysis and examination, DC Water proceeded with the solar program, beginning with parking lots, rooftops, a few ground mounts and a canopy structure on the dock that sits on the Potomac. Deemed Phase I, the installation began in spring 2020 and should be completed and generating electricity this fall. It includes 12,343 panels and 264,016 square feet of solar paneling in total.

Marbury Point, a division of Ameresco, is installing the solar panels, under an agreement whereby they paid for design and construction and DC Water pays two and a half cents per kilowatt hour for the electricity. The arrangement should save the Authority \$4 million in operating costs over 20 years.

But just as compelling is the fact that this electricity doesn't come from the grid, making Blue Plains more resilient in the event of a widespread power outage and less reliant on fossil fuels. The project's reduced greenhouse gas emissions provide renewable energy credits that Marbury Point can sell.

CEO's Message

Greetings,

While we are unable to connect face-to-face, DC Water is maneuvering through this pandemic finding new and more ways to communicate. Our annual Town Hall meetings were no exception. Once again, we partnered with Councilmembers to host meetings in every Ward of the District. This time, we hosted the meetings online and by phone.



The response was overwhelming. We discovered that the convenience of joining from anywhere increased participation 30 times over an average year. It also saved money and time on travel and facility rentals. We held eight meetings in June and July, with more than 4,126 people joining in.

I was able to give the public a transparent view of the state of our operations and where we are headed. At the same time, our CFO Matthew Brown provided an inside look at our finances and the cost to provide the critical services with which we are entrusted. This discussion outlined the need for rate increases and where the revenues are allocated.

We also shared that the proposed rate increase is lower than we previously projected. I want to thank all of those who joined us, and especially those who engaged in thoughtful and lively discussion. I feel this was as beneficial to us at DC Water as it was for our customers and stakeholders. We will continue to use this format, possibly in addition to community meetings, in the future. As always, if there is anything you would like to share with me, please email me at ceosuggestions@dcwater.com.

David L. Gadis, CEO
ceosuggestions@dcwater.com

continued



District's drinking water performs better than EPA standards

We work hard to ensure our system continuously delivers safe drinking water. Around-the-clock monitoring and testing confirms the District's drinking water is exceptional—better than the standards set by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

We deliberately go above and beyond what is required for our water monitoring programs—last year we performed more than 40,000 tests across the city. Analyses verify that the tap water we deliver to DC is clean, safe and healthy.

We summarized the test results and sent them to every DC address this summer. A more comprehensive report is available online at dcwater.com/waterreport or by emailing communications@dcwater.com with your name and address.



This more sizable version also provides information about our source water, its treatment at the Washington Aqueduct, and Lead Free DC—an aggressive campaign to

rid the District of sources of lead, including water service lines that deliver water in the lead-free mains from the street to homes. Residents can also learn to identify sources of lead inside their home they should replace.

For language translations, please call Customer Service at 202-354-3600 Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Emergency funding deadline extended

Residents can still apply for water bill relief and monthly discounts

Mayor Muriel Bowser and the DC Council have extended the deadline to apply for emergency relief funding for residents struggling with unpaid DC Water bills. The fund was established earlier this year, with a November closing date, but with the ongoing pandemic, the deadline has been extended. This means that when residents are approved for any tier of a Customer Assistance Program (CAP), the District will also pay their outstanding DC Water bill up to \$2,000 until January 22, 2021.

DC Water residential customers should apply to the DC Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) who will review and approve the assistance requests. DC Water will apply those credits to the customer's bill. Those with a household income less than \$126,000 for a family of four, or who are impacted by COVID-19, are encouraged to apply by submitting documentation to DOEE. The Residential Relief Application is available at doee.dc.gov/service/criac or contact DOEE at criac.residential@dc.gov. Information on additional DC Water financial assistance programs can be found at dcwater.com/CAP.

Catching some rays: DC Water harnesses the power of the sun continued

A more ambitious solar program, Phase II, aspires to place solar panels on top of the process facilities and in other spaces that require more adaptation. As part of the Phase I contract, DC Water received—and owns—designs for this next, more complex, plan, which can be implemented when it becomes cost-effective.

With its 24-hour operations and massive pumping processes, it is no wonder that the Blue Plains plant is the largest consumer of electricity in the District. In 2014, we commissioned a revolutionary (in North America) thermal hydrolysis program that turns human waste into electricity, generating about a third of the energy required to run the plant. Through innovative programs like these, DC Water is a model for other utilities across the continent.



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