

Montana Water Newsletter

Issue 4 - October 2017



Imagine a Day Without Water

October 12, 2017

Most Americans take the water systems that bring clean water to and from their homes, businesses, and industries for granted. They turn on the tap and flush the toilet without thinking twice about where that water came from or where it will go. But could you imagine a day without water? Without safe, reliable water and wastewater service?

A Day Without Water = Crisis

A day without water means no water comes out of your tap to brush your teeth. When you flush the toilet, nothing happens. Firefighters have no water to put out fires; farmers couldn't water their crops; and doctors couldn't wash their hands. A single nationwide day without water service would put \$43.5 billion of economic activity at risk. In just eight days, a national water service stoppage would put nearly 2 million jobs in jeopardy.

A day without water is nothing short of a humanitarian, political, and economic crisis.

While unimaginable for most of us, there are communities that have lived without water. From man-made tragedies in Flint, Michigan, to water scarcity issues in Central California, to hurricane-caused interruptions to water and wastewater services, water issues abound. There are millions of Americans living in communities that never had the infrastructure to provide safe water service, relying on bottled water and septic systems each day.

America can do better!

The problems that face our drinking water and wastewater systems are multi-faceted. The infrastructure is aging and in need of investment, having gone underfunded for decades. Drought, flooding, and climate change stress water and wastewater systems. Although these regional challenges will require locally-driven solutions, reinvestment in our water must be a national priority. (Cont. on p. 2)



We'd love to hear from YOU so we can print content YOU are interested in! Please send your questions, comments, and ideas for stories to mtwaternews@gmail.com.

Find us on our Joint Website at www.montanawater.org
Also browse the websites of our national parent organizations:

Water Environment Federation, www.wef.org and
American Water Works Association, www.awwa.org.



Reinvestment in Water Infrastructure = Opportunity

The good news is that the American people are already widely supportive of increased investment in nation's water infrastructure. Above any other pressing political issue, Americans name rebuilding our nation's infrastructure as the issue they most want our elected officials to address. Americans view water infrastructure investment as an even greater priority than infrastructure generally, with 82 percent of voters saying that they view the issue as either important or very important. No other issue facing our public officials enjoys such a broad consensus. Americans across the regional and political spectrum know that investing in our drinking water and wastewater systems is key. While neglecting our nation's water systems poses grave health and economic dangers, the benefits of reinvestment are great. If we close the existing water infrastructure investment gap, the national economy would gain \$220 billion in annual economic activity and 1.3 million jobs.

There is no other option. Public officials at the local, state, and national level must prioritize investment in water. Innovation will allow us to build modern, energy efficient, and environmentally advanced systems that will sustain communities for generations to come. We need to prioritize building stronger water and wastewater systems now so no community in America has to imagine living a day without water.



http://imagineadaywithoutwater.org/

BILL STUFFERS

Have you ever wished that there was a simple, poignant, appealing way to communicate to your wastewater system users that flushing "flushable" wipes is detrimental to your operation? That grease in the sewer can have nasty effects that cost time and money to alleviate? Would you like to raise awareness in your rate payers that their actions may have a direct influence on the rates they need to pay?

The Water Environment Federation (WEF) offers bill stuffers that convey these messages and are easy to distribute with the monthly water/sewer bill. These bill stuffers are not free but prices are reasonable – about \$10 for 100 of them.

Check them out at http://www.wef.org and type "bill stuffers" in the search bar at the top right.

